

Siavash Samei

Sociology and Anthropology Department
Archaeology Program & Middle Eastern and North African Studies Program
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AREAS OF RESEARCH

Anthropological archaeology, evolution of foodways, human migrations, climate change, behavioral ecology, ecological modeling, faunal and isotopic analyses, Upper Paleolithic–Bronze Age, Caucasus, Iran
Environmental anthropology, ethnoarchaeology, pastoralists in the contemporary world, India

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020– Visiting Assistant Professor; Sociology and Anthropology Department; College of Wooster
2019–20 Postdoctoral Fellow; Humanities Institute; University of Connecticut
2017 Adjunct Professor; Sociology and Anthropology Department; Southern Connecticut State University
2010–19 Graduate Teaching Assistant; Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (2019) University of Connecticut, Department of Anthropology
Dissertation: *Herding in the Highlands: Pastoralism and the Making of the Kura-Araxes Cultural Tradition*
M.A. (2012) University of Connecticut, Department of Anthropology
B.A. (2008) University of Connecticut, Department of Anthropology; *magna cum laude*

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.

2022 Batiuk, S., Rothman, R., **Samei, S.**, and R. Hovsepyan. Unravelling the Kura-Araxes tradition across space and time. *Ancient Near Eastern Studies* 59: 1–202.

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., 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.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **Samei, S.**, Munro, N., Alizadeh K., and G. Hartman. Pastoralism and herd mobility in the Early Bronze Age Kura-Araxes cultural tradition: stable oxygen ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$) and carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) isotope analyses of animal remains from Köhne Shahar in northwestern Iran. [[Article manuscript submitted and under review](#)]
- **Samei, S.** *Our Pastoral Past: The Evolution of Animal Economies in the Near Eastern Highlands*. [Book manuscript]
- **Samei, S.** Behavioral ecology of the pastoral spectrum in the ancient Near East: a modeling approach. [Edited volume contribution]
- **Samei, S.** Zooarchaeology of human migrations and the making of Early Bronze Age Near Eastern Highlands 3500–2200 BCE. [Article]
- **Samei, S.**, Kandel A., and B. Gasparyan. A preliminary report on the 2022 field season at Aghitu-3 Cave in Armenia. [Article]
- **Samei, S.**, Mutin, B., Ashari, S., and O. Garazhian. Humans and animals at the Aceramic Neolithic site of Tell-e Atashi in southeastern Iran. [Article]
- Fu, J., and **S. Samei**. Morphology and microwear analyses of bone tools from Kura-Araxes Köhne Shahar. [Article]

CONFERENCE SESSIONS ORGANIZED

- 2022 “Advances in Archaeological Studies of Pastoralism in the Near East.” *American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR)* Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. Co-organizer: Laurel S. Poolman, Johns Hopkins University.
- 2022 “Over the Mountains, Through the Grass: Collaborative Archaeology in the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, Papers in Honor of Karen S. Rubinson.” *ASOR* Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. Co-organizer: Megan Cifarelli, Manhattanville College.
- 2018 “In the Service of the Greater Good: Broader Applications of Zooarchaeology in the Era of Interdisciplinary Research.” *SAA* Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. Sponsored by the Zooarchaeology Interest Group.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & SYMPOSIA (* by invitation)

- 2022 Mutin, B., Tengberg, M., Shirazi, Z., Shakuie, M., Juercke, F.K., **Samei, S.**, Ashari S., and O. Garazhian. “Current fieldwork in the souther Lut Desert region (south-eastern Iran) sheds new light on the Neolithic cultures in the Indo-Iranian borderlands. *25th meeting of the European Assoc. for South Asian Archaeology and Art*, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2022 * **Samei, S.** “Zooarchaeology, behavioral ecology, and modeling pastoral economies and mobilities in the Near Eastern highlands.” *Human Movement and Mobility in High Landscape Environments*. Sponsor: The Iranian Highlands: Resilience and Integration in Pre-modern Societies Program; organizers: Sepideh Maziar, Saman Heydari, and Barbara Helwing. April 27–29. [Virtual]

- 2021 **Samei, S.**, Gasprayan, B., and A. Kandel. “In Life and death: cultural and taphonomic investigation of animal remains from the Classical Period ceremonial complex of Aghitu-3 Cave Armenia.” *American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) Annual Meeting*, 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.” *ASOR Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL.
- 2020 **Samei, S.**, Gasprayan, B., and A. Kandel. “Zooarchaeological investigation of the Late Hellenistic period at Aghitu-3 Cave, Armenia.” *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.” *ASOR Annual Meeting*, 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.” *Archaeozoology of Southwest Asia and Adjacent Areas (ASWA) Quadrennial Meeting*, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2017 * **Samei, S.** “Kura-Araxes animal economies.” *People of the Hills: Special Symposium on the Prehistoric Kura-Araxes Cultural Tradition*. Sponsor: The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; organizers: Stephen Batiuk, Mitchell Rothman. March 6–12, Toronto, Canada.
- 2017 **Samei, S.**, Olszewski, D., and N. Munro. “Zooarchaeological investigation of Late Pleistocene subsistence adaptations in Iran.” *Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Annual Meeting*, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2016 **Samei, S.**, and K. Alizadeh. “Three seasons of excavations at the Kura-Araxes Early Bronze Age Site of Köhne Shahar.” Tehran, Iran. *National Symposium on Iranian Archaeology*, Tehran, Iran
- 2015 Alizadeh, K., and **S. Samei**. “Craft production and specialization in the Transcaucasian Early Bronze Age: a view from Köhne Shahar, NW Iran.” *SAA Annual Meeting*, 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.” *International Council of Archaeozoology, (ICAZ) Quadrennial Meeting* 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.” *SAA Annual Meeting*, Austin, TX.
- 2014 **Samei, S.**, Munro, N., Kennerty, M., al-Nahar, M., and D. Olszewski. “Taphonomic and zooarchaeological analysis of the Early Epipaleolithic site of Tor at Tareeq (WHS-1065), Jordan.” *SAA Annual Meeting*, 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.” *ASOR Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, MD [Poster].

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 1, 2022.
- 2022 **Samei, S.** “Whose stories shape our histories? Pastoralism, mountainous societies, and the making of Bronze Age Near East at the time of urban revolution.” 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

2022	The College of Wooster Faculty Development Fund; \$4000
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. (declined)
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
2005–08	Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) Scholarship; \$4,750 per year

TEACHING & INSTRUCTION

The College of Wooster (2020–)

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

<i>Median Ratings of Student Evaluations of Teaching</i>	<i>Quality of Instruction</i>	<i>Quality of Courses</i>
2020–21 Academic Year (5 courses)	5.0/5.0	4.9/5.0
2021–22 Academic Year (4 courses)	5.0/5.0	4.9/5.0

University of Connecticut (2010–19)

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 Department Median: 4.4/5.0 University Median: 4.2/5.0

MENTORSHIP & ADVISING

The College of Wooster (2020–)

Select Undergraduate Theses Supervised

- Alyssa Henss “The Role of Food in the Post-Emancipation Black Community” (Archaeology)

- Anna Russell “Dissecting Gender Dichotomies: Women in Classic Maya Polychrome Production” (Archaeology)
- Benton Thompson “A Digital Solution to Partage: A Case Study of the College of Wooster’s Pella Collection” (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.
- Olivia Frison De Angelis “Understanding Indigenous Wellness Ontologies with Medical Archaeology in Pre-Columbian Peru” (Archaeology)
- Shelby Jones “PaleoliTHICC: Understanding the Woman of Willendorf Figurine through Contemporary Fat Studies.” (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

Undergraduate Course Design Assistants

- Nivedita Rathaur: Assisted with developing in-class activities and group projects for ANTH 210 Physical Anthropology, researched and assisted with the selection of assigned readings for the class

University of Connecticut (2016–2019)

Undergraduate lab assistants

- Alex Lozano (2 semesters) and 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 Babuyan “Herd Mobility and Management Strategies at the Bronze Age Site of Qal’e Bala, Bijar, Iran.” Archaeology Department, 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. Archaeology Department, Tehran University, Iran. [Original in Persian]

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2022– Co-Director (with S. Shekhwat, Rajasthan University); Archaeological Ethnography of Pastoralism in Rajasthan, India.
Ethnographic and contemporary archaeological studies of Gurjar and Rabari herding communities in the Aravalli Mountains of Rajasthan (IRB Protocol #2022/05/3).
- 2021– Co-Director (with A.Kandel, Tübingen University and B. Gasparian, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia); TAAPP: Tübingen–Armenian–American Paleolithic Project.
Excavation at Upper Paleolithic and Middle Classical Aghitu-3 Cave, Armenia.
- 2020– Senior-Faunal Analyst (with S. Ashari, Tehran University) HEZM: Human Evolution in the Zagros Mountains
Analysis focuses on three Middle, Upper, and Epipaleolithic caves and rock shelters in western Iran. Project director: S. Heydari Guran (Neanderthal Museum).

- 2020– Senior Faunal Analyst; Mission Archéologique Franco-Iranienne en Iran du Sud-Est
Analysis focuses on the Aceramic Neolithic site of Tell-e Atashi. Project directors: B. Mutin (Harvard University) and O. Garazhian (Neyshabur University).
- 2013–19 Faunal Analyst; Areni-1 Cave, Armenia.
Analysis focused on Chalcolithic, and Medieval sequences. Project directors: B. Gasparian (National Academy of Sciences of Armenia); G. Areshian (UCLA), R. Pinhasi (University College Dublin), and K. Wilkinson (University of Winchester).
- 2012–16 Site Supervisor and Faunal Analyst; Archaeological Excavations at Köhne Shahar, Iran.
Excavation and analysis of fauna at an Early Bronze Age site in northwestern Iran. Project director: K. Alizadeh (Grand Valley State University).
- 2011–12 Site Supervisor and Junior Faunal Analyst (with N. Munro, University of Connecticut); WHEEP: Western Highlands Early Epipaleolithic Project, Jordan
Analysis focused on Upper Paleolithic Wadi Madammagh rockshelter and Epipaleolithic WHS-1065. Project directors: D. Olszewski (University of Pennsylvania) and M. al-Nahar (University of Jordan).
- 2007–09 Junior Faunal Analyst (with B. Reitz, University of Georgia); Stono Plantation, Charleston, SC
Analysis focused on fauna from middens of the enslaved residents' living quarters. Project directors: M. Zierden (Charleston Museum) and R. Anthony (College of Charleston).
- 2009 Student, University of Georgia Archaeology Field School
Excavation of Mississippian sites of Red Lake (9SN4) and Spring Lake (9SN215) in Screven County, Georgia. Project director: M.J. Wood (Georgia Southern University).

DEPARTMENTAL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2022– Co-organizer; DEI in the Field Workshops, The College of Wooster
- 2020– Member; Archaeology Program curriculum committee; The College of Wooster
- 2021–22 Supervisor; Archaeology Student Colloquium; The College of Wooster
- 2017–18 Website administrator; Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut
- 2017–18 Co-Chair, Zooarchaeology Interest Group, Society for American Archaeology
- 2012–16 Co-organizer; Annual Experimental Archaeology Animal Roast, University of Connecticut
- 2006–07 President; Student Association for Archaeological Sciences; University of Georgia
- 2006–07 Student member; Center for Archaeological Sciences Executive Board; University of Georgia

OTHER PROFICIENCIES

Adobe Creative Cloud, ArcGIS, AutoCAD, EDM Windows, Google Apps, HTML, Microsoft Office, SPSS
Languages: Persian (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)

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