

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, Computational Social Science, Quantitative Methods, Global Middle East and North Africa.

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 Zanolli, 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*.

	<p>Saber Khani and Mohammad Ali Kadivar. “Compliance on Campus: Universities and Pro-government Mobilization in Autocratic Regimes.” <i>Manuscript ready for submission</i>.</p> <p>Mohammad Ali Kadivar and Saber Khani. “Wartime Losses and Political Gains: State-Led Mobilization Through War Memorials in Iran.” <i>Manuscript ready for submission</i>.</p> <p>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.” <i>Manuscript ready for submission</i>.</p>
Original Datasets	<p>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).” <i>Harvard Dataverse, V1</i>.</p> <p>Mohammad Ali Kadivar and Saber Khani. “Islamic Republic Martyrs Dataset (IRMD) (1980-1988).” N = 214,000⁺ individuals.</p> <p>Saber Khani. “Petroprotest: Oil-Related Unarmed Protest Across 160 Countries (2005-2019).” N = 8000⁺ events.</p> <p><i>Survey</i> Iraq National Survey (Feb–May 2025): 700⁺ respondents across all 18 governorates Basra City Survey (Mar–Apr 2025): 500 participants from Basra city neighborhoods</p>
Other Writings	<p>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>.</p> <p>Mohammad Ali Kadivar, Saber Khani, and Abolfazl Sotoudeh. 2019. “Iran’s Protests Are Not Just About Gas Prices.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</p>
Conference Presentations	<p>“Compliance on Campus: Universities and Pro-government Mobilization in Autocracies” <i>American Political Science Association (APSA)</i> Sep 2024, Philadelphia</p> <p>“Performative Representation: Gender, Regime Type, and Ministerial Appointments” <i>American Political Science Association (APSA)</i> 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> 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</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 <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, Notre Dame</i></p> <p>Donald White Teaching Excellence Award (\$700) Spring 2024 <i>Boston College, Boston</i></p> <p>Ivan Brown Research Grant (\$2,500) Spring 2023 <i>Boston College, Boston</i></p> <p>Graduate Fellow at Clough Center for Constitutional Democracy (\$5,000) Fall 2022 <i>Boston College, Boston</i></p> <p>John B. Williamson Award (\$500) Dec 2019 <i>Boston College, Boston</i></p> <p>Sociology Department Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,000) Summer 2020 & 2021 <i>Boston College, Boston</i></p>	
Teaching Experience	<p>Boston College</p> <p><i>Instructor</i> 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 exercises, participants gained a deeper understanding of statistical methodologies and their real-world applications.</p> <p><i>Teaching Assistant</i> Introduction to Statistics Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Spring 2021 Introductory Sociology for Healthcare Professions Spring 2020</p>	
Academic Service	<p>Referee <i>Comparative Political Studies.</i> <i>Digest of Middle East Studies.</i></p>	

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