

Sina Mirzaei

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Areas of Expertise

Topics: Comparative Politics/International Relations; Global Governance; Authoritarian Resilience; Political Economy (with a focus on rentier states, labor, resource governance, and migration); Human Rights; Political Science Education.

Methods: Mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative); panel data regressions; causal inference; statistical modeling (R, SPSS); critical discourse analysis; process tracing; and comparative case studies.

Academic Appointments

Northern Arizona University

Part-time instructor, Department of Politics & International Affairs 2024-present

Education

Northern Arizona University

Ph.D. (ABD) in Political Science (May 2026 - Expected)

Dissertation: Strategic Uncertainty, Rent Distribution, and Coup Risk in Rentier States

Committee: Stephen Meserve (Chair), Carie Steele, Sean Parson, and Stephanie Kunze

Northern Arizona University

M.A. in Political Science 2024

Middle East Technical University, Ankara

M.S. in Political Science and International Relations 2021

Middle East Technical University, Ankara

B.S. in Business Administration 2019

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Mirzaei, S. (2025). Ressentiment politics and identity formation: a critical discourse analysis of Azerbaijanis in Iran. *Social Identities*, 31(3), 354–370.

Mirzaei, S., Giwa, A., & Bar, E. (2025). Missing from the Curriculum: A Content

Analysis of Labor Politics in International Relations Textbooks. *Journal of Political Science Education*.

Giwa, A., Ngakam, J., **Mirzaei, S.**, & Ikuomoala, D. (2025). Emerging Dependencies: GCC States and Sub-Saharan African Healthcare Labor Migration Through World Systems Analysis. *World Medical & Health Policy*.

Working/Under Review Papers

Mirzaei, S. Not all regimes respond: Rethinking human rights naming and shaming in a fragmented modern global order. *Journal of Human Rights*. [In revision].

Mirzaei, S., Jeddi, B., Bozkurt, T., & Zarouri, S. Uneven media recognition and identity-based movement Demobilization. *Political Communication*. [Manuscript under peer-review].

Mirzaei, S. Foreign Aid as Strategic Uncertainty: Donor Rents and Coup-Proofing in Aid-Dependent States. [The research is at data collection stage].

Other publications

Mirzaei, S., Bar, E. & Giwa, A. (2025). [Textbook Analysis Guide and Exercise for Undergraduate Methods Courses](#). *APSA Educate resources*.

Mirzaei, S., & Jeddi, B. (2023). Human Rights Reports of 2022 Jina Mahsa Amini Protests. *AHRAZ Human Rights*.
The report was part of human rights data collection for the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Iran.

IPEK Research Center. 2025 – 2026 Socio-political attitudes survey of ethno-linguistic minorities in Iran.

Principal Investigator (data collection under way; anticipated N ≈500)

Grants and Awards

GSG Travel Grant, Northern Arizona University (\$1,000)	2025
Outstanding Qualifying Research Paper Award, Northern Arizona University (\$400)	2024
Political Science Scholarship, NAU's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (\$1,400)	2023
GSG Travel Grant, Northern Arizona University (\$500)	2023
Graduate Assistantship Award, Northern Arizona University, (full tuition waiver + \$18,000 stipend)	2021-2024
Graduate Teaching Assistantship Award, Middle East Technical University, (full tuition waiver + stipend)	2019-2021

Invited lectures and Talks

- “Globalization and ethno-linguistic state policies for minorities in the Middle East” 2025
Online seminar on identity politics
- “Turbulent Future of International Relations” 2023
Guest lecturer for NAU POS 380 course Advanced International Politics
- “History of Oil Politics in the Middle East” 2023
Guest Lecturer for NAU POS 421C Capstone Course Middle East Regional Security
- “Review. Rethink. Reform. 30th anniversary of the un declaration on minority rights” 2022
United Nations 15th session of the Forum on Minority Issues
- “Conflict Prevention and the Protection of the Human Rights of Minorities” 2021
United Nations 14th session of the Forum on Minority Issues
- “Increasing the pace and scale of action to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights” 2021
United Nations 10th Forum on Business and Human Rights

Conference Roles and Presentations

- “The Variations, Shortcomings, and Symbolism of Post-Conflict Policies” panel. [Discussant].
Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL April 2025.
- “Shaming the Shameless: INGOs and Human Rights compliance of Democracies, Autocracies, and Rentier Autocracies.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL April 2025.
- “Ressentiment politics and emancipation discourses of national minorities: Analyzing the discourses of Azerbaijanis in Iran from a critical perspective.” *Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa*. Washington, D.C. November 2023.
- “Measuring Uncertainty in rent-distribution and its impact on regime stability” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL [Proposal submitted for review to be presented at MPSA 2026].

Teaching

- POS 120 World Politics (In-person) Fall 2024 & 2025, Spring 2025
& Spring 2026 (ongoing)
- POS 482 American Foreign Policy (In-person, Teaching Assistant) Spring 2024

Instructional Training and Experiences

Northern Arizona University

2024

Graduate Certificate in Community College Learning and Teaching

Completed a 12-credit graduate certificate (4 courses, 3 credits each). The program provided formal training in curriculum design, teaching adult learners, college pedagogy, and instructional technology, preparing for a full range of faculty responsibilities in higher education.

Northern Arizona University

2021-2024

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Assisted with undergraduate courses by leading discussion sections, grading assignments, and supporting classroom activities. Delivered occasional guest lectures.

Middle East Technical University

2019-2021

Student Development and Support Coordinator

Facilitated components of *GPC100 Introduction to Campus Life* and transition-focused guidance courses, supporting first-year students' academic adjustment and campus integration.

Service and Professionalism

ASNAU Go Scholarship Committee

2025

Served on the selection committee for the ASNAU Go Study Abroad Scholarship.

Interdisciplinary Global Programs (IGP)

2024-2025

Coordinator of IGP; managed curriculum coordination, and student preparation for dual-degree study abroad programs at Northern Arizona University.

Graduate Association of Political Science

2024-2025

President of graduate student association at Northern Arizona University.

IPEK Center

2024-Present

Founded and lead this 501(c)(3) research organization dedicated to policy analysis, survey data, and research in regions where transparency and reliable information are limited.

Tribun One

2023-Present

Member of editorial team for *Tribun One*, a Stockholm-based multilingual magazine addressing ethnic/cultural rights issues in Iran.

Association of Human Rights for the Azerbaijani People in Iran (AHRAZ)

2018-Present

Member of board of directors, worked as a contributing NGO to United Nations, documenting human rights violations to the UN Special Rapporteur for Iran.

Languages

Azerbaijani (Native), Persian/Farsi (Bilingual), English (Fluent), Turkish (Fluent), Ottoman Turkish (Certified for archival study)