To the Selection Committee, Workshop on Development Economics and Networks for Early-Career Researchers
December 5, 2026, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Applicant Contact Information

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Head, Organization of Scientific Activities Department
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Faculty Member Available to Provide a Recommendation

Prof. Dr. Dirk Lehmkuhl
Professor of Political Science with a Focus on European Politics
School of Economics and Political Science (SEPS)
University of St. Gallen (HSG)
St. Gallen, Switzerland
Former PhD Supervisor of Dr. Nargiz Hajiyeva
Email: dirk.lehmkuhl.seps@gmail.com

Updated September, 2026



NARGIZ HAJIYEVA, PhD

Associate Professor of Political Economy | Political Scientist
Head, Organization of Scientific Activities Department
Chair, Women Researchers Council (WRC)
Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan

Weiser Visiting Fellow & Weiser Award Holder (2024–2025)
Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, (WCEE), Department of Political Science
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, US

Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship (ESKAS) Holder
School of Economics and Political Science (SEPS)
University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

Ludovika Scholar
Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest, Hungary

Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC)
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CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

2025–present
Associate Professor, UNEC Graduate School, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan

Courses Taught in Azerbaijani and English: *Competition Law; Economic Law; Macroeconomic Conjunctural Changes and Government Policy; International Trade Policy; Introduction to Political Science.*

2022–present
Head, Organization of Scientific Activities Department, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan

2022–present
Chair, Women Researchers Council (WRC), Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan

2022–present
Member, Master's and Doctoral Dissertation Defense Committee, International Center for Graduate Education, UNEC, Baku, Azerbaijan

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

2024–present
Research Fellow, Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWG), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA

2022–present
Co-Director, Empirical Methods Working Group, Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), Switzerland

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2020–2025
PhD in Political Economy, with Merit
Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan
Fully funded by the State Scholarship of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1. **Completed PhD Coursework:** Political Economy; Advanced Macroeconomics; Advanced Microeconomics; Econometrics; World Economy; Research Methodology, Advanced Research Methods; Statistical Analysis with Stata and R; System Dynamics Modelling with Vensim; Machine Learning Methods; Philosophy.
2. **PhD Qualification Examination:** Political Economy and English Language Proficiency Examination — C2 Level (Completed with Merit, 2023)

2015–2017
MA in Political Science and Diplomacy, with Honors
Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania
Fully funded by the State Scholarship of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Lithuania

2017
Semester Exchange, MA Political Science and International Affairs
Sciences Po Grenoble (Institut d'Études Politiques de Grenoble), France
Erasmus+ Mobility Programme; completed with honors

2010–2014
BA in International Relations and Diplomacy, with Highest Honors
Baku State University (BSU), Baku, Azerbaijan
Fully funded by the State Scholarship of the Republic of Azerbaijan

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

2024-2025
Weiser Visiting Fellow, Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, US, Academic affiliations: Department of Political Science and Ross School of Business

2021–2022
Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship (ESKAS) – PhD Research Fellow, 12 months
School of Economics and Political Science (SEPS), University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
Fully funded by the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship Programme, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

2021
PhD Research Fellow, 1 month
Department of International Relations and International Law, University of Málaga, Spain
Funded by the Erasmus+ PhD Mobility Programme

SELECTED ADVANCED ACADEMIC TRAINING

2024
PatentX: Patent Law and Public Health, 3rd Edition, 2-month advanced programme
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Harvard Law School

2023
Rule of Law and International Law, Academic Certificate Programme
University of Tokyo and Kyoto University, Japan
Funded by the Japan International Cooperation Center and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)

2022
WIPO Innovation Skills Development Camp (INNOCAMP), Intellectual Property Skills Development
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Korea Intellectual Property Strategy Agency (KISTA), with the support of the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO)

2021–2022
MIRAI Advanced Programme: Rule of Law and International Law
Japan International Cooperation Center and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)

2019
Understanding EU–Russia Relations: Foreign Policy Actors, Institutions and Policy-Making
Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia

2016
European Diplomacy Workshop: EU Foreign Policy, Advanced Programme
European Academy of Diplomacy (EAD), Warsaw, Poland
PZU Foundation Scholarship

EDITORIAL AND PEER-REVIEW ACTIVITIES

2025–present
Associate Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Belt and Road Studies (JBRS)*, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan

2025–present
Co-Editor-in-Chief, *International Journal of Gender, Knowledge and Social Futures*, Women Researchers Council Research Center, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan

2025–present
Editorial Manager, *Journal of Economics and Management Advances (JEMA)*, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan

2025
Invited Reviewer, *Climate Finance Futures and Gender-Responsive Governance*, Emerald Publishing

2024–present
Editorial Team Member / Reviewer, Wiley

2024–present
Editorial Team Member / Reviewer, Springer Nature

2024–present
Editorial Team Member / Reviewer, Taylor & Francis

2024
Guest Editor, *Acta Polytechnica Hungarica*, Special Issue on Sustainable Development and Green Economy (Q1, Scopus-indexed), Óbuda University, Hungary

2023
Co-Editor, *Frontiers in Political Science* (Q1, Scopus-indexed), Frontiers, Lausanne, Switzerland

2023–present
Member, Scientific Editorial Board, *Civil Szemle*, peer-reviewed journal indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, Hungary

2023–present
Member, Scientific Editorial Board, *Agora International Journal of Juridical Sciences (AIJJS)*, Agora University of Oradea, Romania

2023–present
Scientific Reviewer, *Science Journal of Business and Management*

2023–present
Scientific Reviewer, *UNEC Scientific News*, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan

Invited Peer Reviewer, *International Journal of Energy Research*

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

2022–present
Member, Selection Committee, State Program of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Study Abroad, 2022–2026

2022–present
Member, Conference Organizing Committee, Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), Switzerland

2024–2025
Member, Scientific Committee, Eastern European Conference of Management and Economics (EECME), Ljubljana School of Business, Slovenia

2024
Member, Scientific Committee, 3rd International Conference on *Creativity and Innovation in the Digital Economy*, Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești, Romania

2024
International Scientific Committee Member, 19th International Conference on *European Integration – Realities and Perspectives (EIRP)*, Danubius International University, Romania

2024
International Scientific Committee Member, 14th International Conference *The Danube – Axis of European Identity*, Danubius International University, Romania

2023
Member, Steering Committee, FIKUSZ International Scientific Conference of Young Researchers, Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary

2023
Member, Scientific Committee, Eastern European Conference of Management and Economics (EECME), Ljubljana School of Business, Slovenia

2023
Executive Member, Scientific Committee, II International Conference on Economics *Regional Development – Digital Economy*, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC) and Ege University, Türkiye

2023
Executive Member, Organizing Committee, III International Conference on Modern Trends in Digital Economy, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan

2020
Member, Conference Organizing Committee, International Scientific Conference of Researchers in Economics and Management (ISCEMR), Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

2025–present
Policy Expert, Blue Europe Think Tank, Luxembourg

2024–present
Political Expert, EMERiCs, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Republic of Korea

2024–present
Academic Representative for Azerbaijan, EUMMAS Women Forum, European Marketing and Management Association (EUMMAS)

2023–present
Member, International Political Science Association (IPSA)

2023–present
Member, German Political Science Association (DVPW)

2023–present
Member, Austrian Political Science Association (ÖGPW)

2023–present
Member, European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)
Standing Groups: Energy Politics, Policy and Governance; Gender and Politics; International Political Theory

2023–present
Member, IP & Innovation Researchers of Asia Network

2022
Participant Member, Center for Eastern European Studies (CEES), University of Zurich, Switzerland

2021–present
Research Member, Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), Switzerland

2019–present
Research Member, DemocracyNet, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, Switzerland

2019–present
Member, Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA), United Kingdom

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS

2018–2022
PhD Researcher and International Relations Manager, Department of International Cooperation, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan

2017
Independent Researcher – Erasmus+ Research Traineeship (7 months), Institute of International Relations Prague, Czech Republic
Funded by the Erasmus+ Traineeship Programme

2016
Researcher and Policy Analyst – Erasmus+ Research Traineeship (4 months), Cold War History Research Center, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary
Funded by the Erasmus+ Traineeship Programme

Mar. 2015–Sep. 2015
Chief Advisor, Department of International and Legal Affairs, Executive Authority of Ganja City, Azerbaijan

Sep. 2014–Feb. 2015
Head, English Language Center, Heydar Aliyev Center, Ganja, Azerbaijan

Earlier Professional Internships

May–July 2014
Paid Intern, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, Azerbaijan

July–Aug. 2014
Intern, State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, Azerbaijan

May–June 2013
Intern, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, Azerbaijan

June–Aug. 2012
Paid Intern, Department of the United States and Canada, State Committee on Work with Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, Azerbaijan

PRIZES, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND COMPETITIVE FUNDING

2024–2025
Weiser Award – Weiser Visiting Fellowship
Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA
Competitive visiting fellowship supporting research and academic engagement at the University of Michigan.

2025
Ludovika Scholar Program Award – Visiting Ludovika Scholar

Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary
Fully funded visiting scholar award.

2024
Best Article Award
Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan
Awarded for the research *"Gender Dynamics in Azerbaijani Workplaces: Assessing How Cultural Norms Affect Women Empowerment."*

2023
Global Leadership Challenge – Top 100 Global Changemakers
University of St. Gallen (HSG), St. Gallen Symposium, and Oxford Character Project, University of Oxford
Selected among approximately 3,000 applicants representing 50 countries as one of the Top 100 participants in the Global Leadership Challenge.

2023
Erasmus+ Visiting Lecturer Mobility Grant
University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia
Funded under the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching Programme.

2023
DAAD-Funded Researcher – "Entrepreneurship as a Driver of Economic and Social Change: Insights from Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia"
Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany / Tbilisi, Georgia
Fully funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

2023
International Political Science Association (IPSA) Travel Grant
27th World Congress of Political Science, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2022–2023
Erasmus+ Visiting Lecturer Mobility Grants
Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary
Funded under the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching Programme.

2022
Erasmus+ Visiting Lecturer Mobility Grant
Kazimierz Wielki University, Faculty of Political Science and Administration, Bydgoszcz, Poland
Funded under the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching Programme.

2022
Erasmus+ Visiting Lecturer Mobility Grant
University of Málaga, Málaga, Spain
Funded under the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching Programme.

2022
WIPO–KISTA Innovation Skills Development Award (INNOCAMP)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Korea Intellectual Property Strategy Agency (KISTA), with the support of the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO)
Competitive award for participation in the first WIPO Innovation Skills Development Camp on Intellectual Property.

2021–2022
Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship (ESKAS) – PhD Research Fellowship
School of Economics and Political Science (SEPS), University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
Twelve-month research fellowship fully funded by the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship Programme.

2021
MIRAI – Japan's Friendship Ties Scholarship Programme Award
Rule of Law and International Law Programme, Japan
Awarded through the programme organized by the Government of Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), following competitive selection.

2020
Erasmus+ Visiting Lecturer Mobility Grant
Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania
Visiting lecturer in Political Science; funded under the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching Programme.

2019
DAAD-Funded Project – EE-KEY-AZ: Entrepreneurship Education: A Key to Job Creation and Employability in Azerbaijan
University of Siegen, Germany
UNEC Project Coordinator; funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

2019
International Essay Competition Award – Eastern Partnership Programme
Selected as the first awardee from Azerbaijan among approximately 200 applications.
Programme supported by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and Poland and the European Commission.

2018
EU-Funded International Summer School on Migration
ENIGMMA / MOBILAZE – Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan, Gakh, Azerbaijan
Participation fully funded by the European Union.

2017
Research Project Grant – "Energy and Turkey's South Caucasus Policy: How to Achieve Peace in the Region?"
International research workshop, Tbilisi, Georgia
Funded by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa), and the German Federal Foreign Office.

2016
PZU Foundation Scholarship – European Academy of Diplomacy
European Academy of Diplomacy, Warsaw, Poland
First PZU Foundation Scholarship recipient from Azerbaijan.

2016
ICRC Full Scholarship – International Law Summer School
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Belarus
Full scholarship for participation in the International Law Summer School.

2016
Fourth Place – UNSCR 1540 International Student Essay Contest
Stimson Center
Awarded for an essay addressing the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

2015–2017
Lithuanian Government Scholarship – MA Studies
Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
Full scholarship for MA studies in Political Science and Diplomacy.

2013–2014
Best Student of the Year – Academic Excellence Award
Baku State University, Azerbaijan

2010–2014
Government Scholarship – BA Studies
Baku State University, Azerbaijan
Full state scholarship for undergraduate studies in International Relations and Diplomacy.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECTS

2024–present
Project Coordinator – ConnectEurasia: Designing Collaborative Online Learning for Sustainability
Haute École Spécialisée de Suisse Occidentale (HES-SO) / Haute École de Gestion Arc (HEG Arc), Switzerland, and Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC)
Funding: CHF 250, 000
International collaborative project developing cross-border online learning and sustainability-focused educational cooperation between Switzerland and Azerbaijan.

2024
Project Lead – Women Entrepreneurs in Community-Based Tourism in Azerbaijan
Women Researchers Council Research Center (UNEC) and Nazarbayev University Research Centre for Entrepreneurship, Kazakhstan
Funding: €10,000

Research project examining women's entrepreneurship in community-based tourism through field research and ethnographic/anthropological observation in regions of Azerbaijan.

2024
Project Lead – Capacity Building in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
Women Researchers Council Research Center (UNEC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and BP
Project budget: €108,000
Capacity-building initiative designed to strengthen monitoring and evaluation knowledge and skills and support more effective project implementation and assessment.

2024
Erasmus+ Academic Mobility Programme – Institutional Grant
Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC) and European partner institutions
Funding: €75,000, European Union
International academic mobility initiative supporting teaching, academic exchange, institutional cooperation, and cross-cultural knowledge transfer between UNEC and European partner universities.

2022–present
Country Coordinator – Business in Eurasia Programme
Women Researchers Council Research Center (UNEC) and University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO), Switzerland
Annual programme budget: approximately €100,000
Coordinate the Azerbaijan component of the international programme, including academic and study visits by Swiss and international students and activities focusing on Azerbaijan's economy, business environment, investment opportunities, entrepreneurship, and energy policy.

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP AND CHAIRING

2025-present
Chair, Women Researchers Council International Symposium (WRCIS)
Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan
International symposium organized by the Women Researchers Council; supported by Trendyol and PASHA Holding.

2024.
Chair and Organizer, Women Researchers Council Annual International Forum
Women Researchers Council, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan
Organized with the support of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWG), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.

2023–present
Conference Chair / Organizer, International Conference on Digital Economy: Modern Challenges and Real Opportunities
Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan
Annual international academic conference.

2022–present
Chair, Empirical Methods Panels, Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA)
Switzerland
Annual chairing of panels dedicated to empirical methods in political science.

2022–present
Conference Chair / Organizer, International Scientific Conference of Economics and Management Researchers (ISCEMR)
Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan
Annual international academic conference.

POLICY EXPERT, ANALYST AND MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

2025–present
Policy Expert, Blue Europe, Luxembourg
Contributing expert on political economy, European affairs, regional development, and international policy issues.

2024–present
Political Expert, EMERiCs, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Republic of Korea

Contributing political and policy analysis on Azerbaijan, the South Caucasus, and wider regional and international developments.

2024–present
Expert / Media Contributor, Euronews
Expert commentary and analysis on political, economic, and regional developments.

Expert / Media Contributor, *taz – die tageszeitung*, Germany
Expert commentary and contributions on political and regional affairs.

2016–present
Political Analyst and Contributor, Modern Diplomacy
Contributor of analytical articles on international relations, political economy, security, energy policy, and the South Caucasus.

2016–2019
Research Associate and Political Analyst, Topchubashov Center, Baku, Azerbaijan
Research and policy analysis focusing on international relations, foreign policy, regional politics, and the South Caucasus

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

2026

March 2026
Keynote Speaker, 6th International Women's Day Conference in Economics, Finance and Management, University of Economics in Katowice, Poland, 11–14 March 2026.
Keynote: *"Exploring the Practices and Challenges of Women Entrepreneurs: The Perspective of the Women Researchers Council (WRC)."*

2025

November 2025
Presenter and Participant, Workshop on *The Role of Law and Courts in Migration Politics*, Leuphana University Lüneburg and Leuphana Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture and Society (LIAS), Germany.
Funded and organized by Leuphana University Lüneburg and LIAS.

August 2025
Project Committee Member, COIL / ConnectEurasia Project Meeting, Haute École de Gestion Arc (HEG Arc), University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO), Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

May 2025
Keynote Speaker, University of Vigo, Vigo, Spain.
Keynote: *"Transformative Education: Gender Equality and Institutional Change."*
Funded by the European Union.

9–12 March 2025
Presenter, International Workshop *Changing Boundaries of European Integration*, ETH Zurich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Monte Verità, Ticino, Switzerland.
Presentation: *"Reconfiguring Boundaries: Analyzing the Impact of the 2022 Russia–Ukraine War on EU Integration Dynamics."*

2024

December 2024
Chair and Organizer, Women Researchers Council Annual International Forum 2024, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan.
Organized by the Women Researchers Council with the support of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWG), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.

14–15 November 2024
Guest Speaker, 3rd International Conference on *Creativity and Innovation in the Digital Economy*, Faculty of Economics, Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești, Romania.

July 2024
Visiting Guest Lecturer, Keleti Károly Faculty of Business and Management, Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary.
Funded by the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching Programme.

29–30 June 2024
Keynote Speaker, 14th International Conference *The Danube – Axis of European Identity*, Danubius International University, Romania.

May 2024
Academic Trainer, *Research Methods in Social Sciences and the Art of Research Paper Publication*, UNEC Business School, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan.

March 2024
Visiting Guest Lecturer, Keleti Károly Faculty of Business and Management, Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary.
Funded by the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching Programme.

February 2024
Speaker, Adam Smith Seminar, Center for Security Studies, Munich, Germany.
Presentation: *"Illegal Market Activities in the Conflicted Territories of the Post-Soviet Space."*

2023

27 December 2023
Panel Speaker, International Shusha Forum, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Presentation: *"Politicization of IPR in the Context of Karabakh: Major Challenges and Tendencies."*

July 2023
Visiting Guest Lecturer, Keleti Károly Faculty of Business and Management, Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary.
Funded by the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching Programme.

25 June 2023
Moderator, Scientific Workshop on *Women Empowerment in Science and Their Integration into the Labor Market*, V International Conference of Researchers in Economics and Management, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan.

15–16 June 2023
Keynote Speaker, III International Scientific Conference (ICTTBT 2023), Canadian Institute of Technology (CIT), Tirana, Albania.

4–6 April 2023
Presenter, Annual Conference of the Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA 2023), Ulster University, United Kingdom.

12 March 2023
Presenter, School of Law, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan.
Presentation: *"Politics vs. International Law: Does International Law Work?"*

7–14 March 2023
Funded Participant, MIRAI Visiting Japan Programme – Rule of Law, Japan.
Official study visit fully funded by the Government of Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA).

1–3 March 2023
Speaker, 5th IP & Innovation Researchers of Asia (IPIRA) Conference, Nanyang Business School, Nanyang Technological University, in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and University of Geneva.
Presentation: *"Legal Documents Review on the Violation of Intellectual Property Rights in the Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan."*

2022

23–26 June 2022
Chief Moderator and Speaker, International Scientific Conference of Economics and Management Researchers (ISCEMR 2022), Baku, Azerbaijan.

6–8 April 2022
Presenter, Socio-Legal Studies Association Annual Conference (SLSA 2022), hosted by the University of York, York School of Law, United Kingdom.

Presentation: *"The Politicization of Intellectual Property Rights within the Context of Karabakh: Political Instabilities and Tendencies."*
Participation funded by the University of York.

2021

24–30 October 2021
Visiting Guest Lecturer, Department of Political Science and Administration, Kazimierz Wielki University, Bydgoszcz, Poland.
Funded by the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching Programme.

2020

May–June 2020
Moderator and Presenter, ESD International Scientific Conference 2020, dedicated to the 90th Anniversary of Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan.

7–14 March 2020
Visiting Guest Lecturer, Department of Public Administration and Political Science, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania.
Funded by the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching Programme.

2019

25–26 September 2019
Representative and Coordinator, Academic Workshop of the UNEC–University of Siegen joint project *"EE-KEY-AZ: Entrepreneurship Education – A Key to Job Creation and Employability in Azerbaijan,"* University of Siegen, Germany.

25–26 June 2019
Representative, Eastern Partnership Conference on *Promoting Common Values Through Education and Culture*, Tbilisi, Georgia.

13–14 May 2019
Participant, High-Level Diplomatic Conference marking the 10th Anniversary of the Eastern Partnership Programme, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium.

19–21 February 2019
Co-Organizer and Participant, *Academic Reflections in Support of Azerbaijan's Accession to the WTO and Trade Policymaking*, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan.

2017

9 May 2017
Participant, Open Seminar on Cooperation among the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia within the Visegrad Group, organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.

5–7 May 2017
Presenter, 19th Annual Student Conference for Undergraduate and Graduate Students, *Europe 2017: From Printed Word to Knowledge – Local Traditions and Global Transition*, European Humanities University (EHU), Vilnius, Lithuania.

27 April 2017
Presenter, 3rd Annual Academic Conference *Contemporary Political Processes: Challenges and Opportunities*, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.

8–14 March 2017
Presenter and Team Leader, International Workshop *Joint Platform for Realistic Peace in the South Caucasus*, Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation, Kakheti/Tbilisi, Georgia.
Participation based on a funded research proposal supported by the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa).

2016

21 November 2016
Chief Negotiator, EU Delegation, Simulation Exercise on *EU–US TTIP Negotiations*, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.

5–9 September 2016
Funded Participant, XI Economic Forum of Young Leaders, Poland.
Participation supported by European Union funding.

18–23 July 2016
Scholarship Participant, International Law & Arbitration Association (BILA) Summer International Law Camp on *IT Law, Moot Courting and International Humanitarian Law*, Minsk, Belarus.
Participation supported by a full ICRC scholarship.

13 July 2016
Coordinator and Presenter, Annual Conference on the 2003 Iraq War: *"How to Solve the Iraq War,"* Corvinus University of Budapest, Budapest, Hungary.

6–8 May 2016
Presenter, 18th International Academic Conference *Europe 2016: De-constructing Crisis – Searching for New Forms of Knowledge, Identification, and Solidarity*, Vilnius, Lithuania.

5 May 2016
Participant, *NATO Adaptation on the Road to Warsaw*, within the conference *Contemporary Political Processes: Challenges and Opportunities*, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.

5 May 2016
Presenter, Academic Conference *Contemporary Political Processes: Challenges and Opportunities*, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.

12 April 2016
Participant, Public Lecture *The Challenges of the EU*, delivered by H.E. Gijsbert Hendrik Christiaan (Bert) van der Lingen, Ambassador of the Netherlands, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.

16–17 March 2016
Presenter, International Interdisciplinary Conference *Racism, Nationalism, and Xenophobia*, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Warsaw, Poland.

15 March 2016
Participant, Public Lecture *Contemporary Czech Foreign Policy and Presidency of the Visegrad Group*, delivered by H.E. Bohumil Mazánek, Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.

10 March 2016
Participant, Public Lecture *The 2016 Election and U.S. Foreign Policy*, delivered by Dr. Paul Sracic, American Studies Club, Kaunas, Lithuania.

1 March 2016
Participant, Diplomatic Visit and Meeting, Sugihara House Museum, Kaunas, Lithuania.

2015

6 September 2015
English and Russian Interpreter and Representative, Meeting with H.E. Vítězslav Pivoňka, Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Ganja, Azerbaijan.

2013

23 November 2013
Interpreter and Representative, Meeting with the Ambassador of France on *Azerbaijan–France Relations*, Baku State University, Baku, Azerbaijan.

7 November 2013
Nominator and Coordinator, Junior Achievement – Young Business Leaders Programme, Baku, Azerbaijan.

2012–2013
English Interpreter, Meetings with the Ambassadors of Finland, Pakistan, and Latvia, Baku State University, Baku, Azerbaijan.

2012

18 December 2012
Presenter, Annual Student Scientific Conference, Student Youth Organization, Baku, Azerbaijan.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE, INVITED LECTURES AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

2025

June 2025
Visiting Lecturer, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Ljubljana School of Business, Slovenia.

March 2025
Visiting Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Academy of Silesia, Katowice, Poland.

2024

19–24 August 2024
International Workshop Participant / Project Contributor, *ConnectEurasia: Designing Collaborative Online Learning for Sustainability*, Haute École Spécialisée de Suisse Occidentale (HES-SO) / Haute École de Gestion Arc (HEG Arc), Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

27–28 July 2024
Keynote Speaker, International Forum *Solidarity for a Green World: Turning Waste into Value*, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Tamiz Shahar JSC, Azerbaijan.

21–24 February 2024
Keynote Speaker, 2nd Nazarbayev University Research Centre for Entrepreneurship (NURCE) International Conference *Impact Central: Bridging Social Development and Entrepreneurship in Central Asia*, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan.
Keynote: *"Women Empowerment in Science and Education."*

2023

1–28 February 2023
Academic Instructor, *Scientometrics and Academic Writing Skills*, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan.

2022

8–14 May 2022
Visiting Guest Lecturer in Political Science, University of Málaga, Málaga, Spain.
Delivered a series of intensive lectures; funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

29 April 2022
Academic Visit, School of Business Administration and Management, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO), Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

26 April 2022
Research Seminar Speaker, School of Economics and Political Science, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.
Presentation: *"The Politicization of Intellectual Property Rights in the Context of Karabakh."*

3–9 April 2022
Visiting Guest Lecturer, School of Economics and Business Management, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary.
Lecture: *"The Violation of Intellectual Property Rights in the Occupied Territories of Post-Soviet Countries: A Comparative Analysis of Georgia and Azerbaijan."*
Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

10–11 March 2022
Presenter, *Europe's Geopolitical Future: Mapping Perspectives on EU Policy in its Eastern Neighborhood*, Center for Eastern European Studies (CEES), University of Zurich, Switzerland.
Presentation: *"EU and Karabakh: Change in the Balance of Power and the New Status Quo."*
Supported by a Seed Funding Grant from the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

3–4 February 2022
Presenter, Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), University of Lausanne, Switzerland.
Presentation: *"The Role of Customs in the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Occupied Territories: The Cases of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine."*

2021

8–9 November 2021
Presenter, Annual Conference on Social Sciences 2021, *Sustainable Economics*, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Dunaújváros, Hungary.
Presentation: *"The Economic Opportunities of Renewable Energy Resources (RES) in Azerbaijani Territories: The Case of Karabakh and Its Adjacent Districts."*

24–30 October 2021
Visiting Guest Lecturer, Faculty of Political Science and Administration, Kazimierz Wielki University, Bydgoszcz, Poland.
Lectures delivered:

- *"The Politicization of Intellectual Property Rights in the Context of Conflict-Affected Territories: The Cases of Georgia and Azerbaijan."*
- *"The Economic and Legal Assessment of Export and Import Volumes during the Occupation of Karabakh and Its Adjacent Districts."*
- *"Energy Diplomacy of Azerbaijan: Security Issues in the South Caucasus Region."*
- *"The Role of Azerbaijan in European Energy Policy."*

10 June 2021
Research Presentation, DemocracyNet, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, Switzerland.
Presentation: *"Violation of Intellectual Property Rights in the Process of Illicit Activities during the Occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and Its Adjacent Areas."*

9 April 2021
Presenter, IV Scientific-Practical Conference of Young Researchers, Azerbaijan University, Baku, Azerbaijan.
Presentation: *"The Evaluation of Illicit Activities in the Liberated Territories of Azerbaijan during the Occupation."*

2–3 April 2021
Presenter, Scientific-Practical Conference on *Architectural Heritage of Nagorno-Karabakh after the Occupation*, organized by the Ministry of Education and Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction, Baku, Azerbaijan.
Presentation: *"Intellectual Property Problems during the Occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh: Economic and Political Factors."*

2021
Invited Speaker, Women in STEM Programme, Eastern Neighbours Programme of the European Union.
Presentation: *"Educated Woman, Educated Society."*

2020

2020
Visiting Lecturer, Department of Public Administration and Political Science, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania.
Lectures:

- *"Energy Diplomacy and Security Issues in the South Caucasus Region: The Case of Azerbaijan."*
- *"The Role of Customs in the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Occupied Territories: A Comparative Analysis of Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan and Japan."*

2020
Presenter, ESD International Scientific Conference 2020.
Presentation: *"The Role of the European Union in the Socio-Economic Integration of Immigrants Residing in Azerbaijan: Current Problems, Tendencies and Perspectives."*

2020
Presenter, Scientific Conference on the Sustainability of the Higher Education System in Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan University of Technology (UTECA).
Presentation: *"The European Model in the Internationalization of Education: Challenges and Perspectives."*

2020
Webinar Speaker, Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Specialist Group (PSA) / DemocracyNet – Young Scholars Network, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, Switzerland.
Presentation: *"Migration Problems in Azerbaijan."*

2020
Presenter, Annual Conference on *Challenges of Social Sciences in the 21st Century*, University of Dunaújváros, Hungary.
Presentation: *"The Role of Azerbaijan in European Energy Policy."*

2019

2019
Invited Presenter, University of Siegen, Germany.
Presentation: *"UNEC: From Innovation to Impact."*

2019
Invited Presenter, Azerbaijan University of Technology (UTECA), Ganja, Azerbaijan.
Presentation of *The Didactical Guidelines Handbook on Writing a Doctoral Dissertation*.

2017

2017
Instructor, Intensive Seven-Day Seminar on Diplomacy, Azerbaijan University of Technology (UTECA), Ganja, Azerbaijan.

2016

2016
Presenter, European Humanities University, Vilnius, Lithuania.
"The Future of the Eastern Partnership Programme: Problems and Perspectives."

2016
Presenter, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.
"How to Solve the Syrian Crisis: Crisis Management Techniques."

2016
Presenter, Cold War History Research Center, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary.
"NATO Mechanisms after the Cold War Era: Crisis Management Techniques."

2016
Presenter, International Law Programme, Borisov, Belarus.
"International Property Law: Investigation of the Website of the High-Tech Company Eurekite."

2016
Presenter, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary.
"The Role of Women in the Global Political Economy: Women as Economic Leaders."

2016
Presenter, Cold War History Research Center, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary.
"The Economic Impact of Nanotechnology on Dutch Trade."

2016
Presenter, Cold War History Research Center, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary.
"Triadic Nexus: Energy, Homeland Security and Foreign Policy."

2016
Presenter, Cold War History Research Center, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary.
"Main Proposals and Models for the Resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict."

2016
Presenter, Cold War History Research Center, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary.
"Zionism and Anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany."

2016
Presenter, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.
"Biased Vienna Convention? Re-evaluating Personal Inviolability and Diplomatic Immunities in Cases of Serious Crimes."

2016
Presenter, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.
"The Democratization Process in Eastern Europe from a European Perspective."

2016
Presenter, European Humanities University, Vilnius, Lithuania.
"Conspiracy Theories and the Jews."

2016
Presenter, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.
"Twenty-First-Century Information Warfare: The Russian Propaganda Machine and Ukraine."

2014

2014
Lecturer, Baku State University, Baku, Azerbaijan.
International Economic Relations: "The Basics of Currency Funds and Commodity Exchanges."

2014
Lecturer, Heydar Aliyev Center, Ganja, Azerbaijan.
"Soft Power, Hard Power and Asymmetric Power."

2014
Lecturer, Heydar Aliyev Center, Ganja, Azerbaijan.
"International Peace Day and the Culture of Peace."

SUPERVISION AND ACADEMIC MENTORING

PhD Supervisor / Co-Supervisor – 3 Doctoral Researchers
Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC)

Research areas include:

- Illegal markets and informal economies in conflict-affected territories
- Peace and conflict studies
- Post-conflict reconstruction
- Political economy of fragile and conflict-affected states

Master's Thesis Supervisor – 15 Graduate Students
Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC)

Research areas include:

- Informal and illegal economies in post-conflict regions
- Peacebuilding and institutional development
- Political economy of conflict and reconstruction
- Sustainable management and the green economy
- International migration
- Gender studies

LANGUAGES

Azerbaijani: Native | English**:** C2 | Turkish**:** C2 | Russian**:** C1 | **German:** B2 | **French:** B2 | **Lithuanian:** A2

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

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University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
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Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary
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Prof. Dr. Ana María Salinas de Frías
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University of Málaga, Málaga, Spain
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Email: asalinas@uma.es
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Head, Department of Political Science
Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania
Email: andzej.puksto@gmail.com
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Prof. Dr. Jean Marcou
Director of International Relations
Director, Master Méditerranée–Moyen-Orient (MMO)
Sciences Po Grenoble – Université Grenoble Alpes
Institut d'Études Politiques de Grenoble
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Distinguished Prof. Dr. Irshad Karimli
Head, Department of International Economics
Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Baku, Azerbaijan
Former Academic Supervisor
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Tel.: +994 50 319 1737

ACADEMIC PROFILES

UNEC Academic Profile: https://unec.edu.az/en/nergiz-uzeyir-qizi-haciyeva/
University of Michigan – Weiser Center: https://ii.umich.edu/wcee/people/professional-development-fellows.html
University of Michigan – IRWG: https://irwg.umich.edu/content/nargiz-hajiyeva
Ludovika Scholars Profile: https://ludovika-scholars.uni-nke.hu/ludovika-scholarok-2025/nargiz-hajiyeva
UNEC News & Academic Activities: https://news.unec.edu.az/tags/nergiz-haciyeva
Scopus Author Profile: https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=57195792793
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/assoc-prof-dr-nargiz-uzeir-hajiyeva-004547b0/

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Monograph (SCOPUS indexed)

- **Hajiyeva, N.** Economic activities in occupied territories: A case study of Karabakh (A. Muradov, J. Branch, S. Grima, K. Sood, & J. Salomonsen, Eds.). Nova Publishing, New York. US. https://doi.org/10.52305/NZHD1382

Upcoming monograph

- Muradov, A., **Hajiyeva, N.,** & Rupp, F. *Does Size Still Matter? Rethinking the Strategic Choices of Small States in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.* Palgrave Macmillan, Springer Nature. Forthcoming.
- Leal Filho, W., Yang, P., **Hajiyeva, N.,** Waza, A. M., & Vig, S. (Eds.). ***(forthcoming).*** Governing the Future: Politics, Policy, and Participation for the SDGs. World Sustainability Series, Springer Nature (Monograph)
- **Hajiyeva, N.** Muradov A., Burkazde Z., Nuriyev M., "Occupied Economies and the Legitimization of Illegality" *Subtitle: The Political Economy of Property Exploitation, Illicit Markets, and Governance,* Nova Publishing, New York. US. (2027)

Upcoming editorial book

- Leal Filho, W., Yang, P., **Hajiyeva, N.,** Waza, A. M., & Vig, S. (Eds.). ***(forthcoming).*** Governing the Future: Politics, Policy, and Participation for the SDGs. World Sustainability Series, Springer Nature (Edited Volume)
- Hajiyeva, N., Burkadze, Z., Gahramanova, C., & Yusibov, R. (Eds.). *Politicization: Policy Issues, Partisanship, and Societal Impacts*. New York: Nova Science Publishers. **Forthcoming, 2028.**

Upcoming peer-reviewed papers

- **Hajiyeva, N.*, Branch, J., Khalil, S., & Zadravec, K.** (accepted)
  How Can We Achieve a More Internationalized Science? Institutionalizing the Internationalization of Science and Research in Azerbaijani Higher Education. Social Sciences and Humanities Open journal, (**Q1**, **SCOPUS**)
- **Hajiyeva, N.*,** Garai-Fodor, M., Gahramanova, C., Nuriyeva, S., Yusifli, K., & Hashimova, A. (accepted). *"Be-longing After Conflict: Women Entrepreneurs as Trailblazers of Social Cohesion and Community Reconstruction in Post-Conflict Karabakh." Gender, Work & Organization*, Wiley. Q1, Scopus & Web of Science, Accepted for the Special Issue / Call for Papers: "All About En-During Crisis? 'Other Stories' of Women Entrepreneurs."

Book Editorships (SCOPUS indexed)

- **Adalat Muradov, Fariz Ahmadov, Nargiz Hajiyeva*, Kiran Sood & Simon Grima (eds.)**
  Sustainable Development and Green Innovation: Managing Risk through Interdisciplinary Approaches and Policy Strategies — Emerald Publishing. (June, 2025) https://www.emerald.com/books/edited-volume/21247/Sustainable-Development-and-Green, SCOPUS indexed
- Yousafzai, Shumaila Yaqoob; **Hajiyeva, Nargiz**; Aljanova, Nurlykhan; Mammadova, Ulviyya. (2026). *The Seven Portraits of "Odlar Yurdu": Women's Entrepreneurship Reimagining Work, Worth and World in Azerbaijan*. ISBN: **978-9952-39-521-1**.
  Available: https://nurce.kz/thesevenportraitsofodlaryurdu
- **D. Nandy, M. Das & Nargiz Hajiyeva* (eds.)**
  Central Asia: Exploring Culture, History, and Geopolitics — Taylor & Francis, December 2025.
  https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/edit/10.4324/9781003766384/culture-history-geopolitics-central-asia-debasish-nandy-nargiz-hajiyeva-monojit-das, SCOPUS indexed

Books Chapters (**SCOPUS indexed)**

- **Muradov, A. & Hajiyeva, N*.** (2024)
  The Application of the Green Economy Policy of Switzerland to the Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan: A Review and Appraisal. In: *Green Management: A New Paradigm in the World of Business*, Emerald Publishing, UK, pp. 97–119. Book Chapter.
- **Hajiyeva, N*., Burkadze, Z. & Khalil, S.** (2024)
  Fostering Green Entrepreneurship Education and the Socioeconomic Inclusion of Women in the South Caucasus Region.In: *Marketing and Resource Management for Green Transitions in Economies* (Chapter 7), IGI Global. [SCOPUS Indexed]
  https://www.igi-global.com/chapter/fostering-green-entrepreneurship-education-and-the-socioeconomic-inclusion-of-women-in-the-south-caucasus-region/352728
- **Hajiyeva, N*., Aliyeva, A. & Ferdous, J.** (2024)
  Entrepreneurial Struggles – Exploring the Practices and Challenges of Women Entrepreneurs in Azerbaijan. In: *Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Family Business for Women's Empowerment*, IGI Global Publishing. Book Chapter.
- ***Hajiyeva, N.** & Ahmadov, F., From Conflict to Connectivity: Implementing China's Transport Integration Approach in Azerbaijan's Karabakh Region.*In: *Central Asia Book Series*, Taylor & Francis. Book Chapter.

Books Chapters (**Non-SCOPUS indexed)**

- **Hajiyeva, N.*** (2024). VIII Chapter - Migration Governance. In: Roland Hosner & Violeta Wagner (Eds.), Textbook on Migration, Published by International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Vienna Office, pp. 30-60, Available in English and Azerbaijani, URL: https://www.icmpd.org/file/download/61121/file/MOBILAZE-2-Migration%2520Textbook_MOBILAZE_EN_WEB.pdf

- **Hajiyeva, N.*** (2023). Azərbaycanda Yeni Enerji Erasının Başlanğıcı: Heydər Əliyev Dönəmində Enerji Diplomatiyası [The Beginning of a New Era in Energy Sphere: Energy Diplomacy in Heydar Aliyev's Administration]. In: Economic Portrait of a Century, edited by Rector Prof. Dr. Adalat Muradov, Prof. Dr. Yashar Kalbiyev, Assoc. Prof. Fariz Ahmadov, Assoc. Prof. Ayten Huseynli, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC) publishing house, ISBN: 978-9952-8479-0-1, pp. 204-214. Available at: https://conferences.az/uploads/file/a4c26-bir-esrin-iqtisadi-portreti-kitab.pdf

- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2021): Azerbaijan fighting on two fronts: Covid-19 and War, (2021), published by Democracy NET, the University of Zurich, Switzerland. (Chapter of Book titled One Year with Covid 19), 129-134. URL: https://democracynet.eu/wp-content/uploads/Ewert-Heyne-One-Year-with-Covid-19.pdf

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (SCOPUS/WoS)

- **Branch, J., Ahmadov, F., & Hajiyeva, N.** (2025)
  Science and education as pillars of post-conflict recovery: Lessons from Azerbaijan's Karabakh region.International Journal of Educational Development, 114, 103234. (**Q1**, **SCOPUS** and **WoS**)
- **Muradov, A. J., & Hajiyeva, N.** (2024)
  The politicization of intellectual property rights in the context of Karabakh. Cogent Social Sciences, 10(1), 2386710. (**Q2**, **SCOPUS**)
- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2024)
  «La guerra en Ucrania y la política de globalización económica de la UE: nuevos retos y cuestiones de seguridad» [The war in Ukraine and the EU's policy of economic globalisation: new security challenges and issues]. *Revista CIDOB d'Afers Internacionals*, n.º 137, p. 141-165. DOI: doi.org/10.24241/rcai.2024.137.2.141. (**Q2**, **SCOPUS**)
- **Humbatova, S. I., Hajiyeva, N., Fodor, M. G., Sood, K., & Grima, S.** (2024)
  The Impact of Economic Growth on the Ecological Environment and Renewable Energy Production: Evidence from Azerbaijan and Hungary. Journal of Risk and Financial Management, 17(7), 275. (**Q1**, **SCOPUS** and **WoS**)
- **Nuță, F. M., Mărcuță, A. G., Dimen, L., Mărcuță, L., Gaban, L., Hajiyeva, N., & Nuta, A. C.** (2025)
  The Role of Poverty and Gender in Shaping Households' Energy Consumption Patterns in Selected European Countries. Energies, 18(5), 1266. (**Q1**, **SCOPUS** and **WoS**)
- **Huszak, N., Garai-Fodor, M., Humbatova, S. I., & Hajiyeva, N.** (2024, November)
  Sustainability and awareness in education through the eyes of Generation Z. In *2024 IEEE 24th International Symposium on Computational Intelligence and Informatics (CINTI)*, pp. 271-276. IEEE. (**Q2**, **SCOPUS** and **WoS**)
- **Hajiyeva, N.*, Khalil, S., Ahmadov, F., Garai, M.F., & Ismayilova, H.** (accepted)
  Symbolic or Substantive? – Making Sense of Environmental Awareness and Climate Policy in the Context of Azerbaijani Universities. (**Q1**, **SCOPUS**)
- *Muradov, A. &* ***Hajiyeva, N.*** **(2022)**
  The Politicization of Intellectual Property Rights in the Context of Karabakh. Przegląd Strategiczny Journal, Adam Mickiewicz University, 433-450. Funded by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Poland. (**Q2**, **SCOPUS**)

- **Hajiyeva, N.**, Santa, R.*, Bošnjaković, M.*, Omarov, Y., & Nabiyev, A. (accepted, 2025)
  Strategic Diversification of Hungary's Natural Gas Supply: The Role of Azerbaijan in Energy Security and Decarbonization. **Q1, SCOPUS**, ScienceDirect, Elsevier.
- **Muradov, A. &* ***Hajiyeva, N.*** **(2021)**
  Economic and legal assessment of illegal activities during the occupation of Karabakh and its adjacent districts.Journal of Society and Politics, Vasile Goldis Western University of Arad, Romania, 22-44. (**Q3**, **SCOPUS**)
- **Hajiyeva, N. & Heydarova** (2024)
  Unveiling Patterns: A Comparative Study of Syrian and Ukrainian Refugee Influx into the EU. Slovansky Prehled, Czech Academy of Sciences, p. 89-121. https://www.hiu.cas.cz/user_uploads/vydavatelska_cinnost/periodika/slovansky_prehled/sp_1_2024_fin_web_bez_obrazku.pdf (**Q3**, **SCOPUS**)

Teaching Materials / Methodological Guides

- ***Hajiyeva, N.*** *& Hamidov, H.* (2019)*
  Didactical Guidelines Handbook on Writing a Doctoral Dissertation (published in English and Azerbaijani). Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), 50 pp. Confirmed by the Scientific Committee decree of the University.

Other Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Nuriyev, M., **Hajiyeva, N.,** & Burkadze, Z. (2026). Proxying the Invisible: Estimating Transnistria's Shadow Economy and Its Threats to Regional Economic Security. *The Journal of Accounting and Management*, *16*(1), 48-59.
- Nuriyev, M., & **Hajiyeva, N.** (2025). Jurisprudential analysis of illegal market activities in conflict zones of Georgia: The cases of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. *AGORA Int'l J. Jurid. Sci.*, *19*, 202.
- **Hajiyeva, N.,** Włodarczyk, J., Gahramanova, C., Hajiyeva, S., Yusibov, R., & Ismayilova, H. (2026). CAN EDUCATION SPARK A REVOLUTION? EXPLORING HOW SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRANSFORMS WOMEN'S ROLE IN AZERBAIJAN'S LABOR MARKET. *AGORA INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ECONOMICAL SCIENCES*, *20*(1), 174-192.
- **Hajiyeva, N., Mammadova, U., Abdullazade, A., & Malikov, A.** (2023)
  E-Karabakh And Beyond: Revealing the Digital Landscapes in Azerbaijan's Liberated Territories. Agora International Journal of Juridical Sciences, 17(2), 139–145.
- **Gulahmadov, M., & Hajiyeva, N.** (2023)
  The Geopolitical Implication of The Zangazur Corridor: A Driver for Regional Advancement and Linkage. Agora International Journal of Economical Sciences, 17(2), 47–53.
- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2019)
  The Current Dynamics of International Migration in Europe: Problems and Perspectives. Eastern European Journal of Transnational Relations (EEJTR), University of Bialystok, Poland, 33–48.
- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2017)
  The Accession of Turkey to the EU: Problematic European or European Problem? Reinvention: An International Journal of Undergraduate Research, University of Warwick & Monash University, BLASTER Special Issue, Vol. X, Issue 2, pp. 1–18. ISSN 1755-7429

Conference Papers / Workshop Papers / Chapters in Edited Volumes

- **Hajiyeva, N., & Nuriyev,** M. Rebuilding Security after War: Economic Reconstruction and Structural Transformation in the Karabakh Region. In *MEB—24th International Conference on Management, Enterprise, Benchmarking. Proceedings I.(MEB 2026)* (p. 6).
- ***Hajiyeva, N.*** *& Musayeva-Gurbanova, A.** (2023)
  The Change in Geostrategic Situation: EU Economic Globalization Policy Following Wars in Eastern Europe. V International Scientific Conference of Researchers in Economics and Management (ISCEMR), Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), pp. 1–11.
- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2022)
  The Economic Evaluation of Green Energy Potential in Azerbaijani Territories: The Case of Karabakh and Its Adjacent Districts. Dunakavics, Scientific Journal, University of Dunaújváros, Hungary, pp. 59–64.
- **Hajiyeva, N.*** (2022)
  EU and Karabakh: Change in Balance of Power and New Status Quo. In *Europe's Geopolitical Future: Mapping Perspectives on EU Policy in its Eastern Neighborhood*, CEES, University of Zurich, pp. 1–7.
- ***Hajiyeva, N.*** *& Musayeva-Gurbanova, A.** (2022)
  The Application of Green Economy Policy of Switzerland and Sweden to the Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan: Review and Appraisal. IV International Scientific Conference of Researchers in Economics and Management (ISCEMR), Baku, Azerbaijan, pp. 1–18.
- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2021)
  *Intellectual Property Problems During the Occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh: Economic and Political Factors.*Conference Paper, organized by the Ministry of Education and Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction, pp. 1–8.
- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2020)
  Energy Diplomacy and Security Issues in the South Caucasus Region: The Case of Azerbaijan. In Mónika Rajcsányi-

Molnár, István András & István Péter Németh (Eds.), *Sustainability Fields* (Chapter 7). ISBN 978-615-6142-14-6, HTSART Printing House, pp. 107–125.

- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2020)
  The Role of the European Union in the Socio-Economic Integration of Immigrants Residing in Azerbaijan: Current Problems, Tendencies, and Perspectives. *Journal of International Relations and Diplomacy*, US, pp. 1–[add final page].
- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2016)
  State-Sponsored Anti-Semitism in Postwar USSR: Doctors' Plot as an Abandoned Holocaust amid Stalin's Russia. Workshop Paper, Warsaw School of Economics, Warsaw, Poland.

Research Projects

- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2023)
  The Assessment of the Impact of Azerbaijani Mentality on Women Empowerment in the Labor Market: What Are the Main Problems?
- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2023)
  Economic and Legal Assessment of Illegal Export and Import Volumes in the Conflicted Territories of Post-Soviet Countries: A Comparative Analysis of Georgia, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan.
- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2016)
  The Role of Turkey in European Energy Policy: Problems and Perspectives.
- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2015)
  Energy as a Clash Point of Interests between Iran and Turkey.
- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2014)
  The Clash of Interests between the U.S. and Russia in the South Caucasus Region.

International Conference Papers

- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2023)
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- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2024)
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- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2024)
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- **Hajiyeva, N.** (2024)
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- From Reconstruction to Economic Takeoff? Assessing the First Results of Azerbaijan's Green Industrial Parks in Post-Conflict Karabakh (2024–2026) - [전문가오피니언] 재건에서 자립적 성장으로: 아제르바이잔 카라바흐 산업단지의 초기 성과 https://www.emerics.org:446/issueDetail.es?brdctsNo=399939&mid=a10200000000&systemcode=04

Statement of Motivation and Research Interests

Workshop on Development Economics and Networks for Early-Career Researchers
December 5, 2026 | Cambridge, Massachusetts

I begin my research with a very basic question: how does one restore an economy after a period of conflict? While conflict ends, it is relatively easy to reconstruct roads and buildings, but it is more difficult to restore markets, trust, business networks, and social relations. My focus will be on these aspects of economic recovery and specifically on how networks influence access to opportunities and participation in the process of transition of local economies from disorder and informality to sustainable development.

My research field covers the topics of development economics, political economy, and post-conflict studies. I have a special interest in post-conflict reconstruction, entrepreneurship, informal and illicit markets, economic formalization, and social cohesion. The South Caucasus, and Karabakh in particular, becomes an ideal case study for my research because it is possible to witness the process of rebuilding of communities, institutions, markets, and economic relations.

In my current research project, I look into entrepreneurship of women in the process of economic reconstruction of Karabakh through an analysis of a longitudinal data set that includes 2,728 women entrepreneurs in 13 districts across more than 60 sectors between 2020 and 2024. I analyze patterns of entry, sectoral dynamics, formalization, and involvement of local businesses in the rebuilding of economic and social ties. As part of my ongoing research interests, I would like to expand my investigation of networks not just at the individual level but also in terms of interplay between entrepreneurs, firms, communities, and institutions in accessing information, resources, markets, and opportunities in the process of reconstruction. The second direction of my research concerns informal and illicit markets in conflict affected territories. I am interested in the emergence of economic activity and informal networks where formal institutions are either weak or challenged; in sustaining markets via informal networks during times of political uncertainty; and in changes to these networks in case territories move to a new phase of institutional and economic transition.

That is precisely why the NBER Workshop on Development Economics and Networks is of critical importance for me. What I want to do is to increase my knowledge about empirical network methods and see how they could be used in a rigorous way for answering the questions concerning post-conflict development. I want to improve my skills to find out mechanisms behind the effect of networks on entrepreneurship, market access, formalization, and opportunity structure. Getting engaged with top scholars who conduct empirical network research will definitely benefit the next stage of my work.

At the same time, I want to bring my point of view which is rather unusual in empirical development economics. Post-conflict territories are not just places where the economy recovers. These are places where economic ties need to be built up. Studying who makes connections, how this happens, and does this help to develop inclusive opportunities can explain why some societies manage to recover better than others. Through bringing experience of Karabakh and South Caucasus region in the study of development networks, I want to add to the knowledge of rebuilding economies after conflict.

Sincerely,

Nargiz Hajiyeva, Dr.



Baku, Azerbaijan – 05 September, 2026

Be-longing After Conflict: Women Entrepreneurs as Trailblazers of Social Cohesion and Community Reconstruction in Post-Conflict Karabakh

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Abstract. Post-conflict reconstruction has been evaluated in terms of institutional construction, infrastructure, and economic reconstruction; however, the gender and relational aspects of community reconstruction remain underexplored. This study explores women entrepreneurs as economic and social agents in the process of reconstruction of Karabakh and East Zangezur by exploring the interaction between entrepreneurial practices of women and the processes of social cohesion, institutionalization, and community reconstruction in post-conflict situations. Utilizing the administrative data collected from the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of Azerbaijan (KOBİA), this study creates a Women Entrepreneurship Impact Index (WEII) using data from 2,728 women entrepreneurs in 13 districts for the period of November 2020 to January 2024. The results of the study indicate an uneven pattern of development of entrepreneurship in terms of space and sectors. Beyond the business creation context, this study looks at the women's entrepreneurship in terms of the ongoing activities that help recreate local economic networking, participation, social relationships, and community linkages. Using the concept of be-longing, this study conceptualizes the process of post-conflict reconstruction as one of building back not only the economy, but also participation, social ties, and a feeling of belonging. Incorporating women's entrepreneurial agency in the process of rebuilding, the study makes contributions in the field of gender studies and work in addition to the post-conflict reconstruction.

Keywords: women entrepreneurs; post-conflict reconstruction; be-longing; social cohesion; community building; Karabakh.

1. Introduction

The recovery process after conflict is unlikely to come to an end when the armed conflicts stop or the process of reconstruction begins physically. Even though the government will concentrate on the reconstruction of infrastructure, roads, houses, and utility services, the process of building social trust, participation of the community and identity may prove to be a difficult one because all of that is part of the process from which almost everything comes (Putnam, 1993; Colletta & Cullen, 2000). Within the context of general recovery, the role of entrepreneurship as one of the important means of development in the post-conflict context has become more widely recognized. There is enough research in the literature demonstrating that entrepreneurship has the potential to contribute to employment creation and economic regeneration as well as peace building. However, social dimensions of entrepreneurship have not yet been sufficiently analyzed (Moritz et al., 2024; Joseph et al., 2023). Women entrepreneurship has been mainly studied through the lenses of vulnerability, resilience, or economic empowerment rather than through the importance of this phenomenon to community reconstruction and cohesion (Bastian et al., 2018; Bagheri et al., 2024).

According to this research, in addition to considering women entrepreneurs as economic actors, they should also be considered as social actors that help connect those communities that are divided due to conflicts. Women entrepreneurs through creating jobs, rebuilding the networks in their locality, working with refugees, organizing community events, and basically connecting people are involved in the rebuilding of not only economies but also social relations. Women entrepreneurs do not only work towards business development but also work on social capital building and trust, which are key elements of peace building (Branch, et.al. 2025; Putnam, 1993; Colletta & Cullen, 2000; Joseph et al., 2023).

This research is based on the administrative data from the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of Azerbaijan (KOBİA) on 2,728 women entrepreneurs who have been engaged in economic activity in the Karabakh and East Zangezur Economic Region, which will provide insight into the analysis of the role of women in the process of community rebuilding in the post-conflict period. In this context, Karabakh can be considered as an empirical case, which differs from others due to its uniqueness because reconstruction is "a work in progress," providing a possibility to examine women's role in the process of community rebuilding.

The concept of "be-longing" in the title is based on the work of Yuval-Davis (2006), who emphasizes belonging as a socially created and negotiated process and not as a state. In the context of post-conflict societies, belonging takes on added meaning due to the fact that there will be displaced populations returning and social relations, trust and forms of participation will need to be rebuilt. Women's entrepreneurship is an example of an area where such a process can take place, since economic activity can reconnect the local population and returning populations through employment, exchange and socialization. In the meantime, the research does not consider the end of the conflict as the end of a crisis but rather as the continuing period of social, economic and institutional transformation (Vigh, 2008; Cramer & Goodhand, 2002). Recent studies reveal that resilience to crisis amongst women entrepreneurs depends on leadership, adaptability, social and familial support, religion, and ability to take advantage of technology. Nevertheless, there are existing structural issues, lack of policy support and challenges in specific contexts that make it essential to design better adaptive policy frameworks (Besic et al., 2026; Jia et al., 2026; Liew et al., 2026).

Under this situation, this study aims at investigating the contribution of women entrepreneurs to post-conflict community reconstruction through answering the following research questions:

- **RQ1:** How has women's entrepreneurial formalization evolved during post-conflict reconstruction in the Karabakh and East Zangezur economic regions, and how does this trajectory correspond with key reconstruction milestones?
- **RQ2:** How is women's entrepreneurial activity distributed across districts and sectors, and what do these patterns reveal about post-conflict community reconstruction?
- **RQ3:** What does the Women's Entrepreneurship Impact Index (WEII) reveal about the multidimensional role of women's entrepreneurship in post-conflict reconstruction?

By shifting the emphasis from entrepreneurship per se to women in particular, the present research contributes significantly to the literature on post-conflict reconstruction because it illustrates that community reconstruction is not only an issue of institutional investments and economic development but also a set of daily activities aimed at rebuilding trust, participation, and membership. Even though the present research is devoted to Karabakh in particular, it sheds light on the community reconstruction process that can be interesting to scholars of other regions where conflicts have occurred.

2. Literature Review

2.1. From Vulnerability to Agency: Reframing Women Entrepreneurs in Crisis Situations

The field of women's entrepreneurship has tended to focus on the limitations that face women entrepreneurs rather than the power that women might wield to affect broader changes (Ahl 2006). In this regard, Ahl's (2006) discourse analysis remains fundamental in demonstrating how even well-meaning scholarship has had a tendency to reproduce women entrepreneurs as 'the other', their ventures measured against an implicit, masculinised norm of entrepreneurial success, and their economic contribution secondary to the very vocabulary used to describe it.

A more recent body of scholarship has attempted to displace this study. Rosca, Agarwal and Brem (2020) explicitly reframe women in emerging market contexts as "agents of change", analysing the social entrepreneurship processes through which they create value beyond the firm level, in community welfare, in local employment structures and in the diffusion of new economic norms. This moves places women entrepreneurs at the center of economic theory rather than on its periphery, moving away from seeing them as exceptional examples to recognizing them as active agents of economic change. Three bodies of work are relevant: research on entrepreneurship under acute crisis (which offers insights into the resilience mechanism); research on post-conflict entrepreneurship as a field; and the thin but growing body of case-based work that explicitly connects women's entrepreneurship and post-conflict social cohesion. Social capital, particularly in the form of social connections in local communities and geographical connections with distant advisors, is an important component that enables entrepreneurs, most of whom are women, to overcome localized disruptions like violence and protests (Dimitriadis, 2021; Kuran & Khabbaz, 2026).

A useful example of adaptation is provided by Bagheri et al. (2024), who show how women entrepreneurs in Iran have managed the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, striking a balance between the financial challenges and heightened social duties. Nevertheless, post-conflict reconstruction is quite different from that. As opposed to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus, post-conflict reconstruction happens under the circumstances when the institutional and economic structures were already weak or nonexistent. Women entrepreneurs do not merely adapt to such circumstances but also help rebuild the structures that make entrepreneurship possible.

2.2. Entrepreneurship in Post-Conflict Settings

The topic of entrepreneurship in places that have experienced conflict has become an area of study over the last twenty years. It has its way of talking about things even though it has not paid much attention to gender as a way to understand things. A recent review by Moritz, Block and Morina from 2024 is the complete summary so far. What

stands out in this review is the limited attention given to gender as a key factor in their own four-part model. Also missing is any focus on social cohesion as a separate and well-defined outcome. Women's involvement in business is sometimes mentioned as part of the "who" part of the model. It is not explored in depth. There is lack of scientific interpretation of how women's entrepreneurship specifically helps post-conflict societies beyond the usual economic recovery measures that apply to everyone.

A complementary contribution comes from Joseph, Katsos, and Van Buren (2023), whose synthesis identifies three distinct conceptual lenses through which the relationship between business activity and conflict has been theorised. The first, which the authors term the destructive view, pointing out that entrepreneurial and commercial activity can cause conflict dynamics, through resource competition, the financing of armed actors, or the entrenchment of wartime economic hierarchies. The second one, economic approach, views entrepreneurship as a tool, as an agent that helps recover from a conflict situation by creating jobs and re-establishing a proper functioning of markets. Finally, the third perspective, and the most important for the purpose of the present study, is the perspective of social cohesion, according to which entrepreneurship can create its own social infrastructure necessary for sustainable peace.

2.3. Women's Role in Post-Conflict Community Reconstruction

Some studies focusing on case-specific analysis have recently found some evidence for the hypothesis of women's entrepreneurship promoting social connections. Nevertheless, this research is conducted in different districts of the Karabakh and East-Zangezur regions. According to Bongomin, Woldie, and Wakibi (2020), women-owned enterprises in the post-war northern Uganda regions were analyzed based on the surveys among people living in the conflict areas. The findings of the study show that the extent of social cohesion in the community significantly affects the result of the business activities. For communities characterized by a high extent of social cohesion, microfinance proved to be more efficient in the development of women-owned enterprises.

Similar limitations are also found in the work by Jabeen and Sheikh (2022) where the authors examine women's entrepreneurship in the Swat Valley of Pakistan during the period of long-standing war with terrorists. The role of women entrepreneurs in the economic recovery of the region is described by the authors, who state that they are crucial players in the process. Although it is not said directly, the authors imply that economic recovery brought about the restoration of the social order as the latter had been broken because of the war. It is necessary to note that the research under discussion is related to the issue raised; however, there is a lack of information about how the role of women entrepreneurship affected the process of social cohesion restoration outside the economic context. The term economic recovery is understood as the reconstruction of the community; however, it is not specified how the role of women entrepreneurship affected this process. It should be noted that the research was conducted after the conflict and reconstruction process was already carried out.

A study conducted in 2025 among 49 women engaged in Colombia's peace process somewhat compensates for the retrospective bias of the analysis of women's social entrepreneurship in conflict regions. The research showed that the SEL4C social entrepreneurship approach, applied through Territorial Training and Reincorporation Establishments (ETCRs), enhanced the social awareness and social innovativeness of the participants. In contrast to the Ugandan and Pakistani examples, the Colombian case provides an example of the development of entrepreneurship in the course of the

peacebuilding process, with ETCRs being transitional institutions. Therefore, the Colombian case is especially applicable to Karabakh.

Combining this with the comprehensive systematic mapping study conducted by Joseph et al. (2025), which uses a framework that considers business, conflict, and peace issues based on evidence collected in Colombia, Iraq, Rwanda, among others, two main implications can be drawn from the body of literature. Firstly, there is enough evidence from various regions to suggest the role that women entrepreneurship could play in the context of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. Secondly, there is a notable geographical gap in the literature regarding the topic, since there has been little attention paid to the South Caucasus and, more specifically, Azerbaijan.

2.4. The Karabakh Case

The three gaps that come out of the literature are interrelated. First, there is a theoretical gap in research between post-conflict entrepreneurship and the topic of women's contribution to social cohesion. This connection, which is currently increasingly popular due to research on entrepreneurship and peace-building, has been left behind by the systematic review by Moritz et al. (2024). Second, there is an empirical and temporal gap since almost all studies on women's entrepreneurship and social cohesion concentrate on communities that have experienced conflict and stabilization (Bongomin et al. 2020; Jabeen & Sheikh 2022). A recent study from Colombia offers an interesting deviation from this trend since it concentrates on the process of reintegration. Finally, a geographical gap exists because none of the systematic reviews or research on women's entrepreneurship in the post-conflict region of MENA considers the South Caucasus.

There are three main reasons why the case of women entrepreneurship in post-conflict Karabakh is highly relevant. First, the reconstruction of Karabakh is in progress. In contrast to most cases considered above, it allows investigating the issue during the process of return of IDPs, economic recovery, and community reconstruction. As a result, the researcher gets the chance to study women entrepreneurship in relation to the ongoing process of reconstruction rather than analyze it retrospectively. This aspect is crucial for research which considers organizational processes during conflict and post-conflict periods as one continuum (Joseph, Maon, and Berti 2024). Second, the development of women-owned enterprises in the dynamic institutional environment of Karabakh gives the researcher a unique chance to investigate how the process of entrepreneurship takes place together with changes in social relations. Finally, the case broadens the geographical focus of post-conflict entrepreneurship research to the South Caucasus.

Thus, the relevance of the study in terms of the discussed literature lies in the following aspects that define the gaps addressed by it. In the following chapters, it is planned to make a contribution to research on women's entrepreneurship and its influence on social cohesion based on the concept of three types of social capital presented by Woolcock (1998) and further developed by Colletta and Cullen (2000). Three-dimensional conception of social capital presented by the authors has not been applied to post-conflict areas in such a manner as Joseph, Katsos, and Van Buren (2023) have mentioned. The analysis of the role played by women entrepreneurs in terms of building social cohesion in Karabakh may become an addition to modern trends of peacebuilding literature.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. Research design

The key quantitative dataset comprises administrative data on all women entrepreneurs formally registered in the Karabakh and East Zangezur economic regions over the period of November 2020-January 2024. These data have been collected from the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (KOBİA) together with the Women Researchers Council (WRC) of the Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC). In contrast to sample, this dataset represents full population of formally registered women entrepreneurs observed within the stated period. This dataset includes 2,728 observations in total across 13 districts and over 60 sectoral groups. In particular, for each woman entrepreneur there is an information on the date of registration, economic region, district of work, and dominant sector of activities. Data of 2024 are available only for 8-31 January due to data extraction period. Thus, all analyses of trends and growth rates are conducted for the complete 2020-2023 periods only.

3.3. The Analytical Framework has Five Interlocking Methods

The analysis employs five methods that are linked to each other, each tackling one unique element of the research question. Methods 1 to 4 provide measures of the entrepreneurial behavior of women in the districts, while Method 5 combines the outcomes of the analyses into a district index.

Method 1: Formalisation Wave Analysis

Method 1 analyzes when and at what frequency women were registering businesses in the process of reconstruction. The number of annual and monthly registrations is determined both in the research area and in its individual districts. At the same time, the dynamics of registration are analyzed in the context of different periods of reconstruction, taking into account the November 2020 ceasefire, IDPs returning process, and the start of government programs.

$$\mathbf{GR_{(t)}} = \frac{[\mathbf{R_{(t)}} - \mathbf{R_{(t-1)}}]}{\mathbf{R_{(t-1)}}} \times \mathbf{100}\ \mathbf{(1)}$$

where R(t) = total registrations in year t

R(t) = total registrations in year t; R(d, t) = registrations in district d in year t

Apart from the aforementioned measures, the Cumulative Reconstruction Index (CRI) is another way of assessing entrepreneurship in the sense that it considers the cumulative number of business registration among the women against the estimated population of the district, thus providing for an opportunity to compare districts of different sizes in terms of the intensity of formalized entrepreneurial activity during reconstruction.

$$\mathbf{CRI_{(d,t)}} = \frac{\mathbf{Cumulative_Registrations_{(d,t_0\ to\ t)}}}{\mathbf{Population_Proxy_{(d)}}}\ \mathbf{(2)}$$

CRI(d, t) = Cumulative_Registrations(d, t_0 to t) / Population_Proxy(d)

Interpretation: a rising CRI indicates accelerating economic formalisation.

A higher CRI per district = a faster pace of formal economic integration

Higher $GR_{(t)}$ values indicate accelerating formalisation. Rising CRI signals increasing per-capita economic integration across districts over time, consistent with the rebuilding of linking social capital (Woolcock 1998).

Method 2: Spatial Inequality Analysis

Considering the disparity that exists in women's business registrations in terms of location, Method 2 uses two indices to measure the level of geographic concentration. The Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI) is used to measure the concentration of business registration per district while the Gini coefficient measures the level of inequality of the distribution.

$$\mathbf{HHI_{(t)} = \sum_i [s_{i(t)}]^2} \textbf{ (3)}$$

range: 1/n (equal) to 1.0 (fully concentrated)

$$G = 1 - \sum_i [\frac{\frac{Y_i}{Y_{Total}} \times (2 \times Cumulative_Rank_i - n - 1)}{(n-1)}] \text{ (4)}$$

$s_{i(t)}$ = share of district i in total registrations in year t; Y_i= registrations in district i, sorted in ascending order

A declining HHI over time indicates that registration activity is becoming more geographically distributed. A declining Gini coefficient indicates reduced inequality in the distribution of women's enterprise activity across districts. Both trends are interpreted as spatial indicators of broadening reconstruction.

Method 3: Sector Classification and Social Cohesion Sector Index (SCSI)

Method 3 assigns the 62 sectoral categories of the dataset to four mutually exclusive types, based on the dimension of social capital they generate (Woolcock 1998) and calculates a district-level Social Cohesion Sector Index (SCSI) by year.

Category	Examples of sectors	Type of social capital (Woolcock 1998)
Social Services	Beauty, childcare, cleaning, education, food service	Bonding
Agriculture & Production	Livestock, grain, dairy, poultry, bread production	Economic
Trade & Commerce	Retail, wholesale, market trading, advertising	Bridging
Other Formal Activity	Technical services, administration, telecoms	Linking

Table 1. Classification of sectors by type of social capital Source: KOBİA dataset, classification by the authors

$$\mathbf{SCSI_{(d,t)} = \frac{SS_{(d,t)}}{SS_{Total(d,t)}}} \textbf{, range: [0, 1] (5)}$$

SS(d, t) = Social Services registrations in district d, year t; TC = Trade and Commerce; AP = Agriculture and Production; OT = Other Formal Activity; Total(d, t) = total registrations in district d, year t.

Weighted Variant (Delphi validated weights used for primary analysis):

$$\mathbf{SCSI_{u(d,t)}} = \frac{[\,\mathbf{1.0 \cdot SS + 0.5 \cdot TC + 0.3 \cdot AP + 0.2 \cdot OT}\,]}{\mathbf{SS_{Total(d,t)}}} \quad \mathbf{(6)}$$

The higher the SCSI value, the larger the share of community-facing entrepreneurial activity in a given district and year, operationalizing the bonding social capital dimension of the study's theoretical framework (Putnam 1993). Trade and Commerce activity is partially accounted for by $SCSI_u$ as a contributor to bridging capital.

Method 4: Liberated Zone Convergence Analysis

Method 4 assesses whether the share of women's entrepreneurial registrations located in liberated districts (relative to legacy districts) has increased over the observation period. An Ordinary Least Squares regression is estimated with the liberated zone's annual registration share as the dependent variable and calendar year as the predictor:

$$\mathbf{Liberated_Share_{(t)}} = \boldsymbol{\alpha} + \boldsymbol{\beta} \times \mathbf{Year_{(t)}} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \quad \mathbf{(7)}$$

$\text{Liberated_Share}_{(t)}$ = registrations in liberated districts as a proportion of all registrations in year t; $\text{Year}_{(t)}$ = calendar year (2020–2023)

Liberated districts are the districts that have been returned under the Azerbaijani control after the Second Karabakh War (November 2020): Aghdam, Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Khojaly, Khojavand, Kalbajar, Gubadli, Lachin, Shusha, Zangilan During the last period of conflict, legacy districts (Aghjabadi, Barda, Tartar) were under Azerbaijani administrative control.

$\beta > 0$ indicates a positive convergence trend, i.e. the share of women entrepreneurs in the liberated zone increased over the study period. The regression is presented as a descriptive trend estimate given the limited number of annual observations ($n = 4$ complete years); the slope coefficient and R^2 are the primary quantities of interest. Statistical significance is reported with explicit acknowledgement of reduced power at this sample size.

Method 5: Women Entrepreneurship Impact Index (WEII)

WEII captures the combined effect of Methods 1 to 4 into one overall district-level value that represents women's entrepreneurs' multi-dimensional role in reconstruction following a conflict. This indicator incorporates the three aspects of bonding, bridging and linking capital developed by Woolcock (1998) and replicable in similar contexts following similar administrative data.

Dimension	Component indicators	Data source
D1 (Economic Impact)	Annual registration count; year-on-year growth rate $GR_{(t)}$; Shannon entropy of sectoral distribution	KOBİA registration records
D2 (Social Cohesion)	Social Cohesion Sector Index (SCSI); count of Social Services registrations; liberated zone registration share	KOBİA registration records; sector classification (Method 3)
D3 (Formalisation)	Herfindahl-Hirschman Index $HHI_{(t)}$; liberated/legacy zone convergence ratio; registration velocity (monthly)	KOBİA registration records; Method 2 and Method 4 outputs

Table 2. WEII dimension structure and data sources.

Each indicator is normalised to [0, 1] using min-max transformation prior to aggregation:

$$\mathbf{x_{norm}} = \frac{(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x_{min}})}{(\mathbf{x_{max}}-\mathbf{x_{min}})} \quad \mathbf{(8)}$$

$$\mathbf{WEII_{(d,t)}} = \boldsymbol{\omega_1} \times \mathbf{D1_{(d,t)}} + \boldsymbol{\omega_2} \times \mathbf{D2_{(d,t)}} + \boldsymbol{\omega_3} \times \mathbf{D3_{(d,t)}} \quad \mathbf{(9)}$$

Constraint: $\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \omega_3 = 1.0$

The main weighting scheme (Option B) is Delphi-validated weights, which capture expert judgment about the relative importance of each dimension within the framework of post-conflict reconstruction. The Delphi panel consisted of academics, policymakers, and practitioners with expertise in post-conflict entrepreneurship; consensus was defined as ≥75% inter-rater agreement over two rounds. Equal weights ($\omega_1 = \omega_2 = \omega_3 = 0.333$, Option A) are reported alongside Delphi-weighted scores as a robustness check.

Score interpretation:
0.00–0.33: Low impact zone (early-stage reconstruction)
0.33–0.66: Medium impact zone (active reconstruction)
0.67–1.00: High impact zone (advanced reconstruction)

Cronbach's alpha is used to assess the internal consistency of each WEII dimension. Sensitivity analysis examines the stability of district rank orderings under equal-weight, Delphi-weight, and PCA-derived weighting schemes. The results of the sensitivity analysis are reported in the supplementary material. The WEII generates the annual WEII scores at the district level from 2020 to 2023, resulting in a 13 × 4 matrix for cross-sectional and longitudinal comparison purposes.

4. Findings

The Small and Medium Entrepreneurs Development Agency - SMEDA (KOBİA) administrative data set containing 2,728 data entries from November 2020 to January

2024 was analyzed employing five different methods which were applied one after the other. The results obtained from each method are described in the ensuing subsections, and an integrated analysis of the overall results is given in Section 5.

4.1. Post-Conflict Formalization Trend (1)

Registration trends reveal that there is a considerable increase in the number of businesses owned by women in the period immediately after the post-conflict reconstruction. Registrations increased from 101 in November–December 2020 to 1,042 in 2021, an increase of 931.7%, then went up further to 1,160 in 2022, an increase of 11.3%. These increases have happened alongside the main events in the process of post-conflict reconstruction such as the signing of the ceasefire in November 2020, the beginning of the process of Great Return in 2021, and the acceptance of the Great Return State Programme in November 2022.

The monthly registration trends also support the occurrence of different stages of formalization. There were peaks in the number of registrations in April 2021 (n = 139) and then there was a period of stability followed by another phase of high activity in August-October 2022 (n = 130, 137, and 136, respectively). The trend is generally consistent with the process of developing IDP return and reconstruction programs, but no causal link can be established from the available data. The registrations were low in November 2023 (n = 2) and December 2023 (n = 5), rising to 71 in January 2024.

The degree of economic formalization in different districts varies greatly and can be illustrated by the value of the Cumulative Reconstruction Index (CRI) calculated as cumulative registrations per 1,000 people. The highest CRI value belongs to Barda (7.30 per 1,000 people), followed by Tartar (4.78) and Aghjabadi (2.97) in 2023. In liberated districts, the greatest dynamics of the CRI index was seen in Kalbajar (2.40 in 2023), Gubadli (1.75) and Fuzuli (1.48). The CRI values were the lowest in Khojaly (0.30), Shusha (0.41) and Zangilan (0.35) due to the early stage of the resettlement process and the fact that they have just started using the land.

District (d)	Population_ Proxy(d) (2024)	Cumulati ve Reg. 2020–2021	Cumulati ve Reg. 2020–2022	Cumulati ve Reg. 2020–2023	CRI (d,2021)	CRI (d,2022)	CRI (d,2023)
Aghjabadi	136.062	161	320	404	0,0012	0,0024	0,0030
Aghdam	175.735	136	274	321	0,0008	0,0016	0,0018
Barda	156.900	542	1030	1145	0,0035	0,0066	0,0073
Jabrayil	73.200	19	30	34	0,0003	0,0004	0,0005
Fuzuli	131.478	70	171	194	0,0005	0,0013	0,0015
Khojaly	16.406	2	3	5	0,0001	0,0002	0,0003
Khojavand	13.416	7	17	19	0,0005	0,0013	0,0014

Kalbajar	10.018	6	16	24	0,0006	0,0016	0,0024
Gubadli	40.095	35	65	70	0,0009	0,0016	0,0017
Lachin	75.669	16	45	53	0,0002	0,0006	0,0007
Shusha	26.718	4	8	11	0,0001	0,0003	0,0004
Tartar	75.800	142	313	362	0,0019	0,0041	0,0048
Zangilan	42.895	3	11	15	0,0001	0,0003	0,0003

Table 1: District-level registrations and CRI, 2020–2023

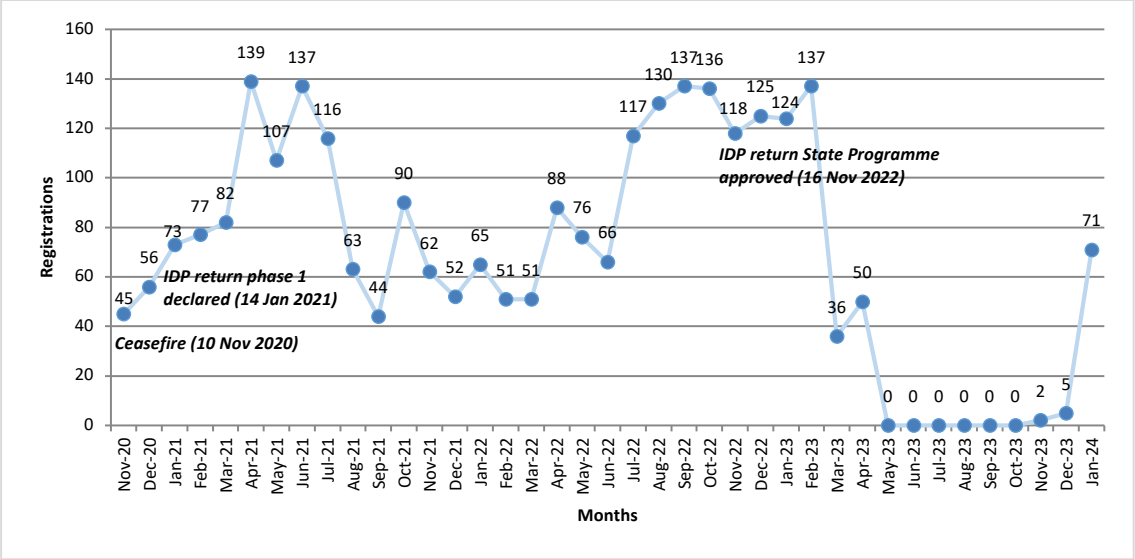


Figure 1: Line chart depicts monthly registrations Nov 2020–Jan 2024 with reconstruction milestones annotated

Source: KOBİA, Azerbaijan, composed of authors' calculations.

The registration path conforms to the two phases of the formalization wave following the conflict, where the first phase is an early registration and the second one is a consolidation phase that occurred in 2022. The five-month period without registration activity between May and October 2023 is a result of administrative suspension due to the anti-terrorist operation conducted in September 2023 after the increase in security since April 2023.

4.2. Post-Conflict Formalization Trend (2)

The Herfindahl–Hirschman Index (HHI) reveals a gradual spatial diffusion of women's entrepreneurial activity. The geographic concentration marginally rose from 0.266 in 2020 to 0.281 in 2021 because the first wave of formalization efforts occurred mainly in areas of higher accessibility, especially the Barda district, which alone contributed to 47.7 percent of registrations. However, the HHI dropped to 0.241 in 2022 and 0.204 in 2023, suggesting that women's businesses were increasingly dispersed geographically with reconstruction.

On the other hand, Gini index displays an opposite trend, increasing from 0.244 in 2020 to 0.321 in 2023. In conjunction with the falling HHI, this implies a new spatial distribution of women entrepreneurship. While the share of Barda fell from 47.7% in 2021 to 32.5% in 2023, the distribution of registration was not even across all 13 districts. Instead, expansion took place in several mid-size districts, whereas registrations in small liberated districts such as Khojaly, Shusha, and Zangilan were low. Thus, the difference between HHI and Gini points to the process of shifting from dominance of one district to geographical dispersion.

It is important to clarify that the following calculations for the year 2023 require a methodological footnote. The calculation of the HHI and Gini indices is performed using a significantly smaller number of registrations (n = 347). These figures include the period from January to April and from November to December, considering the absence of administrative data as mentioned in section 5.1.

Year	Total Registrations	Active Districts	HHI	Gini	Barda Share (%)
2020	101	9	0.266	0.244	44.6%
2021	1,042	13	0.281 ▲	0.254 ▲	47.7%
2022	1,160	13	0.241 ▼	0.289 ▲	42.1%
2023	354*	13	0.204 ▼	0.321 ▲	32.5%

Table 2. Spatial inequality indicators by year. HHI: lower values indicate more geographically distributed activity. Gini: higher values indicate greater inequality across districts. ▲/▼ = increase/decrease from prior year. * 2023 registration count reflects partial-year records (January–April and November–December only).

Source: KOBİA, Azerbaijan, composed of authors' calculations.

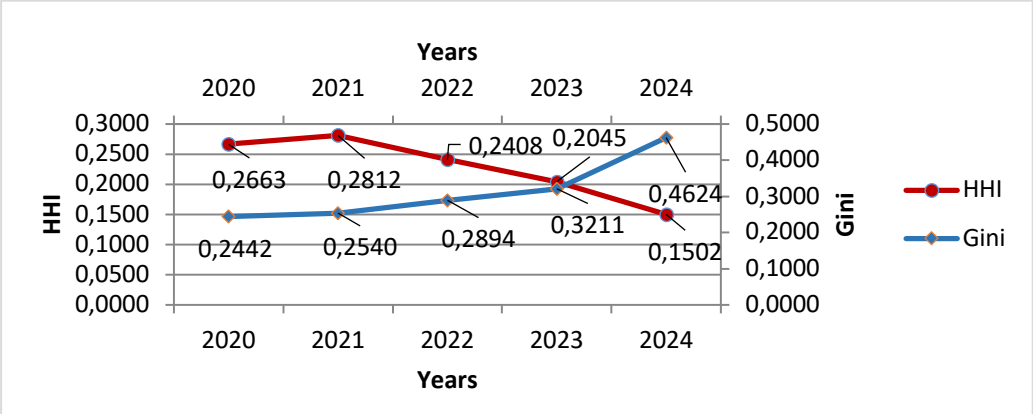


Figure 2: Dual-axis line chart shows HHI (primary axis) and Gini (secondary axis), 2020–2023

The region is becoming less monopolar (HHI is declining after 2021) and the overall spatial inequality has increased (Gini is rising). This pattern is consistent with a reconstruction process in which activity is moving out of the dominant legacy district but has not yet spread evenly to liberated territories, which are underrepresented in the registration data relative to their geographic and demographic weight.

4.3. Sectoral Composition and the Social Cohesion Sector Index (SCSI)

According to the sectoral classification, all 2,728 firms are classified into four mutually exclusive sectors, which should correspond to different conditions of social capital formation (Woolcock 1998). In the Social Services sector, which includes activities involving frequent interpersonal contacts such as beauty and personal care services, childcare, education, cleaning, and food services, 25.3% of the registrations can be found in legacy districts and 24.8% in liberated districts. Based on Woolcock (1998), these activities might offer the conditions suitable for the formation of bonding social capital; however, the sectoral classification does not prove that social capital formation takes place. Furthermore, the administrative registration statistics do not allow determining the reasons behind this sectoral composition.

Differences across sectors are clearer in the case of Trade and Commerce and Other Formal Activity, which are both labeled as potentially conducive to connecting social capital. Agriculture and Production contribute to 38.2 percent of all registration in liberated districts but only 56.3 percent in legacy districts. On the other hand, liberated districts contribute to relatively larger percentages in the category of Trade and Commerce (20.4 percent vs. 10.9 percent) and Other Formal Activity (16.6 percent vs. 7.4 percent). These differences can be attributed to the institutional structure that is being developed along with the reconstruction process in the liberated areas. The institutional setting could possibly offer opportunities for activities that engage market transaction and interactions with formal institutions. Nevertheless, it cannot be determined from the registration data whether the difference is due to demand, supply, or policies.

District	**Zone**	**Total**	**Social Services % (SCSI)**	**Agriculture %**	**Trade %**	**Other Formal %**
Zangilan	Liberated	16	37.5%	6.3%	43.8%	12.5%
Gubadli	Liberated	74	36.5%	12.2%	35.1%	16.2%
Lachin	Liberated	56	32.1%	21.4%	16.1%	30.4%
Barda	Legacy	1,161	30.7%	53.3%	9.6%	6.4%
Jabrayil	Liberated	36	30.6%	16.7%	30.6%	22.2%
Khojavand	Liberated	20	30.0%	30.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Kalbajar	Liberated	30	26.7%	20.0%	26.7%	26.7%

Fuzuli	Liberated	196	23.5%	36.2%	23.0%	17.3%
Aghdam	Liberated	331	20.5%	55.9%	13.0%	10.6%
Aghjabadi	Legacy	421	18.3%	57.0%	13.8%	10.9%
Khojaly	Liberated	6	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	83.3%
Tartar	Legacy	368	16.3%	64.9%	12.0%	6.8%
Shusha	Liberated	13	15.4%	7.7%	46.2%	30.8%

Table 3. SCSI and sector composition by district, all observation years pooled. Districts ranked by SCSI (descending). Note: Zangilan (n = 16), Khojaly (n = 6), and Shusha (n = 13) have very small denominators; SCSI values for these districts should be interpreted with caution. Source: KOBİA; own classification.

At the district level, liberated districts have some of the largest values of SCSI, such as Zangilan (0.375), Gubadli (0.365), and Lachin (0.321). It is possible that this result can be explained by the relevance of the enterprise in relation to the pressing needs of the local community, which can be regarded as the concept of bonding social capital by Putnam (1993).

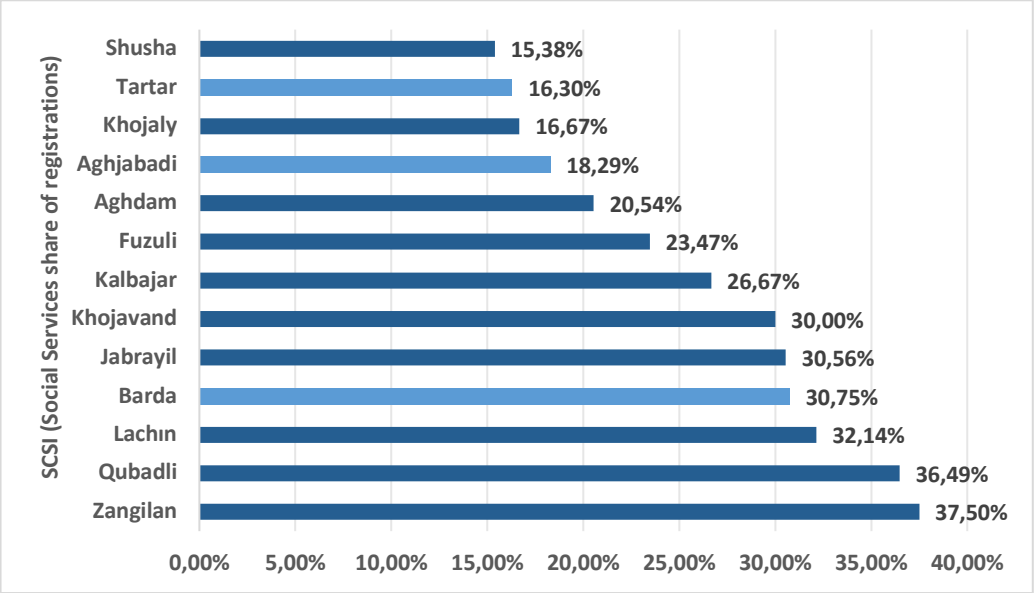


Figure 3: Horizontal bar chart — SCSI by district, coloured by zone type (Sky blue= Legacy Karabakh districts (Barda, Aghjabadi, Tartar). Dark Blue = Liberated districts.)

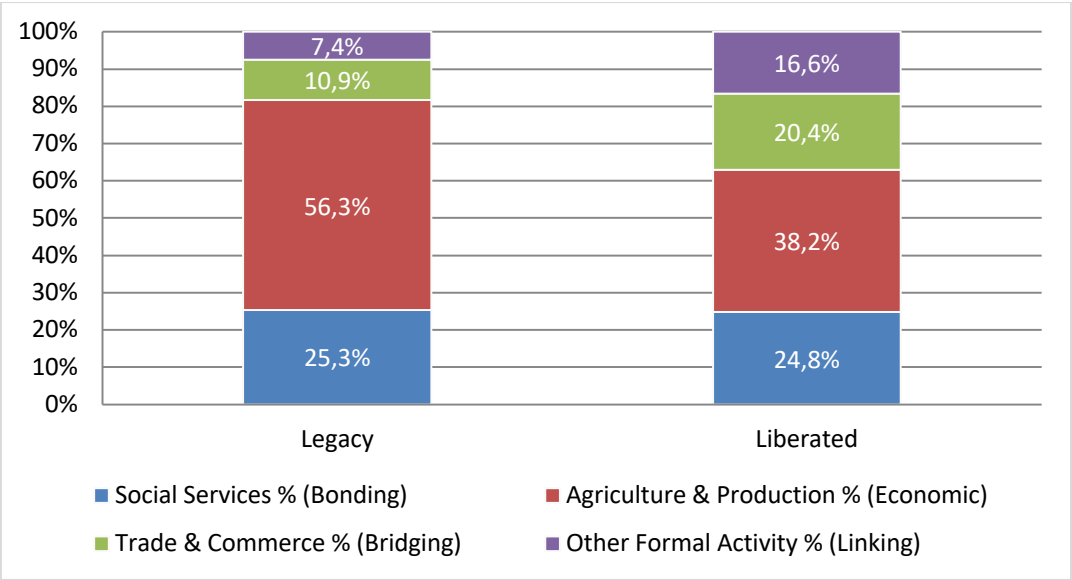


Figure 4: Stacked bar chart — sector composition by zone type (% of registrations in each social capital category)

The three districts among the top four SCSI scores are liberated districts despite the fact that the total number of registrations in these districts is relatively low. Moreover, the liberated districts exhibit a relatively high score for Trade and Other Formal Activity (37% versus 18% in legacy districts). These findings are in accordance with the multilevel approach proposed by Woolcock (1998) to conceptualize social capital; however, there is no empirical evidence of social capital formation through these activities.

4.4. Liberated Zone Convergence Analysis

The proportion of women-owned business licenses in liberated areas rose from 26.7% in 2020 to 29.9% in 2023, with respective values of 26.0% in 2021 and 29.5% in 2022. According to an OLS regression, there is an observed upward trend of 1.31 percentage points annually ($\beta = 1.31$, SE = 0.005, $R^2 = 0.74$, $p = 0.137$, $n = 4$). In light of four data points within the time span of years, this is a descriptive estimation rather than inferential one.

Year	Liberated Zone Registrations	Legacy Zone Registrations	Total Registrations	Liberated Share
2020	27	74	101	26,73%
2021	271	771	1042	26,01%
2022	342	818	1160	29,48%
2023	106*	248*	354*	29,94%*

Table 4. Annual registration counts by zone type and liberated zone share, 2020–2023. OLS (descriptive estimate): $\beta = 1.31$ pp/year, SE = 0.005, $R^2 = 0.74$, $p = 0.137$, $n = 4$. * 2023 values based on partial-year registration record. Source: KOBİA; own calculations.

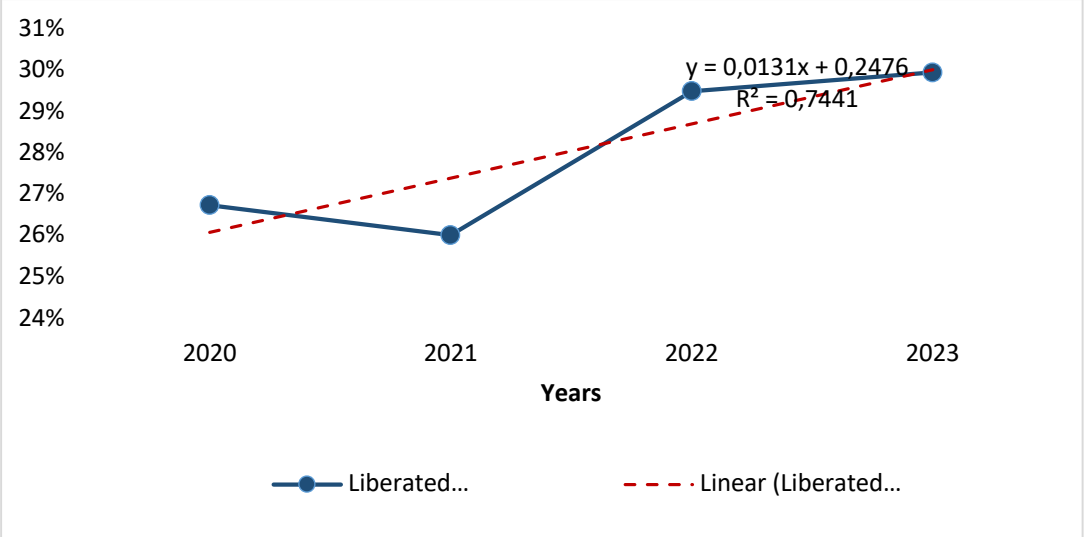


Figure 5: Line chart with OLS trend line — liberated zone share (%) by year, 2020–2023. Trend line shown as dashed; 95% confidence interval suppressed given n = 4 (Annotation: β = 1.31 pp/year (descriptive estimate, n = 4); $R^2 = 0.74$; p = 0.137 (not significant)

During the whole period of observation, the number of business registrations of women in liberated districts grew by 3.2 percentage points. Based on the results obtained using OLS (β = 1.31 pp/year, $R^2 = 0.74$), the tendency is positive; however, considering that there are only four observations per year, the results can only be treated in a descriptive manner. The actual contribution is not in the significance but rather in obtaining the first quantitative indication. between legacy and liberated zones in the post-conflict Karabakh context.

4.5. Women Entrepreneurship Impact Index (WEII)

The Women's Entrepreneurship Impact Index (WEII) combines the outputs of Methods 1-4 to form the WEII as a weighted average of three dimensions for each district-year observation. D1 (Economic impact) measures the level of yearly registration, yearly registration growth, and Shannon entropy in the sectoral distribution. D2 (Social cohesion) accounts for the SCSI measure, the Social Services registration count, and the proportion of registrations in liberated districts. D3 (Formalization) accounts for the Herfindahl-Hirschman index (HHI), the convergence rate of liberated versus legacy districts, and registration velocity per month. Each indicator was normalized to [0, 1] by min-max transformation: $x_{norm} = (x - x_{min}) / (x_{max} - x_{min})$. Dimension scores are aggregated as $WEII_{(d,t)} = \omega_1 \times D1 + \omega_2 \times D2 + \omega_3 \times D3$. Equal weights (0.333) are used as the baseline. The impact classification cut-offs of 0.33 and 0.67 follow the convention established by the UNDP Human Development Index (UNDP 1990) where an equal-interval three-tier classification provides a transparent and reproducible framework for comparative assessment.

It should be noted that the received 13 × 4 matrix (with WEII values from 0.003 for Khojaly, 2021 to 0.598 for Barda, 2022) indicates a smooth increase in the level of impact from low to medium. During the period under study, there is no region where the high impact level (WEII $\geqslant$ 0.67) is achieved. All 13 districts are in the low impact level (WEII < 0.33) at the beginning of the observation period, in 2020. By 2022, seven

districts have joined the medium impact level (0.33 – 0.66): Barda (0.598), Aghdam (0.434), Fuzuli (0.428), Aghjabadi (0.385), Lachin (0.353), Gubadli (0.354), and Tartar (0.367). In 2023

Second, Kalbajar, Lachin, Gubadli, Khojavand, and Zangilan have shown an increasing trend in their WEII ratings year-by-year over a span of four years. It is important to mention that these are all liberated districts. This change is attributed mainly to the improvement in the third domain (D3 - Formalization) due to a broader distribution of registrations and the increasing percentage of entrepreneurial activity within liberated districts. On the other hand, a number of legacy districts which were high performers in 2021–2022, including Barda, had a decline in their WEII scores in 2023 due to declining share in terms of registrations.

District	**Zone**	**WEII 2020**	**WEII 2021**	**WEII 2022**	**WEII 2023**	**2020→2023**
Barda	Legacy	0.213	0.530	0.598	0.432	Low → Med → Med
Aghdam	Liberated	0.329	0.316	0.434	0.471	Low → Med
Fuzuli	Liberated	0.269	0.323	0.428	0.411	Low → Med
Kalbajar	Liberated	0.162	0.168	0.302	0.394	Low → Med ↑
Lachin	Liberated	0.058	0.197	0.353	0.376	Low → Med ↑
Aghjabadi	Legacy	0.188	0.233	0.385	0.372	Low → Med
Gubadli	Liberated	0.141	0.275	0.354	0.364	Low → Med ↑
Khojavand	Liberated	0.042	0.212	0.306	0.339	Low → Med ↑
Zangilan	Liberated	0.042	0.156	0.303	0.345	Low → Med ↑
Jabrayil	Liberated	0.142	0.182	0.326	0.306	Low
Tartar	Legacy	0.177	0.239	0.367	0.343	Low → Med
Shusha	Liberated	0.042	0.073	0.278	0.284	Low
Khojaly	Liberated	0.042	0.003	0.160	0.239	Low

Table 5. WEII composite scores by district and year (equal weights: $w_1 = w_2 = w_3 = 0.333$). Thresholds: Low < 0.33; Medium = 0.33–0.66; High > 0.67 (UNDP 1990 convention). ↑ = monotonically increasing trajectory across all four years. Source: KOBİA; own calculations.

Districts	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
Aghjabadi	0,188	0,233	0,385	0,372
Aghdam	0,329	0,316	0,434	0,471
Barda	0,213	0,530	0,598	0,432
Jabrayil	0,142	0,182	0,326	0,306
Fuzuli	0,269	0,323	0,428	0,411
Khojaly	0,042	0,003	0,160	0,239

Khojavand	0,042	0,212	0,306	0,339
Kalbajar	0,162	0,168	0,302	0,394
Gubadli	0,141	0,275	0,354	0,364
Lachin	0,058	0,197	0,353	0,376
Shusha	0,042	0,073	0,278	0,284
Tartar	0,177	0,239	0,367	0,343
Zangilan	0,042	0,156	0,303	0,345

Figure 6: Heatmap — WEII scores, 13 districts × 4 years; colour intensity proportional to index value

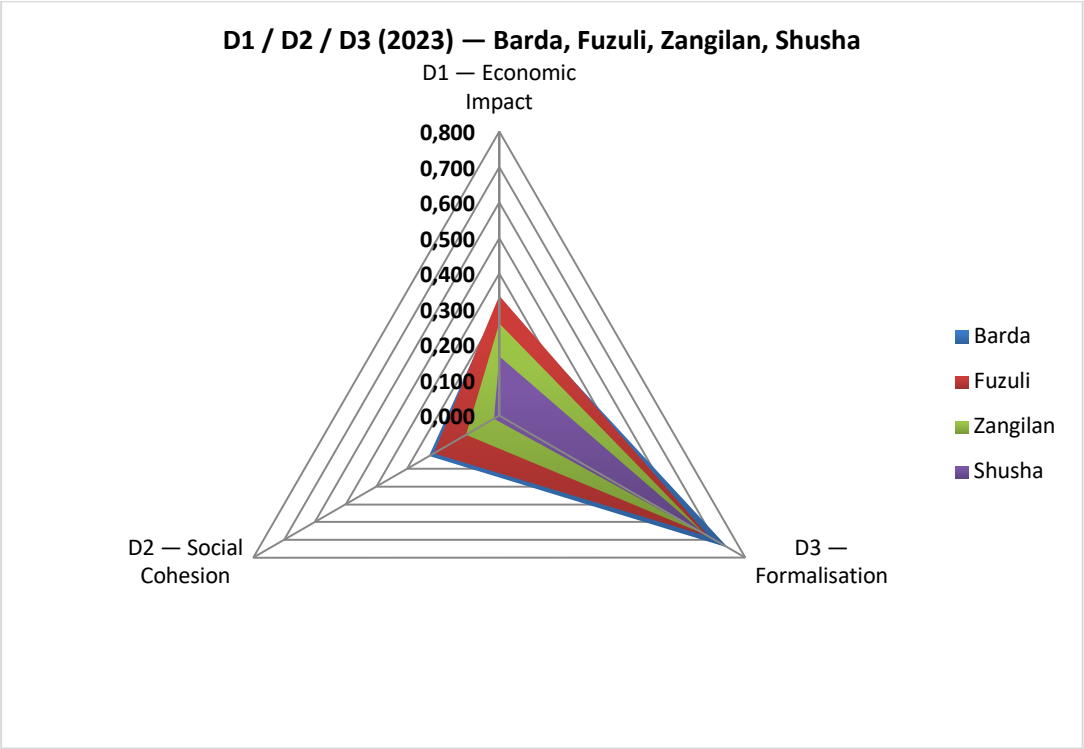


Figure 7: Radar chart — D1, D2, D3 dimension scores for four selected districts in 2023: Bardə, Fuzuli, Zangilan, Shusha

However, the lack of districts reaching the high-impact level means that the development of women entrepreneurs was still at its early and intermediate stages. The most noticeable change in the score transition from low to medium WEII was observed from 2021 to 2022. All five districts where there is an increase in WEII scores throughout the analysis period are liberated territories. The increase is mainly related to the dimension of Formalization (D3) and not just to the volume of registrations.

4.6. What the Five Methods Show Together

Collectively, these five methods create a holistic picture of women's entrepreneurship as a quantifiable and multi-dimensional phenomenon within the process of post-conflict reconstruction in Karabakh, highlighting the notable inequality that characterizes an ongoing process at an early stage. The wave of formalization (Method 1) suggests that women were one of the first types of economic agents who became part of the formal

economy post-ceasefire and whose registration wave followed the institutional timeline of reconstruction. Spatial analysis (Method 2) reveals that this involvement, initially concentrated in accessible legacy districts, is gradually increasing, albeit unevenly, which means that smaller liberated territories are under-represented. Sectoral analysis (Method 3) reveals that women-owned enterprises in newly resettled areas are predominantly engaged in Social Services (sector category linked with the theoretical construction of bonding capital). The convergence analysis (Method 4) provides a quantitative measure of the direction of the gradual change toward more liberated zone depiction, although this measure should still be taken with a grain of salt given the small number of data points. The WEII (Method 5) combines all these dimensions in a single measurement, illustrating that there is a move towards low to medium reconstruction throughout most of the region by 2022-2023, although the liberated territories are the fastest in terms of Formalization dimension. The resulting profile is far from being homogenous. The regions of Shusha, Khojaly, and Zangilan (among the most important from a symbolic perspective, and those regions that have been returned to the Republic's control), are still in the low-WEII category in 2023, as entrepreneurial development is at its early stages compared to the magnitude of reconstruction involved. The gap between the figures and the actual situation in these territories, in terms of their reconstruction, is the area that the future research will have to cover. This research provides the quantitative background for the assessment of this future process.

5. Discussion(s)

5.1. Women's Entrepreneurship in Post-Conflict Recovery

This research makes a central argument that the involvement of women in entrepreneurial activities in post-conflict situations can have additional significance apart from economic implications as has been previously established in the literature (Jabeen and Sheikh 2022; Bongomin, Woldie, and Wakibi 2020). The implications drawn from the research on Karabakh indicate that the activities of women entrepreneurs are linked to social and institutional aspects of rebuilding efforts as well. In order to comprehend what these research results offer to the body of knowledge, it is important to recognize the deficiencies that existed within the field prior to these discoveries. There are three gaps that framed the literature review preceding this study. The first one is theoretical – Joseph, Katsos and Van Buren (2023) suggested the concept of 'social cohesion view' of entrepreneurship within conflict settings – i.e., the belief that entrepreneurial behavior can create trust, intergroup interactions and social relations that are necessary for sustainable peace but this theory had never been confirmed empirically in a gender-specific analysis conducted in the field conditions. The second gap is temporal – those few case studies that considered the relationship between women's entrepreneurship and community life in the aftermath of conflict (Uganda, Pakistan, Colombia) were mostly conducted long after the end of conflict. Finally, the existing literature shows limited coverage of the South Caucasus region. Major systematic reviews of post-conflict entrepreneurship (Moritz, Block, & Morina 2024; Joseph et al. 2025), as well as related regional research (Bastian, et al, 2018) provide little attention to this context. The present study contributes to addressing this regional gap, alongside the theoretical and temporal gaps identified above. The case of Karabakh further provides a temporal angle to the extant literature. Past researches done in Uganda, Pakistan, and Colombia have mostly looked at entrepreneurship of women several years after the end of the conflict (Bongomin, Woldie, and Wakibi 2020; Jabeen

and Sheikh 2022). On the other hand, the current research looks into women's entrepreneurship during the early stages of reconstruction. The data collected from 2020 to 2023 will thus form the first foundation for looking at such developments.

5.2. Findings in the Context of Previous Research

The systematic review of 71 studies conducted by Moritz et al. (2024) categorizes post-conflict entrepreneurship along four questions: where and when, who and why, how, and impact. Although this framework is helpful in providing a brief account of the area, there has been little discussion on the concepts of gender and social cohesion in the impact category. The current study attempts to fill this research gap in relation to sector differences and formalization of women entrepreneurs at the district level, utilizing SCSI and WEII. It is argued by Bagheri et al. (2024) that women entrepreneurs do not only experience crises but rather react and adapt to them. The current study takes this viewpoint further and considers the post-conflict situation, in which the activity of women entrepreneurs is part of reconstruction and rebuilding efforts in the communities. It is an attempt to fill the research gap previously mentioned by Bastian et al. (2018).

5.3. Social Capital Theory in Light of the Findings

The theoretical background includes such works as those of Putnam (1993) with regard to social capital, Woolcock (1998) about bonding, bridging, and linking capital, and Colletta & Cullen (2000) regarding the application of social capital to post-conflict situation. Findings give certain support to the use of this framework in order to describe women's entrepreneurship during the period of reconstruction. The obtained results of the SCSI can indicate the relationship between businesses oriented to the community and bonding capital. There are some liberated districts (Zangilan, 0.375; Gubadlı, 0.365; Lachin, 0.321) with higher levels of the indicator. It might be explained by the fact that there is a need for those businesses which would be able to meet the needs of the community in the initial stage of resettlement.

Thus, the SCSI can be regarded as an intermediary, rather than an actual measure, of social cohesion. The findings need to be viewed as showing potential social capital dynamics rather than proving these associations. The sectoral and formalisation patterns may also be discussed in terms of bridging and linking social capital. The liberated areas demonstrate greater representation of Trade and Commerce registrations (20.4% against 10.9% in legacy areas) and Other Formal Activity (16.6% against 7.4%). According to Woolcock (1998), market activity may contribute to interaction between different groups of people, while formalisation of business activities may reinforce connections between entrepreneurs and state bodies.

This could be explained by the institutional context within which the liberated areas operate, whereby the market structures and formal registration systems are yet to develop. This largely aligns with the argument by Colletta and Cullen (2000), who hold that social capital and economic recovery are highly related to each other in post-conflict environments. It means that women's economic activities may be part of this broader process of institution building.

5.4. The WEII as Theoretical and Methodological Contribution

In this analysis, the WEII framework uses three different dimensions - Economic Impact (D1), Social Cohesion (D2), and Formalization (D3). None of the districts was able to pass the high-impact threshold, while some liberated districts showed

improvements, especially in the dimension of Formalization. Using all three dimensions gives a broader perspective as opposed to using economic indicators alone. The WEII tool may also be used in any environment where there is similar administrative data available. The key data requirements for the WEII framework include business registration data, sector classification data, and geographic classification data. These are usually collected by governmental organizations. However, testing in other environments is required to establish its wide applicability. These results further indicate that assistance in women's entrepreneurship in a post-conflict environment should not be confined to traditional indicators of economic development and job creation. Entrepreneurial practices that are directed towards the community can also serve as places of social interactions, involvement, and the restoration of local social ties.

5.5. Limitations

The study is limited by three main aspects. First, the information collected within KOBİA concerns officially registered female entrepreneurs only and does not cover any informal entrepreneurial activities. Second, due to the rather short time frame and insufficient annual coverage, the longitudinal analysis becomes impossible. Particularly, the OLS estimates obtained for four years of observations may be regarded only as descriptive, but not confirmatory. Third, the data collected in SCSI reflects theoretical conditions of a certain sector, which may contribute to the creation of social capital, but not social cohesion itself. Hence, the patterns described in this work are supportive to, but do not prove the bonding, bridging and linking processes.

6. Conclusion

Women entrepreneurs are critical players during reconstruction after conflicts, offering economic stability, social cohesion, and community participation through their formal and informal leadership roles. As for the scientific implications of the study, post-conflict entrepreneurship must not be viewed solely in terms of its economic consequences. Instead, the results of the study suggest the necessity of taking into account the interconnection of entrepreneurial behavior with social relationships and institutional development. From the perspective of researchers, it requires looking at more than business statistics and focusing on the locations where business appears, the industries within which the business operates, and the ways it brings communities into contact with the institutional world.

In addition, the case of Karabakh highlights the importance of researching reconstruction efforts before they are completed. Instead of providing an explanation of the recovery process after the event, longitudinal research can explore how entrepreneurship emerges through the process of resettlement and institution building. WEII is one model that could be used to accomplish this, although this will need to be tested elsewhere.

It implies that the women entrepreneurs are not passive subjects of the recovery process, but rather can also take an active role within it, will be allowing future research to understand better the recovery process of communities from conflict. The results of this study are significant in that sense that post-conflict recovery is not about reconstruction of infrastructure, jobs creation or investments alone. Post-conflict recovery is also about community reconstruction, restoration of economic and institutional relationships, and

female entrepreneurs can contribute to this process. The Karabakh case study gives an initial indication of the nature of these changes and a baseline against which further developments in women's entrepreneurship can be tracked as reconstruction and repatriation progress.

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