

## Siavash Samei

Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MENA)  
The College of Wooster  
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### EDUCATION

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University of Connecticut Storrs, CT  
Ph.D., Anthropology May, 2019

- Research Interests: highland adaptations, pastoralism, mobility and migration, social complexity, origins of agriculture, behavioral ecology, zooarchaeology, stable isotopes, Chalcolithic, Bronze Age, Caucasus, Iranian Plateau
- Dissertation: *Herding in the Highlands: Pastoralism and the Making of the Kura-Araxes Cultural Tradition*

M.A., Anthropology December, 2012  
University of Georgia Athens, GA  
B.A. *magna cum laude*, Anthropology May, 2008

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

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2020– Visiting Assistant Professor; Department of Sociology and Anthropology; The College of Wooster; Wooster, OH.  
2019–2020 Postdoctoral Fellow; Humanities Institute; University of Connecticut; Storrs, CT.  
2017 Adjunct Professor; Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Southern Connecticut State University; New Haven, CT.  
2010–2019 Graduate Assistant; University of Connecticut, Department of Anthropology; Storrs, CT.

### PUBLICATIONS

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Accpt. **Samei, S.**, and D. Olszewski. Zooarchaeological investigation of Late Pleistocene subsistence adaptations in the Zagros highlands. In *The Pleistocene Archaeology of the Iranian Plateau and the Caucasus*, eds. Biglari, F., S. Shidrang, and M. Mashkour. Springer Nature, Interdisciplinary Contributions to Archaeology Series. \* Projected publication date: Summer–Autumn 2021.

Accpt. Batiuk, S., R., Hovsepyan, R., **Samei, S.**, and R. Rothman. Unravelling the Kura-Araxes tradition across space and time. *Ancient Near Eastern Studies*.

2020 **Samei, S.**, Hovhannisyan, N., and B. Gasparyan. Economic and symbolic role of animals during the Late Chalcolithic period of Areni-1 Cave, Armenia. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 33: 102524.

2020 **Samei, S.**, and K. Alizadeh. A zooarchaeological perspective on the organization of craft production at the Kura-Araxes settlement of Köhne Shahar, northwestern Iran. Targeted journal: *PLOS ONE* 15(3): e0229339.

2019 **Samei, S.**, Alizadeh, K., and N. Munro. Herd management and provisioning strategies at the Kura-Araxes settlement of Köhne Shahar, northwestern Iran. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 55: 1–24.

2018 Alizadeh, K., **Samei, S.**, Mohammadkhani, K., and R. Tykot. Craft production and political power at Köhne Shahar, a Kura-Araxes settlement in the Iranian Azerbaijan. *Journal of Anthropological*

*Archaeology* 51: 127–143.

- 2016 **Samei, S.**, Munro, N., al-Nahar, M., and D. Olszewski. Differential bone preservation and human foraging at the Early Epipaleolithic site of Tor at-Tareeq (WHS1065) in the western highlands of Jordan. *Quaternary International* 396: 52–61.
- 2016 Munro, N.D., Kennerty, M., Meier, J.S., **Samei, S.**, al-Nahar, M., and D.I. Olszewski. Human hunting and site occupation intensity in the Early Epipaleolithic of the Jordanian western highlands. *Quaternary International* 396: 31–39.
- 2014 Alizadeh, K., Eghbal, H., and **S. Samei**. Approaches to social complexity in Kura-Araxes Culture: a view from Köhne Shahar (Ravaz) in Chaldran, Iranian Azerbaijan. *Paléorient* 41(1): 37–54.

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#### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER PREPARATION

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- **Samei, S.** *Our Pastoral Past: Modeling Diversity in Prehistoric Animal Economies in the Near Eastern Highlands* (Book Manuscript).
- **Samei, S.** Egalitarian or heterarchical: the state of theoretical confusion in Near Eastern archaeology. Targeted journal: *Archaeological Method and Theory*.
- **Samei, S.** The behavioral ecology of pastoralism: an archeological approach. Targeted journal: *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*.
- **Samei, S.** Bone tool technology of the Early Bronze Age settlement of Köhne Shahar, northwestern Iran. Targeted journal: *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*.
- **Samei, S.**, Alizadeh K., Munro, N., and G. Hartman. Stable oxygen ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) and carbon ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) isotope analysis of herd management strategies at the Kura-Araxes settlement of Köhne Shahar, northwestern Iran. Targeted journal: *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*.
- Sanders, A., and **S. Samei**. Modeling Kura-Araxes migrations using landscape and zooarchaeology analyses. Targeted journal: *Journal of Archaeology Science*.

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#### CONFERENCE SESSIONS ORGANIZED

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- 2022 *Three Decades of Collaborative Archaeology in the South Caucasus: in Honor of Karen Rubinson*. Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, CA. Co-organizers: Megan Cifarelli, Manhattanville College.
- 2018 *In the Service of the Greater Good: Broader Applications of Zooarchaeology in the Era of Interdisciplinary Research*. Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Washington, DC. Sponsor: the Zooarchaeology Interest Group.

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#### INVITED WORKSHOPS PARTICIPATION

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- 2017 *People of the Hills: Special Symposium on the Prehistoric Kura-Araxes Cultural Tradition*. The Archaeology Centre, University of Toronto, March 6–12, ON, Canada. Sponsor: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; organizers: Stephen Batiuk, Mitchell Rothman.

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#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2021 Mutin, B., **Samei, S.**, Ashari, S., and O. Garazhian. “Human-Animal Interactions at the Aceramic Neolithic Site of Tell-e Atashi, Southern Lut Desert, Iran.” \* Paper to be presented at the *Annual Meeting of ASOR*, Chicago, IL.
- 2021 **Samei, S.**, Gasprayan, B., and A. Kandel. “In Life and in Death: Cultural and Taphonomic Investigation of Animal Remains from the Classical Period Ceremonial Complex of Aghitu-3 Cave, Armenia.” \* Paper to be presented at the *Annual Meeting of ASOR*, Chicago, IL.
- 2020 **Samei, S.**, Gasprayan, B., and A. Kandel. “Zooarchaeological Investigation of the Late Hellenistic Period at Aghitu-3 Cave, Armenia.” Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of ASOR*. [Virtual]

- 2019 **Samei, S.**, and A. Gyonjyan. “Animal Economies of the South Caucasus from the Neolithic period to the end of the Early Bronze Age.” \* Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society for Oriental Research*, San Diego, CA.
- 2019 **Samei, S.**, Munro, N., and G. Hartman. “Zooarchaeological and Stable Oxygen ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) Isotope Analyses of Herd Management Strategies at the Early Bronze Age Kura-Araxes Settlement of Köhne Shahar in Northwestern Iran.” \* Paper to be presented at the *International Meeting of the Archaeozoology of Southwest Asia and Adjacent Areas*, Barcelona.
- 2017 **Samei, S.**, Olszewski, D., and N. Munro. “Zooarchaeological Investigation of Late Pleistocene Subsistence Adaptations in Iran.” Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology*, Vancouver, BC.
- 2016 **Samei, S.**, and K. Alizadeh. “Three Seasons of Excavations at the Kura-Araxes Early Bronze Age Site.” Tehran, Iran. Paper presented at the *Annual National Symposium on Iranian Archaeology*, Tehran, Iran, 2016. \* Paper delivered in Persian.
- 2015 K. Alizadeh., and **S. Samei**. “Craft Production and Specialization in the Transcaucasian Early Bronze Age: A View from Köhne Shahar, NW Iran.” Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology*, San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 **Samei, S.**, Alizadeh, K., and H. Eqbal. “A Quantitative Zooarchaeological Approach to Exploring Craft Specialization at the Early Bronze Age Site of Köhne Shahar in Northwestern Iran.” Paper presented at the *Meeting of the International Council of Archaeozoology*, San Rafael, Argentina.
- 2014 Munro, N., Kennerty, M., Meier, J., and **S. Samei**. “Human Hunting and Landscape Use in the Jordanian Eastern Eastern Highlands during the Epipaleolithic.” Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology*, Austin, TX.
- 2014 **Samei, S.**, Munro, N., Kennerty, M., al-Nahar, Maysoon, and D. Olszewski. “Taphonomic and Zooarchaeological Analysis of the Early Epipaleolithic Site of Tor at Tareeq (WHS-1065), Jordan.” Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology*, Austin, TX.
- 2013 **Samei, S.**, Alizadeh, K., and H. Eqbal. “Zooarchaeological Analyses from the Kura- Araxes Site of Köhne Shahar (Ravaz) in Northwestern Iran: A Preliminary Assessment of Social Complexity.” Poster presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society for Oriental Research*, Baltimore, MD.

## GRANTS & FUNDING

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- 2017 University of Connecticut, Anthropology Department, Dissertation Fellowship; \$16,000
- 2016 University of Connecticut, Graduate School, Dissertation Writing Fellowship; \$1000
- 2015 National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant; \$17,060
- 2014 American Research Institute of the South Caucasus, Junior Research Fellowship; \* alternate
- 2014 Norian Foundation, funds for field research; \$3290
- 2012 University of Connecticut, Summer Research Fellowship; \$3400
- 2011 University of Connecticut, Summer Research Fellowship; \$4480

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

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- 2014 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Travel Award, University of Connecticut; \$850
- 2009 Center for Arabic Study Abroad, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University; Summer Fellow at the American University in Cairo. \*Egyptian entry visa was denied.
- 2008 Most Outstanding Undergraduate Paper Award, Joint Meeting of the Georgia and Florida Academies of Science; Jacksonville, FL; \$110
- 2007 Eugene Freeman Jr. Memorial Scholarship, University of Georgia, Athens, GA; \$1200
- 2005–2008 Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) Scholarship; \$4,750 per year

## ZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

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*Armenia; Aghitu-3 Cave, Upper Paleolithic, Iron Age, Hellenistic (projected start date: summer 2020)*

**Tasks:** faunal specialist; recoding and analysis of the Hellenistic faunal remains from tombs, pits, and domestic contexts. **Site directors:** Boris Gasparyan (National Academy of Sciences, Armenia); Andrew Kandel (University of Tübingen, Germany).

*Iran; Tepe Hasanlu, Neolithic–Late Bronze Age (projected start date: 2021)*

**Tasks:** co-faunal specialist; recoding and of faunal remains from the Neolithic period (Level X) to the Late Bronze Age (Level V); the collection is being curated at the Penn Museum, Philadelphia.

**Collaborator:** Pam Crabtree (Institute for the Study of the Ancient Worlds; New York University).

*Iran; Köhne Shabar, Early Bronze Age fortification (2011–2018)*

**Tasks:** excavation supervisor and faunal specialist; recording and analysis of faunal remains from all occupations; collection and processing of tooth and bone specimens for stable carbon and isotope analyses; modern environmental sampling to establish isotopic baseline. **Site director:** Karim Alizadeh (Grand Valley State University, USA).

*Armenia; Areni-1, Neolithic–Medieval cave (2013–2018)*

**Tasks:** faunal specialist; recording and analysis of faunal remains from all occupations. **Site directors:** Boris Gasparyan (National Academy of Sciences, Armenia); Gregory Areshian (American University of Armenia); Ron Pinhasi (University College Dublin, Ireland).

*Jordan; Western Highlands Early Epipaleolithic Project (2011–2016)*

**Tasks:** excavation supervisor and junior faunal specialist; data collection from three Epipaleolithic and Upper Paleolithic sites in Petra and Wadi Hasa; analysis of fauna from Epipaleolithic WHS-1065. **Site directors:** Deborah Olszewski (University of Pennsylvania, USA); Maysoun al-Nahar (University of Jordan, Amman).

*United States, South Carolina; Stono Rice Plantation, Antebellum Period (2007–2009)*

**Task:** junior faunal specialist; recording and analysis of faunal remains from slave habitation quarters; comparison of data with other rice, cotton, and tobacco plantations in the South. **Site directors:** Martha Zierden (Charleston Museum, USA); Ron Anthony (College of Charleston, USA).

## TEACHING & INSTRUCTION

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2020–2021      The College of Wooster  
ANTH 110, *Introduction to Anthropology*  
ANTH 210, *Physical Anthropology*  
ARCH 103, *Introduction to Archaeology*  
ARCH 219, *Archaeology of the Ancient Near East*  
ARCH 219, *Fundamentals of Zooarchaeology*

2010–2019      University of Connecticut  
ANTH 1000(W), *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology* (Primary Instructor, writing intensive)  
ANTH 1006, *Introduction to Anthropology* (Teaching Assistant, including Honors)  
ANTH 1500, *Great Discoveries in Archaeology* (Teaching Assistant)  
ANTH 3002, *Culture, Language, and Thought* (Teaching Assistant)

Student Evaluations of Teaching as Primary Instructor at the University of Connecticut (2013–2019):  
Instructor Median: 4.9/5.0; Anthropology Department: Median 4.4/5.0; University Median: 4.2/5.0  
Recognition of Excellence; Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, University of Connecticut (2016)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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- Co-Chair, Zooarchaeology Interest Group, Society for American Archaeology (2017–2018)
- Student Association for Archaeological Sciences; University of Georgia, Athens, GA (2006–2007)
- Student member, Center for Archaeological Sciences Executive Board; University of Georgia, Athens, GA (2006–2007)

## **UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES**

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- *The College of Wooster*  
Archaeology Program curriculum committee (2020–)  
Middle Eastern and North African Studies curriculum committee (2021–)
- *University of Connecticut, Anthropology Department*  
Department website administrator (2017–2018)  
Annual Experimental Archaeology Animal Roast; founder and organizer (2012–2016)

## **SKILLS**

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- Proficient in: ArcGIS, Adobe Creative Cloud, HTML, Microsoft Office
- Languages: Persian (native), English (fluent), French and Arabic (conversation and reading)

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**

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American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC), American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), International Council of Archaeozoology (ICAZ), Society for American Archaeology (SAA), Society for Iranian Archaeology (SIA)

## **SELECTED GRADUATE COURSE WORK**

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Advanced GIS for Remote Sensing and Geoscience Applications, Behavioral Ecology, Paleoclimate Reconstruction, Analytical Methods in Archaeology, Archaeobotany, Archaeological Theory, Human Evolutionary Theory, Human Osteology, Lithics, Site Formation Processes, Stable Isotopes