A critical part of the mission of the University of Central Asia (UCA) is to help the different peoples of the region preserve and draw upon their rich cultural traditions and heritages as assets for the future. The University’s Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit (CHHU) is advancing that mission through research, documentation, archiving and support of regional scholars.

**New Discoveries about Ancient Naryn**
Aida Abdykanova
*Research Paper #3 (English, Russian, December 2019, 26 p.)*
The paper discusses the ancient layers of archaeological sites that have been discovered during the construction of the University of Central Asia’s campus in Naryn (Kyrgyzstan). The publication was developed in the framework of the ‘Naryn Archeological Project’ (NAP), which has been implemented by CHHU since 2017.

**The Russians in the Great Game**
Robert Middleton
*Research Paper #2 (English, August 2019, 70 p.)*
If the original ‘Great Game’ ended with the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, a similar ‘Game’ of imperial rivalry continued (and continues), with some changes of players. The Pamir region, by its proximity to China, Afghanistan, Pakistan and other Central Asian republics, remains an important geopolitical playing field. The author extended the time-frame of this paper to include the Soviet and early post-Soviet periods.

**The Great Game – Myth or Reality?**
Robert Middleton
*Research Paper #1 (English, 2019, 50 p.)*
The term ‘The Great Game’ is used to describe British and Russian rivalry for influence and control in Central Asia during the period from the mid-19th until the early 20th century. The paper seeks to demonstrate that, seen against the wider canvas of British-Russian relations in the latter part of the 19th century, the influence of these explorers and adventurers was marginal and that the official record of diplomatic intercourse between the two Powers indicates that there was never any real danger.
Common Ethno-Cultural Patterns of Kyrgyz and Uzbeks
Abdymitalip Murzakmetov
University of Central Asia (Kyrgyz and English, 2020)
As Turkic-speaking peoples, Uzbeks and Kyrgyz share common history, culture and religion. Even though the Uzbeks have been the largest minority group in Kyrgyzstan, no in-depth research has been made on their cultural traditions. This monograph is the first study dealing with life cycle events, such as birth, children’s upbringing, marriage and funeral rites of Kyrgyz and Uzbeks, and discusses how they are connected to diverse rituals, folk beliefs and superstitions.

Tajiks of Huf Valley
Mikhail Andreev
University of Central Asia and the A. Donish Institute of history, archeology and ethnography of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan (Russian, 2020)
Unique book in two volumes by Mikhail Andreev, the corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of USSR. Published 60 years ago, it is one of a kind ethnographic research on life and culture of Tajiks in the upper reaches of Amu Darya River. It still remains highly relevant for anthropological research on the cultural history of Central Asia.

Andrei Evlampievich Madji: Half a Century of Scientific Research in Central Asia
Victor Dubovitskiy
University of Central Asia (Russian, 2018)
This biography book tells about the life and career of a Russian orientalist, Andrei Madji, who made major contributions to the world scholarship. It contains about 70 illustrations and reveals unique personal archives and previously unknown works, documenting important events in the region. These materials are valuable for scholars, researchers and anyone interested in the history of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan during the end of 19th, and in the first half of the 20th centuries.

Architectural Odyssey: The Safarname of Nasir Khusraw
Munavar Mamadnazarov
University of Central Asia & The Institute of Ismaili Studies, Aga Khan University (Russian, 2017)
The book presents an analysis of medieval Islamic architectural monuments described in the Safarname (Book of Travels) of Nasir Khusraw, 11th century Persian and Tajik poet, philosopher, traveler, and preacher who travelled from Khorasan to the countries of Near and Middle East, Asia Minor, North Africa and Muslim shrines in Arabia for seven years in search of new knowledge about the world and the essence of life. The author recreates the architectural environment in the middle of the 11th century by illustrating the phases of Nasir Khusraw’s travels through 300 photographs, drawings, and maps of the traveler’s routes.

Funeral Laments of the Pamiri Kyrgyz Living in Turkey. As Lingua-Folkloristic Primary Source, Analysis and Texts
Sulaiman Kaiypov
University of Central Asia (Kyrgyz, 2017)
This fundamental book deals with koshoks, funeral laments of the Pamiri Kyrgyz living in the Van region of eastern Turkey. The author presents rich and original texts of koshok which he recorded during his fieldwork conducted from 1997-2007 on the language, folklore, and ethnography of the Pamiri Kyrgyz, who first moved from their homeland in the Pamir mountains of Afghanistan to Pakistan in 1978 and then to Turkey in 1986.
Proverbs and Sayings of the Pamiri Kyrgyz Living in Turkey. As Lingua-Folkloristic Primary Source
Sulaiman Kaiypov
*University of Central Asia (2017, Kyrgyz)*
This book presents more 6500 authentic examples of proverbs and sayings that were recorded in their spoken form by the Pamiri Kyrgyz community living in the Van region of Turkey. The work is the result of many years of field work by the author and attempts to record and analyse the multifaceted genres of oral tradition according to the highest academic standards.

The Music of Central Asia
Edited by Theodore Levin, Saida Daukeeva and Elmira Köchümkulova
*Indiana University Press (English, 2016)*
From the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan to the Kazakh steppe, the old Silk Road city of Bukhara, and the urbane arts scene of contemporary Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, music and musical life come alive through vivid writing, copious illustrations, and 189 audio and video examples available on a companion website.

Archaeological Map of GBAO: Western Pamirs
Archaeological Map of GBAO: Eastern Pamirs
Mira Bubnova
*University of Central Asia (Russian, 2008 & 2015)*
This publication series contains information on existing monuments from the Stone Age through the 20th Century, and on destroyed monuments, based on archaeological evidence. It was written by Mira Bubnova, archaeologist of the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography at the Tajik Academy of Sciences. The books focus on the Western Pamirs, including the six administrative districts of Darwaz, Vanj, Rushan, Shugnan, Roshtkala and Ishkashim, as well as the Eastern Pamirs, including sites in the remote Murgab region.

The Musical Arts of the Pamirs:
*Volume I: Musical Heritage of the Pamirian Tajiks,*
*Volume II: Musical Performance and Dances of the Pamirian Tajiks,*
*Volume III: Ritual Music: Birth, Wedding, and Funeral*
*Volume IV: Tales, Epics and Legends*
*Volume V: Instrumental Music and Lyrical Songs*
Nizom Nurdjanov, Fayzulla Karomatov & Bahriniso Kabilova
*University of Central Asia (Russian, 2010-2015)*
The Musical Arts of the Pamirs is a five-volume study on folk music, oral history, dance, and theatre traditions from the Pamir region of Tajikistan. Widely viewed as the most comprehensive work on Pamir music and heritage to-date, the series is the culmination of 40 years of field work.

Cities of the Dead: The Ancestral Cemeteries of Kyrgyzstan
Photos by Margaret Morton, text by Nasser Rabbat, Elmira Köchümkulova, and Altyń Kapalova
*Indiana University Press (English, 2014)*
The first photographic documentation of Muslim cemeteries in Central Asia, this collection presents ethnographic material from collaborative field research in six regions of Kyrgyzstan by American photographer and Cooper Union Professor Margaret Morton and Elmira Köchümkulova. The book and exhibition will contribute to broadening knowledge of the architectural, visual and cultural record of Central Asia within and beyond the region.
“Respect Graces the Living, Lamentation Graces the Dead”.  
**Kyrgyz Funeral Laments and Lamenters**  
Elmira Köchümkulova  
*University of Central Asia (Kyrgyz, 2014)*  
Funeral lamentations (*koshoks*) are one of the oldest genres of Kyrgyz oral tradition, preserved and practiced primarily by elderly women. The rise of fundamentalist Islamic practices and influences of globalization have put this rich oral heritage at risk. Based on extensive field research conducted throughout Kyrgyzstan, this book presents rich and diverse *koshok* texts and compares different themes, forms and styles of singing *koshoks*. It includes dozens of interviews of Kyrgyz women on *koshok* singing and its past and current significance in Kyrgyz society. An accompanying DVD contains over thirty audio examples of *koshok* and ethnographic video footages showing Kyrgyz funeral customs filmed during actual memorial feasts offered to the deceased.

**Kyrgyz Herders of Soviet Uzbekistan: Historical and Ethnographic Narratives**  
Elmira Köchümkulova and Mamatkerim Köchümkulov  
*University of Central Asia (Kyrgyz and English, 2014)*  
This book explores historical, socio-economic and cultural experiences of Kyrgyz herders in Soviet Uzbekistan who lived a semi-nomadic life in the Fergana valley and mountain range from 1941 to 1995. The book will serve as a valuable primary source on Kyrgyz nomadic life, culture and traditional knowledge. It presents the life histories and memoirs of two herders and includes photographs of nomadic families in the *Yspy jailoo* (summer pasture) from the 1970s and a DVD documenting a trip to the *jailoo* in 2009. The project highlights the Soviet experience, historical ties and socio-cultural relations between nomadic Kyrgyz and sedentary Uzbeks of the Fergana valley, and the role of Kyrgyz women in family and society.

**Kyrgyz Instrumental Music: Analysis, Thoughts, and Opinions, Volumes I and II**  
Asan Kaibylda uulu  
*University of Central Asia (Kyrgyz, 2011)*  
This two-volume work written by Kyrgyz ethno-musicologist and *komuz* player Asan Kaibylda uulu presents findings from over 20 years of ethnographic research on Kyrgyz *küü*, instrumental music played primarily on the three-stringed instrument, *komuz*, and a comprehensive study of all known and unknown, recorded and unrecorded Kyrgyz instrumental music by master *komuz* players. The volumes are supplemented by music CDs with over 100 *komuz* melodies, with narratives on their histories by the author.

**Ancient Monuments of the Tien-Shan**  
Kubat Tabaldiev  
*University of Central Asia (Russian, 2011)*  
Based on 20 years of archaeological research in the Naryn region, historian and archaeologist Kubat Tabaldiev presents evidence of the rich heritage of the area from the Stone, Bronze, Early Iron and Middle Ages. The publication includes photographs and sketches of historical artifacts, along with accessible narrative on important archaeological discoveries. Through this work, the author intends to raise awareness on the importance of preserving key historical sites in the region.