

Keenan Wilder
Curriculum vitae
Keenan_wilder@brown.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, Brown University, 2025

M.A. Near Eastern Studies, New York University, 2015

B.A. History and Political Science, University of New Mexico, 2012
Summa cum laude

RESEARCH

Areas of Interest

Political and Comparative Historical Sociology, Sociology of Empire, Labor, Social Movements, Social Inequality, Hiring Processes, The Middle East and North Africa, Archival and Mixed Methods

Publications

2023: “Getting a Worker: Recruiters, Culture, and On-the-Job Skilling.” *Sociological Forum* 38(2):532-52.

2015: “The origins of labour autonomy in authoritarian Tunisia.” *Contemporary Social Science* 10(4):349-63.

Under Review

“Workers, Oil, and Autocracy in Bahrain” revise and resubmit at *Socio-Economic Review*.

“Colony and Class Struggle: Unionization and Empire in Egypt and Tunisia” revise and resubmit at *Theory and Social Inquiry*.

* Winner, Mayer N. Zald Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Student Paper Award – ASA section on Collective Behavior & Social Movements.

“The Union as Problem and Solution: Explaining Participatory Unionism in Tunisia” under review at *American Journal of Sociology*.

“The Myth of Small-N Methods: Empirics and Comparison in Historical Social Science” under review at *Social Forces*.

Work in Progress

Books

“Autocrats and Agitators: The Making of Participatory Unionism in Tunisia”

Articles

“Democracy Approved: The Birth of Universal Suffrage in the Grand Duchy of Finland” (co-author with Juho Korhonen)

“Springboards or Wedges: Communal and Union Solidarity in Colonial Tunisia”

“Money Talks: The Impact of New Deal Unionization on Stock Prices” (first author with Subadevan Boyd-Devan and Laird Gallagher)

Presentations

- 2025 International Association for the Study of Strikes and Social Conflict, Washington, DC
 “Colony and Class Struggle: Unionization and Empire in Egypt and Tunisia”
 American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.
 “Autocrats and Agitators: Rethinking the Iron Law of Oligarchy in the
 Tunisian Labor Movement” (Roundtable on Political Sociology).
 Discussant: CHS Session on Legacies of Colonialism.
- 2024 Middle East Studies Association, remote.
 “Nationalism and Communism in the Colonial Tunisian Labor
 Movement”
 American Sociological Association, Montreal, Quebec.
 “Workers, Oil, and Autocracy in Bahrain” (Special Session on Power
 Structures and Marginalities in the Middle East)
 Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics, Limerick, Ireland
 “Money Talks: The Impact of New Deal Unionization on Stock Prices”
- 2023 Social Science History Association, Washington, DC.
 “Labor Autonomy and Resilience in Bahrain,”
 Middle East Studies Association, Montreal, Quebec.
 “Labor Autonomy and Resilience in Bahrain,”
 American Institute of Maghreb Studies Writing Workshop, College Park, MD
 “Building the Base”
 American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
 “Colony and Class Struggle: Unionization and Empire in Egypt and
 Tunisia” (Special Session on Middle East and Muslim Societies
 and Comparative Historical Sociology Section Mini-Conference)
 Annual Summer Conference on Economy, Politics, and Society 2023, hosted by
 Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. Presenter: “Colony and Class Struggle:
 Unionization and Empire in Egypt and Tunisia”
- 2022 Middle East Studies Association, Denver, CO.

- 2020 “Transnational Origins of Colonial Labor Policy in Tunisia and Egypt,”
Decolonization, Development, and State Building in North Africa, Providence, RI
“Historical Origins of Tunisian Unionism”
American Sociological Association San Francisco, CA.
“Getting a Worker: Explaining the Uses of Fit in the Recruitment
Industry,” (Organizations, Occupations and Work Roundtable)
Eastern Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
“Getting a Worker: Explaining the Uses of Fit in the Recruitment
Industry.”
- 2019 Middle Eastern Studies Association, New Orleans, LA.
“Historical Origins of Worker Power in Tunisia.”
Eastern Sociological Association, Boston, MA.
“Employer Agency and Cultural Matching in the Recruitment Industry,”
- 2018 Northeast Middle East Politics Working Group, Cambridge, MA.
“Authoritarian Labor Regimes: Tunisia and the limits of repression
1970-1993”
- 2015 Historical Materialism, New York, NY.
"Representative and Policeman?: Explaining Labor Autonomy in
Tunisia.”

AWARDS

- 2025 Mayer N. Zald Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Student Paper Award – ASA
section on Collective Behavior & Social Movements
- 2023 Brown Department of Sociology, Beatrice and Joseph Fienberg Memorial Award
(\$479.00)
- 2022 Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship
(\$13,200.00)
- 2021 Brown Graduate School, Global Mobility Research Fellowship (\$14,300.00)
- 2020 American Institute for Maghrib Studies, Long-Term Research Grant (\$15,000.00)
- 2020 Watson Institute (Brown), Summer Research Funding
- 2019 Brown Center for Middle East Studies, Summer Research Funding
- 2019 Watson Institute (Brown), Summer Research Funding
- 2018 Watson Institute (Brown), Graduate Program in Development Fellow
- 2018 Watson Institute (Brown), Summer Research Funding
- 2017 Watson Institute (Brown), Summer Research Funding
- 2015 New York University Kevorkian Center, Master's Thesis Research Grant
- 2014 New York University Foreign Language Area Studies Fellow
- 2014 New York University Foreign Language Area Studies Summer Funding
- 2014 Qalam wa Lawh Center for Arabic Studies in Rabat, Ibn Battuta Merit Scholarship for
Peace and Diplomacy (~\$1,500.00)
- 2011 University of New Mexico, Phi Beta Kappa

TEACHING

Brown University

2025: Social Inequality (*Instructor of Record*)
2025: Foundations of Development (*Grader*)
2024: Foundations of Development (*Grader*)
2024: Work, Inequality, and Social Change (*Instructor of Record*)
2023: Criminal Courts and the Law in an Era of Mass Incarceration (*TA*)
2021: Social Forces, Introduction to Sociology (*TA*)
2020: History of American Intervention (*TA*)
2020: Introductory Statistics for Social Research (*TA*)
2018: Globalization and Social Conflict (*TA*)

Amideast Tunisia

2015-17: General and Business English

Teaching House New York

2015: Cambridge Certificate in English Language Teaching to Speakers of Other Languages

Albuquerque Public Schools

2012-13: Substitute Teacher

SERVICE

2023-25: Advisory Committee on University Resources Management, Brown University
2022: Panel Organizer, “Labor Organizations, Leverage, and Capacity” Middle East Studies Association
2020-22: Treasurer, Graduate Labor Organization (American Federation of Teachers 6516)
2018-19: Sociology Department Representative, Brown Graduate Student Council
Occasional reviewer for: *British Journal of Sociology*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Critical Sociology*

PROFESIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Sociological Association
Social Science History Association
Middle East Studies Association
American Institute of Maghreb Studies
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics

SKILLS

Languages: Research fluency in Arabic and French

Software: R, ATLAS.ti, Nvivo, Stata