



Ayaz Rzayev

Email address: rzayev.ayaz@gmail.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

01/02/2020 – 17/10/2021 Baku, Azerbaijan
SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW TOPCHUBASHOV CENTER

Address 609 Jafar Jabbarli Str., Globus Center, Floor 7, Baku, Azerbaijan | **Website** www.top-center.org/en

30/06/2020 – 30/12/2020 Washington D.C., United States
NON-RESIDENT RESEARCH FELLOW MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

Address 1763 N St. NW, 20036, Washington D.C., United States | **Email** info@mei.edu |

Website <https://www.mei.edu/>

30/06/2019 – 30/01/2020 Baku, Azerbaijan
LEADING ADVISOR CENTER OF ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (AIR CENTER)

- Monitor, research and analyse security and connectivity related developments in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus
- Write in-depth reports on various security and connectivity related issues in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus

Website www.aircenter.az

30/11/2016 – 30/01/2019 Baku, Azerbaijan
RESEARCH FELLOW CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES UNDER THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN (SAM)

- Write in-depth reports on various security related issues in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus
- Help on various other ad-hoc projects/tasks as required

Address 08 Mirza Ibrahimov, AZ 1005, Baku, Azerbaijan | **Website** <http://sam.az>

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

01/11/2021 – CURRENT Trento, Italy
PHD School of International Studies, University of Trento

Address via T. Gar 14, 38122, Trento, Italy | **Website** <https://www.unitn.it/drsis/>

24/09/2013 – 22/09/2015 Bologna, Italy
M.A. IN INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND STUDIES ON EASTERN EUROPE University of Bologna

14/09/2007 – 30/07/2011 Baku, Azerbaijan
BA (HONS) IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Baku State University

09/11/2019 – 16/12/2019 Riga, Latvia
INTENSIVE PROGRAMME IN EUROPEAN LAW AND ECONOMICS Riga Graduate School of Law

● LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **AZERBAIJANI**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
TURKISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
RUSSIAN	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

● ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

POLICY BRIEFS

- 2021. GUAM 2.0: Reloading the Eastern Partnership. *Topchubashov Center*, <https://top-center.org/en/reports/3140/guam-20-reloading-the-eastern-partnership>
- 2019. Towards Greater Connectivity: The South Caucasus as a Railway Hub between the EU and China, *UNU Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies*, <http://cris.unu.edu/towards-greater-connectivity-south-caucasus-railway-hub-between-eu-and-china>

SELECTED OPINION PIECES

- 2023. From the streets to the border: Iran's growing paranoia toward Azerbaijan. *Middle East Institute*, <https://www.mei.edu/publications/streets-border-irans-growing-paranoia-toward-azerbaijan>
- 2020. No, Kosovo Is Not a Precedent for Nagorno-Karabakh, *The National Interest*, <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/no-kosovo-not-precedent-nagorno-karabakh-173478>
- 2020. Azerbaijan-Armenia clashes put an end to cautious optimism Azerbaijan-Armenia clashes put an end to cautious optimism, *Middle East Institute*, <https://www.mei.edu/publications/azerbaijan-armenia-clashes-put-end-cautious-optimism>
- 2020. Several reasons why Baku should not be interested in provocation along the border with Armenia, *New Eastern Europe*, <https://neweasterneurope.eu/2020/07/15/several-reasons-why-baku-should-not-be-interested-in-provocation-along-the-border-with-armenia/>
- 2019. Karabakh peace talks after the Vienna meeting, *New Eastern Europe*, <http://neweasterneurope.eu/2019/05/07/karabakh-peace-talks-after-the-vienna-meeting/>
- 2018. Is China's Economic Expansion in the South Caucasus a Myth?, *The Diplomat*. <https://thediplomat.com/2018/11/is-chinas-economic-expansion-in-the-south-caucasus-a-myth/>
- 2018. South Caucasus Eyes Becoming a Hub Along EU-China Transportation Route, *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, 15(158). <https://jamestown.org/program/south-caucasus-eyes-becoming-a-hub-along-eu-china-transportation-route/>
- 2018. Assessing Azerbaijan's indigenous defense industry capabilities. *The Defense Post*. <https://thedefensepost.com/2018/05/07/azerbaijan-defense-industry-indigenous-opinion/>

ARTICLES

- 2018. The EU's Ambiguous Stance on Separatism: Lessons from Catalonia, Kosovo, and Nagorno-Karabakh. *Caucasus International*, 8(1), pp. 153-171 <https://cij.az/frontend/web/uploads/images/Journals/Vol-8-Is-1-2018/Ayaz-Rzayev.pdf>

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2018. China in the EU's Eastern neighborhood: Azerbaijan as a hub between the EU and China, presented at "The EU, China and Central Asia: Global and Regional Cooperation in A New Era" Workshop, UNU-CRIS, Bruges, Belgium, 7-8 June 2018

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2017. Morbid symptom: Immigration and the rise of far-right populism in Western Europe. *Sam Comments, Vol. XXI*