

# RICCARDO GASCO

PhD CANDIDATE, FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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| ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2549-8453> | Date of Birth: 16/01/1997

## EDUCATION

<b>Visiting Research Fellow</b> / Istanbul Policy Center (IPC), Istanbul Supervisor: Professor Senem Aydin Düzgit	Nov 2024 – Nov 2025
<b>Visiting Research Fellow</b> / Sabanci University, Istanbul Department of Political and Social Science Supervisor: Professor Senem Aydin Düzgit Türkiye Bursları – Research Grant	Jan 2024 – Nov 2024
<b>Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations</b> / University of Bologna Department of Political and Social Sciences Supervisor: Professor Massimiliano Trentin Research Title: <i>Assessing Turkey's Foreign Policy Behavior as a Regional Power Between NATO and Russia</i> Full Ph.D. Scholarship	2022 - 2026
<b>Master of Arts in International Studies and Diplomacy</b> / School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) Thesis: <i>Analyzing Turkey – China Bilateral Relations under the Power Transition Framework</i> Supervisor: Professor Hadi Enayat	2020 - 2021
<b>Turkish Politics and International Relations</b> / Sehir University, Istanbul Center for Modern Turkish Studies <i>Visiting Research Fellow</i> / Turkish Foreign and Domestic Politics Supervisor: Professor Muzaffer Senel	2020 - 2021
<b>BA in International and Diplomatic Sciences</b> / University of Genoa, Italy Thesis: <i>La Turchia tra passato e futuro: da Atatürk ad Ekrem Imamoglu</i> Supervisor: Professor Giampiero Cama / Professor Federico Donelli	2017 - 2020
<b>International and Diplomatic Sciences</b> / Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain <i>European Erasmus Plus Project</i>	2017 - 2018

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<b>Foreign Policy Program Coordinator</b> / Istanbul Institute, Istanbul	Sept 2024 - ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oversee the planning, execution, and dissemination of the activities of the Istanbul Foreign Policy Program including publications and research projects</li><li>Organize and manage events, including seminars, workshops, and conferences, to promote dialogue and exchange on foreign policy issues</li><li>Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, including policymakers, academics, and practitioners in the field of foreign policy</li><li>Draft reports, policy briefs, and other publications to communicate research findings and policy recommendations</li><li>Media commentaries</li><li></li></ul>	

**Research Contractor** / University of Bologna  
 Project “*Rethinking arts for cohesion, trust and inclusion (REACTIN)*” funded by the European Commission  
**Supervisors: Professor Pina Lalli, Professor Elena Baracani**  
 Analysis of quantitative and qualitative data on:

July 2022 –  
 April 2023

- Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan from 2011 to 2022
- Refugee legislation in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan
- Carry out field research in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan
- Carry out semi-structured interviews with Syrian refugees, young people from the host communities, civil society staff members, and representatives of local communities
- National and international assistance programmes, with a focus on EU-funded programmes
- Production of final report

**Political Risk and Threat Intelligent Analyst** / Hozint, Horizon Intelligence / Brussel, Belgium

Nov 2021 –  
 Jan 2022

- Monitor and analyze Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) sources on safety and security issues such as terrorism, crime, civil unrest, and natural disasters with a geographical focus on the MENA region
- Verifying the accuracy of information
- Write concise and accurate operational alerts and reports
- Provide weekly briefings on major security trends and forecast

**Visiting Research Fellow** / Sehir University, The Center for Modern Turkish Studies / Istanbul, Turkey

2020 - 2021

- Produced thesis based on the 2019 local elections in Istanbul
- Carried out library research and interviews to obtain the necessary information for the thesis
- Interacted with researchers and international students to share knowledge and gain further insight into the research topic
- Conducted an interview with the Mayor of Turkey for research purposes
- Successfully completed assigned research responsibilities and positively contributed to the program

## PUBLICATIONS

“*Assessing Turkey’s Role as a Mediator in the Ukrainian War*”, in International Relations (*Uluslararası İlişkiler*), International Relations Council of Turkey (IRCT), Riccardo **Gasco**, Eleonora Tafuro Ambrosetti

Forthcoming

Book Chapter “*Türkiye’s National Security Perceptions Post-Ukraine War*”, Re-envisioning Europe’s security order? national (in)security perceptions in the wake of the 2022 Ukraine war, Springer, Federico Donelli, Riccardo **Gasco**

Forthcoming

“*Introducing the Turkish Foreign Policy Dataset (TFPD): text-as-data on Turkish Foreign Policy*” in Foreign Policy Analysis, Riccardo **Gasco**, Chiara Boldrini

Forthcoming

Book Chapter “*Mega Projects and Environmental Activism: Turkey, Egypt, UAE and Morocco*” in “The MENA region through the lenses of climate crises from present challenges to future prospects”, Routledge, Giulia Cimini, Riccardo **Gasco**

Forthcoming

“*Making Sense of Strategic Partnerships. The Grey Area in Turkey-EU Foreign Policy Relations.*” (Special Issue, EU-Turkey Dialogue in Progress. A New Framing on Regulatory Power and Integration, eds. Pelin Sönmez, İtir Aladağ Görentaş), Riccardo **Gasco**, Samuele C.A. Abrami

Forthcoming

“*Turkey’s 2024 Municipal Elections. A Turning Point for Democratic Resilience?*” in Mediterranean Politics, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2025.2459558>, Samuele C.A. Abrami, Riccardo **Gasco**, Berk Esen

2025

“*New Securitization Waves of the Kurdish Question. A Three(plus) Level Game Game Analysis of Turkish Foreign Policy*” in Partecipazione e Conflitto, Samuele C.A. Abrami, Riccardo **Gasco**, Baser Bahar

Forthcoming

Book Review “*Le monarchie arabe del Golfo. Nuovo centro di gravità in Medio Oriente*” by Cinzia Bianco and Matteo Legrenzi, in International Affairs, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iad305>, Riccardo **Gasco**

2024

Double Book Review “*Turkey in Africa*” and “*Turkey in Africa, a New Emerging Power?*” in *Afriche & Orienti*, Riccardo **Gasco**

2024

Book Review “*Russia’s War Against Ukraine*” by Gwendolyn Sasse, in *Insight Turkey*, Riccardo **Gasco**

2024

“*Beyond the Cold War and East-West Dynamics: Analyzing the PKK’s Agency and Longevity*” in *The Palgrave Handbook of Non-*

2024

- State Actors in East-West Relations, DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-40546-4\\_73](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-40546-4_73), Samuele C.A. Abrami, Riccardo **Gasco**
- Book Chapter “*Turchia e Cina nel Mediterraneo*” in [Il ruolo della Turchia Nel Mediterraneo: Prospettive, Scenari, Sfide](#), Rubbettino Editore, Riccardo **Gasco** 2023
- “*L'evoluzione dei rapporti sino-turchi: fattori determinanti e implicazioni*” in Rivista di Politica, ISSN: 2037-495X, Federico Donelli, Riccardo **Gasco** 2023
- “*China-Turkey Relations from the Perspective of Neo-Classical Realism*” in Contemporary Review of the Middle East, DOI: 10.1177/23477989211062659, M. Cüneyt Özşahin, Federico Donelli, Riccardo **Gasco** 2021
- Book Review “*Turkey in Africa*” by Federico Donelli, in Journal of Contemporary European Studies, DOI: 10.1080/14782804.2021.1953258, Riccardo **Gasco** 2021

## ARTICLES

- Abrami S. and Gasco R., “*From 'Good Relations' to 'Strategic Pragmatism': Italy-Turkey Defense Cooperation in a Fragmented Geopolitical Order*”, in Istanbul Policy Center (IPC), Istanbul 2025  
<https://ipc.sabanciuniv.edu/Content/Images/CKeditorImages/20250526-10055814.pdf>
- Yürekli A., Gasco R., İmamoğlu behind bars, Europe on the fence, European Policy Centre, Brussels 2025  
<https://epc.eu/en/Publications/mamolu-Behind-Bars-Europe-on-the-Fence~63d88c>
- Gasco R., Franceschini J., *Regional Security without Democratic Alignment? Europe-Türkiye dilemma between Rule of Law and Pragmatic Cooperation*, theSquare Center, Milan 2025  
<https://www.thesquarecentre.org/2025/04/04/regional-security-without-democratic-alignment-europe-turkiye-dilemma-between-rule-of-law-and-pragmatic-cooperation/>
- Franceschini J., Gasco R., Abrami S., “*Le lunghe notti turche contro l'autoritarismo. Ragioni e implicazioni delle mosse di Erdoğan*”, in Formiche News, Roma 2025  
<https://formiche.net/2025/03/le-lunghe-notti-turche-contro-lautoritarismo-ragioni-e-implicazioni-delle-mosse-di-erdogan/>
- Abrami S. and Gasco R., “*Europe’s defense awakening and its strategic partners: any place for Turkey?*”, in Istanbul Policy Center (IPC), Istanbul 2025  
<https://ipc.sabanciuniv.edu/Content/Images/CKeditorImages/20250317-16031914.pdf>
- Gasco R., “*Turkey’s Role in Post-Assad Syria*”, in MA.G.A.S. Project financed with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome 2025  
[https://www.edoardocorradi.com/files/ugd/b5db5d\\_82fca8e7141d4f7ab7a4faf03012faa7.pdf?index=true](https://www.edoardocorradi.com/files/ugd/b5db5d_82fca8e7141d4f7ab7a4faf03012faa7.pdf?index=true)
- Gasco R., “*Türkiye and Italy in the Mediterranean – Shared Interests*”, in Institute of Social Studies, Ankara 2025  
<https://www.toplum.org.tr/en/turkiye-and-italy-in-the-mediterranean-shared-interests/>
- Gasco R. and Abrami S., “*Does the Fall of Assad Re-Open Turkey’s Kurdish Pandora’s Box?*” in War on the Rocks, Washington DC 2024  
<https://warontherocks.com/2024/12/does-the-fall-of-assad-re-open-turkeys-kurdish-pandoras-box/>
- Gasco R. and Abrami S., “*Turkey and the Syrian Conundrum after Assad: A Test for Ankara’s Capacity and Credibility*” in IAI Commentaries, Rome 2024  
<https://www.iai.it/en/pubblicazioni/turkey-and-syrian-conundrum-after-assad>
- Gasco R. and Mazzola S., “*Erdogan nell'occhio del ciclone mediorientale*”, Dissipatio, Rome 2024  
<https://www.dissipatio.it/erdogan-nelloccchio-del-ciclone-mediorientale/>
- Quoted in “*La fine della lotta armata non convince (tutti) i curdi. E ad Ankara torna la paura*” in Domani by Futura D’aprile, Italy 2024

<https://www.editorialedomani.it/politica/mondo/turchia-fine-lotta-armata-non-convince-tutti-i-curdi-ankara-torna-paura-a8hjm1a8>  
Quoted in “*Avrupa'da da gündem Esad ile normalleşme ve Suriyelilerin geri dönüşü*” in Sözcü by Merve Arkan, Istanbul 2024  
<https://www.sozcu.com.tr/avrupa-da-da-gundem-esad-ile-normallesme-ve-suriyelilerin-geri-donusu-p70975>

Gasco R. and Abrami S., Editors of the dossier “*An Analysis of Turkish municipal elections. When local becomes national: Implications for Turkey's political future*”, Geopolitica.info, Rome 2024

Gasco R. and Abrami S., *Turkish local elections: opposition's clear victory against Erdoğan could herald sea-change in country's politics*, The Conversation, UK 2024  
<https://theconversation.com/turkish-local-elections-oppositions-clear-victory-against-erdogan-could-herald-sea-change-in-countrys-politics-226945>

Gasco R. and Abrami S., *La sconfitta di Erdoğan in Turchia: fallimento dell'AKP o merito delle opposizioni?*, Fondazione Oasis, Milan 2024  
<https://www.oasiscenter.eu/it/la-sconfitta-di-erdogan-in-turchia-fallimento-akp-o-merito-delle-opposizioni>

Gasco R. and Abrami S., *Status Quo o Cambiamento? Le Elezioni Municipali in Turchia*, Geopolitica.info, Rome 2024  
<https://www.geopolitica.info/le-elezioni-municipali-in-turchia/>

Gasco R. and Mammadov A., *Will U.S.-Turkey Relations Survive the Wars in Gaza and Ukraine?*, The National Interest, Washington DC 2024  
<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/will-us-turkey-relations-survive-wars-gaza-and-ukraine-210040>

Abrami S. and Gasco R., *Italy and Turkey in Africa*. CESPI (Center for International Studies), Türkiye Observatory, Deep Analysis, Roma, Italy 2024  
<https://www.cespi.it/sites/default/files/osservatori/allegati/approf. 30 turchia e africa gasco e abrami.pdf>

Gasco R., *Terremoto in Turchia. La regione colpita nell'anniversario del sisma* 2024  
<https://kalydoskop.it/societa/terremoto-la-regione-colpita-nell-anniversario-del-sisma/>

Gasco R., *Il sisma visto da Antakya. Un racconto* 2023  
<https://kalydoskop.it/spazi/terremoto-il-sisma-visto-da-antakya-un-racconto/>

Gasco R., *Does Italy Still Hope to Play a Core Role in the Libyan Crisis?* theSquare Center, Milan 2021  
<http://www.thesquarecentre.org/2021/01/26/does-italy-still-hope-to-play-a-core-role-in-the-libyan-crisis/>

Gasco R., *Where Does Italy Stand in the Eastern Mediterranean Dispute?* Al-Sharq Forum, Istanbul 2020  
<https://research.sharqforum.org/2020/10/07/where-does-italy-stand-in-the-eastern-mediterranean-dispute/>

Gasco R., *Turkish Domestic Politics, The Syrian War, Israel Palestinian Conflict and Middle East Politics* 2020  
Italian Think Tank, *Orizzonti Politici*

## CONFERENCES

SGRI, Standing Group of International Relations, SISP, Milan June 2025  
Presenter: *Assessing Turkey's Foreign Policy Behavior as an External Mediator in the Ukrainian Conflict* (With Eleonora Ambrosetti)

TCSS, Turkey Computational Social Science Conference, Koç University, Istanbul April 2025  
Presenter: *Introducing the TFPD: Text-As-Data on Turkish Foreign Policy* (With Chiara Boldrini)

IPSA, International Political Science Association, World Congress, Seoul, South-Korea July 2025  
Presenter: *Assessing Turkey's Foreign Policy Behavior as a Regional Power Between NATO and Russia*

Uluslararası Katılımlı Ankara İnsan ve Toplum Bilimleri Kongresi, Ankara, Türkiye February 2025  
Presenter: *Assessing Turkey's role in the Ukrainian War*

SeSaMO, Crossings and contaminations. Practices, languages, and politics in transit in the Middle East and North Africa, University of Cagliari <u>Panel Moderator:</u> <i>Turkey between the past and today's world. Who's and How's the Other?</i>	October 2024
CESRAN, Center for Strategic Research and Analysis, Annual Conference, University of Venice, Venice <u>Presenter:</u> <i>The Turkish roulette: explaining foreign policy decisions in Libya and Ukraine</i> (With Chiara Boldrini)	October 2024
SISP, Italian Political Science Association Annual Conference, University of Trieste, Trieste <u>Presenter:</u> <i>Unveiling the Strategic Transformation under Erdoğan's Rule: A Two-Decade Analysis of Turkey's Foreign Policy Trajectory</i> (With Chiara Boldrini)	Sept 2024
BISA, Post Graduate Network (PNG), Emerging Trends in Global Politics: Exploring the latest developments and future directions, Online <u>Presenter:</u> PhD Research Project “Assessing Turkey's Foreign Policy Behavior as a Regional Power Between NATO and Russia”	May 2024
TUBA, Türkiye Bilimler Akademisi, Istanbul <u>Presenter:</u> <i>Wings for Middle Powers Between Eurasia and the West: Turkey's Drone Diplomacy in the Russo-Ukraine War and the Quest for Strategic Autonomy</i> (With Alessandra Russo and Samuele C.A. Abrami)	April 2024
WISC, World International Studies Committee, Warsaw (Awarded travel grant) <u>Presenter:</u> <i>Wings for Middle Powers Between Eurasia and the West: Turkey's Drone Diplomacy in the Russo-Ukraine War and the Quest for Strategic Autonomy</i> (With Alessandra Russo and Samuele C.A. Abrami)	July 2024
BISA, British International Studies Association International Conference, Birmingham <u>Panel Moderator:</u> <i>Turkey's Tighrtrope: Navigating Domestic and International Crosswinds</i> <u>Presenter:</u> <i>Assessing Turkey's Foreign Policy Behavior as a Middle Power Between NATO and Russia</i>	June 2024
Workshop on Conflict Management in the Wider Mediterranean, University of Florence <u>Presenter:</u> <i>Turkey's Mediation Role in the Russo-Ukraine War</i>	February 2024
60th Conflict Research Society Annual Conference, King's College, London Return of the Interstate War or New Hybrid Reality? <i>The Impact of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine on Conflict Research</i> <u>Presenter:</u> <i>Assessing Turkey's Credibility as an External Mediator in the Ukrainian Conflict</i>	Sept 2023
SISP, Italian Political Science Association Annual Conference, University of Genova, Genova <u>Presenter:</u> <i>Assessing Turkey's Credibility as an External Mediator in the Ukrainian Conflict</i>	Sept 2023
Eurasian Peace Science Conference, Bilkent University, Ankara, Türkiye <u>Presenter:</u> <i>Turkey between Russia and Ukraine: evaluating Ankara's role as a mediator</i>	January 2024

## GUEST LECTURES

<i>Turkey's Foreign Policy Behavior Between NATO and Russia: The Case of Syria</i> University of Genova	2025
<i>The Power of Opposition Parties in a Context of Limited Democracy: the Case of Turkey</i> University of Milan and University of Genova Seminar as part of the module in State and Society in North Africa and the Mediterranean Region within the Bachelor's program in International Politics, Law and Society	2022

## MEMBERSHIPS

SeSaMO, *The Italian Society for Middle Eastern Studies*  
EISA, *European International Studies Association*  
SISP, *Italian Association of Political Science* – Forthcoming

UACES, *University Association for Contemporary European Studies*

ECPR, *The European Consortium for Political Research*

BISA, *British International Studies Association*

*Italy-Turkey Friendship Association*

## EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Co-host of the Weekly Podcast “[Cose Turches News](#)”

Co-organizer of the Ph.D. Seminar series on research methodology in International Relations at the University of Bologna, Department of Political and Social Sciences

Co-organizer of the International Relations Roundtables for PhD and Researchers at the University of Bologna, Department of Political and Social Sciences

Reviewer for All Azimuth (Q1) and Afriche e Orienti (A level)

ECPR, Summer School in Case Study Analysis and Process Tracing

Member of the “Twin Cities Committee” of the Municipality of Alba. In charge of keeping and strengthening relations between Alba and its Turkish twin cities

News comments and interviews: ABC News Australia, Live TV Comments; Quoted in: Domani Giornale, L’Orient-le Jour, Al-Monitor, Türkiye Today, Il Foglio, Radio24, The Times Radio, La Stampa, The New Arab, Turkey Recap

## REFERENCES

Professor Federico Donelli, University of Trieste  
[federico.donelli@dispes.units.it](mailto:federico.donelli@dispes.units.it)

Professor Senem Aydın-Düzgüt, Sabanci University  
[senem.aydinduzgit@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:senem.aydinduzgit@sabanciuniv.edu)

Professor Massimiliano Trentin, University of Bologna  
[massimiliano.trentin@unibo.it](mailto:massimiliano.trentin@unibo.it)

Journalist Filippo Ciccio, ANSA Correspondent from Turkey  
[filippo.ciccio@gmail.com](mailto:filippo.ciccio@gmail.com)

## LANGUAGES

Italian  
*Native*

English, Spanish  
*Advanced Level*

Turkish  
*B1 Level*

French  
*B2 DELF certification*