**Mina Rezaei**

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<http://www.minarezaei.org>

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=4dhn78wAAAAJ&hl=en>

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**SUMMARY**

Ph.D. candidate in geography with a focus on human‑centered design with young people. A UX researcher with a strong background in qualitative research. Seven years of professional experience in the social aspects of design in Iran and the US. Qualified instructor for social sciences and design.

**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D. in Geographic Information Systems**   Expected 4/2023

University of California, Davis

[**Berkley I Corps Cohort**](https://bayicorps.com/)Winter 2021

UC Berkeley

**Keller Pathway Fellow** 4/2022

University of California, Davis

**Graduate Certificate in Landscape Architecture** 4/2023

**M.A. in Urban planning and Design** 2/2014

University of Tehran

**B.A. in Landscape Architecture** 6/2011

University of Tehran

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

Rezaei, M., Young People and the City, Municipality of Tehran, Under publication review (in Farsi-Funded by the municipality of Tehran for its social impact)

The book includes theoretical and procedural framework for youth involvement in Iran.

**Book chapters**

Owens, Patsy, Rezaei, Mina, Rocky Hill Trail. A Path of Transformation. In Leobach, J., Little, S., Cox, A., Owens. P., (Ed.) [Routledge Handbook for Designing Public Spaces for Young People: Design Practices and Policies for Youth Inclusion](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Routledge_Handbook_of_Designing_Publ/cVfDzAEACAAJ?hl=en), Routledge.

Rezaei, Mina, Golravesh Fekry Negin, Habibi, Seyyed Mohsen. “Representation of Urban Female teenagers in Iranian Cinema”. In Olson, D., (Ed.). [The Child in the World Cinema](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Child_in_World_Cinema/qSJJDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover)) (pp.169195), Lexington, Maryland, 2018.

**Peer-reviewed Journals**

Rezaei, M., Owens, PE., Degand, D. (2022). Evaluating User Experience in Literary and Film Geography-based Apps with a Cartographical User-Centered Design Lens, Journal of Spatial Information Science, Submitted  
Rezaei, M., Owens, PE., (2022). Learning Evnironmental justice with Creative Flaneur App. The cartographic journal, Submitted

Rezaei, M., "[The influence of Literature on the Improvement of Teenagers’ Spatial Knowledge](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3546987)", Redfeather journal, 8(2), pp. 34‐47, 2017.

Rezaei, M., "[A Teenager Friendly Community in Tehran, Iran](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3663435)". Journal of Childhood Explorer, 2(1), pp.23‐26, Winter 2015.

Rezaei, M., The Tale of a City, Urban Narratives and Narrative Planning, an interview with Dr Seyyed Mohsen Habibi. Journal of Urban Research (Jostarhaye shahrsazi -in Farsi), 2(46), pp.12‐28, 2016.

**Other Magazines**

"City of Mistake and Love, Zandiyeh Complex The Narrator of Culture and History of Shiraz". Angah artistic and cultural magazine, pp 42‐47, 2018(in Farsi)

"When They Went, They Were Still Here (on Will Barnet’s My Father’s House series of paintings) ". Revayat social and cultural magazine, 1(10), pp.160‐174, 2016(in Farsi)

"Friendship Between Harry Potter Fans ". Revayat social and cultural magazine, 1(11), pp. 96-101, 2016(in Farsi)

**Website publications**

Paving the way young people’s involvement in Tehran

[**http://designingwithchildren.net/blog/657/paving-the-way-youngpeople\_s-invovlement-in-atehrancommunity**](http://designingwithchildren.net/blog/657/paving-the-way-youngpeople_s-invovlement-in-atehrancommunity) **/** Funded by  [The Leverhulme Trust](http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/index.cfm)

Rezaei, Mina (2016). **I Talk About the City, Representation of Cities in the poetries of Ten Nights of PoetryReadings”** -in Tehran's Goethe Institute (in Farsi) , Accepted and uploaded at MadoMeh website( an independent cultural website in Farsi). <http://www.madomeh.com/site/news/news/7211.htm>

**Translations**

Davies, Wayne, K.D., (2015). Background to Sustainable Cities. In Davies ,Wayne, K.D.(Eds), Theme Cities: Solutions for Urban Problems(151-207).(Mina Rezaei, Trans.(to Farsi)). New York: Springer ,Iran Cultural studies publication , under publication

Davies, Wayne, K,. (2015). Sustainable City Policies. In Davies ,Wayne, K.D.(Eds), Theme Cities: Solutions for Urban Problems(151-207).(Mina Rezaei, Trans.(to Farsi)). New York: Springer, Iran Cultural studies -under

**GUEST SPEAKER and CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Guest Speaker, Inclusive Design in Designing Built Environment, "Inclusive Excellence and the Built Environment" at the Department of Landscap Artchitecture, Ball state University/ October 2021  
Guest Speaker, Representation of Teenagers in Films and Novels, "Feminism and Environmentalism in the Films of Hayao Miyazaki” at the Department of Human Ecology", UCDavis/ October 2018

Rezaei, M., Owens, P., Facilitating Youth Participation in Landscape and Urban Design using Interactive Media Technologies, CELA 2022 Conference, Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, 16-19 March 2022

Rezaei, M., Owens, P.,Developing a Framework for Evaluating Movie and Novel -Based Digital Apps for Understanding Urban Landscape, EDRA Conference, Greenville, South Carolina, 1-4 June 2022

Rezaei, M., Owens, P., "Cinematic Landscapes: Raising Young People's Awareness about Outdoor Spaces", Accepted for presentation, 50th EDRA Conference, Brooklyn, New York, United states, 22-26 May 2019.

Rezaei, M., Owens, P., "Literary Geographies: An Opportunity to Improve Children’s Outdoor Experiences through Media, a Review on the Representation of Outdoor Spaces in Iranian Films", Annual meeting of American Association of Geographers, Washington Dc, Virginia, United states, 2-4 April 2018.

Rezaei, M., "The Representation of Urban Female Teenagers in Iranian Cinema", 29th Annual Conference of the MidAtlantic Popular & American Culture Association, Baltimore, Maryland, United states, 8-10 November 2018.

Rezaei, M., Owens, P., “How Films can influence Children and Young Adults' Life? An Insight into Abbas Kiarostami's Films for Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults of Iran”, 8th Interdisciplinary Conference on Child and Teen Consumption, University of Poitiers, France, 3-6 April 2018

Rezaei, M., Golravesh Fekry, N., "Villains in Iranian films for children, A case study of Golnar", Accepted for presentation , In the Shadows, Illumination Monstrosity in Children’s and Young Adult Literature and Culture | Biennial Graduate Student Children’s Literature conference 2018, University of British Columbia, Canada, 11‐12 May 2018.

Rezaei, M.,"Teenagers in Public Spaces, Constraints and Opportunities in Iran", Accepted for presentation, International conference of Young People and the New Urban Agenda: Addressing Key Themes of Habitat III conference, University of Birmingham, England, 14‐15 September 2016.

Rezaei, M., "Making a Teenager-Friendly Community, Collaborative Planning in an Unfavorable Context", Accepted for paper sessions, International conference of New Urban Languages, University of Delft, Delft, The Netherlands, 24‐26 June 2015

Rezaei, M., "Spatial Planning of Community to Increase Presence of Teenagers" (15-18 years old)in Community, A Case Study of Golha Community", Accepted for presentation, International conference of Children, Young People and Families in Changing Urban Spaces, University of Northampton, England, 3‐ 4 Sept ember2014.

**TEACHING and RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Associated instructor**

Soc122, Sociology of youth, University of California, Davis

Designed course syllabus, led lectures and managed a class of 95 students.

**Teaching assistant, University of California, Davis**

Des 112, UI/UX, Spring 2021

LDA001, Fundamentals of Landscape Architecture, Fall 2020

AMS05, Tech in American life, Spring quarter 2020.

Des40B, Ideologies of the Design, Spring quarter 2019.

HDE102, Human Development, Fall quarter 2018.

LDA21, Design Studio, Fall quarter 2018.

LDA002, People, Place and Culture, Winter quarter 2018 and 2019.

LDA003, Sustainable Environmental Design, Spring quarter 2018

*-Maintained a collaborative culture in the classroom by leading discussion sessions in the class of 25 students (work in groups, sharing ideas on super sticky paper, etc.)-Taught the concepts of speculative design and sustainable design to landscape design and design students-Taught graphical softwares (Adobe Photoshop and illustrator) to landscape design students and improved their technical skills*

*-Graded exams and papers*

**Research Experience**

**Mentor, Mandella Fellowship program, UCDavis**

[**https://globalaffairs.ucdavis.edu/mandela**](https://globalaffairs.ucdavis.edu/mandela)

**Mentor, Geography Graduate Group, UCDavis**

Mentored one of the landscape architecture undergrads at UCDavis to develop “Creative Flaneur” app. The app fosters young people’s critical spatial thinking and citizenship responsibility.

She accomplished to:

*-Prepare an annotated bibliography about geospatial applications*

*-Collaborate in designing a survey to evaluate young people's critical spatial thinking*

*-Provide documents for writing grant proposals*

*-Did a literature review on social impacts of geospatial technologies*

**Graduate Research Assistant, University of California, Davis** Spring2021-**Summer2021**

“Growing up in cities Project”, Funded by UNICEF

**Graduate Research Assistant, University of California, Davis**  Fall 2017-Summer2018

**“**Designing Healthy Youth Environments” project funded by the California Agricultural Experiment Station.

<https://training-portal.nifa.usda.gov/web/crisprojectpages/1013872-designing-healthy-youth-environments.html>

*Interviewed with teen participants and main organizers of REACH Youth Coalition, Vacaville planning department officials for Rocky hill trail project*

*Reviewed related literature to be used for a chapter of* [*“*Routledge Handbook for Designing Public Spaces for Young People: Design Practices and Policies for Youth Inclusion](https://redfeatherjournal.org/editorial-board)*”*

**Editorial Experience**

**Editor,** journal of Children’s Popular Culture (Formerly Red Feather) Summer 2020 – present

<https://jocpc.org/editorial-board>

**Reviewer,** EDRA59 conference Environmental Design Association (EDRA), 2019

<https://cuny.manifoldapp.org/read/reviewers/section/4fd8109a-6013-4bbd-94b8-b9ca2fc6603a>

**Reviewer,** Journal of Education and Educational Development

<http://jmsnew.iobmresearch.com/index.php/joeed/about>

*Reviewed the manuscripts according to the journal standard, checked the style and formatting, highlighted grammatical errors, and provided recommendations for changes and modifications (vol1. Issue1 and 2)*

**Editorial Board**, Journal of “Urban Research” ( Jostarhaye shahrsazi-in Farsi), Farnahad Consulting firm, Tehran , Iran , (1/2016-9/2017)

*Collected papers, edited the submitted papers, contributed new submission and main editor of the section of “Urban Narratives”*

**Translator (English to Persian),** Golagha Cultural Institute, Tehran, Iran (6/2010-6/2012)

*Collected information, translated (English to Persian), and prepared report of upcoming animations for Iranian children(*<http://www.golagha.ir>*)*

**Guest Speaker,** “Representation of Teenagers in Films and Novels**”,** Seminar for first year students at the Department of Human Ecology, UCDavis (10/2018)

**HONORS/ AWARDS**

$3000 Geography Graduate Group Fellowship, UCDavis, 2022

$1000 Career Development Award, UCDavis , 2021

$250 Stipend for Organizing “At the Heart of Gold: Inside the USA Gymnastic Scandal” screening and discussion session at UCDavis to prevent sex violation.

$1000, Geography Graduate Group Travel Award, UCDavis, 4/2020

$9000, Henry A Jastro, Research Award, UCDavis, 2019 ,2020,2021

$500, Geography Graduate Group Travel Award, UCDavis, 4/2019

$500, Graduate Student Association Travel Award, UCDavis, 2019

4000$ (Project manager in collaboration of Paramadan consulting firm, 2016)‐ selected as ﬁve best works among 60 consulting firms, Designing Zandiyeh Complex, Shiraz, Iran, first Urban Design competition in Iran, Urban Development and Revitalization Company, Iran‐2016

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Product Research intern**

**Quantum Workplace, Omaha (Remote) ( 6/2022-9/2022)**

*Promoted research best practices to the product team by working effectively with the cross-functional teams including design leads, product managers, designers, and engineers.  
-Developed research agenda, carried out interviews, designed surveys, prepared usability reports, and analyzed data resulting in a 20 percent increase in the conversion rate of the software.  
-Established a collection of research templates to standardize the process of research across the product teams.  
-Proposed and implemented a common research repository by culling together the needs of various types of team members such as researchers, designers, engineers, and producers) and translated those needs into research approaches to improve the collaboration between cross-functional teams and expedite the research process.*

**Project manager, Paramadan Consulting Firm, Tehran, Iran (11/2015-7/2017)**

* Urban Design of Zandiyeh Complex of Shiraz, Iran (it was the first urban design competition in Iran and one of the most important urban design project)
* Improvement of Ayatollah Saeeidi Square, Tehran, Iran
* Feasibility study and locating urban catalyst activities in Oudlajan neighbourhood, Tehran, Iran

*-Developed community engagement strategies geared toward revitalizing neighborhoods to appeal to the public. -Delegated tasks to teams of 3-9 urban designers, civil engineers and architects and ensured timely and smooth flow of the project-Involved in the process of designing from the first phase to the end -Investigated users’ behaviors and created behavioral maps resulted in more inclusive design*

**Urban Designer and Planner- Farnahad Consulting Firm, Tehran, Iran (9/2014-5/2017)**

* Detailed plan of Karaj, Iran
* Karaj city scape plan, Iran

*-Held stakeholder group meetings and identified the problems and address residents’ concerns in the design of the area -Analyzed and synthesized qualitative and quantitative data to distill meaningful findings for placemaking*

*-Prepared reports of the plan to present in the official meetings with a team of 10 experts and employers*

**Urban Planner-Payest Consulting Firm, Tehran, Iran (7/2015-6/2016)**

*-Did field works to explore the historical, environmental, and social values of the cemetery geared toward improving it as a tourist destination.-Collaborated closely with the design team in preparation of the design of the cemetery -Developed SWOT frameworks to analyze the potentials of the cemetery -Managed a team of 3 urban designers, and architects*

**Landscape architect -Ray ab Consulting Firm, Tehran, Iran(9/2011-9/2014)**

•Landscape design of water treatments in various cities in Iran (Saveh, Mashkid Olya, Saravan)

*Drafting and landscape design of water treatments to ensure the feasibility of the plan*

**LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**Student ambassador, University of California Global Health Institute (1/2020-6/2020)**

*Developed, organized and promoted planetary health activities on UCDavis campus and across all UC campuses to expand knowledge of PH issues*

#### Campus Representative, UC Global Health Institute (6/2020/1/2021)

### -*Collaborated with UCSpeakup and CourageFirst, in film screening and panel discussion of At the Heart of Gold: Inside the USA Gymnastics Scandal -Raised awareness about sexual violence and prevention on college campuses, and how we can all work together to create a safe college experience for students and student-athletes.*

**Headsteward, UC Workers Union, UAW2865 (9/2019-Present)**

*-held campaigns to support international student rights  
-Organizing members for the Union  
\_collaborating on establishing of international committee with students all over UCs*

**Judge, Davis Feminist Film Festival, Women's Resources and Research Center UC Davis**

**(12/2019-1/2020)***Judge for the initial round of film screening for Davis Feminist Film Festival. The Davis Feminist Film Festival (DFFF) is a grassroots festival of short films from around the world*

**Volunteer, Iranian Student Association (9/2019-Present)**

*-Collaborated in planning strategies -Graphic illustrations for the reports and plans,*

**Honors and Awards in painting and Drawing**

**Published painting:**

Being: Portraiture and Poetry, Group art exhibition, The Basement gallery, UCDavis , Davis, CA, (2 /2018)

Irani Monahan, Nazli, Wonders of Persia, Arrow publications, 2001

<https://www.amazon.com/Wonders-Persia-Zi%C3%8C%C2%84ba%C3%8C%C2%84%C3%8A3-4i%C3%8C%C2%84ha%C3%8C%C2%84-yi-I%C3%8C%C2%84ra%C3%8C%C2%84n/dp/0971205507>

Certificate of distinction and Special prize of 13th Kanagawa Biennial World Children's Art exhibit ion, 2005(painting and drawing contest)

Featured in one of the main Iranians news agency:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.irna.ir/amp/8276967/>

My work in the competition website:

<https://www.earthplaza.jp/biennial/images/no13/1300038.jpg>

International special award in the fourth international environmental children's drawing contest, Japan, 2003

Solo painting exhibition, Arasbaran Cultural Center, Tehran, Iran, (7/2002)

**LANGUAGES**

Farsi(Native), English (Fluent), Arabic(Intermediate), Spanish(Basic)