

Siavash Samei

Pronouns: he/him/his

Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Archaeology & Middle Eastern and North African Studies Programs
The College of Wooster
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EDUCATION

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

- Research Interests: zooarchaeology, stable isotopes, pastoralism, foraging adaptations, migration, highland ecosystems, social complexity, origins of agriculture, behavioral ecology, Upper Paleolithic, Neolithic–Bronze Age, West Asia, Paleoindian–Late Prehistoric, North America
- 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

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

In Press **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.

Accepted Batiuk, S., R., Hovsepian, R., **Samei, S.**, and R. Rothman. Unravelling the Kura-Araxes tradition across space and time. *Ancient Near Eastern Studies*. Publication date: Spring 2022.

2020 **Samei, S.**, Hovhannisyan, N., and B. Gasparian. 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., and **S. Samei**. 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.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER PREPARATION

- **Samei, S.** *Our Pastoral Past: The Evolution of Animal Economies in the Near Eastern Highlands* [Book proposal for Cambridge University Press]
- **Samei, S.** Modeling variability in the organization of pastoral economies in the ancient Near East using behavioral ecology. [Edited volume contribution]
- **Samei, S.** Animal management and Kura-Araxes origins and migrations 4500–2200 BCE. *Aramazd: Armenian Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. Publication date: Spring 2022. [Article for a special issue in honor of Ruben Badalyan].
- Fu, J., and **S. Samei**. Bone tool from the Early Bronze Age settlement of Köhne Shahar, Iran. [Article]
- **Samei, S.** An archaeological approach to the behavioral ecology of pastoralism. [Article]
- **Samei, S.**, Munro, N., Alizadeh K., and G. Hartman. Animal economy in the Early Bronze Age southern Caucasus: Stable oxygen and carbon isotope analyses of animal remains from the Kura-Araxes settlement of Köhne Shahar, northwestern Iran. [Article]
- **Samei, S.**, Mutin, B., Ashari, S., and O. Garazhian. Early Neolithic animal economy of Tell-e Atashi, Southern Lut Desert. [Article]

CONFERENCE SESSIONS ORGANIZED

- 2023 *Advances in Archaeological Studies of Pastoral Societies in Ancient Near East*. Annual Meeting of the American Society for Overseas Research (ASOR). Co-organized with Laurel A. Poolman, Johns Hopkins University.
- 2023 *Three Decades of Collaborative Archaeology in the South Caucasus: Papers in Honor of Karen Rubinson*. Annual Meeting of the American Society for Overseas Research (ASOR). Co-organized with 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.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & SYMPOSIA (* invited speaker)

- 2022 * **Samei, S.** “Behavioral ecology and modeling herd mobility in the Near Eastern highlands.” *Human Movement and Mobility in High Landscape Environments*. Virtual conference, April 27–29. Sponsor: The Iranian Highlands: Resilience and Integration in Pre-modern Societies Program DGF-SPP 2176; organizers: Sepideh Maziar, Saman Heydari Guran, and Barbara Helwing.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 ASOR*, San Diego.
- 2019 **Samei, S.**, Munro, N., and G. Hartman. “Zooarchaeological and Stable Oxygen ($\delta^{18}O$) 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.** “Kura-Araxes animal economies.” *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.
- 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 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, Maysoun, 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 ASOR*, Baltimore, MD.

INVITED GUEST SPEAKER

- 2022 **Samei, S.** “Science of burial: what our treatment of remains tells us about ourselves.” Science Café Series; sponsored by The College of Wooster and The Ohio State University. March 17, 2022.
- 2022 **Samei, S.** “Neolithization, migration, and the origins of agriculture on the Iranian Plateau.” Explorations in Archaeology Speaker Series. University of Kansas. April 20, 2022.
- 2020 **Samei, S.** “Academia’s blind spots: progressivism, post-colonial discourse, and representation in archaeology.” The College of Wooster Geology Club. September 17, 2020.
- 2020 **Samei, S.** “Animal domestication.” ANTH 1006 – Introduction to Anthropology, University of Connecticut. July 26, 2020.
- 2017 **Samei, S.** “Zooarchaeology in practice.” ARCH 1005 – Introduction to Archaeology, University of Connecticut. October 19, 2017.

GRANTS & FUNDING

2021	The College of Wooster Faculty Development Fund; \$1500.
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

2016	Recognition of Excellence in Teaching; Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, University of Connecticut
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

TEACHING & INSTRUCTION

The College of Wooster (2020–2021):

ANTH 110, Introduction to Anthropology (four field)
ANTH 210, Physical Anthropology
ARCH 103, Introduction to Archaeology
ARCH 219, Archaeology of the Ancient Near East
ARCH 219, Fundamentals of Zooarchaeology

Student Evaluations of Teaching

Median ratings for Spring 2021	quality of instruction: 4.7/5.0	overall courses: 4.4/5.0
Median rating for Fall 2020	quality of instruction: 4.7/5.0	overall courses: 4.7/5.0

University of Connecticut (2010–2019):

ANTH 1000(W), Peoples and Cultures of the World (writing intensive) – Primary Instructor
ANTH 1006, Introduction to Anthropology (four field) – TA, including Honors
ANTH 1500, Great Discoveries in Archaeology – TA
ANTH 3002, Culture, Language, and Thought – TA

Student Evaluations of Teaching as Primary Instructor (2013–2019)

Instructor Median: 4.9/5.0	Dept. Median: 4.4/5.0	Univ. Median: 4.2/5.0
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MENTORSHIP & ADVISING

The College of Wooster (2020–2021):

Select Undergraduate Theses Supervised (tentative titles for ongoing projects)*

Anabelle Andersen “A Troglodytic World: The City of Derinkuyu’s Testament to Subterrestrial Motives in Cappadocia, Turkey” (Archaeology)

- * Anna Russell “Queering the Body: A Study of the Female Body in Mayan Iconography” (Archaeology)
- Benton Thompson “Roman Villa Narratives and Current Archaeological Findings” (Archaeology)
- César Oswaldo Lopez “Reconstructing Home and Family: An Analysis of the Family Life Experiences of Queer Central Americans Living in the United States” (Sociology)
- Christine Weber “The Tel Kabri Wall and Floor Paintings: Microcosms of Mediterranean Middle Bronze Age Trade and Representations of a Canaanite Palatial Economy” (Archaeology & Art History) – Co-Supervised with Kara Morrow, The College of Wooster.
- * Junpeng Fu “Bone Tool Technologies and the Industrial Economies of Kura-Araxes Communities” (Archaeology)
- Perry Worthey “The Global Ramifications of the Black Lives Matter Movement” (Anthropology)
- * Shelby Jones “Fat and Queer? Rethinking Narratives of the ‘Venus’ of Willendorf.” (Anthropology)

Sophomore Research Assistants (SRA)

- James Van Beever (1 semester): curation and management of the Archaeology Lab’s comparative skeletal collection
- Olivia Frison de Angelis (2 semesters): curation and management of the Archaeology Lab’s comparative skeletal collection, data management, and literature review search for a paper on human hunting of European bison in the Late Pleistocene

Stable Isotope Preparation Laboratory, University of Connecticut (2016–2019):

Undergraduate lab assistants

- Alex Lozano (2 semesters): collecting and preparing tooth enamel samples from the EBA site of Köhne Shahar for stable isotope analysis
- Preston Senderoff (1 semester): collecting and preparing tooth enamel samples from the EBA site of Köhne Shahar for stable isotope analysis

MA Thesis Committees (2020–):

- Arazik Baburyan “Herd Mobility and Management Strategies at the Bronze Age Site of Qal’e Bala, Bijar, Iran.” Department of Archaeology, Shaheed Beheshti University, Iran. [Original in Persian]
- Saeedeh Ashari “Investigation, Classification, and Taxonomy of Animal Remains from the Bronze Age Site of Qal’e Bala, Bijar, Iran. Department of Archaeology, University of Tehran, Iran. [Original in Persian]

MAJOR ZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Teppe Hasanlu; Iran; material curated at the Penn Museum, Philadelphia (projected start date: Spring 2023)

Co-faunal specialist; recording and analysis of faunal remains from the Neolithic period (Level X) to the Late Bronze Age (Level V) periods of the Hasanlu. Collaborator: Pam Crabtree (Institute for the Study of the Ancient Worlds; New York University, USA).

Human Evolution in the Zagros Mountains (2021–)

Senior faunal specialist; recording and analysis of faunal remains from several Middle, Upper, and Epipaleolithic caves and rock shelters in Iran. Project director: Saman Heydari Guran (Neanderthal Museum, Germany).

Aghitu-3 Cave; Armenia (2020–)

Senior faunal specialist; recording and analysis of faunal remains from the Upper Paleolithic sequences outside the cave as well as tombs and pits associated with the Byzantine period. Project directors: Andrew Kandel (University of Tübingen, Germany) and Boris Gasparyan (National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia).

Mission Archéologique Franco-Iranienne en Iran du Sud-Est (2020–)

Senior faunal specialist; recording and analysis of faunal remains from the Aceramic Neolithic site of Tell-e Atashi. Project directors: Ben Mutin (Harvard University) and Omran Garazhian (Neyshabur University).

Areni-1 Cave; Armenia (2013–2019)

Faunal specialist; recording and analysis of faunal remains from Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Medieval periods excavated between 2013 and 2017 and being curated at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia. Project director: Boris Gasparyan (National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia).

Köhne Shabar; Iran (2012–2016)

Faunal specialist; Early Bronze Age fortified settlement. Project director: Karim Alizadeh (Grand Valley State University).

Western Highlands Early Epipaleolithic Project; Jordan – WHEEP (2011–2012)

Junior faunal specialist; recording and analysis of faunal remains from the Epipaleolithic open-air site of WHS 1065. Project directors: Deborah Olszewski (University of Pennsylvania, USA) and Maysoun al-Nahar (University of Jordan, Amman).

Stono Plantation; Charleston, South Carolina, USA (2007–2009)

Junior faunal specialist; recording and analysis of faunal remains from midden deposits associated with the living quarters of the enslaved people on the plantation. Project directors: Martha Zierden (Charleston Museum, USA) and Ron Anthony (College of Charleston, USA).

MAJOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EXPERIENCES & PROJECTS

Tübingen–American–Armenian Field School in Archaeology – TAAFSa (First Season Projected: Summer 2022)

Field school co-director; Upper Paleolithic and Byzantine periods of Aghitu-3 Cave. Co-directors: Andrew Kandel (Tübingen University) and Boris Gasparyan (National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia).

Cullison Site Excavations; Ohio, USA (Spring–Summer 2022)

Project co-direct; Late Prehistoric village site in Walhonding Valley, Coshocton County. Co-director: Nigel Brush (Ashland University).

Köhne Shabar Project; Iran (2012–2016)

Trench supervisor; Early Bronze Age fortified settlement. Project director: Karim Alizadeh (Grand Valley State University).

Western Highlands Early Epipaleolithic Project; Jordan – WHEEP (2011–2012)

Trench supervisor; Upper Paleolithic rockshelter of Wadi Madammagh (Summer 2011) and Epipaleolithic open-air site of WHS 1065 (Summer 2012). Project directors: Deborah Olszewski (University of Pennsylvania, USA) and Maysoun al-Nahar (University of Jordan, Amman).

University of Georgia Archaeology Field School (2009)

Regional survey in the Savannah River Valley and the excavation of two Mississippian sites: Red Lake (9SN4) and Spring Lake (9SN215) in Screven County, Georgia. Project director: Malcom Jared Wood (Georgia Southern University, USA).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 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 SERVICE

The College of Wooster:

Archaeology Program curriculum committee (2020–)
Archaeology Student Colloquium faculty supervisor (2021–)
DEI in the Field Workshops, co-organizer (2022–)
Middle Eastern and North African Studies Program curriculum committee (2021–)

University of Connecticut:

Anthropology Department website administrator (2017–2018)
Annual Experimental Archaeology Animal Roast; organizer (2012–2016)
Graduate Employee Union - United Autoworkers Local 6950 (GEU-UAW)
Recording secretary (2018–2019)
Bargaining Committee member (2017–2018)
Organizing Committee member (2015–2018)

OTHER PROFICIENCIES

Proficient in: Adobe Creative Cloud, ArcGIS, AutoCAD, EDM Windows, Google Apps, HTML, Microsoft Office, MYSTAT, R, SPSS

Languages: Persian/Farsi (native), English (fluent), French and Arabic (conversation and reading), Armenian (reading)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

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

SELECTED GRADUATE COURSE WORK

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