

SEYMA AKYOL

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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

Breuning, Marijke, **Seyma Akyol**, Sung Min Yun. 2024. "When in Debt, Appoint Women? A Re-Examination of Aid, Debt, and the Inclusion of Women in African Cabinets." *International Studies Quarterly*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqae132>.

Breuning, Marijke and **Seyma Akyol**. 2024. "Who Publishes Open Access?" *PS: Political Science & Politics*.

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.

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

- 2025 National Conference on Undergraduate Research¹
- 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

¹ Participated in the mentoring program while two of my students presented at this conference.

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 150: Global Issues (Spring 25, 26 & Fall 25, 26)
POLI 236: World Politics (Spring 24, 25, 26; Fall 24)
POLI 240: Comparative Politics: Africa (Fall 23, 25)
POLI 245: Comparative Politics of the Middle East (Fall 22, 23, 24, 26; Spring 23)
POLI 336: International Organizations and Diplomacy (Fall 22; Spring 23, 24, 25, 26)
POLI 380: Global Political Economy (Fall 22, 25; Spring 24)
POLI 402: War and World Politics (Spring 23, 26; Fall 24)
POLI 411: Seminar: Revolution and Political Violence (Fall 23, Spring 25)
POLI 411: Seminar: Human Rights (Fall 26)

2021- 2022 **St. Olaf College**

PSCI 121: International Relations (Fall 21, Spring 22)
PSCI 252: Politics and Development (Fall 21, Spring 22)

2019-2020 **University of North Texas**

PSCI 3810: International Relations (Spring 20)²
PSCI 3500: Introduction to Peace Science (Summer 19)

Guest Lecturer

Fall 2023, 2024, 2025 “Political Islam” (Dr. Verna Ehret)

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

² Transition to online instruction in March 2020 due to Covid-19

- 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, African Politics, Middle Eastern Politics

Teaching Assistantships

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)

SERVICE

Service to the Discipline

- Reviewer, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* (2024–)
- Conference Panel Discussant and Chair, various regional and national conferences (2017–2022)

University Service – Mercyhurst University

- **University Committees**
 - Co-Chair, President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) (2024–2025)
 - Member, President’s Advisory Council on DEIJ (2023–2024)
 - Member, Institutional Review Board (IRB) (2024–)
 - Chair, Institutional Review Board (2026-2027)
 - Member, Faculty Scholarship Funds Committee (2023–2025)
 - School Representative, Research and Conference Travel Funding Committee (2023–2025)
- **Search Committees**
 - External Member, Assistant Professor Search Committee, Cyber Security & Data Science (Spring 2024)
 - External Member, Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee, History (Spring 2024)
- **Campus Programming & Public Engagement**

- Panelist, Israel–Palestine Discussion, Ethics Institute (Spring 2023)
- Panelist, “War in the Middle East” Forum, Evelyn Lincoln Institute for Ethics & Society and Office of Mission (Spring 2024)
- Panelist, Sustainability & Community Engagement Mini-Conference: *Our Erie Environment: Spaces for Everyone* (Spring 2024)
- Collaborator, International Film Festival (Department of World Languages) (Fall 2022)

○ **Student Organizations**

- Faculty Advisor, Pi Sigma Alpha (National Political Science Honor Society) (2024–)
- Faculty Advisor, Mercyhurst College Democrats (2024– 2026)

Departmental Service – Political Science

- Assessment Coordinator (Articulated student learning objectives; mapped program outcomes)
- Curriculum Revision and Course Catalog Updates (Major and Minor requirements)
- Participant, “Winning the White House” Simulation (2023, 2024)
- Recruitment and Prospective Student Events

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

Available upon request.