

Sofie Bedford

Date of birth 29 January 1975

Academic Positions

- 2019-Present **Uppsala University**, Uppsala, Sweden.
Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies, *Affiliated Researcher*
- Spring 2020 **University of Vienna**, Vienna, Austria.
Department of Political Science, *External Lecturer*
- Fall 2019 **University of Vienna**, Vienna, Austria.
Department of Political Science, *Visiting Professor*
- Fall 2018 **University of Vienna**, Vienna, Austria.
Department of Political Science, *Visiting Professor*
- 2014-18 **Uppsala University**, Uppsala, Sweden.
Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies, *Researcher*
- 2011-14 **Uppsala University**, Uppsala, Sweden.
Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies, *Post-Doctoral Researcher*
- Spring 2011 **Södertörn University**, Huddinge, Sweden.
Department of Political Science and International Relations, *Lecturer*.

Appointment as 'Docent' (Associate Professor)

- 22 Sep 2022 **Uppsala University, Uppsala Sweden.**
Department of Political Science

Visiting Fellowships

- 03/18-06/19 **University of Vienna**, Vienna, Austria.
Department of Political Science, *Senior Research Fellow*
- 09/17-02/18 **Institute for Humanities (IWM)**, Vienna, Austria.
Visiting Fellow
- 09/15-06/17 **Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul**, Istanbul, Turkey.
Research Fellow
- Fall 2004 **University of California at Berkeley**, Berkeley, USA.
International and Area Studies, *Visiting Scholar*

Research Consultancies

- 2022 **Swedish Institute**, Stockholm, Sweden.
Evaluator of applications to the Leader Lab Program.
- 2022 **Freedom House**, Washington DC, USA
Review and validation for the Civic Mobilization under Authoritarianism Project
- 2021 **Swedish Institute**, Stockholm, Sweden.
Feasibility study for leadership program for young civil society activists in the Eastern partnership region (focus on Goal 16, peaceful and inclusive societies, within Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development)
- 2020 **Swedish Institute**, Stockholm, Sweden.
Pre-study for a leadership program for young civil society activists in the Eastern partnership region (focus on gender equality activism)
- 2020 **Internews Europe**
Assessment of the media eco-system in Azerbaijan
- 2010 **Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)**, Stockholm, Sweden.
Review of Gender Equality Strategy for the project 'Rural Enterprise Development in Afghanistan'
- 2005 **Swedish Defense Research Institute (FOI)**, Stockholm, Sweden.
Evaluation of Sweden's contribution to the Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan

Education

- 2009 **Stockholm University**, Stockholm, Sweden
Ph.D., Political Science
Thesis: Islamic Activism in Azerbaijan: Repression and Mobilization in a Post-Soviet Context
- 1999 **Uppsala University**, Uppsala, Sweden
M.A., Peace and Conflict Studies
Courses taken in: Histories of Conflict, Conflict Theory, Peace and Security: Problem and Strategies, Global Governance, Conflict Analysis, Russian Language, East European Studies.
- 99/00 **Herzen Pedagogical University**, St Petersburg, Russia
Russian Language and Literature
- 1999 **Goethe Institute**, Iserlohn, Germany
German Language Studies
- 1994 **Moscow State University**, Moscow, Russia
Russian Language Studies

Publications

Monograph

2009. *Islamic Activism in Azerbaijan: Repression and Mobilization in a Post-Soviet Context.*
Stockholm: Dep of Political Science

Peer-reviewed Articles

- 2023.** Ring out the Old and Ring in the Young: Upgrading Authoritarianism in Azerbaijan. *Baltic Worlds* (forthcoming)
- 2021.** The 2020 Presidential Election in Belarus: Erosion of Authoritarian Stability and Re-politicization of Society. *Nationalities Papers* 49(5): 808-819
- 2021.** Osäkerhetens politik i praktiken: Presidentvalet 2020 som förändrade Belarus, *Nordisk Östforum* 35: 1–24
- 2021. Sofie Bedford**, Ceyhun Mahmudlu and Shamkhal Abilov. Protecting the Nation, State and Government: ‘Traditional Islam’ in Azerbaijan, *Europe-Asia Studies* 73(4): 691-712
- 2019.** Alexei Pikulik and **Sofie Bedford**. Aid Paradox: Strengthening Belarusian Non-democracy through Democracy Promotion, *East European Politics and Societies and Cultures* 33 (2): 378-399
- 2019. Sofie Bedford** and Laurent Vinatier Resisting the Irresistible: ‘Failed Opposition’ in Azerbaijan and Belarus Revisited, *Government and Opposition* 54 (4): 686-714
- 2017.** “The Election Game:” Authoritarian Consolidation Processes in Belarus, *Democratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization* 25 (4): 381-406
- 2017.** Ryhor Nizhnikau and **Sofie Bedford**. The Same but Different: “Re-understanding” Elections in Contemporary Post-Soviet Space, *Democratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization* 25 (4): 337-359
- 2016. Sofie Bedford** and Emil A. Souleimanov, Under Construction and Highly Contested: Islam in Post-Soviet Caucasus, *Third World Quarterly* 37 (9): 1559-1580
- 2015. Sofie Bedford** and Emil A. Souleimanov, Islam im postsowjetischen Kaukasus Von Sunniten, Schiiten, Sufis und Salafisten, *Osteruropa* 65 (7-10): 71–92
- 2015.** Val för att bevara status quo: elektoral autokrati och stabilitet i Azerbajdzjan, *Nordisk Östforum* 29 (1): 5–32
- 2014.** Introduction to the Special Section Political Mobilization in Azerbaijan – The January 2013 Protests and Beyond, *Democratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization* 22 (1): 3-14
- 2011.** Norm Bedford, Bill Hutchinson, and **Sofie Bedford**. Ukraine’s Global Strategy in the Post-Crisis Economy: Developing an Intelligent Nation to Achieve a Competitive Advantage, *Innovative Marketing* 7 (1): 46-53

2007. Nya rörelser, gamla tankesätt och nationella problem: muslimsk aktivism i postsovetjetiska Azerbajdzjan. *Nordisk Østforum* 21(3): 275-299

Book Chapters

2018. Emil Aslan Souleimanov, Jasper Schwampe and **Sofie Bedford**. Chechnya: A Study of a Post-Soviet Conflict, in Felix Jaitner, Tina Olteanu, Tobias Spöri eds. *Crises in the Post-Soviet Space: From the dissolution of the Soviet Union to the conflict in Ukraine*. Routledge: 213-223

2017. Introduction: Deconstructing the Crossroads. In Aliaga Mammadli, Adeline Braux and Ceyhun Mahmudlu eds. *'Azerbaijani' and Beyond. Perspectives on the Construction of National Identity*. Verlag Dr. Köster: Berlin: 15-38

2016. **Sofie Bedford**, Laurent Vinatier, Leila Aliyeva, and Vugar Goyajev 'Failed Opposition' Reconsidered: Dynamism and Changing Paradigms in Azerbaijan. In Kaj Hobér, ed., *Uppsala Yearbook of Eurasian Studies*. Wildy, Simmonds & Hill Publishing: London: 104-122

2016. Turkey and Azerbaijan: One Religion – Two States? In Murad Ismayilov, Norman Graham, eds. *Turkish-Azerbaijani Relations One Nation-Two States?* Routledge: 127-149

2015. Islamic Opposition in Azerbaijan: Discursive Conflicts and Beyond. In Greg Simons and David Westerlund eds. *Religion, Politics and Nation-Building in Post-Communist Countries*. Ashgate Publishing, Ltd.: 155-187

2008. Praying for change: Islamic opposition in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan. In Michael Makinsky and Laurent Vinatier eds. *L'Azerbaïdjan. Au centre des enjeux globaux*, EurOrient 28: 131-150

2008. Wahhabis, Democrats and Everything in Between. In Moshe Gammer ed. *Ethno-nationalism, Islam and the state in the Caucasus. Post Soviet disorder*. London & New York: Routledge: 194-211

2005. Stat och religion i Centralasien. In Thomas Lundén ed. *Västturkestan. Nationsbyggande under sovjetekologi och islamideologi?* Stockholm: Svenska sällskapet för antropologi och geografi: 121-142

Book Reviews

2022. Galina M. Yemelianova: Islamic Leadership and the State in Eurasia, *Caucasus Survey* 10 (3): 351-353.

2022. Arve Hansen: Urban protest. A spatial perspective on Kyiv, Minsk and Moscow *Nordisk Østforum* 36: 158-160.

2021. Anastasiya Astapova: Humor and Rumor in the Post-Soviet Authoritarian State, *Journal of Belarusian Studies* 11 (2): 207-211.

2017. Vasil Navumau. The Belarusian Maidan in 2006. A New Social Movement Approach to the Tent Camp Protest in Minsk, *Baltic Worlds X* (1-2): 120-122

2007. Maria Elisabeth Louw. Everyday Islam in Post-Soviet Central Asia, *Nordisk Østforum* 4 (21): 517-519.

Other Academic Work

2020. The Tsikhanauskaya Effect: How an Accidental Heroine Transformed the Belarusian 2020 Presidential Election. *Baltic Worlds (online)* September 7

2020. The Covid-19 Pandemic in Belarus: Wither the Social Contract? *Baltic Worlds (online)* June 16

2020. Azerbaijan's Snap Parliamentary Elections: One Step Forward Two Steps Back, *Baltic Worlds (online)* February 17.

2018. Varför tidigarelades Azerbajdzjans presidentval? *Östbulletinen* 3 (22) 2018

2018. Azerbaijan's Mysterious Snap Presidential Election, *Baltic Worlds (online)* April 12

2016. Monitoring Democracy, *Baltic Worlds IX* (3)

2016. Ulyana Kaposhka and Sofie Bedford, Belarus Parliamentary Elections 2016: Something Old Something New, *Baltic Worlds (online)* October 10

- 2015.** To Participate or Not to Participate – That is the Question. Electoral Strategies of the Azerbaijani Opposition, Parliamentary Elections in Azerbaijan. *Caucasus Analytical Digest* 79
- 2013.** “Everybody Knows Who will Win”. Presidential Elections in Azerbaijan. *Baltic Worlds (online)* 24 October, 2013
- 2012.** Oppositional Islam in Azerbaijan, *Caucasus Analytical Digest*, 44: 9-11
- 2010.** Consolidating the Democratic Process: Parliamentary Elections in Kyrgyzstan, *Baltic Worlds (online)* 20 October
- 2007.** Different entries on the Caucasus. In Suad Joseph, Afsaneh Najmabadi et al (eds.) *Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures: Supplement & Index*. Leiden: Brill

Grants Received

- Swedish Research Council** [P.I.] 2015-2017, Building Sustainable Opposition in Electoral Authoritarian Regimes, **4.950.000 SEK**
- Swedish Research Council**, [Participating researcher. P.I. Li Bennich-Björkman] 2015-2018, Security, Equality and Mindsets in South Caucasus, **4.000.000 SEK**
- Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation**, 2017, research initiation grant (w Laurent Vinatier), In Pursuit of Sustainable Opposition. Final Conference for the project ‘Building Sustainable Opposition in Electoral Authoritarian Regimes’. **420.000 SEK.**
- Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation**, 2016, research initiation grant, Initiating a Nordic-Baltic Network for Caucasus Studies, **75.000 SEK**
- Swedish Institute**, travel grants from the Visby Program for fieldwork in Belarus (2015 and 2017), Azerbaijan (2018 and 2020), total **100.000 SEK**
- Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation**, 2013, research initiation grant, Research symposium about political activism in Azerbaijan, **50.000 SEK**

Talks

Invited

Mar 2022	Department of Political Science, Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium
Nov 2021	European Asylum Support Office (online)
Nov 2020	Center for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörn University (online),
Sep 2021	ABF Stockholm, OSCE-network in Sweden and Östsällskapet (online)[Swedish Society for the Study of Russia, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia]
May 2021	Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, Norway (online)
Nov 2020	Center for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörn University (online)
Sep 2020	Russia, Ukraine and the Caucasus Regional Research, Malmö University (online)
Sep 2020	Virtual ASN - Association for the Study of Nationalities (online)
Dec 2019	Department of Political Science, University of Vienna
Dec 2018	Department of Political Science, University of Vienna
May 2018	Department of Political Science, University of Vienna
Jun 2017	Department of Political Science, Södertörn University
Dec 2016	Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia
Oct 2016	SOAS University of London
Oct 2015	Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, Turkey
May 2015	Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, Norway
Apr 2015	Center for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörn University
2014	Östgruppen (Swedish Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights), Stockholm
2013	Caucasus Studies, Malmö University (online)
2013	Amnesty International, Gothenburg, Sweden

Trainings

- Feb 2022 Continuity and change in Belarus after the 2020 election, workshop at Cross-Border journalism Belarus Project (online)
- Mar 2019 Training session on political mobilization and social movements, Kristdemokratiskt Internationellt Center, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2013 Lectures about the religious and political situation in Azerbaijan at introductory course for election monitors to Azerbaijan at Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Stockholm

Conference Presentations

- 2022 Center for Baltic and East European Studies Annual Conference, Södertörn University; Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Chicago; International Studies Association Annual Convention (online)
- 2021 Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) (online); Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention (online)
- 2019 Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Summer Convention, University of Zagreb; Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (online)
- 2018 British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies/Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies Conference, Uppsala University; Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, Tartu University; Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention, Columbia University
- 2017 IWM Visiting Fellows conference, Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, Vienna; Center for Baltic and East European Studies Annual Conference, Södertörn University; Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention, Columbia University
- 2016 CASCADE's final international conference 'The Democracy-Security nexus in and around the Caucasus, Université Libre de Bruxelles; Conference at Vytautas Magnus University, in cooperation with the Association for the Study of Nationalities, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas; Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Summer Convention, Ukraine Catholic University, Lviv; International Conference on Eurasian Politics & Society, Kadir Has University, Istanbul; Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, Tartu; Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University
- 2015 Identities on the Move: The Caucasus Between the Local, the Regional, and the Global. With a Focus on Azerbaijan, Qafqaz University, Baku; Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention, Columbia University
- 2014 Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention, Columbia University
- 2013 Annual Academic Swiss Caucasus Net, Conference, Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2012 Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, Indiana University
- 2004 Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention, Columbia University

Teaching

- 2020 Opposition, Change and Stability in Post-Soviet Authoritarian Regimes (BA)
- 2019 Election and Opposition in Post-Soviet Authoritarian Regimes (MA)
- 2019 Religion, State and Society in the former Soviet Union (BA)
- 2018 Election and Opposition: Drivers of Change and Stability in Authoritarian Regimes (MA)
- 2018 Religion, State and Society in the former Soviet Union (BA)
- 2011 State, Market and Welfare (BA)
- 2008 Religions and Europe (BA)
- 2006 Political Science Basics (BA)
- 2003 Political Science Basics (BA)

2003 The Europeanization of the welfare state (part of the teacher program)

Students Supervised

Jul 2022- present **Thesis advisor** Jovanka Sredovic, MA Political Science, University of Vienna,
2011 **Advisor** for 10 BA theses in Political Science, Södertörn University.
2003 **Advisor** for 4 BA theses in Political Science, Södertörn University

Service

To the Profession

PhD committees **Member of grading committee** for Natia Gamklelidze, Department of Political Science, Linneaus University, Sweden, 9 Feb 2023.
Member of grading committee for Tigran Babajan, Department of Political Science, Linneaus University, Sweden, 18 Apr 2018.

Research review **External proposal peer-review**, National Science Centre, Poland, 2022, 2020.
Peer reviewer, SFI-IRC Pathway programme, Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland, 2021.
External proposal peer-review, Reinforcing Women In Research, University of Vienna, 2020.
External Grant Reviewer, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, 2018.

Professional ass. **Research Collegium** for the **Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul**, 2018-present.
Association for the Study of Nationalities, Program Committee Caucasus Section, 2017- present.

Search comm. **PhD program political science search committee** for Baltic and East European Graduate School, Södertörn University, 2003.

Advisory board **Scholarly advisory council**, academic journal **Baltic Worlds**, 2017-present.
Expert and advisory group, Erasmus+ project **NIZAMI**: Supporting the restructuring and development of Doctoral studies in Azerbaijan.

Peer reviewer Baltic Worlds, British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Business and Human Rights Journal, Cambridge Review of International Affairs, Caucasus Survey, Central Asian Affairs, Changing Societies & Personalities, Communist and Post-Communist Studies, Democratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization, East European Politics and Societies, Europe-Asia Studies, Intersections. East European Journal of Society and Politics, Journal of Belarusian Studies, Nationalities Papers, Nations and Nationalism, Nordic Journal for Human Rights (NJHR), Nordisk Østforum, Politics and Religion, Post-Soviet Affairs, Problems of Post-Communism, Public Administration and Development, Religion, Politics and Identity, Religion, State and Society, Third World Quarterly

Guest editor Elections 2016: Political Dynamics in Post-Soviet Space, *Democratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization* 25 (4) 2017 (w Ryhor Nizhnikau
Special Section Political Mobilization in Azerbaijan – The January 2013 Protests and Beyond, *Democratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization* 22 (1) 2014
Islam in Azerbaijan, *Caucasus Analytical Digest* 44, 2012

To the Public

Interviews

Tv4 Live (Sweden), 4 oct 2020 (on the war in Nagorno-Karabakh)
'Fare for regional opptrapping over Nagorno-Karabakh', *Dagsavisen*, 30 Sep 2020
Swedish National Radio P1 Morgon, 3 Sep 2020 (on Belarusian protests)
Swedish National Radio P4 Uppland, 12 Aug 2020 (on Belarusian protests)
Swedish National Radio P4 Uppland, 4 Aug 2020 (on Belarusian protests)
Radio24 (Italy), 7 Feb 2020 (on the parliamentary election in Azerbaijan)
'Azerbaijan to add mandatory religious education for university students', *Eurasianet*, 4 Jun 2019.

Op-eds/Essays

'Belarus's hijacking isn't a show of strength. It's a sign of weakness.'
Washington Post, 27 May 27, 2021 (w Olga Onuch, Aliaksandr Herasimenka)
Kommt der Regimewechsel in Belarus? *Der Standard*, 25 August 2020 (w Tobias Spöri)
Regime Change in Belarus? *EastBlog*, 24 August 2020 (w Tobias Spöri)
Så kan oppositionen ta makten i Belarus, *DN Debatt*, 22 August 2020 (w Li Bennich Björkman)
Nagorno-Karabach med kriget runt hörnet? In *Utan röst och status – de facto-stater i världen. Världspolitikens dagsfrågor* 11-12. Stockholm: Utrikespolitiska Institutet. December 2013.

Expert adviser

Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (2021); Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2021, 2020); Swedish Immigration Services (2019); Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (2016, 2017, 2018)

Miscellaneous

Languages

Swedish (mother tongue), English (fluent), Russian, German (intermediate), Turkish (beginner).

Maternity Leave

August 2011–September 2012; November 2006–December 2007