

An International Workshop

An Empire of Petitions:

How Muslims Appealed to the Russian State



June 5, 2026

Alte Burse der ÖAW
Sonnenfegasse 19,
1010 Vienna

Program

09:30

Coffee and Welcome

09:45

Paolo Sartori | Austrian Academy of Sciences

Introduction

10:00 – 13:00

Said Gaziev | Humboldt University, Berlin:

Noise Complaints: Reading a Petition as a Source

Ulfat Abdurasulov | Austrian Academy of Sciences:

Making the Most of It: Cases Across the Bukharan–Russian Turkestani Border

James Pickett | University of Pittsburgh:

Hierarchy Inscribed: Petitions as a prism of indirect rule in colonial-era Bukhara

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch break

14:00 – 18:00

Norihiro Naganawa | Hokkaido University:

The Tsarist Involvement in Waqf: Documents from the Orenburg and Transcaucasian Spiritual Assemblies

Ilona Chmielevskaia | Austrian Academy of Sciences:

Learning to Speak to the Empire: Translation and Bureaucratic Language in Qadis' Letters from Imperial Daghestan

Danielle Ross | Utah State University:

Petitioning a Pretender: Reconstructing the Chancery Practices of the Pugachev War College

Sean Pollock | Wright State University:

From Petition to Pledge: Co-Creating Circassian Subjects at the Court of Ivan IV

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