

Mapping Central Asian Issues

A Workshop organized by Govcom.org in collaboration with the Information Program, OSI

for Issue Network Cartographers and Central Asian Issue Experts

8-14 November 2001

location: C3, Budapest, <http://www.c3.hu/c3/index.html>

Begins on Thursday, 8 November, at 10.00am.

The Workshop is dedicated to mapping Issue Networks on the Web using special techniques and software developed by Govcom.org (Amsterdam) and OneWorld.net (London). The Issue Network Mapping software has been developed in an ongoing project, "Live Issue Atlas on the Web," with a grant from the Soros Internet Program, New York. The techniques and software take advantage of everyday hyperlinking behaviour in order to locate and map the most relevant networked actors per issue according to the Web.

Regional experts and trained 'issue network cartographers' will attend the event. The issues we will focus on will include: oil fund and pipeline related issues, corruption, regional conflicts (Ferghana Valley, Nagorno-Karabakh), and media freedom. In light of the events of 11 September, the workshop will also look at fundamentalism, drug-trafficking, freedom of information and financial transparency. Questions to be addressed at the workshop include:

Are there dedicated Central Asian networks of organizations treating these issues? Are there global networks of organizations treating these issues? What may be the connections - politically, organizationally and substantively - between the local and global networks? Do the organizations engaging in the issues recognize others as meaningful participants, debate partners and/or combatants in the Issue Networks? Substantively, is there a disconnection between the definitions and understandings of these issues among any regional and international networks we may find? Are there partnerships and/or competitions between Central Asian issues? What may be learned by comparing the actors and the issues on the Web with expert practitioners' grasp of the same? When does the Web know better? How can we tell?

In all we aim to create actual maps of the various issues and sub-issues around these Central Asian themes, using the techniques as well as special information design. At the beginning of the workshop, each of the participants will be trained to use the software in order to make maps of the issues of their choosing, with the aid of the information designers. At the end of the workshop, the maps made by the participants and designers will be presented to all.

The format of the workshop intersperses the following:

- 1) Introduction and Software Training
- 2) Talks by the Cartographers
- 3) Software Use and Cartographer Feedback on Preliminary Issue Network Findings
- 4) Designer Map-making
- 5) Individual Analysis and Presentations of Results

Participants:

Cartographers

dr Richard Rogers, University of Amsterdam (organizer)

Noortje Marres, University of Amsterdam (organizer)

dr Greg Elmer, Boston College

Andres Zelman, University of Amsterdam

Issue David Stubbs
Stewart Chisholm
David Amiryam
Eldar Zeynalov
Emin Akhundov
Irakli Porchkidze
Aisuluu Bedelbaeva
Dmyitri Kabak
Olga Trushina
Dilshod Sadykov
Igor Pogrebov

If you have a laptop computer with ethernet capacity, please bring it. We have two hubs.