ZEP KALB

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

Last Updated: November 2026

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. "Founder's Discount: How Early Membership in the International Labour Organization Constrained Worker Protections in Iran, 1919–39." *Social Science History*. doi: 10.1017/ssh.2026.10154

2026 **Kalb**, Zep, Corey Payne. "Rethinking War and Worker Power for the 21st Century." *Global Labour Journal*, 17(2): 125–135. doi:10.15173/glj.v17i3.7369

2026 **Kalb**, Zep. "When Sanctions Bite: The Dynamics of Labor Protest in Iran." *Global Labour Journal*, 17(2): 213–30. doi:10.15173/glj.v17i3.7164

2025 **Kalb**, Zep. "Rise of the Wage Containment State: The Supreme Labor Council and Minimum Wage Politics in Iran," *International Journal of Middle East Studies,* doi:S0020743825101360

2024 **Kalb, Zep**. "Mobilized Resilience and Development under Sanctions in Iran." *Development and Change*, 55(5): 933–964. doi: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. doi:10.1080/00263206.2022.2029422

2020 **Kalb**, Zep, Masoumeh Hashemi. "Tehran's Universal Studios." *New Left Review*, 121: 109–131. doi:10.64590/djm

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. doi:10.1111/joac.12321

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. doi:13629395.2019.1639021

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. doi:10.1080/00210862.2017.1295345

Fellowships & Research Grants

2026	Stanford, Hoover Institution	Scholar Research Support Grant, **$5,000**
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; International Journal of Comparative Sociology; Social Policy and Administration; 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 (previous); Sociology of Development Section of the American Sociological Association (previous)

Teaching Experience

UCLA
Teaching Assistant

Totals: 7 classes | 10 quarter-terms = ~ 2,000 hours | average student evaluation score = **9.18/10**

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

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 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 (2024 – Present)

2026 "Instability of Domination: Economic Sanctions, Mass Labor Protest, and Authoritarian Resilience in Iran," *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference*, New York City, August 11

2026 "New Approaches to the Study of Social Protest and Conflict in Iran," *Princeton Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies*, March 26

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 "War and Worker Power", (panel co-organizer), *7th Conference of the International Association of Strikes and Social Conflict*, Washington DC, September 6

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

Select Public Writings (2022 – Present)

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 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.

2022 "Why Won't the Workers of Iran Unite," *Foreign Policy*, November 3, with Esfandyar Batmanghelidj. Link.

Technical and Language Skills

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

Software & Programming Languages: R, Stata, Python, LaTeX