

# ZEP KALB

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Last Updated: February 2026

## Academic Appointments

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**Princeton University** 2024 –  
Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

## Education

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**UCLA** 2017 – 24  
Ph.D., Department of Sociology

**University of Oxford** 2015 – 17  
M.Litt., Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

**University of Tehran** 2013 – 15  
M.A., Department of World Studies

**SOAS** 2010 – 13  
B.A. *First Class Honors*, Department of Economics

## Journal Publications

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2026 **Kalb, Zep**. “Rise of the Wage Containment State: The Supreme Labor Council and Minimum Wage Politics in Iran,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*,  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020743825101360>

2024 **Kalb, Zep**. “Mobilized Resilience and Development under Sanctions in Iran.” *Development and Change*, 55(5): 933–964. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dech.12859>.

Award: 2025 ASA Sociology of Development, Best Student Article Award

2022 **Kalb, Zep**. “Corporatism without Party: The State, War, and Industrial Labor in the Islamic Republic of Iran.” *Middle Eastern Studies*, 58(6): 1004–23.

2020 **Kalb, Zep**, Masoumeh Hashemi. “Tehran’s Universal Studios.” *New Left Review*, 121: 109–131.

2019 Harris, Kevan, **Zep Kalb**. “Pen to the Tiller: Land Reform and Social Mobility across the 1979 Iranian Revolution.” *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 19(3): 465–486.

- 2019 **Kalb, Zep.** “Corporatist Coalitions as Agents of Civil Society: The Politics of Student and Labor Unions in Iran.” *Mediterranean Politics*, 24(4): 467–490.
- Republished as a chapter in Duboc, Marie and Yasmine Berriane (eds). 2021. *Allying Beyond Social Divides: Coalitions and Contentious Politics*. New York: Taylor and Francis.
- 2017 **Kalb, Zep.** “Neither Dulati nor Khosusi: Islam, Education and Civil Society in Post-1989 Iran.” *Iranian Studies*, 50(4): 575–600.

## Fellowships & Research Grants

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2025	Princeton, Data-Driven Social Science Initiative	Project Title: “Industrial Resilience and Economic Development in Iran under Sanctions”, <b>\$4,920</b>
2024	Harvard University, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs	Raphael Morrison Dorman Postdoctoral Fellowship, <b>declined</b>
2024	IHEID, Department of International Relations and Political Science	Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship, <b>declined</b>
2023–24	UCLA, Graduate Division	Dissertation Year Fellowship, <b>\$20,000</b>
2021–22	Bourse & Bazaar Foundation	Visiting Fellowship, <b>\$9,000</b>
2021–22	Social Science Research Council	International Dissertation Research Fellowship, <b>\$25,000</b>
2021	UCLA, CNES	Mosafer Travel Award, <b>\$1,100</b>
2020–21	UCLA, Humanities Division	Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies (renewed 2021–22), <b>\$16,000</b>
2019	UCLA, CNES	Summer Research Fellowship, <b>\$2,000</b>

## Disciplinary Service

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**Reviewer:** American Journal of Sociology; Social Forces; Sociological Perspectives; Journal of Labor and Society; Globalizations; Humanities and Social Sciences Communications; Mediterranean Politics; Middle East Critique; Asian Affairs

**Board Member:** Labor and Labor Movements Section of the American Sociological Association (current)

## Book Reviews

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- 2019 **Kalb, Zep.** *Sectarianization: Mapping the New Politics of the Middle East*. Edited by Hashemi Nader and Danny Postel, in *Peace Review*, 31(1): 113–116.

- 2019 Kalb, Zep. *The Political Economy of Interest-Free Funds and Credit Institutions: The Fall of an Ideology*, Bahman Ahmadi ‘Amu’i, in *Iranian Studies*, 52(1–2): 261–265.
- 2018 Kalb, Zep. *The Transformation of Baby Names in Tehran, 1996-2015*, Abbas Abdi, 2017, in *Iranian Studies*, 51(2): 333–336.
- 2017 Kalb, Zep. *Power and Change in Iran: Politics of Contention and Conciliation*, Daniel Brumberg and Farideh Farhi (eds), in *Iranian Studies* 50(4): 647–649.

## Select Presentations (2023 – Present)

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- 2025 “The Evolution of State-Business Relations in Iran: Findings from the Iran Business Group Database,” with Kevan Harris, *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting*, Washington DC, November 24
- 2025 “Theories from the Throne: The Implications of Monarchy for Comparative Politics,” (panel co-organizer), *American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference*, Vancouver, September 13
- 2025 “Economic Sanctions, Employment Structures, and the Corporate Workplace in Iran,” Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work, *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference*, Chicago, August 12
- 2025 “The Evolution of State-Business Relations in Iran: Mapping the Organization of Capital across the Islamic Republic’s Commanding Heights”, *Workshop on Revisiting State Capitalism in the MENA-Region*, April 8, University of Amsterdam
- 2024 “Economic Development in Iran under Sanctions,” *Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies at Princeton University*, Princeton, November 11 (invited talk)
- 2024 “Mobilized Resilience in Iran under Sanction,” *Solving Global Poverty: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Sociology of Development Conference*, Washington DC, October 19
- 2024 “Resilience by Demand: Labour Protests, Elite Campaigns, and Developmental Persistence in Iran under Sanctions,” *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference*, Montreal, August 12
- 2023 “Concessions and Broken Promises: New Evidence on Protest Bargaining in Iran,” *Middle East Studies Association*, Montreal, Canada, November 3
- 2023 “Mass Protest and Electoral Behavior in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from the Islamic Republic of Iran” *Penn American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference*, Philadelphia, August 18
- 2023 “Sanctions, Employment, and Labor in Iran,” *The Bourse and Bazaar Foundation*, June 14.

## Select Public Writings (2023 – Present)

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- 2024 “Who Benefits from Sanctions?” *Phenomenal World*, August 15. [Link](#). Translated into Arabic by *Al Sifr* ([link](#)).

- 2023 “Coercion and Inequality,” *Phenomenal World*, August 23, with Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj. [Link](#).  
Republished by *Jacobin* ([link](#)).
- 2023 “Iran’s Labor Movement,” *The Iran Podcast*, hosted by Negar Mortazavi, July 7. [Link](#).
- 2023 “The Class Biases of Economic Sanctions in Iran,” *Bourse and Bazaar Foundation*, June 1. [Link](#).

## Teaching Experience

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### UCLA

*Teaching Assistant*

#### Institute for Research on Labor and Employment

Nonviolence and Social Movements

Fall 2023

#### Department of Sociology

Collective Behavior

Fall 2018; Winter 2023

Social Networks

Winter 2020; Spring 2020

Economy and Society

Fall 2019; Winter 2024

Sociology of Violence

Spring 2019

Sociology of Contemporary China

Winter 2019

Occupations and Professions

Spring 2024

## Technical and Language Skills

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Advanced proficiency in: Persian, Turkish, German, French, English, Dutch (native)

Software & Programming Languages: R, Stata, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## References

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### Edward Walker

Professor, Sociology

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### Kevan Harris

Associate Professor, Sociology

UCLA

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### Benjamin H. Bradlow

Associate Professor, Sociology

Princeton

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### Homa Katouzian

Professor, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

University of Oxford

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