

ZEP KALB

2-S-9 Green Hall • Princeton, NJ 08544
zepkalb@princeton.edu • +1 (609) 258-6764 • zepkalb.com
[Google Scholar](#) – [ORCID](#)

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Academic Appointments

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

Education

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

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

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

Disciplinary Service

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

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 Tebran, 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)

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: 10th 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)

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

2023 “Coercion and Inequality,” *Phenomenal World*, August 23, with Esfandyar 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

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

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

Software & Programming Languages: R, Stata, Python, L^AT_EX

References

Edward Walker

Professor, Sociology

UCLA

walker@soc.ucla.edu • (+1) 310-206-2918

Kevan Harris

Associate Professor, Sociology

UCLA

kevanharris@soc.ucla.edu • (+1) 310-206-1247

Benjamin H. Bradlow

Associate Professor, Sociology

Princeton

bhbradlow@princeton.edu • (+1) 609-258-3612

Homa Katouzian

Professor, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

University of Oxford

homa.katouzian@sant.ox.ac.uk