

# SEYMA AKYOL

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Department of Political Science, Mercyhurst University  
105 E 38<sup>th</sup> St. Erie, PA 16546  
Preston Hall 111  
Email:[sakyol@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:sakyol@mercyhurst.edu)  
Website: [www.seymaakyol.com](http://www.seymaakyol.com)

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

2022-           **Mercyhurst University**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science  
2021- 2022      **St. Olaf College**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

## EDUCATION

2021           **University of North Texas**, Ph.D., Political Science

*Fields:* International Relations, Comparative Politics, Political Methodology

*Dissertation:* Collaboration among Conflict Management Practitioners and Human Rights Advocacy Groups

*Committee:* J. Michael Greig (Chair), John Ishiyama, Marijke Breuning, Jacqueline H.R. DeMeritt

2014           **American University**, M.A., Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs

2011           **Drexel University**, B.A., International Area Studies

## RESEARCH

### **Peer-Reviewed Publications**

Quinn, John James and **Seyma Akyol**. 2021. "Ethiopian Foreign Policy: A Weak State or a Regional Hegemon?" *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 56(5): 1094-1118.

Gurbuz, Mustafa and **Seyma Akyol**. 2017. "Ethnic Reforms and the Puzzle of Public Framing: The Case of Kurds in Turkey." *Contemporary Islam* 11(2): 157-169.

### **Under Review**

Not Your Typical Naming and Shaming: Conflict Management Practitioners and Human Rights Advocacy Groups

Foreign Aid, Debt, and Gender Parity in African Cabinets (with Dr. Marijke Breuning and Sung Min Yun)

Open Access: Benefits and Pitfalls for Scholars (with Dr. Marijke Breuning)

## **Working Papers**

Not All Peacekeeping Operations Are Created Equally: Global vs. Regional Dichotomy in Peacekeeping Deployment and Interaction with Human Rights Advocacy Groups

Conflict Manager Responds, Human Rights Group Shifts: Determinants of the Strategic Focus of Human Rights Advocacy Groups

What Do They Say? Verbal Behavior of Mediators

Authoritarian Regimes and State Repression

## **Datasets**

Collaboration among Conflict Management Practitioners and Human Rights Advocacy Groups.

Coded data based on the publications of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch on peacekeeping operations and mediation efforts (1961-2019) to capture coverage and expressed satisfaction/dissatisfaction.

Data contains variables that capture information on how conflict management practitioners change behavior depending on the recommendations of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch as well as how Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch change rhetoric depending on the changing behavior of conflict management practitioners.

## **Conference Presentations**

- 2022      Southern Political Science Association  
                 International Political Science Association
- 2021      International Studies Association-South  
                 International Studies Association  
                 The Texas Triangle International Relations Conference
- 2020      International Studies Association (cancelled due to Covid-19).
- 2019      International Studies Association-Midwest  
                 Midwest Political Science Association
- 2018      Midwest Political Science Association

## **Research Interests**

Conflict Management, Human Rights, Violent Political Behavior, International Intervention and Advocacy, International Organizations, Non-governmental Organizations

## **Research Assistantships**

- 2018-2021      **University of North Texas**

“Open Access Publishing” for Dr. Marijke Breuning (Spring 2021)

“Ethiopian Foreign Policy” for Dr. Marijke Breuning and Dr. John Ishiyama (Fall 2020)  
“Women Ministers in Africa” for Dr. Marijke Breuning (Summer 2020)  
“Foreign Aid” for Dr. Marijke Breuning (Fall 2019)  
“Humanitarian Aid and Mediation” for Dr. James Michael Greig (Spring 2019)  
“International Adoption” for Dr. Marijke Breuning (Spring & Fall 2018)

## **TEACHING**

### **Instructor of Record**

2022- **Mercyhurst University**

POLI 245: Comparative Politics of the Middle East (Fall 2022, Spring 2023)  
POLI 336: International Organizations and Diplomacy (Fall 2022, Spring 2023)  
POLI 380: Global Political Economy (Fall 2022)  
POLI 402: War and World Politics (Spring 2023)

2021- 2022 **St. Olaf College**

PSCI 121: International Relations (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)  
PSCI 252: Politics and Development (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

2019-2020 **University of North Texas**

PSCI 3810: International Relations (Spring 2020)<sup>1</sup>  
PSCI 3500: Introduction to Peace Science (Summer 2019)

### **Guest Lecturer**

Fall 2019 “Civil War and Peacekeeping Operations” in International Relations (Dr. Marijke Breuning)

Spring 2018 “The Media” in US Political Behavior and Policy (Eddie Meaders)

“ICC and Conflict Recurrence” in International Relations (Dr. Yen-Hsin Chen)

Fall 2017 “Elections and Campaign” in US Political Behavior and Policy (Dr. James Meernik)

### **Teaching Interests**

International Relations, Comparative Politics, Political Methodology, Conflict Management, Human Rights, Peace/Security Studies, Development, Transitional Justice, International Organizations

### **Teaching Assistantships**

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<sup>1</sup> Transition to online instruction in March 2020 due to Covid-19

2016- 2021      **University of North Texas**

PSCI 2305: US Political Behavior and Policy (Fall 17-18, Spring 18-19, Spring 21-**online**)  
PSCI 2306: US Government: Constitution and Institutions (Summer 18-Fall 20) (**online**)  
PSCI 1040: US Government: Constitution and Institutions (Fall 16, Summer 17)  
PSCI 1050: American Government: Process and Policies (Spring 17)  
PSCI 3810: International Relations (Fall 19)

**NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2015-2016      Freelance Translator

2015              **Middle East Institute**, Washington, DC  
                    Research Assistant in Center of Turkish Studies

**Bipartisan Policy Center**, Washington, DC  
                    Research Assistant in National Security Project

2014              **Shia Rights Watch**, Washington, DC  
                    Research Assistant

2010              **Partners for Sacred Places**, Philadelphia, PA  
                    Communications/Historic Preservation Intern

**HONORS AND GRANTS**

2017- 2021      **University of North Texas**  
                    Tuition Benefit

2018-2020      **University of North Texas**  
                    Toulouse Graduate School Travel Grant  
                    College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant  
                    Political Science Departmental Grant

**SKILLS**

Software: Stata, R, SPSS  
Languages: Turkish (Native), English (Advanced), German (Intermediate), Spanish (Intermediate)

**REFERENCES**

Dr. James Michael Greig  
Professor of Political Science  
University of North Texas  
Dissertation Advisor  
[Michael.Greig@unt.edu](mailto:Michael.Greig@unt.edu)

Dr. John Ishiyama  
Professor of Political Science  
University of North Texas  
Dissertation Committee Member  
[John.Ishiyama@unt.edu](mailto:John.Ishiyama@unt.edu)

Dr. Marijke Breuning  
Professor of Political Science  
University of North Texas  
Dissertation Committee Member  
[Marijke.Breuning@unt.edu](mailto:Marijke.Breuning@unt.edu)