

We were now on the crest of the mountains of Kitab, a continuation of the Hissar range, that separates the Zarafshan province from Bokhara. From the broad platform of rock, about 30 paces wide, we looked back on the dry and arid steppe we had crossed from Samarkand, but before us the scene was of a more pleasing character. There lay on either side of the Kashka-daria the twin towns of Kitab and Shahr, called together, from the number of its trees and gardens, Shahr-i-sabz, or "the green city." The beauty of the landscape from this spot had been extolled by Colonel Alexandroff, who lunched with us the day before we started. To an Oriental this view would be, no doubt, exceedingly pretty, and to an European tolerably so; but it was nothing compared with that obtainable from scores of places in England, to say nothing of mountain scenery in Switzerland or the Caucasus.



rangement had been completed, a second robbery occurred by a party of the same nation: the clergy decreed their death; and since they thought that the punishment of the first offender, together with the others, would present a more salutary and impressive example, they returned the blood money, cancelled the pardon, and executed all the offenders.

Our European notions will revolt at such arbitrary changes, but it cannot be said that the punishment was unjust; and, if it had an influence on evil doers, it was assuredly not very injudicious. Whatever we may think of these customs and laws, they have raised the condition and promoted the welfare of this country; and there is no place in the whole of Asia where

### **Block Seminar/ Workshop in the frame of the DAAD Project:**

#### **European Perspectives in Dialogue, Central Asia and Western Research**

We are delighted to inform you that in the frame of our ongoing project with Uzbekistan, the Seminar für Iranistik will host a Workshop/Seminar in which 14 participants from our institute can take part.

The workshop will be hold during the first two weeks of April 2024 in the frame of a Block Seminar in which participants from Germany and Uzbekistan will attend together. The course starts on April 2nd and will last until April 14th. The last two days (from April 12 till April 14) are hold in Berlin.

The block seminar contains three courses which cover the topics:

1. Literary and linguistic aspects of European descriptions of Central Asia
2. Idleness, slavery and murder
3. Scientific Writing

During the two-day stay in Berlin, we will visit ZOiS (Zentrum für Osteuropa und international Studien) and discuss scientific standards at non-university institutions in Germany. In addition, we will visit the Humboldt Forum and the Berlin State Library, in particular to see the Turfan treasures that were obtained during four German expeditions to Central Asia.

The supporting program for the workshop participants also includes a visit to the Forum Wissen in Göttingen and a tour of the city. An excursion to the Borderland Museum in Friedland as well as other social activities are also planned.

The lessons will take place during the stay of the Uzbek participants in Germany in the form of a block course; some lessons will be hold afterwards throughout the SoSe 2024.

Please send your cv and a motivation letter by December 15th to [roxana.zenhari1@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:roxana.zenhari1@uni-goettingen.de)

The travel costs and accommodation for two nights in Berlin will be covered.

## **1. Course: Literary and linguistic aspects of European descriptions of Central Asia**

Teachers: Mehriniso Akhmedova and Mehrinigor Rakhmatova

European descriptions of Central Asia are also literary works that can be analyzed from a literary and linguistic perspective. The course deals with these aspects of travelogues. It begins by looking at the genre of travel writing and examines the specific features of these texts. Particular attention must be paid to the fact that these are predominantly first-person documents and that the travelers put themselves in the spotlight. But how exactly do they go about this and which stereotypes do they follow? The course also looks at the vocabulary used. In particular, how do the texts deal with foreign vocabulary: are technical terms from the languages of the target region (Persian, Turkic languages) translated or transcribed? Are certain rules followed and does standardization take place? The course will methodically introduce the corpus analysis and its benefits for an investigation of travel descriptions.

## **2. Course: Idleness, slavery and murder: Orientalism in travelogues from Central Asia**

Teacher: Eva Orthmann

The course on "Idleness, slavery and murder: Orientalism in travelogues from Central Asia" deals with the representation of Central Asia in European travelogues. To this end, we will first take a detailed look at Edward Said's book "Orientalism" as well as the further development of his theses and their criticism, such as Hamid Dabashi's "Post-Orientalism" or Wael Hallaq's "Restating Orientalism". With "Orientalism", Said initiated a very important debate that still has an impact on debates about colonial and post-colonial patterns of thought and behavior today. Orientalism refers to an attitude that views Western civilization as fundamentally superior, which often goes hand in hand with an arrogant or know-it-all attitude towards local cultures and their representatives. Consciously or unconsciously, Orientalists would have promoted European power interests with their research. The travelogues reveal different attitudes of the travelers towards the cultures they visited, but quite a few show clear traces of arrogance. They are also characterized by clichés, which raises questions about the intertextuality of various travel books. To what extent do they reflect personal experiences or do they serve the expectations of the readership? And what role does the self-presentation of the travelers, some of whom present themselves as wild adventurers, play? The course will look at examples of travel writing in different languages and from different periods.

## **1. Course: scientific writing**

Teachers: Eva Orthmann, Roxana Zenhari, Mehriniso Akhmedova, Mehrinigor Rakhmatova, Muhtaram Yakubova

The course on scientific writing serves to practice the process of actively reading sources and scientific literature, summarizing and critically reflecting on them and writing your own texts. The sources and academic works we look at are all related to the topic of "European Reports on Central Asia". The course attaches great importance to demonstrating academic standards, in particular correct citation and referencing. The topic of "plagiarism" is also discussed with the students. In a dialog between Uzbek and German lecturers, students will discuss what is considered good academic practice in the respective academic cultures and what formal requirements apply to term papers, theses and dissertations. The second half of the course will focus on writing your own texts. To this end, we will focus on individual authors and texts for which we will write entries for Wikipedia. Our goal is to write scientifically sound articles that are immediately accessible to the public in order to motivate the participants. Teams of

participants from the three universities will be formed to strengthen the interaction between the three participating universities.

