**Mina Rezaei**

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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**](https://innovate.sf.ucdavis.edu/people/mina-rezaei-0) 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., Schlickman, EE, Yang, N., (2022). Learning Environmental 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 Poetry Readings”** -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

**INVITED TALKS and CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**Guest Speaker**, Inclusive Design in Designing Built Environment, "Inclusive Excellence and the Built Environment" at the Department of Landscape Architecture, 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 September 2014.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Associate Instructor, Department of Sociology,** **University of California, Davis**

Soc122, Sociology of youth, Fall quarter 2022

Chronological age and social status; analysis of social processes bearing upon the socialization of children and adolescents. The emergence of youth cultures. Generational succession as a cultural problem.

-Designed course syllabus, lectured in the class, graded assignments, held office hours, and managed a class of 90 students

**Teaching assistant, Department of Human Ecology, University of California, Davis**

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

Introduction to recognizing and reading cultural landscapes, and the application of cultural landscape meaning to the creation of contemporary built environments.

-Graded assignments, held office hours

LDA021, Design Studio, Fall quarter 2018.

Idea expression through graphic media and drawing techniques for visual representation of the built environment, including conventional drafting and expressive techniques. Introduction to computerized graphics techniques.

-Graded assignments, held office hours, led design studio of the class of 50 students

LDA003, Sustainable Environmental Design, Spring quarter 2018

Origins, theoretical perspectives, and practical applications of the concept of sustainable development at a number of scales.

-Graded assignments, held office hours

LDA 070 – Introduction to Space Making, Winter quarter 2021 and 2021

Introduction to design methodologies and skills necessary to define, manipulate, and represent the built environment. Workshops in 2D computer graphic techniques and 3D physical modeling.

-Graded assignments, held office hours, led design studio of the class of 50 students

LDA001, Fundamentals of Landscape Architecture, Fall 2020

Introduction to basic methods used by design professionals to evaluate, design, plan, and manage landscapes and the built environment.

-Graded assignments, held office hours

AMS05, Tech in American life, Spring quarter 2020.

Presents technology in several perspectives. we explore the ways in which technology is socially constructed, contested, and continually transformed

-Graded assignments, held office hours, led discussion session in the class of 50 students

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

Des40B, Ideologies of the Design, Spring quarter 2019.

Introduction to the history and theory of design in particular relation to political, philosophical, cultural, economic, and environmental debates and objectives

-Graded assignments, held office hours, led discussion session in the class of 50 students

Des 112, UI/UX, Spring 2021

Principles and practices of User Interface (UI) and User Experience (UX). Design for digital, interactive media. Iterative design processes, audience research.

-Graded assignments, held office hours, led design studio in the class of 20 students

Des 138. Methods and Materials, Fall 2021

Introduction to the finish materials used for interior design with special emphasis on sustainable and recycled products.

-Graded assignments, held office hours, led discussion session in the class of 50 students

Des 148, Trend Research and Forecasting in Design, Fall 2021

Economic, political, technological, and psychological indicators in trend forecasting. Future trends in design using cultural brailing, cross-cultural analysis methods and ethnographic research.

-Graded assignments, held office hours, led discussion session in the class of 50 students

**Teaching assistant, Department of Human Development, University of California, Davis**

HDE012, Human Sexuality, Spring quarter 2021

complex interaction of physiological (biological), psychological, and socio-cultural processes. approach to understanding topics and issues related to human sexuality

-Graded assignments, held office hours

HDE100C, Adulthood and Aging, Spring quarter 2022

Development during early, middle, and late adulthood; biological, cognitive, and psycho-social aspects of adult development. Emphasis on normative patterns of development which characterize “successful aging”.

-Graded assignments, held office hours

HDE102, Social and Personality Development, Fall quarter 2018.

Learn about major theories, concepts, and research on topics related to social and personality development

-Graded assignments, held office hours

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Graduate Research Assistant, University of California, Davis/ Spring2021-Summer2021**"Growing up in cities Project"   
"Designing Healthy Youth Environments", Funded by the California Agricultural Experiment Station.   
-Interviewed with teen participants and main organizers of REACH Youth Coalition, Vacaville planning department officials for Rocky hill trail project   
-mentored undergrad researchers, prepared observation and workshop guides, prepared behavioral maps.  
-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”

**Mentor, Mandella Fellowship program, UCDavis/ Summer 2021**   
-Mentored young black professionals through their career

**Mentor, Geography Graduate Group, UCDavis/ September 2020-June 2021**   
-Mentored the landscape architecture undergrads at UCDavis in research about “Creative Flaneur” app. The app fosters young people’s critical spatial thinking and citizenship responsibility.  
  
**EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

**Editor,** [journal of Children’s Popular Culture](https://jocpc.org/) (Formerly Red Feather) - Summer 2020 – present

**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>)

**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 neighborhood, 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 Speak up (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  
-Collaborated 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 (9/2019-01/2021)**

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