

KYMBAT ALTYBAY

Kunshan, Jiangsu | 17751162241 | ka316@duke.edu |

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SUMMARY

Researcher and conference speaker with hands-on experience in geopolitics, environmental governance, and Eurasian security. I have presented my work at international conferences, produced original research, and contributed to policy-focused reports for NGOs. My background includes translating complex geopolitical issues into clear, accessible analysis and collaborating with academic and industry partners. Known for strong methodological skills and a clear communication style when engaging both expert and general audiences.

EXPERIENCE

11/2025 - 11/2025

Conference Speaker

Entangled Cartographies
Conference | Kunshan, Jiangsu

- Authored and delivered a presentation, "Nomadic Intelligence as Distributed Sentience in Central Asia," to an international audience of academics and industry professionals.
- Strengthened academic communication and public speaking skills in a conference setting.
- Networked with keynote speakers and researchers from global institutions (e.g., Columbia University, University of Technology Delft), enhancing academic dialogue and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

10/2025 - Present

Research Student

G21 "Geopolitics in the 21st
Century" Lab | Kunshan, Jiangsu

- Developing original research on Eurasian security dynamics, with a focus on Russian influence strategies and climate-security intersections.
- Regularly presenting research progress to academic stakeholders, praised for constructing compelling arguments.
- Support ongoing lab projects through data synthesis and regional analysis.

07/2025 - Present

Research Assistant

Duke Kunshan University |
Kunshan, Jiangsu

- Work on a research project analyzing how state media in Kazakhstan and China frame experts, comparing coverage in *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda* and *People's Daily*.
- Built the project's methodology: developed a stratified random sample of 110 articles, and organized the digital archive.
- Code and analyze article content using NVivo to identify narrative patterns and state communication strategies.

06/2015 - 08/2025

Research Intern

Crude Accountability | Remote

- Researched and drafted comprehensive report on converging climate-security and governance crisis in Kazakhstan's Kokzhide region.
- Reviewed company reports, government data, and local news to show how oil and gas operations threaten a key freshwater source and create unsafe air pollution.
- Identified how different groups' interests and weak rules allow the environmental damage to continue.
- Developed clear recommendations for organizations like the OSCE to push for more accountability and protect the region's stability.

EDUCATION

Expected graduation 05/2028

Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy with minor in Public Policy

Duke Kunshan University / Duke University | Kunshan, China / Durham, North Carolina, USA

- GPA: 3.68/4.00
- Dean's list (Spring 2025)
- Dean's list (Fall 2025)

LEADERSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Global Student Ambassador — Kazakhstan Representative, DKU International Admissions & International Student Services**

2024 – Present

- Represent Kazakhstan in outreach to prospective international students and delegations.
- Lead discussions on cultural, political, and regional topics to support recruitment efforts.
- Advise admitted students on academic expectations and cross-cultural adjustment.

- **Treasurer — Central Asian Student Association / Russian-Speaking Club, Duke Kunshan University**

2024 – Present

- Manage budgets and financial planning for student-led regional initiatives.
- Coordinate events on Central Asian culture.
- Facilitate community outreach and membership engagement.

- **Volunteer — Duke International Forum & Film Festival**

2024

- Supported event logistics and hospitality for visiting scholars, filmmakers, and speakers.
- Facilitated cross-cultural interaction and ensured smooth conference operations.

SKILLS

- Policy Writing
- Data Analysis
- R studio
- Microsoft Word
- Qualtrics
- Data Collection
- Literature Review
- Python
- Excel

LANGUAGES

- Kazakh (native), Russian (native), English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (intermediate)