

Saber Khani

Contact Information

410 McGuinn Hall
Department of Sociology
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

☎ : (309) 531-5953
✉ : khanis@bc.edu
🔍 : [Google Scholar](#)
👤 : Saberkhani.com

Research Interests

Collective Behavior and Social Movements, Political Sociology, Global and Transnational Sociology, Computational Social Science, Quantitative Methods, Global Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Education

Ph.D. in Sociology <i>Boston College</i>	Sep 2019 - Jun 2026 (exp) Boston, USA
M.Sc Sociology <i>Boston College</i>	Sep 2019 - May 2021 Boston, USA
B.S. Sociology <i>Tehran University</i>	June 2016 Tehran, Iran

Publications Peer-reviewed journal articles

Khani, Saber and Sara Moorman. Forthcoming. "Beyond the Classroom: How High School Extracurricular Activities Shape Cognitive Health in Later Life." *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*.

Moorman, Sara and **Saber Khani**. 2024. "[High School Curriculum and Cognitive Function in the Eighth Decade of Life](#)." *Alzheimer Disease & Associated Disorders* 38(3):235-240.

Khani, Saber and Mohammad Ali Kadivar. 2023. "[Sanctuaries or Battlegrounds? State Penetration in Places of Worship, University Campuses, and State Bureaucracy for Pro-Government Mobilization: Evidence from Iran \(2015-2019\)](#)." *Comparative Political Studies* 57(10):1668-1702. [Journal impact factor: 4.2. Rank in Discipline: 3]

Manuscripts Under Review

Khani, Saber. "Drilling and Dissent: Oil, Corruption, and Contention - Evidence From a Multi-Level Cross-National Analysis, 2005-2019." *American Journal of Sociology*. Under review.

Kadivar, Mohammad Ali, **Saber Khani**, Danial Vahabli, Vahid Abedini, and Samira Barzin. "The Contingency of Structures: Triggers and the Social Geography of Revolutionary Episodes in Iran 2018 - 2022." *American Sociological Review*. Under review.

* graduate student co-authors

Ferati, Jalal*, **Saber Khani**, and Akash Chopra*. "From Presence to Prominence: Institutional Pathways and Women's Appointments to Cabinets Across Regimes."

	<i>Comparative Political Studies</i> . Under review.	
	Vogelsang, Eric, Sara Moorman, Alan Mijares, Zackary Zanutelli, Reza Tayari Ash-tiani, and Saber Khani . “Older Adult Social Participation and Cognition: Il-lustrating Survey and Measurement Heterogeneity Across Studies.” <i>Research on Aging</i> . Under review.	
Working Papers	Khani, Saber and Mohammad Ali Kadivar. “Two Faces of Campus Politics: Universities and Pro-government Mobilization in Autocratic Regimes.” Manuscript ready for submission.	
	Kadivar, Mohammad Ali and Saber Khani . “Wartime Losses and Political Gains: State-Led Mobilization Through War Memorials in Iran.” Manuscript ready for submission.	
Original Datasets	Saber Khani and Mohammad Ali Kadivar. 2023. “ Sanctuaries or Battlegrounds: State Penetration in Places of Worship, University Campuses, and State Bureau-cracy for Pro-Government Mobilization Evidence from Iran (2015-2019) .” <i>Harvard Dataverse</i> , V1.	
	Mohammad Ali Kadivar and Saber Khani . “Islamic Republic Martyrs Dataset (IRMD) (1980-1988).” N = 214,000+ individuals.	
	Saber Khani . “Petroprotest: Oil-Related Unarmed Protests Across 160 Countries (2005-2019).” N = 8000+ events.	
	<p><i>Survey</i></p> <p>Saber Khani. “Iraq National Survey (Feb–May 2025).” N = 750+ respondents across all 18 governorates.</p> <p>A comprehensive survey examines Iraqi citizens’ protest participation since 2015, percep-tions of oil sector corruption and governance, and attitudes toward environmental impacts and economic policies.</p> <p>Saber Khani. “Basra City Survey (Mar–Apr 2025).” N = 500 participants from Basra city neighborhoods.</p> <p>This focused survey covers the same national topics while adding Basra-specific questions about proximity to oil infrastructure, local impacts of petroleum facilities on daily life, and comparative regional perspectives.</p>	
Other Writings	Mohammad Ali Kadivar, Peyman Jafari, Mehdi Hoseini, and Saber Khani . 2021. “ Labor Organizing on the Rise Among Iranian Oil Workers .” <i>Middle East Report Online</i> .	
	Mohammad Ali Kadivar, Saber Khani , and Abolfazl Sotoudeh. 2019. “ Iran’s Protests Are Not Just About Gas Prices .” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> .	
Fellowships and Awards	Young Scholars in Social Movements Mini-Conference (\$800)	Fall 2024
	<i>University of Notre Dame</i>	
	Donald White Teaching Excellence Award (\$700)	Spring 2024
	<i>Boston College</i>	

	Ivan Brown Research Grant (\$2,500) <i>Boston College</i>	Spring 2023
	Graduate Fellow at Clough Center for Democracy (\$5,000) <i>Boston College</i>	Fall 2022
	John B. Williamson Award (\$500) <i>Boston College</i>	Fall 2019
	Sociology Department Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,000) Summer 2020 & 2021 <i>Boston College</i>	
Conference Presentations	<p>“Drilling and Dissent: Mapping Oil Governance, Corruption, and Contention as a Strategic Action Field” <i>Collective Behavior and Social Movements (CBSM)</i></p> <p>Aug 2025, Chicago</p> <p>“Campus Co-opted: Universities and Pro-government Mobilization in Autocratic Regimes” <i>Collective Behavior and Social Movements (CBSM)</i></p> <p>Aug 2025, Chicago</p> <p>“Compliance on Campus: Universities and Pro-government Mobilization in Autocracies” <i>American Political Science Association (APSA)</i></p> <p>Sep 2024, Philadelphia</p> <p>“Performative Representation: Gender, Regime Type, and Ministerial Appointments” <i>American Political Science Association (APSA)</i></p> <p>Sep 2024, Philadelphia</p> <p>“Sanctuaries or Battlegrounds? State Penetration in Places of Worship, University Campuses, and State Bureaucracy for Pro-Government Mobilization: Evidence from Iran (2015–2019)” <i>American Sociological Association (ASA)</i></p> <p>Aug 2023, Philadelphia</p> <p>“Sanctuaries or Battlegrounds? State Penetration in Places of Worship, University Campuses, and State Bureaucracy for Pro-Government Mobilization: Evidence from Iran (2015–2019)” <i>Collective Behavior and Social Movements (CBSM)</i></p> <p>Aug 2023, Philadelphia</p> <p>“The Organizational Infrastructure of Pro-Government Mobilization: Evidence from Iran 2015-2019” <i>TextXD</i></p> <p>Dec 2022, California</p> <p>“The Organizational Infrastructure of Pro-Government Mobilization: Evidence from Iran 2015-2019” <i>Social Science History Association (SSHA)</i></p> <p>Nov 2022, Chicago</p>	
Research Experience	<p>Research Assistant</p> <p><i>Older Adult Social Participation, Gender, and Cognitive Decline Project</i></p> <p>PI: Dr. Eric M. Vogelsang, California State University, San Bernardino</p> <p>Funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) Support for Research Excellence (SuRE) Program (R16)</p>	Fall 2023
Languages	<p><i>Coding:</i> R, Python, Stata, ArcGIS, L^AT_EX</p> <p><i>Languages:</i> Farsi (Native), English (Advanced), Arabic (Intermediate), Turkish (Beginner)</p>	

Teaching Experience

Boston College

Instructor

Introduction to Sociology

Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Student Evaluations: 4.6/5.0 (N = 113)

- Created and taught an engaging and comprehensive course focused on foundational sociological concepts. This course not only gave students a strong foundation in key theories and principles, but also guided them in applying sociological analysis to critically examine contemporary real-world issues in the US and global societies.

Introduction to Statistics

Summer 2025

Student Evaluations: 3.8/5.0 (N = 4)

- Developed and delivered an intensive 6-week online asynchronous course that immersed students in fundamental statistical concepts. This course emphasized hands-on learning and equipped students with proficiency in Stata statistical software, helping them to manipulate, analyze, and visualize data effectively. Through engaging content and practical exercises, participants gained a deeper understanding of statistical methodologies and their real-world applications.

Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Statistics

Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Spring 2021

Introductory Sociology for Healthcare Professions

Spring 2020

Academic Service

Referee

American Journal of Sociology

Comparative Political Studies

Digest of Middle East Studies

References

Mohammad Ali Kadivar
Department of Sociology
Boston College
kadivarm@bc.edu

Wen Fan
Department of Sociology
Boston College
wen.fan@bc.edu

Yi Ming
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Boston College
yi.ming@bc.edu

Paasha Mahdavi
Department of Political Science
University of California, Santa Barbara
paasha@polsci.ucsb.edu

Sara Moorman
Department of Sociology
Boston College
sara.moorman@bc.edu

Gerald M. Easter
Department of Political Science
Boston College
gerald.easter@bc.edu