



University of
Zurich^{UZH}

“January 2022 protests in Kazakhstan: forerunners and aftermath”

Workshop and PhD-Working Group Meeting

15. and 16. November 2022

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

University of Zurich

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Abstract: In this workshop PhD students of the University of Zurich, regional and thematic experts, as well as invited guests come together to reflect upon the January 2022 protests in Kazakhstan. With civic protests raging across the country and a death toll of 227 people, the January 2022 events had a fundamental impact on life in Kazakhstan and beyond. What puzzled us was the silence that followed the events. Based on our extensive knowledge and long-term ethnographic field research in Kazakhstan, we thus inquire about the forerunners and aftermath of the protests. The main goal of this workshop is to provide a platform for discussion: Were the protests unforeseeable? Which were the indicators pointing to it? Who were the people being dissatisfied? Which circumstances led to their dissatisfaction? Why were their claims not heard? In which ways were claims articulated? How could their claims be reacted upon before the conflict broke out? How can we understand the protests retrospectively? Which is the scope of the protests? How could future conflicts similar in nature be prevented?