

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

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

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 \(2015–2019\)](#).” *Comparative Political Studies*, 57(10), 1668-1702. [Journal impact factor: 4.2. Rank in Discipline: 3]

Manuscripts Under Review

* graduate student co-authors
Jalal Ferati*, **Saber Khani**, and Akash Chopra*. “From Presence to Prominence: Institutional Pathways and Women’s Appointments to Cabinets Across Regimes.” *Under review at Comparative Political Studies*.

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

Eric Vogelsang, Sara Moorman, Alan Mijares, Zackary Zanutelli, Reza Tayari Ash-tiani, and **Saber Khani**. “Older Adult Social Participation and Cognition: Illustrating Survey and Measurement Heterogeneity Across Studies.” *Under review at Social Indicators Research*.

Working Papers

Saber Khani. “Drilling and Dissent: Mapping the Petro-Field as a Strategic Action Field of Oil Governance, Corruption, and Contention – A Multi-Level Analysis

Across Countries, 2005–2019” *Manuscript ready for submission.*

Saber Khani and Mohammad Ali Kadivar. “Campus Co-opted: Universities and Pro-government Mobilization in Autocratic Regimes.” *Manuscript ready for submission.*

Mohammad Ali Kadivar and **Saber Khani**. “Wartime Losses and Political Gains: State-Led Mobilization Through War Memorials in Iran.” *Manuscript ready for submission.*

Mohammad Ali Kadivar, **Saber Khani**, Vahid Abedini, and Samira Barzin. “The Contingency of Structures: Triggers and the Social Geography of Revolutionary Episodes in Iran 2018 - 2022.” *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⁺ individuals.

Saber Khani. “Petroprotest: Oil-Related Unarmed Protest Across 160 Countries (2005-2019).” N = 8000⁺ events.

Survey

Iraq National Survey (Feb–May 2025): 700⁺ respondents across all 18 governorates
Basra City Survey (Mar–Apr 2025): 500 participants from Basra city neighborhoods

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 Sotoudeh. 2019. “[Iran’s Protests Are Not Just About Gas Prices](#).” *Foreign Affairs.*

Conference Presentations

“Drilling and Dissent: Mapping Oil Governance, Corruption, and Contention as a Strategic Action Field”
Collective Behavior and Social Movements (CBSM) Aug 2025, Chicago

“Campus Co-opted: Universities and Pro-government Mobilization in Autocratic Regimes”
Collective Behavior and Social Movements (CBSM) Aug 2025, Chicago

“Compliance on Campus: Universities and Pro-government Mobilization in Autocracies”
American Political Science Association (APSA) Sep 2024, Philadelphia

“Performative Representation: Gender, Regime Type, and Ministerial Appointments”
American Political Science Association (APSA) Sep 2024, Philadelphia

“Sanctuaries or Battlegrounds? State Penetration in Places of Worship, University Campuses, and State Bureaucracy for Pro-Government Mobilization: Evidence from Iran (2015–2019)”
American Sociological Association (ASA) Aug 2023, Philadelphia

	<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> Aug 2023, Philadelphia</p> <p>“The Organizational Infrastructure of Pro-Government Mobilization: Evidence from Iran 2015-2019” <i>TextXD</i> Dec 2022, California</p> <p>“The Organizational Infrastructure of Pro-Government Mobilization: Evidence from Iran 2015-2019” <i>Social Science History Association (SSHA)</i> Nov 2022, Chicago</p>
Research Experience	<p>Research Assistant Fall 2023 <i>Older Adult Social Participation, Gender, and Cognitive Decline Project</i> PI: Dr. Eric M. Vogelsang, California State University, San Bernardino Funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) Support for Research Excellence (SuRE) Program (R16) - Annual direct costs: \$125,000</p>
Specialized Training	<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>
Fellowships and Awards	<p>Young Scholars in Social Movements Mini-Conference (\$800) Fall 2024 <i>University of Notre Dame</i>, Notre Dame</p> <p>Donald White Teaching Excellence Award (\$700) Spring 2024 <i>Boston College</i>, Boston</p> <p>Ivan Brown Research Grant (\$2,500) Spring 2023 <i>Boston College</i>, Boston</p> <p>Graduate Fellow at Clough Center for Constitutional Democracy (\$5,000) Fall 2022 <i>Boston College</i>, Boston</p> <p>John B. Williamson Award (\$500) Dec 2019 <i>Boston College</i>, Boston</p> <p>Sociology Department Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,000) Summer 2020 & 2021 <i>Boston College</i>, Boston</p>
Teaching Experience	<p>Boston College</p> <p><i>Instructor</i></p> <p>Introduction to Sociology Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2024 - 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.</p> <p>Introduction to Statistics Summer 2025 - 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</p>

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

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