



MONGOL SURVEY

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Ambassador Batbayar meets with Indiana University Provost during the annual meeting of the Mongolia Society in Bloomington, IN, in October, 2022. Left to Right: Dr. Jamshedd Choksy, Interim Chair of the Department of Central Eurasian Studies; Ambassador (ret.) Pamela Slutz, President of The Mongolia Society; Dr. Hannah Buxbaum, Vice President for International Affairs; Dr. Rahul Shrivastav, Executive Vice President and Provost; Ambassador U. Batbayar; Mr. Ganbold Ankhbayar, Counselor for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of Mongolia. Story on Page 3.

Announcements

Тавтай морилно уу!

The Department of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University is now accepting applications for its intensive summer Mongolian Workshop, June-July 2023.

The Workshop, now in its fifteenth year, aims to help students develop their linguistic and cultural competency rapidly and effectively through live online instruction, extracurricular activities, authentic materials, and real-time interactions with instructors and presenters from Mongolia. Classes are conducted primarily in Mongolian and focus on the rapid development of practical communication skills.

Deadline: February 3rd, 2023

For more details and submission information, please see:

<https://languageworkshop.indiana.edu/languages/online-hybrid/mongolian/index.html>

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Editor: Delgerjargal Uvsh

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Society514 Eigenmann Hall,
Indiana University
1900 E. 10th St.
Bloomington, IN
47406-7512Tel/Fax: (812) 855-4078
monsoc@indiana.edu
www.mongoliasociety.org

The *Mongol Survey* is a vehicle for the exchange of ideas, news, and information about Mongolia and the Mongol peoples. It is distributed free to all members of the Society.

Much of the material needed to make the *Mongol Survey* a success comes from our members and we encourage all to send information about themselves and their interests as well as any material they think others might be interested to know.

The publications of The Mongolia Society are governed by an Editorial Committee appointed by the Board of Directors.

If you wish to contribute to the *Mongol Survey*, please contact the editor by e-mail at monsoc@indiana.edu for submission guidelines.

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Announcements (continued)**The Best of the Next Generation American Mongolists Research Paper Prize Competition**

The Mongolia Society, with generous funding from the Embassy of Mongolia to the United States, is pleased to announce The Next Generation American Mongolists Research Paper Prize competition. This prize will recognize the top three papers on a topic of Mongolian Studies by masters- and doctoral-level students and new PhDs.

Papers will be judged on the originality of the thesis advanced, thoroughness and quality of research, knowledge and use of primary sources in original languages, importance of the topic for Mongolia and the Mongols, and the scholarly promise the author demonstrates in advancing the field of Mongolian Studies.

Winning papers will be recognized with awards of \$2,500 (first prize), \$1,500 (second prize), and \$1,000 (third prize). All papers submitted will be considered for publication in *Mongolian Studies: The Journal of The Mongolia Society*.

Papers may be submitted by any U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident who is currently enrolled in a masters or doctoral program or who has received a PhD degree in the last three years, who is proficient in the Mongolian language, and whose scholarly record demonstrates a long-term commitment to teaching and researching in a field of Mongolian Studies.

Submissions will include an *unpublished* research paper (between 3,000 and 8,000 words in length), a curriculum vitae, and a one-page statement of professional intent that describes the scholar's research and career goals related to Mongolian Studies and the level of their proficiency in the Mongolian language.

Entrants are strongly encouraged to become members of The Mongolia Society (www.mongoliasociety.org/membership).

For more details and submission information, please see:
www.mongoliasociety.org/competition2023

The deadline for competition submissions is 5:00 PM (PST) on March 15, 2023.

**American Center for Mongolian Studies
Mongolia Field School, 2023**

ACMS invites you to participate in the Mongolia Field School where you will have the opportunity to visit areas of the country off the beaten path, experience local life and culture and conduct academic field work and educational explorations. You will join a small group that includes both international and Mongolian participants offering a chance to make new friends and connections. Everyone is welcome to apply—whether you are a student, a teacher or a lifelong learner, our program offers a unique experience where you will gain new insights and take away memories that will last a lifetime. A significant number of fellowships are available for participants thanks to the generous support of the Henry Luce Foundation and other donors, with awards based on merit, diversity, and need. **All applicants who apply by the March 1, 2023 deadline are given priority consideration for fellowship awards.**

- Please contact Tuvshinzaya Tumenbayar at tuvshinzaya@mongoliacenter.org
- For more information, please go to <https://www.mongoliacenter.org/mfs23/>

AMCS is organizing informational webinars on the Mongolia Field School on January 18, 2023 at 8pm EST/5pm PST (January 19, 2023, 9am ULAT). Signup here to attend or receive the recording: <https://forms.gle/hiEFyVSNcBrbUkm58>.

Announcements (continued)

The US-Asia Institute Internship for Mongolian Americans

The US-Asia Institute is now accepting applications for the Mongolia-US National Civic Engagement Program (MUNCEP) for Summer 2023. This program is a rare experience for young Mongolian Americans, permanent resident young adults, or Mongolian students studying at US universities to travel to Washington, DC, for a 9-week professional development program. While in DC, the participants are able to gain a firsthand look at the American government and political system, to engage civically, and to reflect on the role they, as future leaders, might play in strengthening the US-Mongolia relationship. **Please note that the deadline is January 31, 2023.**

The application is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8k23cb>

For questions, please contact Mary Sue Bissell at the US-Asia Institute at mary.sue.bissell@usasiainstitute.org.

Kennan Institute Title VIII Grants for Senior Scholars

The Kennan Institute has launched a new Title VIII Senior Scholarships lasting up to six months for senior scholars, intended for assistant, associate, and adjunct faculty with at least 5 years' experience. Scholars who have not yet received tenure are eligible to receive this grant. Awarded applicants will spend a semester in Washington, D.C. to conduct original research on new projects that advance the Title VIII mission. Policy relevant research proposals examining Russia, Ukraine, and the countries of Eurasia are eligible. Awards are limited to scholars who are U.S. citizens.

The Title VIII Senior Scholar grant offers a stipend of \$3,500 per month, research facilities, computer support, and some research assistance. Grant recipients are required to be in residence at the Institute in Washington, D.C. for the duration of their grant. The Title VIII Senior Scholar Program is supported by the Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII) of the United States Department of State.

One round of competitive Title VIII Senior Scholar selection is held per year. The deadline for receipt of applications and supporting materials is **January 31, 2023**.

For additional details about the grant and how to apply, please see:

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/kennan-institute-title-viii-senior-scholarships>

Indiana University Announces Title VIII Fellowships for Language Study

Indiana University's Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies announces Title VIII Fellowships that provide tuition, fees, and room & board stipends for U.S. graduate students, area specialists, and scholars studying the languages and cultures of Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union in Language Workshop. Title VIII Fellowships support in-person study, online study, and overseas study in the Workshop's program in Budapest. Overseas Fellowships include travel and study-abroad fees. Title VIII Fellows also gain access to services of the Slavic Reference Service of the University of Illinois Library in Urbana-Champaign.

The mission of the Title VIII Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union—administered by the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research—is to ensure that timely, independent, analysis informs U.S. foreign policy decisions. Title VIII Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis, with priority going to applicants who will further the Title VIII mission to develop and maintain high-quality research and training programs critical to the national security of the United States and to support and sustain American expertise on the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union.

Please note that the deadline is February 3, 2023.

The application is available here: <http://languageworkshop.iu.edu/funding>

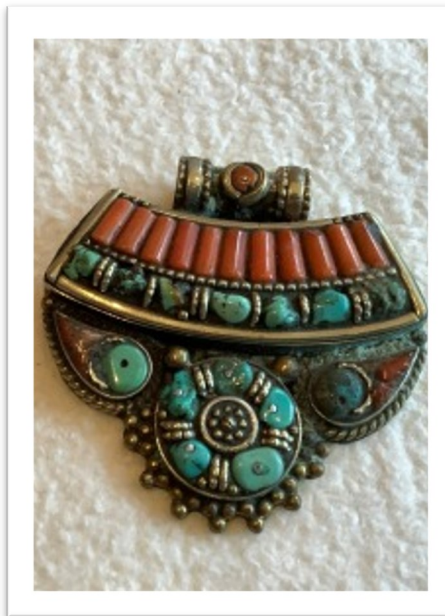
The Society's "Naadam Fundraiser 2022": A Big Success

The Society's "Naadam Fundraiser 2022," held in July, proved to be a big success. We received over a hundred donated items from members and friends this past year, everything from keychains and felt bags to original artwork and rare historical items. All of them were made available for bids during the online silent auction, which generated over \$1,900.

The Mongolia Society wishes to thank all who contributed to the success of this year's fundraiser. It is support like this that makes the work of The Mongolia Society possible.

We're already thinking about next year's Naadam fundraiser. Those who would like to donate an item to the Society are asked to contact Executive Director Susie Drost at monsoc@indiana.edu.

100% of all proceeds from these fundraising activities will go to support the activities of The Mongolia Society, which aims to raise \$30,000 in contributions during the current fiscal year.



Do you have items related to Mongolia that you don't need anymore?

Donate them to the Society!

The Mongolia Society is accepting donations for its Naadam Fundraiser 2023, a 3-week silent online auction scheduled for July 2023.

We welcome donations from anyone and, while we prefer donations related to Mongolia or Mongolian culture, we will consider anything of value for this event:

- Physical objects - books, artwork, furniture, musical instruments, and so on;
- Services - meal coupons at a local restaurant or language translation work.

Please contact the Society's Executive Director Susie Drost: monsoc@indiana.edu.

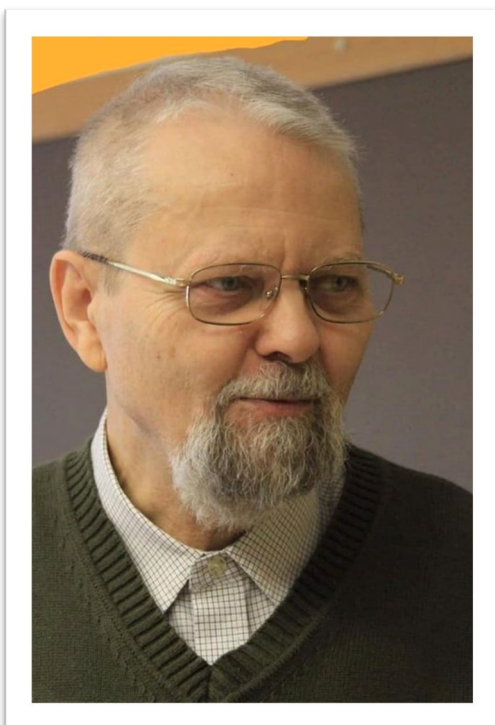
All donations made to The Mongolia Society are tax-deductible. Those who donate will receive a letter of affidavit that can be filed with your IRS income tax return.

The Mongolia Society Remembers Dr. György Kara

As we end 2022, we reflect on those dear friends and colleagues we lost this year. In particular, our Society remembers Dr. György Kara, or Khar Dorj, as he was known to his many students, friends, and colleagues. A long-time member of the Mongolia Society and long-time Chairman of the Board, Dr. Kara was a much-beloved instructor, mentor, and colleague. The following is a brief summary of his life and contributions to our field.

Dr. Kara's Career Achievements

Dr. Kara was Professor of The Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies and Professor emeritus of ELTE University in Budapest, Hungary. From 1970-2000, he served as chairman of the Department of Inner Asian Studies at ELTE and from 1973-2005, as head of the Research Group for Altaic Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. For several years, he also served as chairman of ELTE's Department of East Asian Studies and director of its Institute of Oriental Studies.



*Photo by Y. Boldbaatar.
Used with permission*

He was a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and of the Committee of Oriental Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. From 1958-2005, he taught Mongol, Tibetan and Tungusic courses at ELTE University in Budapest, each of which covered a range of subjects, from languages and dialects to literature, folklore, and linguistics. He did the same at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he was invited, in 1986, to teach a broad range of subjects, including Altaic linguistics, Classical Mongol, Buriat, Manchu, Ewenki, Chuvash, Old Turkic structure, Old Turkic in various scripts, Mongolic languages and dialects, Shamanism and folk religion of the Mongols, their traditional civilization, literature, folklore, writing systems and phonetic history as well as several new courses for Department of Central Eurasian Studies. He continued teaching at Indiana University until his last stay in the hospital in April 2022.

Dr. Kara was an internationally respected scholar in his field. Expert in Mongolic languages and cultures, Altaic philology and Inner Asian cultural history, he contributed more than 400 publications on Mongolic, Turkic, Tungusic and Tibetan studies.

Dr. Kara was a member of the editorial board of professional journals and serials in Hungary, Russia, the United States, and China. He did field work and research, edited several important documents of Mongol language, cultural and literary history, translated old and new Mongol literature, recorded and analyzed oral texts, and described some hitherto unexplored dialects. He was a guest in the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; spent a year as senior researcher in Europe's largest collection of Mongol old books and manuscripts in St. Petersburg, Russia; was visiting scholar in Japan, between the 1970s and 2002 did regular research work in the Turfan Collection of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences in Germany.

He was recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt Forschungspreis, the Pole Star Order and Labor Merit Order of Mongolia, the Gold Medal of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference, the Alexander Csoma de Kőrös Prize, the Europa Publishing House Prize (Budapest), and diploma of honor from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. He was an honorary member of the Central Eurasian Studies Society (USA), the International Association of Mongolian Studies (Ulaanbaatar), and the Turkish Language Society (Ankara). No less than seven Festschriften have been published in his honor.

The following statements were made by several of Dr. Kara's colleagues. They were posted to the Facebook page of the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies. A forthcoming issue of the Society's journal *Mongolian Studies* will honor Dr. Kara's contributions to our field.

The Mongolia Society Remembers Dr. György Kara (continued)

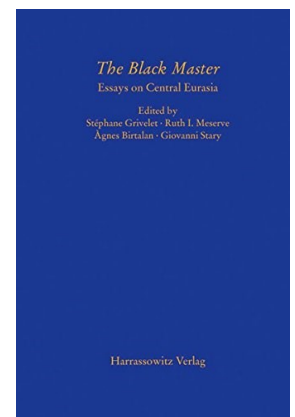
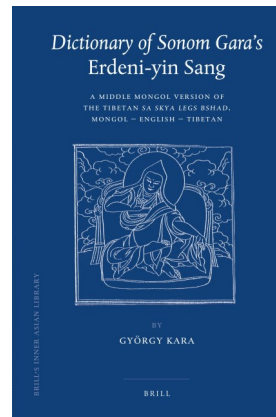
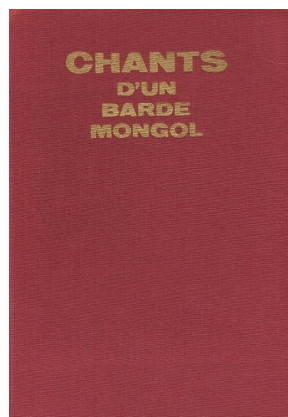
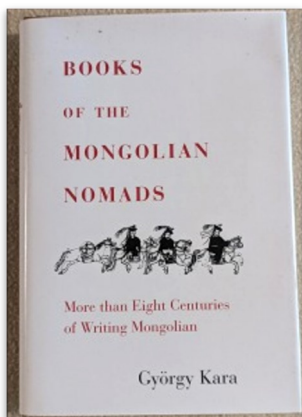
Öner Özçelik, Central Eurasian Studies Chair: “I feel very fortunate that, last Spring, I was able to audit his course 'Old Turkic,’” said Özçelik. “He was truly devoted to his field; he could have hours of discussion about the origins of a single word, and in doing so, he could take you on a trip from one end of the world to another. He cared a lot about his students, who meant the world to him. He even tried to continue his three classes this semester even through hospital stays, in heroic Professor Kara fashion. Beyond his scholarship and teaching, despite his deep knowledge about the field, he was a very humble person, and always added some humor to his conversations. He will be truly missed.”

Dr. Jamsheed K. Choksy, CEUS Distinguished Professor: “While I was chair of the department, every summer he would visit Hungary for research. He would always ask me if there was anything he could do to further IU or the department while in Hungary,” Choksy shared. “He always placed the students first, right to the end. Professor Kara’s knowledge will be impossible to replace.”

Professor Christopher Atwood, University of Pennsylvania: “A life can’t be summed up in the printed word, but my teacher ... could be captured in his voice,” said Atwood. “That slight frown, that quiet laugh, that distinctive accent, that eccentric vocabulary full of amusing witticisms and insights — that was him. No one who learned from Professor Kara would ever denigrate precise and exact knowledge ... but remembering his living voice, I know its limits. *Amurlingui noirsooroi, bagsh aa.*”



Left: Dr. Kara photographed in Prague in 2003. **Above:** Dr. Kara speaking with attendees of The Mongolia Society’s 2008 Naadam celebration in Bloomington, Indiana. Denis Sinor, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Central Asian Studies at the Department of Central Eurasian Studies, is seated to his left. Photos by Marta Kiripolska. Used with permission. **Below:** Books by and inspired by Dr. Kara.



Report from the Society's 61st Annual Meeting & Conference

The **61st Annual Meeting & Conference of The Mongolia Society** was held jointly with the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) on the Indiana University, Bloomington campus, October 20-23, 2022. The meeting and conference were well-attended, both in-person and virtually. Held at the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies, the conference featured the participation of 27 panelists on 7 different panels.

The Society was honored to have **Ambassador U. Batbayar, Ambassador of Mongolia to the United States**, attend the event, during which he met with administration officials at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and Indiana University-Bloomington (IU). Together they discussed educational cooperation in the framework of the March 15, 2022, "Agreement of Friendship and Cooperation" between Indiana University and the National University of Mongolia. The Ambassador then delivered the Opening Remarks at the General Meeting & Conference and visited with members.

We highlight here a few features of the meeting. The conference schedule is available on the Mongolia Society website.

The annual meeting included a panel on the 100th anniversary of the 1921 Revolution. Chaired by Prof. Chris Atwood of the University of Pennsylvania, the panel featured Prof. Simon Wickhamsmith from Rutgers University presenting on the topic "Yeröölch Jigmed Remembers the Revolution," Dr. Tsendendamba Batbayar of Institute of History, Mongolian Academy of Sciences examining "Regional Geopolitics and the Issue of Mongolia's International Status (1920-1921)," Prof. Uranchimeg (Orna) Tsultem of Herron School of Art + Design, IUPUI discussing "Impact of the 1921 Revolution in Mongolian Art: the cases of Sharav and Yadamsüren," Dr. Lhagvademchig Jadamba from Department of Anthropology and Archeology, National University of Mongolia sharing research on "The Impact of the Revolution of 1921 for the Establishment of Socialist Mongolian Hamba Lama Institution," and Dr. O. Batsaikhan of Mongolian Archives presenting "1921 historical event in Mongolia."

The meeting also included several panels dedicated to the memory of Prof. Gyorgy Kara. The first panel focused on Textual and Philological Studies and included presentations by Dr. Sam H. Bass of Indiana University, Prof. Brian Baumann of University of California, Berkeley, Prof. Eveline Washul of Indiana University, and Prof. Jonathan Washington of Swarthmore. The second panel involved Religious Studies. Dr. Krisztina Teleki of Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary, Dr. Mátyás Balogh of ELTE University, Hungary, Prof. Charles Manson of Oxford University), and Prof. Wei-Chieh Tsai of Shenzhen University presented their research on this panel. The third panel, titled Revisiting the Work and Wisdom of Gyorgy Kara, was chaired by Ambassador Slutz. Dr. Julie LeFort from Centre de recherches linguistiques sur l'Asie orientale, France, Dr. Saruul-Erdene Myagmar from the Library of Congress, and Mr. Gedun Rabsal and Mrs. Tserenchunt Legden from Indiana University discussed their research on this panel.



Ambassador U. Batbayar meets with Herron School and IUPUI Officials.

Left to Right: Mr. Joseph Mella, Director and Curator of Herron Galleries; Dr. Hilary Kahn, Associate Vice Chancellor for International Affairs, IUPUI and Associate Vice President for International Affairs, IU; Dr. Kathy Johnson, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, IUPUI; Ambassador U. Batbayar; Prof. Greg Hull, Dean of Herron School of Art+Design; Prof.

Uranchimeg Tsultem, Edgar and Dorothy Fehnel Chair in International Studies at Herron and Board Member of The Mongolia Society; Prof. Stefan Petranek, Associate Professor of Photography and Fine Art at Herron.

Report from the Society's 61st Annual Meeting & Conference

Another notable feature of the conference was the Art of Mongol Zurag exhibit curated by Prof. Uranchimeg (Orna) Tsultem. Mongolian traditional style of painting, much rooted in a Buddhist pictorial tradition, is known as Mongol Zurag (Mongolian picture). This tradition was instrumental in maintaining the cultural identity for Mongolian artists during the period of socialism in the twentieth century. It was largely suppressed prior to 1990, after which Mongolia became a new democratic, multi-party nation. Mongol Zurag was further developed in this century by contemporary changes in Mongolia's economy and politics. The exhibit was held in conjunction with a panel on the topic of Mongol Zurag and is made possible by the support of the Mongol Zurag Society in Mongolia.



Above: The Ambassador meets with Hamilton-Lugar School Officials: Left to Right: Dr. Nick Cullather, Interim Dean of the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; Dr. Kaya Sahin, Executive Associate Dean of the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; Ambassador (ret) Pamela Slutz, President of The Mongolia Society; Ambassador U. Batbayar. Ambassador U. Batbayar visits with Society members and conference attendees.



Above: Ambassador U. Batbayar and Ambassador (ret) Pamela Slutz, President of the Mongolia Society at the Annual General Meeting.



Left: Ambassador U. Batbayar visits with Society members and conference attendees

Support the Society While You Shop!

Support The Mongolia Society by using the its [AmazonSmile page](#) to shop at Amazon.com. Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to the Society when you check out!

Organic Minimalism and Sustainability: Innate parts of the Nomadic Lifestyle

Interview by Ariungoo Khurelbaatar

Enkh-Amgalan Tseelei is a member of Steering Board of Mongolian Rangeland Coalition in Mongolia. She has two decades of experience in community-centered sustainable rangeland management in Mongolia and her team has played a pivotal role in the development and promotion of responsible management of rangelands among nomadic herders.

I grew up in Uvs province, which is known for its beautiful nature and the coldest winters. I used to be so excited about moving to our summer place. Time for the herdsmen and animals, who had overcome the harsh winters and were trying to find springs to enjoy and reenergize for the fall and winter. Walking barefoot on fresh grass carpets, birds chirping as part of Mother Nature's orchestra, being lulled to sleep by the sound of a stream nearby and waking up to my mother's soft calling.... Memories that are dear to the heart.

Nomadic livestock husbandry is a complex non-stop project and herdsmen, in the traditional sense, are essentially project managers. You learn much about survival skills, agility, as well as the balance of the interrelationship between human lives and nature. You observe how ageless and time-tested wisdom and traditions keep the 'project' running.

Herdsmen treat their animals like their family members and like living beings rather than merely a source of income or business capital. In that sense, and given logistical and health considerations, the summers were a time for people to detox and for environmental sustainability, due to less consumption of meat.

Another one of my favorite memories of childhood is when my grandfather would take us to the top of a nearby mountain, which has a great view of the countryside. It wouldn't just be my immediate family, but also relatives and neighbors. This was neither a simple larger family gathering nor an ordinary hike. I remember vividly the breathtaking view, the smell of the sweeping wind, the feeling of freedom and abundance, the humility and awe, and how our grandfather used to talk about everything around us and the 'whys' and 'whats,' as if he was telling an epic story. In hindsight, it was a holistic event, where we learned about the values that have kept this way of life in place, the perfect balance between nomads and nature that has been continuing for millennia. It was there that we heard the messages about being sensitive, sensible, and grateful towards all that has been presented to us. I realize now that it was a ritualistic embedding of the core values of a lifestyle that is in great harmony with Mother Nature. More formally, it was a form of sustainable development and a circular economy training session too.

Amidst, non-stop chores in a truly nomadic life, my mother used to talk to me about the magical gifts of nature and how we should be grateful and preserve them. These talks and the experiences have certainly led to my career decisions. Interestingly, along the academic path, I realized how amazingly maintained and balanced this traditional wisdom and knowledge are. For instance, research shows that globally 50% of plants on the land should be forage for livestock and 50% should be rested or left for regeneration. Whereas in Mongolia, traditionally herders moved as many as twelve times a year to let the pasture rest—another proof of how the rangeland not only houses and nourishes the beings in and on it, but also how it serves as a learning ground and research laboratory. That is in line with, for instance, the Montessori method of hands-on learning. It is encouraging that more families are looking for relatives in the countryside where they can spend time, as opposed to a short-term drop-by touristy retreats.

When I came back to Mongolia after my studies, and visited my homeland, I was deeply saddened to see how things had changed for the worse, including overstocking and degradation caused by multiple factors. It got me thinking about what I could do to contribute to the improvement of the situation. That was in perfect sync with the Swiss Development Agency's efforts to help Mongolian herdsmen cope with dzud (harsh winters). Alongside this process, much research has been



Above: The author in the field.

Organic Minimalism and Sustainability: Innate parts of the Nomadic Lifestyle (continued)

done as to what degradation is and what needs to be done to improve the alarmingly worsening rangeland issues. These efforts lead to the start of the Green Gold Project Animal Health Project (GGAHP).

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the number of livestock in Mongolia has nearly tripled. In 2022, 80 million animals were counted. All this is happening to the detriment of the country's vast grasslands, and thus, putting livelihood of rural communities at risk.

The core principles of the responsible and collective rangeland management approach tie well with traditional notions of neighbors, and calls for collective action and commitment of not only the herder families, but also local stakeholders for the sake of preserving and maintaining healthy and productive homeland.

For Mongolians, the word rangeland (belcheer) means more than a workplace for the herdsman or countryside people, it also means homeland (nutag). Rangelands are not only a source of food for livestock, but are the symbol and cornerstone of what makes Mongolia what it is. In other words, the fragile rangeland is the piece that gives Mongolia its uniqueness and its soul.

To return to the human, or even humane, side, for instance, the rotation grazing method is an essential part of the tradition, whereby herder families move from one place to another. Behind these traditions are time-tested observations, lessons reinforced with trials and tribulations. In hindsight, many of the modern findings, trends, and notions have been existing for centuries in nomadic cultures. Children living in a nomadic family rarely has dull or boring days; every day is educational and teaches a child so much. Nowadays, city parents look for such hands-on programs and learning opportunities. What is now sought-after by some is still a fact of life for nomadic families.

Careful crafting of such processes flows through multiple steps, not only on daily basis, but throughout the year as processes change with the seasons. Only with such a careful approach can we talk about animal health, their ability to survive harsh winters and stress-free and sustainable livelihood for herdsman and provide reliable quality of life for everyone in the process.

In a way, owing to COVID-19, we are more aware that if we only let it, nature will heal itself. The exact same conclusion has been achieved by GGAHP researchers—resting the overgrazed pastureland and letting it revive yields results. In other words, we need to let Mother Nature revitalize herself. Ten percent livestock mortality is normal, but because of harsh climate conditions and overgrazing, as well as other factors, this mortality rate has been getting higher in the last years.

The market economy brought with it the notion of monetizing everything to the maximum, which is a traditional business concept. Yet the widely expanding notions of responsible manufacturing and consumerism, fair trade, sustainability, and minimalism are also natural to the nomadic lifestyle. Mongolia's very fragile ecosystem plays a huge role in the global sense, as we have a continental climate that is mostly dry/semi-dry and is quite vulnerable to degradation. Traditionally, multiple relocations during intensive grazing during summer and fall are healthy, suitable, and beneficial for both the livestock and the herdsman. Whereas the vicious cycle of overgrazing means that the soil and plant life simply aren't able to regenerate due to the demands of too many animals.

In a nutshell, sustainably managed pastures and healthy animals are Mongolia's "green gold." Preserving that green gold in a manner that is both economically viable for all stakeholders and environmentally friendly is vital.

The Green Gold Project, which I worked on for 18 years, left legacies which brought rangeland management, animal health, and herder organizations to a new level: a behavior change among herders and local stakeholders towards responsible and sustainable management of Mongolian rangelands, numerous and impactful educational and physical investments, such as rehabilitation of 20 million hectares of degraded rangelands, and a digital animal health tracking system to assure the origin and quality of livestock raw materials, which has resulted in improved market access of raw materials, in addition to meat and cashmere, such as milk, sheep wool, skins, and hides.

Organic Minimalism and Sustainability: Innate parts of the Nomadic Lifestyle (continued)

When herdsman have too many livestock in overgrazed pastures, working hard is neither always healthy and nor economically sustainable. This problem, in turn, affects their life standard. The Green Gold Project's success stories include reducing the number of livestock, which leads to less burden on the system while maintaining income for the herders. Herders are then able to work less (e.g., taking care of 300 vs. 1,000 yaks) while increasing their economic efficiency. These outcomes are ideal in a business sense and for the family. The first dairy product certified and fully traceable by #ResponsibleNomads digital system was also released on the market in 2021.

In a striking contrast to over-consumption, the nomadic way of life is sustainable, organic, and minimalist. The ancient cultures had it all! They have been living close to nature for so long that it is an innate part of their lives, successes, and failures. Mongolia has one of the very few remaining lifestyles that is in harmony with nature. We in Mongolia in fact have a saying, "Everything but animal breath can be (re)used."

We Mongolians pride ourselves on having quality organic products and many manufacturers who wish to export, but to prove both locally and internationally the quality of these goods requires quality assurance. That is why GGAHP has introduced the traceability aspect to the project.

The world is crying out for more heroes and joint forces to let Mother Nature take her course and do her job of reviving. That requires humanity to, in a sense, go back to its roots. Nomadic herdsman are unique in that they are the carriers and protectors of such a fragile, vulnerable—and valuable—culture and ecosystem. Alas, we must be "smart softies"—"smart" in the sense that our efforts must rely on research and facts and "softie" in the sense that we must have respect for time-tested values. This synergy of the traditionally time-tested wisdom and a modern science-backed approach is vital for the preservation of all that is essential.

New Library Website of the American Center for Mongolian Studies

The American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) has launched a new library website and research guides to support researchers in Mongolia and around the world. The new website can be accessed through the ACMS website at www.mongoliacenter.org or directly at the web address: mongoliacenter.libguides.com. The goal of the website is to support the mission of ACMS in the development of Mongolian Studies and academic exchanges with Inner Asia.

The library website includes basic information about the library resources and services, as well as a growing number of curated research guides on a variety of topics of interest to Mongolia studies scholars and students. The website also includes resources for general research help and academic writing, as well as an extensive list of over 100 free and Open Access online scholarly resources, which is organized both by type of resource and associated subjects. The new website was a project of the ACMS Library Fellowship program. The Library Fellowship program supports advanced United States graduate students, faculty members, or professionals in library and information sciences from colleges and universities to conduct short-term library development projects. The website was designed and built by U.S. librarian and technology specialist, Elizabeth Gartley with the ACMS library and media coordinator T. Gantungalag.

Members of the Mongolia Society are invited to visit and explore the new website. Members are also encouraged to provide feedback, comments, or ideas through the feedback form available at <https://forms.gle/TUireW3jCMNuqx6AA> or directly on the library website, or reach out directly to ACMS Library and Media Coordinator, T. Gantungalag at gantungalag@mongoliacenter.org and ACMS Library Fellow Liz Gartley at egartley@gmail.com.

THE MONGOLIA SOCIETY WISH LIST

The Mongolia Society is in need of the following items for its office: (1) a LED projector for presentations at meetings, and (2) a sound system, i.e., microphones and stands, amplifier, and speakers, for receptions.

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact Susie Drost at the Society office
(monsoc@indiana.edu; (812) 855-4078).

The Mongolia Society is a 501(c)3 organization and a tax deductible receipt will be given for any donation.

THE MONGOLIA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES

Thank you to those who paid their 2023 membership dues. If you have not, please take the time to do so now.

Regular (US) ___ \$50 for one year ___ \$90 for two years ___ \$125 for three years	Student (US) ___ \$35 for one year ___ \$60 for two years ___ \$80 for three years	Senior Citizen (age 67 or older, US) ___ \$40 for one year ___ \$70 for two years ___ \$95 for three years
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