

## IN THIS ISSUE

**The Diary of Mandana**  
(pages: 2-3)

**New Academic Talent**  
(pages: 4-6)

**A Platform for Student Research**  
(page: 7)

**Corporate Social Responsibility in Uzbekistan**  
(page: 8)

**Jamboree for Young Economists**  
(pages: 9)

**Past Research Seminars**  
(pages: 10-11)

**Upcoming Events**  
(page: 12)

We are passionate about and striving to place Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) on the world research map. To do so, we have set a tangible goal to increase the number of publications in internationally peer-reviewed, web-of-science quality journals. In the last three years, we have made a noticeable progress towards this goal. Our University is now ranked as the top institution in Uzbekistan by a number of citations generated and reported by Research Papers in Economics (RePEc) run by the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank. The research work of our students, research assistants and staff have been internationally recognized by prominent research universities and competitions.



Dr. Muzaffar Ahunov

This year we have for the first time validated two postgraduate courses: Master of Arts in International Business Management and Master of Science in Applied Economics. This achievement means that this institution is independently capable to develop and deliver a graduate program and help us become a knowledge hub. These results are possible thanks to highly enthusiastic and talented faculty members that we have at WIUT, who continue to invest their heart and soul to cultivate and nurture new talents.

Our students are fortunate and proud to have access to such an impressive brainpower. At the same time, we as faculty are fortunate to have our highly capable, enthusiastic and creative students who challenge us and influence us with their brilliant ideas. Collaboration among faculty and students is the base to turn this institution from a knowledge consumer into a knowledge producer.

My team's role is to facilitate this collaboration creatively. To do so, we disseminate success stories among students and colleagues, so those willing to replicate can easily do so. You therefore receive an email from me whenever someone is published in a good quality journal. We also organize research trainings and seminars; these aim to give a platform to collect high quality feedback - the main engine for refining your ideas. Next, we organize conferences; again this is a platform to facilitate academic debate with the external researchers. We have designed research support schemes such as Conference Travel fund, Submission Fee fund, Research Collaboration fund to help our colleagues engage with their professional community. All of our work are designed to promote high quality research that helps improve people's well-being. We dream to achieve together, so stay tuned!

**Muzaffar Ahunov**

**Dean on Research and Postgraduate Courses**

# THE DIARY OF MANDANA

**Interview with Dr. Mandana Arfa-Kaboodvan, lecturer at WIUT. She has PhD in Education (TESOL), from the University of Exeter, UK and is currently teaching Academic English.**



Dr. Mandana Arfa-Kaboodvan

**How did you publish your first paper in international peer-reviewed journal? What do you recommend from your experience? A PhD?**

I do not necessarily have the ambition to publish in a peer reviewed journal. When I have something to share, then I just like to have it published in a good publication. However, I am very well aware that in academia publishing in peer-reviewed journals is something demanded. But at the same time, in the fields related to language teaching, finding these journals is quite challenging, as there are not enough of them available and thus understandably, many are mainly after exceptionally good studies and articles with big names in the industry.

Anyways, when I decided to get published for the first time, I did get rejected a couple of times and the reasons were that the journal had “very recently published something quite similar” to my study or that they thought that my “study was too context-specific for their audience”. Therefore, these are the two things that besides following the guidelines specified by the publication, I pay attention to. After studying the scope of my chosen publication, I always review some of the articles in the recent volumes once again, and only then start writing. This helps me better figure out how to prepare my article. I make sure that I have followed the guidelines very carefully.

And I do not think having a PhD has made any difference in my getting published. I believe conduct-

ing a good study and/or preparing a good reflective piece of work do not necessarily need the writer to have a PhD.

**In your view, what's the difference between a teaching (pedagogical) journal and an academic research journal? (TESOL Journal vs. TESOL Quarterly) How did you choose the right journal for your research?**

I guess the scopes are a little different. An academic journal in the fields relating to education will appeal to theorists, researchers and all those who are after more in depth analyses or studies of particular situations or issues. Pedagogical ones may be more practice-oriented. This of course does not mean that they do not publish any research. They in fact publish the studies that have a more direct impact on the practice of (language) teaching. Therefore, choosing the right journal is not very difficult. You just need to have a look at what they demand and then choose accordingly.

**You edited the April volume of the HLT magazine. Congratulations! How did this opportunity come up and what was your editorial experience like?**

Humanising Language Teaching (HLT) is an online and free publication which has been around for 19 years and is very popular with many who are involved in language teaching from all over the world. I regularly read the articles and have published with them, so I am quite familiar with the focus. Witnessing the potential and devotion of the colleagues in the Global English team, I thought that it was a pity that not many people in the world knew about their experiences. Therefore, when the editor agreed to devote one issue to us in Uzbekistan, I promised that I would harvest the articles and review them. I think the most challenging part of the job was collecting the articles, as everybody was very busy with many other chores and many left their writing to the last minute. I gave my feedback and then if there was any need we would discuss some of the points.

Since the writers were basically my friends and it was not a blind revision, we had the opportunity to discuss what worked better and how that could be achieved. When everything was ready, I sent the file to the editor. She was very pleased and did not touch anything. All in all, it felt good to be the first to read the works of my colleagues.

(You can access the April volume of the HLT mag here: <http://www.hlomag.co.uk/apr17/index.htm> )

**You recently published your article “Dear Diary” in an open-access peer-reviewed journal—*English Language Teacher Education and Development (ELTED)*. Please tell us more about this paper?**

Last December my article was published in ELTED Journal. This journal is a peer-reviewed journal published once a year by Warwick University in the UK. I am subscribed to the journal, so I do get emails from them and learn about what they are publishing and what they are looking for. This particular issue that I have published in has an interesting story.

In August 2015, the journal made an announcement. They were planning to celebrate their 10th anniversary and for that they were looking for high quality studies that would be written in non-academic style! They had asked for a proposal on the content of the study and also on how the writer thought that their article could lend itself to looking less academic.

I had conducted a study on language teacher effectiveness seeking the perceptions of students, parents and teachers on the characteristics they thought an effective language teacher in a public school in Iran had to possess. The study had taken me more than a year to complete and for that I had adopted a mixed method approach. I had already published the findings on the parents elsewhere, and at the time was thinking of publishing the findings of the rest of the study. I really liked their idea and decided to contribute. At first I thought about using comic strips, but then decided to prepare the whole work in the form of a diary.

I sent my proposal. They approved it, but explained that at that point they could not make any promises for it being published. They needed the complete

article for peer revision. That was a little tricky, as I knew that if they did not accept the work, then I would have no opportunity for having it published elsewhere. This was not an academic article like any other. However, I eventually decided to get busy.

It took me almost two months to prepare the draft and then I send it to them before the deadline. I heard from them in February. They were willing to have it published, but thought that it was too long, and asked me to make it shorter. I reviewed my work and managed to reduce the number of words. Finally, some time in summer the good news came, and they informed me that my work would be included in that special issue. The title of my article is “Dear Diary”.

The inspiration for conducting the study came from a session in one of the language teaching methodology classes I was teaching a few years ago. The question raised was what makes a good language teacher. My immediate thought and explanation was that the qualities should be determined by the methodology adopted. Then when I thought about it a little more, I decided that many other characteristics and elements should also be involved and regarding the modern approaches in education the role of the learners, the human side of the teachers and of course the role of parents could not be ignored. I investigated and reflected more and then decided that a lot had to be determined based on the context and culture and I noticed that not much had been done in this regard in Iran. I did a pilot study with a limited number of students, presented my findings at an international conference, collected the feedback I had received and then decided to conduct the study at a larger scale, which I did.

Anyways, ELTED is a free journal. The rest of the articles in their latest volume have also been written very creatively. You may want to look at them, I guess you will be pleasantly surprised. (You can read the journal article here:

[http://www.elted.net/uploads/7/3/1/6/7316005/04\\_mandanakaboodvan.pdf](http://www.elted.net/uploads/7/3/1/6/7316005/04_mandanakaboodvan.pdf)

*Interviewed by Bakhrom Mirkasimov*

## NEW ACADEMIC TALENT

On March 31, 2017, WIUT students competed for the proud title of New Academic Talent. **Diyora Abdurakhmanova**, a final year Commercial Law student, with her undergraduate thesis **‘Italian Serie A: Law as an Impediment to Construction and Renovation of Stadiums’** was awarded the first place in the second annual WIUT New Academic Talent competition.



Diyora Abdurakhmanova receiving her prize from Rector Komiljon Karimov

Many student dissertations were submitted for the competition and the best three were selected for the second round. Three finalists were: Diyora Abdurakhmanova (Italian Serie A: Law as an Impediment to Construction and Renovation of Stadiums), Akhtem Useinov (Economic Returns to Language Skills in the Labor Market: Evidence from Tajikistan) and Najiba Khazratkulova (Women in Parliament and Shadow Economy). Importantly, the guidance and countless support of student supervisors, particularly



New Academic Talent finalists (from left to right): Akhtem Useinov, Diyora Abdurakhmanova, Najiba Khazratkulova

Eldor Mannopov, Bakhrom Mirkasimov and Raufhon Salahodjaev, must be acknowledged.

In the second round, finalists presented their papers in front of 100+ company representatives and academics. Papers and presentations were judged based on originality, substance, analytical nature, and clarity of writing and oral presentation. The winner has been awarded a Tablet PC and all finalists received WIUT apparel and had lunch with the Deans.

### ***New Academic Talent: in their own words***

#### **Diyora Abdurakhmanova:**

“Do You want Your final year thesis to be read merely by Your supervisor, assessors and Yourself and then leave it to gather dust somewhere on Your shelf? If the answer to this question is “Yes”, then the New Academic Talent Competition is not the right place for You. However, if the answer is “No”, if You want to share your passion and enthusiasm with which You worked on your dissertation, if You want to tell Your story to around 100+ people, if You want to say “Thank You!” to all those people who have supported You throughout your study, then I do, strongly and wholeheartedly, encourage You to take part in this academic adventure called “New Academic Talent”. By the way, nothing stops You from leaving Your thesis to gather dust somewhere on Your shelf afterwards! The only difference between “Yes” and “No” is that You have a chance to give life to Your work by introducing it to people from different backgrounds. Good luck!”

#### **Najiba Khazratkulova:**

“As a Level 6 Economics student, completing my economic project prior to the established deadline was a complicated task. On the one hand, I had to study hard for the upcoming final exams and score high, on the other hand, I really wanted to write my economic project well. Nevertheless, I decided to apply to New Academic Talent and now looking back to this moment makes me think that it was one of the turning points in my life. Firstly, as a finalist, I prepared my presentation about my thesis in Russian. For the first time, I started thinking about how to deliver my presentation to an audience whose background may not be Economics.

This experience helped me analyze and deliver my graphs, econometric outcomes and statistics in plain language. Secondly, being asked many questions and receiving feedback during my presentation on how I can improve my research was vital in improving the quality of my paper. This competition left me with more courage to enlarge the scope of my research and proceed further into the wonderful world of economic science”.

#### **Akhtem Useinov:**

“Since its first launch in 2016, New Academic Talent competition has become recognizable event at WIUT, especially among final year students. I heard first about this event when I was a Level 5 student through posters around our university and university email messages. At the end of academic year 2015/2016, the names of the first winners were announced. Then, out of curiosity I analyzed the papers of all finalists and compared them with other student papers; and found that papers of finalists possess higher quality in originality, clarity of writing, econometric analysis and logical nature. Those finalists motivated me to submit my final year project to New Academic Talent competition this year. In a week, I received a message stating my selection to the second round of the competition. I was very happy and started preparation for the second round, where we – finalists presented our work to 100+ employers. This was the most difficult part of competition for me, as most of the employers who judged us were from different backgrounds. I received many comments and those ideas from employers helped me improve the final version of my project.

The participation in New Academic Talent, gave me invaluable experience in research and the most important – to love doing research. Writing my final project with the idea that I would be able to present it to a wider public motivated me to write as best as possible and share my knowledge that I gained in WIUT”.

#### **Contribution of Research**

#### **Italian Serie A: Law as an Imediment to Construction and Renovation of Stadiums**

*by Diyora Abdurakhmanova (Commercial Law)*

The highest division of Italian football, Serie A, has been ranked as the most tactical and one of the strongest national football leagues. It generates outstanding teams, such as Juventus, Inter, Milan, Napoli, Roma, which have reached the final of UEFA Champions League on a record twenty-seven different occasions, winning the title twelve times.

Despite these remarkable achievements, attendance on Serie A matches is reported to be the lowest among Big-4 European leagues. As a result, the amount of matchday income is also reported to be the lowest – merely 10%, which is far below the 21% in England and 23% in Germany and Spain.

There are a number of interrelated reasons for half-empty tribunes, such as match-fixing scandals, hooliganism, outdated stadiums. However, since the former two have already received much scrutiny and measures have been taken to address them, old venues remain a heavily unstudied matter. Therefore, my dissertation focused on the current infrastructure of most of the Serie A stadia as the culprit behind low attendance rates. Importantly, even though my analysis is based on Italy, a number of proposals may be equally applicable in other countries having similar issues, including Uzbekistan.

I acknowledge that the current legislative framework, as well as organization of Italian football, might not allow immediate implementation of some of the ideas presented in the paper. However, rather than solely stating what is wrong, the work intends to study what is possible, as well as to draw the attention of the readers to difficulties that these possibilities may entail.



One of the reasons for low attendance and match-day revenue in Serie A is reported to be poor condition of most of the Italian stadiums: ageing infrastructure, which does not meet safety and security standards; poor visibility; absence of places for commercial activities; and, quoting the former President of Italian Football Federation, Franco Carraro, 'difficulty even to find toilets'. Today, only Juventus FC and Udinese FC have refurbished venues. If the problem is so obviously defined, then why most of the Serie A stadia are still outdated? The answer lies in the current ownership structure of the venues – in Italy stadiums are typically owned by municipalities. Local authorities are reluctant to finance the upgrade of venues, whereas the clubs, because they have almost no power to decide how the sports facilities should be used, do not have an asset to attract investment for construction and renovation.

While there is no law directly prohibiting private ownership of the facilities, there are still some indirect legal restraints that make the stadiums a "burden" for clubs, which is the reasons why the clubs are unwilling to "fight" for their privatization.

### **Number of Women in Parliament and the Size of Shadow Economy**

*Najiba Khazratkulova (Economics with Finance)*

The prominence of the female parliamentarism has gained its popularity on the threshold of the 21th century all around the globe. The rationale behind promoting women to be politically involved is their effectiveness not only in strengthening the social and economic spheres by the democratic reforms but particularly in reducing the level of corruption (Dollar et al., 2001, Swamy et al., 2001). Developing this economic intuition further, I hypothesize the countries with more female representatives in the parliament can enjoy less level of corruption and less rooted shadow economy. Specifically, I study to what extent the number of female seats in the parliament affects the level of informal economy.

My results suggest that there is a robust association between the number of seats in parliament occupied by women and the size of the shadow economy. I find that a 10 percentage point increase in the share of women in parliament is associated with nearly 4 percentage point decrease in the size of shadow economy. In order to resolve the problem of simulta-

neity between percentage of women in parliament and size of informal sector, gender marking of language, social globalization index and index of land suitability for agriculture were chosen as instrumental variables. The results reported that 10 percentage point increase in share of women in parliament decreases the size of shadow economy by 8 percentage points. Furthermore, growth in the number of women involved in politics assists to maintain the women rights by implementing more democratic reforms oriented to women issues.

### **Returns to Language Skills in the Labor Market: Evidence from Tajikistan**

*Akhtem Useinov (Economics with Finance)*

What is the value of speaking more than one language? This question has been discussed among labor and education economists in the past decades. Language skills are a form of human capital and individuals acquire language skills if the benefits outweighs the costs of learning a new language. Many assume that an individual speaking more than one language has higher returns and opportunities in the labor market. This relationship depends on a country and a language. For example, in the United States, immigrants with English skills earn higher wages compared to their counterparts without English skills. The returns for learning English in such post-colonial countries as India and South Africa is high. The English language as a common tool was important to centralize different language groups in India and South Africa.

In the former Soviet Union, Russian was the official language and the language of interethnic communication. In post-Soviet countries the return to Russian language skills varies across countries. In Kazakhstan, the return to learning Russian is very high, whereas in Estonia Russian language skills are not particularly valued.

In this paper, I analyze the returns to language skills in Tajikistan. Tajikistan is a multiethnic country, where three mostly used languages are Tajik, Uzbek and Russian. I use the World Bank, Tajikistan Living Standards Measurement Survey 2009 data; and employ OLS and 2SLS methods for my analysis. I find 17-29 percent higher wages for individuals speaking two or three languages compared to one-language speakers. Individuals' ability, language skills and earnings have endogenous relationship, thus deeper analysis in this direction would give higher quality results.

# A PLATFORM FOR STUDENT RESEARCH



We are glad to announce that a long-awaited WIUT Research Society has officially kicked off. This platform will bring together talented and enthusiastic students from different subject areas to stimulate their research capacity and experience. On February 10, 2017, we held the first meeting of the Society, which, indeed, sparked a great interest among the students of different levels and disciplines. . During the introductory meeting, members were given more thorough information about the Society, its Constitution, organizational structure, society's planned future activities and much more.

In the second meeting of the society, which took place on February 24, the members made two very important decisions: 1) adopted the Constitution; 2) elected the Executive board (and they even found time to have a great pizza party). Two equally competent teams ran for the executive board positions. Team A: President — Azizbek Ikramov; Vice-President — Manzura Jumaniyazova; Secretary — Ismoil Abdurakhmonov. Team B: President — Ab-

bosbek Turabidinov; Vice-president — Sherzod Abbasov; Secretary — Shakirova Yulduz.

After interesting and fierce debate and Q&A, the members made a decision by written ballot. According to the election results Azizbek Ikramov (aikramov@students.wiut.uz), Manzura Jumaniyazova (mjumaniyazova2@students.wiut.uz) and Ismoil Abdurakhmonov (iabdurakhmonov@students.wiut.uz) will be running the society during this and the next academic year. Executive board has quickly commenced to fulfil their duties and have already organized two research meetings. They have lots of wonderful plans for the upcoming academic year: annual undergraduate research symposium; datathon; guest lectures by prominent researchers; trainings; movie nights and much more. We wish them good luck and will introduce them closer to you in upcoming editions of the Research Digest. By the way, you can follow the activities of the Research Society via its official Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/WIUTResearchSociety/>



Azizbek Ikramov



Manzura  
Jumaniyazova



Ismoil  
Abdurakhmonov



Abbosbek  
Turabidinov



Sherzod Abbasov



Yulduz Shakirova

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN UZBEKISTAN. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is well recognized and established concept in developed countries, however there is little evidence that the CSR principles, established in developed countries, can perfectly fit emerging economies. The large share of CSR research is focused on its benefits in developed countries but there is little research done on how CSR principles affect developing countries, especially the countries of Central Asia and particularly, Uzbekistan.



Malika Sharipova

Although CSR is a relatively new terminology in Uzbekistan, some elements of social responsibilities can be seen in day to day business activities in the country. My current study provides new insights on the given issue in the context of this of Uzbekistan.

I examined three large and three small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Uzbekistan and conducted case studies and several interviews with top managers/owners of these companies. I found that there is a clear difference between how CSR is understood in the West and in Uzbekistan. CSR in Uzbekistan is essentially understood as charity and caring about employees as well as families of employees. As a social package for employees Uzbek

companies provide healthcare, bonuses, education, additional trainings and free lunch. Companies help orphanages, elderly care homes and families in need within their community.

Furthermore, environmental concerns, taking into account the stakeholders' interests and public accountability are not prominent in businesses in Uzbekistan. CSR strategies in Uzbekistan are not based on stakeholder pressure as it is the case in the Western CSR practices, but rather based on the personal desire and behaviour of the companies' owners.

Uzbek companies pay attention predominantly to the financial stability of their firms. Putting the financial responsibility at the first place is typically observed in most of the developing countries.

Overall, developing CSR strategies in line with current economic situation, traditional customs and the principles of transparency, social responsibility and accountability before stakeholders will increase the overall efficiency of businesses in Uzbekistan. Moreover, it will improve predictability and sustainability of businesses which will help them attract domestic and foreign investors.

I recommend to adopt CSR strategy to create positive sustainable image for Uzbek companies and use this strategy as a tool for generating more profit.

**Malika Sharipova**

*Associate Lecturer at WIUT*



# JAMBOREE FOR YOUNG ECONOMISTS



In light of the recent reforms in doctorate education and increased need for evidence based policy formulation, it is becoming increasingly important to train doctorate students in economics in line with the current state of the art in the field, which has become very rigorous and technically demanding.

Doctorate Jamborée for Uzbekistan Economists has been organized at Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) during April 3-5, 2017. This event was designed to stimulate cooperation and research collaboration among doctorate students and independent researchers in Economics or related social sciences, to provide a platform for the discussion of their research with experienced scholars and, most importantly, create an opportunity for acquiring and applying modern tools of economic analysis.

The event started with the introductory lectures of the experienced WIUT faculty members on modern tools of economic analysis and publishing in peer reviewed journals. In the following days, the Jamborée participants presented their research work to receive critical feedback to help them improve their work and prepare them for the next steps of their research projects.

Jamboree gathered researchers from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED), Tashkent Financial Institute (TFI), Tashkent State University of Economics (TSUE) and Tashkent State Technical University (TSTU).



## Feedback from participants

“Attending Doctorate Jamboree at WIUT was really interesting and useful experience . We were given a lot of helpful information about preparing and writing research paper. The last day was especially replete: referencing using Mendeley lessons, Stata and NVivo sessions were well organised and explained. I am thankful to organisers of Jamboree and wish this good tradition continues through the years”.

*Dildora Kurbanova, TSTU*

“In the conference, I received several strict but at the same time very useful comments about my dissertation. These comments will undoubtedly help me improve the quality of my dissertation and future papers”.

*Dilbar Kasimova, TSUE*

“Doctorate Jamboree was a great opportunity to learn about how to become a successful researcher from leading research practitioners of WIUT. Particularly, Jamboree benefited me twofold: I received feedback on my research-in-progress and I learned about publication strategies in international scientific journals. With new knowledge learned at Jamboree, I feel more confident and motivated in pursuing my research”.

*Jamshid Normatov, UWED*



## PAST RESEARCH SEMINARS

### **Breastfeeding and Son Preference: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan**

*Hilola Dushamova*

This paper is devoted to analyzing the child gender discrimination based on the duration of breastfeeding of male and female infants in Kyrgyzstan for the last three decades. Breastfeeding is the way of providing infants with ideal food for their biological development and healthy growth. It also has the property to delay reproductive process, which is an important implication for health of mothers. The countries which possess son preference tend to wean a child as soon as possible in order to conceive again if current child is female. This paper uses 1997 and 2012 waves of the Demographic Health Survey (DHS) dataset for Kyrgyzstan. The results show that the increase in breastfeeding duration is strongly linked with the birth order. On average, mothers breastfeed their current child about 0.2 months more than his older siblings in Kyrgyzstan. Also, not only boys are breastfed for longer period but also girls if a mother has at least one son and the share of male children is high in a household.

### **The Determinants of Climate Change Policies: Is Intelligence Important?**

*Shakhlo Rashidova*

This study investigates the interconnection between national intelligence and climate change policies.

The national intelligence is measured by nation's IQ scores. The conjectured link between cognitive abilities and climate change policies is tested on a sample of 94 countries. As a measure of climate change policies, this study employs Climate Laws, Institutions and Measures Index (CLIMI) the first fundamental effort to measure countries' policy responses to the risk of climate change. The findings demonstrate compelling evidence that intelligence has positive and causal impact on national and multilateral policies directed on climate change.

### **Motherhood and Female Labor Force Participation Revisited: Evidence from Infertility Shocks**

*Nodira Khaydarova*

The growing number of women in the global labor force has been an important trend for the past fifty years. Existing literature offers a number of explanations, such as substantial reduction in the number of male population after the World War II, technological development, decline in fertility rates and social organizations which provide support and encourage female employment. This research aims to investigate the relationship between children and female labor force participation using the Demographic and Health Survey data for Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. We find that the presence of children positively affects the female labor force participation.





## **Main Legal Issues in Project Finance Market in Uzbekistan**

*Nozima Shamsieva*

Project finance is, in essence, a complex method of financing which has certain advantages and disadvantages, though it plays an important role in financing development throughout the world. It is considered as an important means of facilitating the construction of infrastructure in developing countries and implementation of large projects in the energy, transportation, mining and other industries. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the legal environment for implementation of project finance in Uzbekistan and to discuss significant developments in this market. Main issues that will be covered in this paper are government approvals and restrictions, the issues related to collateral and possible legal risks.

## **Is Relative Poverty Triggering Migration over and above Absolute Poverty: Evidence from Tajikistan**

*Sabohat Sobirova*

The link between migration and poverty has been thoroughly studied by many researchers. Migration is viewed as a remedy from poverty. In other words, individuals migrate in order to increase their absolute income and thereby improve financial situation of other members of their households. However, proponents of new economics of migration framework assert the importance of non-wage factors,

including relative poverty, in formation of households' migration decision. Relative poverty refers to individuals who consider themselves deprived when they compare own welfare with others' within a certain social group. Therefore, migration is considered as a medium for increasing the status of households. This study examines the impact of relative poverty on migration decision of households using data obtained from the Tajikistan Household Panel Survey conducted in 2011. Our results suggest that relative poverty increases the propensity to migrate.

## **The Demographic Dividend and Economic Growth**

*Zilolakhon Makhmonova*

According to the demographic transition theory, a country can reap the benefits of the demographic dividend throughout the period when working-age population is high whilst dependent population is low – enabling the country to have high levels of labor participation rates. The empirical literature on the effect of the demographic structure on economic growth was primarily concerned with the examination of the growth models using only working-age population share and overall dependency ratio as demographic variables. This research attempts to contribute to the literature by examining whether changes in decomposed dependency ratios (youth and old-age dependency ratios) are associated with changes in economic growth of 211 countries for the period of 1960-2015.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date
Roundtable Discussion with Students from Columbia University	25 May, 2017
Teaching and Learning Symposium	26 May, 2017
Research seminar "Arising the Duty of Confidence in Common Law and Civil Law from the Perspectives of English and Uzbek Law" by Akbar Ismanjanov	30 May, 2017
Immersion trip of MBA students from the University of Westminster	5-9 June, 2017
Regional Summer School for Young Economists	12-23 June, 2017

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### WIUT Research featured in the University of Westminster Blog



An interview with Muzaffar Ahunov, Dean on Research and Postgraduate Courses, has been published by the Westminster Business School. In the interview he briefly discusses the research activities taking place at WIUT. You can read the full interview here:

<http://blog.westminster.ac.uk/wbs/2017/05/08/interview-muzaffar-ahunov-dean-research-postgraduate-courses-westminster-international-university-tashkent-wiut/>

### WIUT lecturer to meet 19 Nobel Laureates



Rustam Abdurapov has received an invitation to participate in the 6th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting on Economic Sciences to be held from 22 - 26 August 2017 in Lindau, Germany. He will meet 19 Nobel laureates in Economics and more than 400 most prominent young economists. You can learn more about the event and participating Nobel laureates here:

<http://www.lindau-nobel.org/meeting/>

### The only GLO Fellow from Central Asia



Bakhrom Mirkasimov has become a Fellow at the Global Labor Organization (GLO). Among the other GLO Fellows are eminent colleagues such as Nobel Memorial Prize winner in Economics James J. Heckman, Orley Ashenfelter, Kaushik Basu, Harry Patrinos, Jagdish Bhagwati and more. The GLO Network currently consists of 540 Fellows covering 87 countries. You can follow the GLO Fellows here:

<https://glabor.org/wp/>

### Editorial board:

#### Muzaffar Ahunov

Dean on Research and Postgraduate Courses  
email: mahunov@wiut.uz

#### Bakhrom Mirkasimov

Deputy Dean on Research and Consultancy  
email: bmirkasimov@wiut.uz

#### Nizomiddin Kuchkarov

Research Development Officer  
email: nkuchkarov@wiut.uz  
Tel.:+99871 2387415

**Research Digest** is a bi-monthly publication aimed at sharing evidence-based research output generated at Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) to a wider public.

We hope that Research Digest will provide some food for thought and further discussion among your peers.

If you have interesting articles to share or any other ideas please feel free to email us.