

Brief information about the project

Title	The Kazakhs of the Tarbagatai Region: A Historical and Ethnographic Study (19th – Early 21st Century)
Relevance	<p>The relevance of the research topic lies in the lack of clear identification and insufficient study of the ethno-territorial characteristics of Kazakhs living in various regions of Kazakhstan, especially in the context of the current complex geopolitical situation. To date, key issues of Kazakh ethnography have generally been considered from a pan-ethnic perspective. Therefore, the study of the ethnography of regional groups by today's ethnologists is of particular importance. One of the most pressing tasks of Kazakhstani ethnology is the comprehensive study of the rapidly developing Kazakh ethnos — its origins, historical development, traditional culture, current status as an ethno-social community, and future prospects.</p>
Goal	<p>Through a comprehensive historical and ethnographic study of the ethnocultural characteristics of the Kazakhs of the Tarbagatai region in the 19th to early 21st centuries, contribute to the strengthening of the national interests of the Kazakh people and the historical integrity of the Republic of Kazakhstan.</p>
Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To compile a bibliography based on the identification and systematization of sources and scholarly works related to material and spiritual culture found in the collections of the Central and National Libraries of Kazakhstan, the Central Archives, and the archives of the city of Omsk;- To classify and study museum data and artifacts of material and spiritual culture from the collections and exhibitions of Omsk, Semey, Ust-Kamenogorsk, and the Central State Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan to identify the ethnographic features specific to the region;- To collect information on the district's economy, family histories, genealogies (zheti ata), historical figures, and geographical toponyms in order to determine the 19th – early 20th century settlement patterns, tribal composition, population size, and pasture zones (winter and summer pastures) of the Kazakhs of the region;- To analyze the effects of the Tsarist administrative reforms beginning in the second half of the 19th century on the traditional settlement system, tribal territorial organization, and migration routes, considering established kinship, social, and economic relations;- To conduct a comprehensive study of the economy and culture of the Kazakhs of the Tarbagatai region during the transition to a semi-sedentary lifestyle (mid-19th – early 20th century) and to determine the impact of socio-economic changes on the region's ethnocultural identity;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To analyze sources on the transition of nomadic livestock herders to new market relations in the late 19th – early 20th centuries and to identify significant transformations in traditional crafts and occupations; - To classify types of dwellings and examine the formation of permanent winter settlements, assessing the impact of Russian colonization policies on this process; - To study the current state of villages and the everyday, kinship, and family relationships of the local Kazakh population in order to identify and characterize ethnopsychological trends and processes; - To analyze the issue of ethnocultural identity by conducting a comparative study of material and spiritual cultural patterns between the local population and Kazakh repatriates (qandas) who have preserved the traditional way of life; - Based on materials gathered from the population and museum/archive collections, to identify the types of traditional dwellings, analyze the local features of interior design, and study architectural changes and innovations; - To examine the technology behind the production of material culture objects and identify local characteristics of traditional dietary systems; - To assess the impact of globalization processes on the material and spiritual culture of the region's Kazakhs through the study of intercultural interactions and influences with other ethnic groups, and to determine the degree of preservation of traditional culture; - To highlight the historical and cultural integrity of the Kazakh people by collecting, promoting, and publishing the traditional material and spiritual heritage of the Kazakhs of the Tarbagatai region.
Expected and Achieved Results	<p>Work completed in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-revolutionary materials related to the Kazakhs of the Tarbagatai region were identified and systematized from the rare collections of the Central and National Libraries of the Republic of Kazakhstan; - Relevant archival sources were gathered from the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan; - In November 2024, project executor D. Katran undertook a research trip to the city of Semey. During the visit, ethnographic and museum-related materials were classified and organized from the Semey city archive and local history museum, and photo documentation was conducted; - Based on the collected materials, project executors D. Katran and M.K. Egizbayeva prepared and submitted for publication the textbook “<i>Traditional Worldview of the Kazakh People</i>”; - A bibliography was compiled based on the identified sources and scholarly works; - The materials were categorized into the following chronological stages:

- pre-revolutionary sources;
- post-revolutionary studies;
- Soviet-era research;
- research from the independence and contemporary periods;
- Project leader M.K. Egizbayeva and executors S.Kh. Shalgynbayeva and K.B. Baudiyarova developed and published a methodological guide titled “*Questionnaire Program for Participants of Ethnographic Expeditions and Student Fieldwork*”.

Articles published as part of the project:

1. Kalysh A.B. *Traditional Settlements and Dwellings of the Northeastern Kazakhs in the Early Research of Kh.A. Argynbaev* // Bulletin of KazNU. History Series. – No. 4 (115), 2024. – pp. 108–117. <https://bulletin-history.kaznu.kz/index.php/1-history/article/view/1930/1054>
2. Meirmanova G.A. *Hospitality Etiquette of the Kazakhs of the Tarbagatai Region: A Comparative Analysis with Other Regions of Kazakhstan* // Bulletin of KazNU. History Series. – No. 4 (115), 2024. – pp. 135–146. <https://bulletin-history.kaznu.kz/index.php/1-history/article/view/1895/1056>

Report on Activities for the Year 2025

Scientific research, analysis, and publication activities:

- A special academic course titled “*Ethnic and Ethnocultural Processes in Contemporary Kazakhstan*” was developed for master’s students in the “Archaeology and Ethnology” program, based on collected data;
- From May 2 to 8, 2025, project leader Dr. M.K. Egizbayeva and project researchers A.B. Beissegulova and A.S. Yesenamanova conducted a field research trip to the cities of Ust-Kamenogorsk and Semey, where they administered surveys among local residents to study the preservation and characteristics of family customs. Valuable ethnographic data were collected;
- Ancient artifacts and objects preserved in the collections and exhibitions of the main museums of Ust-Kamenogorsk — the East Kazakhstan Regional Architectural-Ethnographic and Natural Landscape Museum-Reserve, the East Kazakhstan Regional Museum of History and Local Lore, and the Regional Art Museum — were analyzed, classified, and photo-documented;
- Archival and library materials relevant to the project continue to be collected from the Rare Books Collection of the National Library of Kazakhstan and the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- Ethnographic items related to the traditional clothing of Tarbagatai Kazakhs were selected and photo-documented from the collections of the Central State Museum of Kazakhstan, and used in academic publications;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific articles based on collected materials are in preparation. The following papers were published in international conference proceedings during the reporting period: <p>Articles published in international conference proceedings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meirmanova G.A., Egizbayeva M.K. <i>Domestic Etiquette in the Kazakh Culture: The Case of the Tarbagatai Region</i> // 11th International Erciyes Scientific Research Congress, 11–12 March 2025, Kayseri, Türkiye. – pp. 125–134. 2. Meirmanova G.A. <i>Calendar Concepts in Kazakh Culture</i> // 11th International Erciyes Scientific Research Congress, 11–12 March 2025, Kayseri, Türkiye. – pp. 120–124. 3. Egizbayeva M.K., Shalgynbayeva S.Kh. <i>Household Activities and Crafts of East Kazakh Kazakhs in the Late 19th – Early 20th Centuries</i> // Proceedings of the International Scientific-Practical Conference “III Dulatov Readings”, January 31, 2025. – pp. 260–267. 4. Eskekbayev D. <i>The Rich History of Kokpekty or the Era of Colonization</i> // Proceedings of the International Scientific-Practical Conference “III Dulatov Readings”, January 31, 2025. – pp. 97–104. 5. Kalshabayeva B.K. <i>Some Issues of Ethnodemographic and Ethnocultural Processes in East Kazakhstan</i> // Proceedings of the International Conference “Orasbayev Readings”, May 2025. – pp. 238–244. <p>Ongoing research activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethnographic materials related to the material culture of the Tarbagatai Kazakhs continue to be collected, and the degree of preservation among rural populations in East Kazakhstan is being assessed; - The team composition for the upcoming field expedition to East Kazakhstan, Semey, and the Tarbagatai region has been established, and the route and plan are currently being developed; - A field ethnographic expedition is scheduled for June–July 2025, and preparations for necessary equipment and logistics are underway; - Data on family traditions of the Tarbagatai Kazakhs collected from the Rare Books Collection of the National Library of Kazakhstan are being compared with materials obtained during fieldwork.
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Names and Surnames of Research Group Members with Their Identifiers (Scopus Author ID, Researcher ID, ORCID, if available) and Links to Corresponding Profiles	<p>Egizbayeva M.K. – Scopus Author ID: 57200209192; Web of Science Researcher ID: AAE-1521-2020; ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3338-291X</p> <p>Kalysh, A. B - Scopus Author ID: 57189625801</p> <p>Kalshabayeva B.K. – Scopus Author ID: 57190865021; ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7391-8264</p> <p>Khatran D. – https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6864-8538</p> <p>Shalgynbayeva S.Kh. – ORCID: 0000-0002-3416-5212</p> <p>Beysegulova A.K. - Scopus Author ID: 57200214543; ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1470-1751</p> <p>Zhumatayev R.S.. - Scopus Author ID: 57222067364</p> <p>Baudiyarova K.B. - Scopus Author ID: 57210749929</p> <p>Yessenamanova A.S. - Scopus Author ID: 58347025900</p> <p>Meirmanova G.A. - Scopus Author ID: 57192670862</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kalysh, A. B. (2024). Traditional settlements and dwellings of the northeastern Kazakhs in the early studies of K. A. Argynbaev. <i>Bulletin of KazNU. Historical Series</i>, (4)115, 108–117. Retrieved from https://bulletin-history.kaznu.kz/index.php/1-history/article/view/1930/1054 - Meirmanova, G. A. (2024). Hospitality etiquette of the Kazakhs of the Tarbagatai region: A comparative analysis with other regions of Kazakhstan. <i>Bulletin of KazNU. Historical Series</i>, (4)115, 135–146. Retrieved from https://bulletin-history.kaznu.kz/index.php/1-history/article/view/1895/1056
Publications list with links to them	<p>1.Egizbayeva Meruert Karpykovna, Shalginbayeva Saule Khamitovna, Baudiyarova Kuralai Batyrbekovna. Questionnaire-Program for Participants of Ethnographic Expeditions and Student Field Practice. The certificate of intellectual property rights for the copyrighted work is registered on the website Kazpatent.kz. Date of registration: September 30, 2024. Registration No. 50038.</p> <p>2.Egizbayeva Meruert Karpykovna, Khatran Dosymbek. Traditional Worldview of the Kazakh People: A Textbook. The certificate of intellectual property rights for the copyrighted work is registered on the website Kazpatent.kz. Date of registration: December 24, 2024. Registration No. 52907.</p>