

## Siavash Samei

Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Archaeology Program  
Middle Eastern and North African Studies Program  
The College of Wooster  
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### AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST

Archaeological and environmental anthropology, zooarchaeology, ethnoarchaeology, evolution of foodways, human migrations, climate change, foraging and herding economies, ecological modeling, stable isotopes, pastoralists in the contemporary world, Upper Paleolithic–Bronze Age, West Asia, Caucasus, Iran, Levant, South Asia, India

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### 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

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### 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*

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### 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. Hovsepian. Unravelling the Kura-Araxes tradition across space and time. *Ancient Near Eastern Studies* 59: 1–202.
- 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. *PLOS ONE* 15(3): e0229339.
- 2019 **Samei, S.**, Alizadeh, K., and N. Munro. Herd management and provisioning strategies at Kura-Araxes settlement of Köhne Shahar, NW 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* (1): 37–54.

### SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS

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- **Samei, S.**, Munro, N., Alizadeh K., and G. Hartman. Pastoralism in the Early Bronze Age Kura-Araxes cultural tradition: stable oxygen ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) and carbon ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) isotope analyses of herd mobility at the Köhne Shahar in northwestern Iran. [Article, under review]
- **Samei, S.** Toward an ideal herd mobility framework: ecological modeling of the pastoral spectrum in the ancient Near East using faunal remains. [Edited volume contribution]

### WORKS IN PROGRESS (\* current students)

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- **Samei, S.** *Climate Change, Migration, and Food Production: The Evolution of Animal Economies in the Highlands of West Asia*. [Book]
- **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]
- **Samei, S.** and J. Fu.\* Bone tools from the Early Bronze Age settlement of Köhne Shahar, Iran. [Article]

### EDITED SPECIAL ISSUES

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- 2024 “Pastoral Mobilities in the Archaeological Record,” special issue for the *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*. Co-edited with L.A. Poolman. [Initial proposal accepted by *JAMT*’s chief co-editors.]

### CONFERENCE SESSIONS ORGANIZED

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- 2022 “Methodological and Theoretical Advances in Archaeological Studies of Pastoral Mobilities in the Near East.” *American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR)* Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. Co-organizer: Laurel A. Poolman, Johns Hopkins
- 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)

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- 2023 **Samei, S.**, and S. Shekhwat. “Ethnoarchaeology of the pastoral economies in the Aravalli Mountains of Rajasthan, India: preliminary findings.” [Abstracted to be submitted to the *Society for Applied Anthropology* Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH.]
- 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. *25<sup>th</sup> 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.” *ASOR Annual Meeting*. [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 & PUBLIC SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS**

- 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.

### RESEARCH FUNDING

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- 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

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- 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

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#### The College of Wooster (2020–)

ANTH 110, Introduction to Anthropology (four field)  
 ANTH 210, Physical Anthropology  
 ARCH 103, Introduction to Archaeology  
 ARCH 21908, Archaeology of the Ancient Near East  
 ARCH 21909, Fundamentals of Zooarchaeology  
 ARCH 350, Archaeological Method and Theory

<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)	4.9/5.0	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 (2013–19)*

Instructor Median: 4.9/5.0      Department Median: 4.4/5.0      University Median: 4.2/5.0



## MENTORSHIP & ADVISING

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### The College of Wooster (2020–)

#### *Select Undergraduate Theses Supervised*

- Alyssa Henss “The Role of Food in the Post-Emancipation Black Community” (Archaeology)
- Benton Thompson “A Digital Solution to Partage: A Case Study of the College of Wooster’s Pella Collection” (Archaeology) [links to the open-access virtual museum: [www.bit.ly/WoosterPella](http://www.bit.ly/WoosterPella)]
- 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.
- Nic Kennady “Living in Unprecedented Times: An Archaeological Comparison of the 1918 Influenza and COVID-19 Pandemics in the United States” (Archaeology)
- 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 (2016–19)

#### *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

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- 2022– Field co-director (with S. Shekhwat, Rajasthan University); Archaeological Ethnography of Pastoralism in Rajasthan, India.  
Ethnographic and contemporary archaeological studies of Gujjar and Rabari herding communities in the Aravalli Mountains of Rajasthan (IRB Protocol #2022/05/3).

- 2022– Co-principle investigator (with B. Derderian and M. Wardle, The College of Wooster): Pella @ Wooster: Reimagining Access to Archaeological and Museum Collections (P@W).  
Public-facing project with the mission of shedding light on the political and material history of The College of Wooster-funded excavations at Pella, Jordan, and increasing accessibility to the Wooster Art Museum’s legacy collection from Pella.
- 2021– Field 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-Irarienne 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).
- 2013–18 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).
- 2012–17 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**

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- 2023 Co-organizer; DEI in the Field Workshop, The College of Wooster
- 2022– Co-organizer; BIPOC Faculty and Employee Caucus, The College of Wooster
- 2020– Member; Archaeology Program curriculum committee, College of Wooster
- 2020– Member; Middle Eastern and North African Studies 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

### **OTHER PROFICIENCIES**

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Adobe Creative Cloud, ArcGIS, AutoCAD, EDM Windows, Google Apps, HTML, Microsoft Office, SPSS  
Languages: Persian (native language), English (fluent), French and Arabic (intermediate), Armenian (beginner)

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**

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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 Applied Anthropology (SFAA), 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

