

# Saber Khani

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## Contact Information

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## 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

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

*Comparative Political Studies.* Under review.

Vogelsang, Eric, Sara Moorman, Alan Mijares, Zackary Zanotelli, Reza Tayari Ashiani, and **Saber Khani**. “Older Adult Social Participation and Cognition: Illustrating Survey and Measurement Heterogeneity Across Studies.” *Research on Aging.* 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 Bureaucracy for Pro-Government Mobilization Evidence from Iran \(2015-2019\)](#).” *Harvard Dataverse, V1.*

Mohammad Ali Kadivar and **Saber Khani**. “Islamic Republic Martyrs Dataset (IRMD) (1980-1988).” N = 214,000<sup>+</sup> individuals.

**Saber Khani**. “Petroprotest: Oil-Related Unarmed Protests Across 160 Countries (2005-2019).” N = 8000<sup>+</sup> events.

#### *Survey*

**Saber Khani**. “Iraq National Survey (Feb–May 2025).” N = 750<sup>+</sup> respondents across all 18 governorates.

A comprehensive survey examines Iraqi citizens’ protest participation since 2015, perceptions of oil sector corruption and governance, and attitudes toward environmental impacts and economic policies.

**Saber Khani**. “Basra City Survey (Mar–Apr 2025).” N = 500 participants from Basra city neighborhoods.

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.

#### Other Writings

Mohammad Ali Kadivar, Peyman Jafari, Mehdi Hoseini, and **Saber Khani**. 2021. “[Labor Organizing on the Rise Among Iranian Oil Workers](#).” *Middle East Report Online.*

Mohammad Ali Kadivar, **Saber Khani**, and Abolfazl Sotoodeh. 2019. “[Iran’s Protests Are Not Just About Gas Prices](#).” *Foreign Affairs.*

#### Fellowships and Awards

Young Scholars in Social Movements Mini-Conference (\$800) Fall 2024  
*University of Notre Dame*

Donald White Teaching Excellence Award (\$700) Spring 2024  
*Boston College*

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

**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**

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