

# Sina Mirzaei

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## Areas of Expertise

Topics: International Relations/Comparative Politics; Global Governance; Authoritarian Resilience; Political Economy; 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

Graduate Certificate in Community College Learning and Teaching 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*, 17(4), 739-744.

## Working/Under Review Papers

**Mirzaei, S.** The political economy of international naming and shaming: rentier states and human rights responses. *International Studies Quarterly*. [Manuscript under peer-review].

**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

- “Mother language day in a changing world” 2025  
Panelist at Toronto University event for 21<sup>st</sup> February  
International Mother Language Day event
- “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 [Paper accepted to be presented at MPSA 2026].

# 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 *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.
- Association of Human Rights for the Azerbaijani People in Iran (AHRAZ)** 2018-2024  
Member of board of directors, worked as a contributing NGO to United Nations, documenting human rights violations to the UN Special Rapporteur for Iran.
- 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.

# Languages

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