

Brief information about the project

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| Name of the project | AP19675718 «A new vision on Yasawi heritage: comprehensive understanding of Auliye phenomenon in Kazakh tradition and history of Central Asian Sufism» |
| Relevance | <p>It is known that the economic miracle and international breakthrough of many countries (“four Asian Tigers”, etc.) preceded with the well-coordinated moral-psychological mobilization. Due to the concept of “New Kazakhstan”, the issue of activation of nation’s cultural code is actualized. Essential marker of Kazakh tradition is the custom to venerate saints and wise men (<i>auliyege magzym</i>). Studying sacral Kazakhstan deviated towards cult sites, material-bookish heritage while attention to mysterious religious ascetic figure had weakened. Project contains a new idea of conceptual rethinking of Auliye phenomenon. Yasawi heritage will integrate with modern discourse of anthropology (Ken Wilber, Maslow, Grof, etc.). Project explores the subject of saint women for the first time.</p> |
| Purpose | <p>In line with reinterpretation of Yasawism <i>auliye</i> phenomenon to be subjected to a comprehensive understanding within Kazakh tradition and history of Central Asian Sufism.</p> |
| Objectives | <p>To explore historic prerequisites establishing the custom of veneration of sacral personalities (<i>tagzym</i>) in local Islam and its peculiarities in various periods, Sufism’s role (<i>tasavvuf</i>) in its formation, issues of connections with ethno-culture of Kazakhs, Khoja class, Kazakh genealogies. Within emerging trends of Islamic and Turkic Studies, comparisons, and integrations with various approaches to be explored deeper and contents of “cult of the saints” (correct: veneration) to be theoretically reassessed as an indicator of traditional Turkic-Hanafi Islam, but not Shamanism. To explore theological, psychological prerequisites for Yasawi and other spiritual supporters to become sacral personalities based on a set of sources, determination of categories and terms of “<i>auliye</i>”, “<i>kie</i>”, “<i>aruah/arwah</i>”, “<i>kamil adam</i>”, etc. According to definite methods to explore historic-ethnographic information about heroes of local Islam, men of wisdom, saint women in close connection with sacral geography, Kazakh folklore and world perception of nomads. To explore medieval Sufi hagiography of Central Asia, Persian and Turkic writings in the genre of “<i>tazkira</i>” (lives of the Saints) from viewpoint of reconstructing Auliye image, self-improvement issues, Sufi esoterism. To systematize data about <i>ziarat</i>’s objects of the southern (predominantly) regions of Kazakhstan and adjacent regions, mainly Uzbekistan, from viewpoint of saints, <i>ishans</i>, which will allow to specify the peculiarities of local Islam and its role in integrating different nations in the region; To determine and specify the conditionality of religious pilgrimage sites (<i>mazarat</i>, caves, etc.) by one or another sacral personality (or community of saints). In this regard, to study peculiarities of <i>ziarat</i>, <i>zikh</i> rituals, ascetic practices, Sufis’ attitude to the nature, saints’ bookish and writing heritage, influence on the country’s social processes.</p> <p>To introduce into scientific discourse, new materials of field ethnographic research, archival and theological sources about Auliye of different periods, including <i>ishans</i>, <i>dervishes</i>, <i>pirs</i>, <i>duana</i>, <i>bakhsy</i></p> |

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| | <p>focusing the study on practices, secrets of healing, education and training, experience of mastering unconscious areas of human psyche, achieving unusual conscious states, developing talents. Based on the above tasks' implementation, scientific data generalization and synthesis to restate more complete and modern vision of Auliye phenomenon, to integrate Yasawism into modern interdisciplinary scientific system about individual's spiritual transformation, self-disclosure ways, developing holistic worldview, genius, talents.</p> |
| <p>Expected and achieved results</p> | <p>Project implementation will present modern knowledge about <i>Auliye</i> phenomenon, integrate Khoja Ahmed Yasawi heritage into modern scientific and philosophical knowledge system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical, theological preconditions of <i>Auliye</i> veneration tradition genesis will be defined, research subject's holistic vision according to local religious tradition, considering <i>tasawwuf</i>, modifications in Kazakh ethno-culture, ties with <i>Khojas</i>, will be proposed. • Through critical reassessment of Soviet, post-Soviet theories, modern Islamic discourse, main approaches for identifying "Auliyelism" as Muslim-Sufi marker will be defined, contributing to concretization of Kazakhs' Islamization concept. • Within spiritual practices evolution and shrines' history, background of Yasawi, Bahauddin, Mashkhur-Jusup, other saints becoming sacral will be presented. From <i>Auliye</i> viewpoint, bookish-written heritage will be explored, i.e. array of hagiographic and other written sources in Arabic, Farsi, Chagatai from Uzbekistan's Manuscript Collection, Istanbul's book depositories, new information, facts will be introduced into scientific discourse. • Interdisciplinary reconstruction of Sufi asceticism in Central Asian history, spiritual practices such as <i>khylyet</i>, <i>zikr</i>, etc. will be conducted; saints' hierarchies, theological and theosophical ideas about "miracles", Sufism's "indigenization" in Turkic environment; female religiosity role, holy women legends, myths birth. • Resulting from previous results, peculiarities of <i>ziarat</i>, rituals, relationship between Islamizer and cult sites (<i>khanaka</i>, <i>mazar</i>, <i>mosque</i>, etc.) in South Kazakhstan areas, Uzbekistan will be explored; issues of religious tourism activation are indicated. • Based on field research, archival and other sources, saints' history from different eras, <i>ishans</i>, <i>dervishes</i>, <i>pirs</i>, <i>duana</i>, <i>abyz</i>, <i>bakhsy</i>, <i>tauyp</i>, etc. will be restored. Sufi and para-Sufi medicine, ways to achieve hikmet(wisdom), secrets of education, training, travel, psychological knowledge, participation in society's life. Lacunae of Yasawi knowledge will be filled; contradictions, debatable points will be scientifically solved. <p>Based on research results, lead authors will publish 1 (one) article in foreign peer-reviewed scientific journals (preferably in Milli Folklor journal with percentile 50; CiteScore 2021 0.3, quartile Q4). 3 scientific articles will be published in local journals recommended by SHEQAC of RoK. 2 scientific publications being prepared: a) collective monograph "Yasawi and Auliye phenomenon in the history</p> |

of Central Asia”, b) textbook “Islamization of Medieval Kazakhstan and the role of Sufism”

- ship certificate for collective writing “Yasawi and Auliye Phenomenon in the History of Central Asia” will be received from National Institute of Intellectual Property (NIIP).

-Scientific, technical, design documentation will not be developed, as research is conducted in humanities.

- Project results’ dissemination amongst potential consumers will be conducted through participation in international and republican conferences’ scientific forums. To evaluate research results, a republican scientific conference to issue reports’ collection.

- : science, confessional politics, state ideology, tourism, international relations. Target consumers of Yasawi’s developments: International Kazakh-Turkish University in Turkestan, universities’ humanitarian faculties; according to medieval sources, they are in demand from Institutes of Oriental Studies of RoK and RoU, Turkic Academy; legacy of ishans and Islam in general are applicable to Muftiate. New information, theories introduced into science about women’s role in local cultures, relations with Uzbekistan are of interest to women, international Islamic organizations, TURKSOY, UNESCO.

- Received interdisciplinary knowledge within Central Asian history will affect historical science development (spiritual heritage, shrines, historical personalistics, consciousness modernization), adjacent areas, sciences, including Islamic Studies, Turkology, psychology. Based on new methods and materials, new lecture courses in universities to develop for training highly qualified scientific talents.

-Developed provisions, methods to be commercialized, considering “New Kazakhstan” concept challenges in providing ideology, promoting unity, mentality improving issues. If integrated into modern format, Sufism grounds in psycho-correction field can be successfully commercialized through opening an educational website; more traditional centers for working with unmanageable children, violence victims, religious sects, etc. Scientific data about women’s religiosity, about Yasawi’s path (e.g., for filming a feature movie about Hazret Sultan) is expected to be competitive.

-Socio-cultural, environmental, and political effect is related with demand for scientific and practical recommendations by government agencies, museums, mosques, women and tourism organizations. Generally, issue’s successful research, more contemporary knowledge about Yasawi’s Heritage should increase Kazakh society’s spirituality, tolerance level, prevent terrorism, extremism. Information about Sufi attitude to nature, sacral sites, routes indirectly lead to environmental culture improvement. We consider dissemination of new facts about spiritual unity of Central Asia, all its nations, namely Kazakhs, Uighurs, Uzbeks, Kyrgyz, etc. as one of the factors affecting politics and diplomacy. Socio-educational effect resulted from project implementation lies in active engaging young scientists, PhD, master’s degree students,

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| | undergraduates in scientific-research field to increase local science rating through publications in international journals of high citation index. |
| Research team members with their identifiers (Scopus Author ID, Researcher ID, ORCID, if available) and links to relevant profiles | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nurtazina Nazira, Doctor of Historical Sciences, H – 1, Scopus Author ID 55835604400; ORCID 0000-0001-9322-8968 2. Kenzhetayev Dosai, Doctor of Theological Sciences 3. Kartabayeva Erke, Candidate of Historical Sciences H–1; Scopus Author ID 56227357400; ORCID 0000-0002-2565-1876 4. Akimbek Zhanibek, PhD student, https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5757-4687 |
| List of publications with links to them | |
| Patents | - |