

Panelist Biographies

Ashraf Haidari

M. Ashraf Haidari has served as the Deputy Ambassador, Chargé d'Affaires, Political Counselor, and Acting Defense Attaché of the Embassy of Afghanistan to the United States in Washington, D.C. Haidari was born and grew up in Afghanistan. He experienced the hardships that other Afghans faced under the Soviet occupation in 1980s and the Taliban rule in 1990s. Haidari taught himself English and began working from a very young age to support his family, who were internally displaced several times before fleeing Afghanistan into refuge abroad in the late 1990s. Haidari was educated in the United States, Switzerland, and Afghanistan. He holds a Master of Arts from the Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and a Bachelor of Arts from Wabash College.

He has been interviewed and discussed Afghanistan and regional issues in numerous print & broadcast interviews with The Financial Times, The Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, Der Spiegel, CNN Online, PBS News-Hour, National Public Radio and many other new sources. His writings have appeared in international and Afghan publications including The Washington Post, The New York Times and International Herald Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, He speaks French, Russian, Persian & Pashtu.

Alexander Kupatadze

Alexander Kupatadze is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for European, Russia and Eastern European Studies of Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University. He holds an MA in International Studies from Uppsala University and recently completed his PhD at the School of International Relations of St Andrews University. Before going to St. Andrews, he researched organized crime as an Associate Research Fellow at TraCCC's Georgia office. His research interests include criminal networks, informal politics and corruption, international relations of the Caucasus and Central Asia. He has authored several articles and book chapters on criminality, smuggling and policing in post-Soviet Eurasia. He is now completing his book entitled *State Formation and Organized Crime in post-Soviet Eurasia* to be published by Palgrave Macmillan next year.

Alisher Latypov

Alisher Latypov, MA (Tajik State National University), MHS (Johns Hopkins University), MA (University College London) is a PhD student at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL. He has recently submitted his doctoral thesis entitled "The Administration of Addiction: The Politics of Medicine and Opiate Use in Soviet Tajikistan, 1924–1958." Prior to commencing his academic research on the history of opium and its users in Central Asia he served in the Tajik Presidential Drug Control Agency, directed the country office of the Global Initiative on Psychiatry in Tajikistan and assisted the UNDP as Sub-Regional Drug Epidemiology Expert for Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. He is a corresponding member of the Reference Group to the United Nations on HIV and Injecting Drug Use and has published broadly on the history and politics of drugs, health and healing in Central Asia. His recent

papers deal with the subjects of resistance to opioid substitution therapy in Tajikistan (2010); Islamic healers, Soviet psychiatrists and the transformation of mental health care in Tajikistan (2010); and religious, cultural and public health aspects of female self-immolation in Tajikistan (2009).

Karen Saunders

Karen Saunders joined TraCCC in 1998 and has served as a Program Assistant, a Program Manager and Executive Director for International Programs. Her areas of academic interest include human trafficking, child exploitation, international development, drug trafficking and other illicit trade. She has worked closely with the Russian organized crime study centers for her career at TraCCC. Her work with the Open World Program was recognized in 2010 by, bi-lateral commission

Ms. Saunders holds a Master's Degree in International Development from American University. She received a dual B.A. in International Relations and Russian Language and Literature from Tufts University. She was selected to spend one academic year in St. Petersburg and Moscow in 1993-94 to participate in a specialized language fluency program. Ms. Saunders has traveled extensively in the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Louise Shelley

Louise Shelley is a University Professor in the School of Public Policy and the founder and Director of the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC) at George Mason University. She is a recipient of Guggenheim, NEH, IREX, Kennan Institute, and Fulbright Fellowships and received a MacArthur Grant to establish the Russian Organized Crime Study Centers. She is the author of four books, the most recent of which is *Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective* that was published by Cambridge University Press in August 2010. Her expertise in transnational crime and corruption includes money laundering and illicit financial flows, human smuggling and trafficking and the relationship of crime and terrorism. She is presently under contract with Cambridge University Press to write a book on corruption, transnational crime and terrorism.

Professor Shelley has testified before the House Committee on International Relations Committee, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and other committees on transnational crime, human trafficking and the links between transnational crime, financial crime and terrorism. She is on the co-chair of the Global Advisory Council group on Organized Crime of the World Economic Forum (WEF), and serves as an ambassador to the group on Illicit Trade of the WEF. She has spoken at various international fora and at many universities both in the United States and abroad. Additionally, she appears on television and radio.

Kimberley Thachuk

Dr. Kimberley Thachuk served for the past two and a half years as the National

Counterintelligence Officer for Transnational Issues at the National Counterintelligence Executive, Office of the Director of National Intelligence. There she analyzed intelligence on a variety of transnational issues from a multidisciplinary perspective employing a variety of analytic tools.

Formerly, she was a Senior Research Fellow and Assistant Director of the Transformation Program at the Center for Technology and National Security Policy at the National Defense University. There she conducted research and taught courses with an accent on force transformation in coping with transnational threats such as terrorism and insurgency. Earlier positions included serving as a Visiting Professor of International Relations in the Security Policy Studies Program of the Elliott School at The George Washington University where she directed the Transnational Threats Concentration, and as the Senior Research Fellow for Transnational Threats and Deputy Director of the Globalization Project at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, the National Defense University.

Her research is mainly on transnational threats to national security, including organized crime and terrorism, drug, human, and arms trafficking, alien smuggling, smuggling of weapons of mass destruction, cyber threats, and health and environmental threats.

She holds a Multidisciplinary Ph.D. in Criminology/Political Science/Latin American Studies from Simon Fraser University, Canada. She is author of numerous publications including, "Countering Terrorism Across the Atlantic?"; "Hijacked by Villains: Corruption and International Security"; "Transnational Threats: Falling Through the Cracks?", and; "Terrorism's Financial Lifeline: Can it Be Severed?". Dr. Thachuk edited a book on transnational threats entitled, *Transnational Threats: Smuggling and Trafficking in Arms, Drugs and Human Life* (Praeger, 2007).