

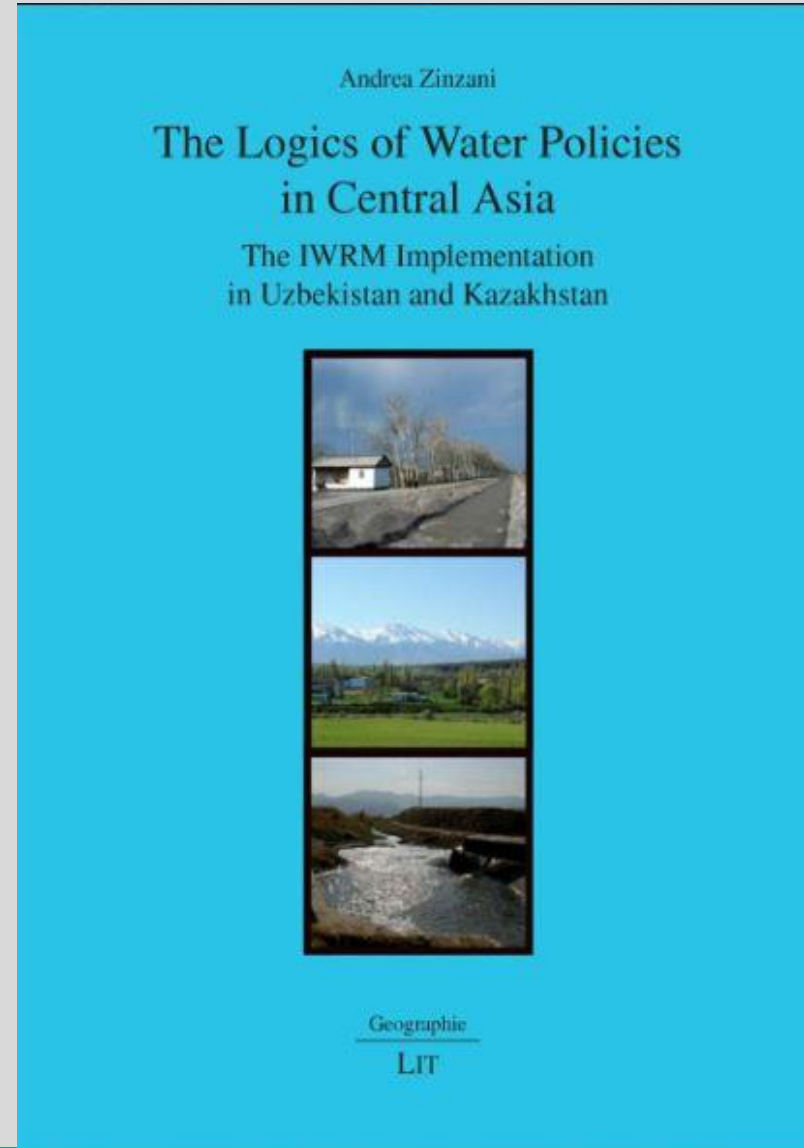
Geographies of Heritage and Ethnographic Methods in Uzbekistan:

Samarkand and the Kafir Kala Archaeological Park

**Andrea Zinzani – Geography Unit,
Department of History and Cultures,
University of Bologna**

18 YEARS OF GEOGRAPHY IN UZBEKISTAN

- **Geography:** understand society-environment relations and territorial transformations
- **Since 2005:** Post-soviet land and water reforms process in Samarkand province
- **PhD research (2015):** International development and water governance transformations in UZB and KAZ
- **Social research and ethnography:** field surveys, institutions, experts, local communities



KALAM Project: THE KAFIR-KALA CULTURAL LANDSCAPE - connect past and present



**Complex society-nature interactions –
Heritage, institutions and communities: visions,
everyday life, agriculture and pastoralism. what futures ?**

The geographical contribution to KALAM project

- **Community ethnography:** ideas and visions for the archaeological park
- **Heritage politics and visions:** the role of political and cultural institutions in the conservation of the Kafir Kala archaeological landscape
- **Heritage and tourism:** understand tourism valorization and tourism potential of the Kafir Kala archaeological park



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Process of **direct involvement of the local community** living the Kafir Kala cultural landscape
- Focus on **community level main institutions (Nayman – Naizatepa):** *mahalla* heads and councils and villagers
- **Understand community perspectives** through interactions with civil society and their knowledge, values and narratives in relation to landscape heritage.
- **Understand the roles of institutions** in the management of the archeological landscape and their involvement in the creation of the Kafir Kala archeological park

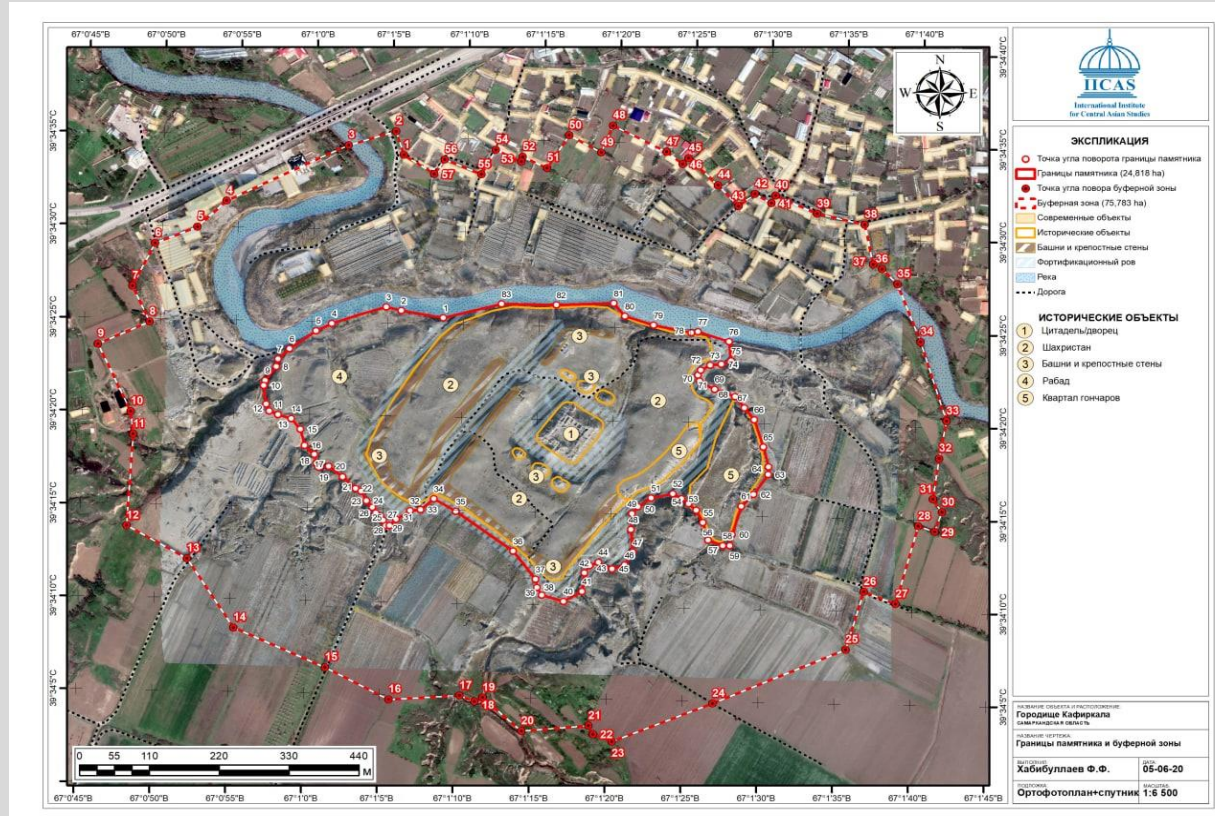


THE KK CULTURAL LANDSCAPE: MAPPING THE ACTORS



THE KAFIR KALA ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK PROJECT

- **2020-2022: Samarkand Institute of Archaeology - Kalam** – Project formalization by the former Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage – IICAS nomination to UNESCO



- Support and **empower ideas of local community**: what are their needs?
- Support and **strengthen transcultural institutional politics**: province-district-communities

THE KAFIR KALA ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK: ISSUES AND PROCESSES

- **Core area (National Agency Cultural Heritage):** seasonal pastoralism and one agricultural plot
- **Buffer area (Oblastnoi Hokimiyat):** agricultural land, houses and pastoralism
- **Fences building** for conservation?
Diverse opinions
- **Discussion between the Samarkand Institute of Archaeology, IICAS, Samarkand Province government and Regional branch of Agency of Cultural Heritage**



THE KAFIR KALA ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK: (LACK OF) LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Different interests from Nayman and Naizatepa mahalla leaders
- Individual and diverse perspectives and knowledge on KK heritage and landscape everyday life – Lack of a collective heritage from below
- Top-down influence on community participation (mahalla members of institutions and elders)
- Community ideas to shape park development and strengthen the spatial relation between villages and KK (entrance, bridge, rest area, parking)



THE KAFIR KALA ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Strengthen relations between province, district and local institutions towards shared interests in conservation and tourism valorization**
- **Local communities involvement** in the archaeological park development and governance
- **Involve schools** to raise awareness on archeological heritage (Prof. Bonetti)
- **Strengthen relations between cultural actors and political institutions to foster active conservation**

