Given the focus of the Junior Research Group on Cultural History of Water in Central Asia, I am a part of, my research project is therefore contributing to the issue of exploring interrelations of social and cultural dynamics that arise around the water as a substance, and what are the factors that make the water bodies be perceived as sacred or holy. Accordingly, current research is therefore investigating how the Ysyk-Köl lake, and the economic value it brings to people through tourism bring up a dialogue with the ideas of sacredness, tourism and development.

The research looks at the inter-relation of water, landscape, perception and treatment of water in the Ysyk-Köl region of Kyrgyzstan. As the lake has been suggested as a leisure destination for a Soviet tourist, the landscape around the lake has been heavily transformed to accommodate numerous health resorts, sanatoriums, and guest houses, that were eventually replacing traditional and common knowledge of people about Ysyk-Köl, sacredness, and water use. It further follows that the research spans over to research the effects of how medicalized approach towards healing qualities of the water is shifting perception of the people, thus changing their modes of behavior near the lake or other sacred springs. The intricate social relations between people, on the basis of their access to drinking water, to the lake and touristic attractions also reserve a central part in my research.