

# Safi Shams

*Curriculum Vitae*

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Department of Sociology  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst

200 Hicks Way  
Amherst, MA 01003  
sshams@soc.umass.edu

## Education

PhD University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Sociology (Dec. 2019 – expected).

*Dissertation title:* “Economic Rent in the Fissured Economy: The Embeddedness of Contractual Relations Between Firms”.

*Dissertation committee:* Donald Tomaskovic-Devey (chair), Laurel Smith-Doerr, Ofer Sharone and William Lazonick (Economics, University of Massachusetts-Lowell).

M.A. University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Regional Economic and Social Development (2010).

B.A. University of Haifa, Sociology and Anthropology/English Language and Literature (2008).

## Research and teaching interests

Organizations and inequality; Economic sociology; Corporate governance; Business history; Historical sociology; Political Economy; Theory; Culture; Collective action.

## Peer-reviewed publications

Shams, Safi. 2016. “A Genealogy of Moral Character: The Cultural Constitution of Contention in Lowell, MA 1825-45”. *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* 6(1): 60-95.

Shams, Safi and Donald Tomaskovic-Devey. 2018. “Racial and Gender Trends and Trajectories in Access to Managerial jobs”. *Social Science Research*, 80: 15-29.

## Work in progress

Shams, Safi. “Career Projections in Rent Systems: The Causal Chain of Inequality Within and Between Organizations.” [*draft available*]

Shams, Safi. "Relational Dynamics between Organizations and People: Economic Rent and the Workplace"

Tomaskovic-Devey, Donald, Carsten Sauer, Safi Shams, and Peter Valet. "Claims Making at Work: The Capacity for and Consequences of Wage Negotiations." [*prepared for submission*]

## Other publications

### *Book reviews*

2016 "Book Review: Mysteries and Conspiracies by Luc Boltanski ". *International Sociology*. 31 (2): 216-220.

2015 "Book Review: The Explanation of Social Action by John Levi Martin". *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*. 45 (3): 394-399.

2015 "The Governance of Economies and the Economics of Governance [review essay]". *Historical Materialism*. 23 (1): 179-190.

### *Reports*

Baumann, Alexander, Safi Shams, Matthew Ross, William Mass, and Georges Grinstein. 2011. "Enhancing STEM Classes Using Weave: A Collaborative Web-Based Visualization Environment." *2011 Integrated STEM Education Conference (ISEC)*.

## Awards, fellowships and recognition

2018/19 The Interdisciplinary Institute Graduate Fellowship, University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

2018 Dissertation Support Fellowship, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

2017 GAP award, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

2010 Solomont Scholar award, Department of Regional Economic and Social Development, University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

2010 Graduate Student of the Year award, Department of Regional Economic and Social Development, University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

## Selected presentations

2019 “Categorical Distinctions and Claims Making: Opportunity, Actions, and Returns from Wage Negotiation” (with Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, Peter Valet and Carsten Sauer). American Sociological Association, NYC, NY.

2018 “Economic Rent in the Fissured Economy: The Emebeddedness of Contractual Relations Between Firms.” Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

2018 “Trajectories in Access to Managerial jobs.” SSSP, Philadelphia.

2018 “Economic Rent and the Fissured Workplace.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

2012 “The Work of Culture on Work.” How Class Works, SUNY-Stony Brook, NY.

2012 “The Process of Solidarity and the Field of Cultural Production: Populism”. Annual Sociology Graduate Conference at the New School for Social Research, NYC, NY.

## Teaching experience

### *Instructor of record*

Drugs and Society, Spring 2019 (41 students) Spring 2018 (39 students); Fall 2018 (38 students); Spring 2017 (36 students).

Data Collection and Analysis [online], Summer 2017 (17 students).

Introduction to Sociology [online], Winter 2017 (15 students).

Elementary Statistics [online], Summer 2016 (18 students); Summer 2019 (13 students).

Work and Society, Spring 2015 (30 students).

Sociology of American Culture, Fall 2013 (25 students); Spring 2014 (30 students).

### *Teaching assistant*

Self and Society, Fall 2019 (grader)

Elementary Statistics, Spring 2016 (discussion leader – 45 students).

Sociological Theory, Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 (discussion leader – 45 students).

Contemporary American Society, Spring 2012 (discussion leader – 25 students).

Social Psychology, Fall 2011 (grader).

## Non-academic work experience

*Data curation and analysis manager* - The Open Indicators Consortium.

Managed database and worked with software engineers designing an open-source visualization environment funded by a consortium of non-profit and government agencies.

*Media consultant* – Instructional Media Lab, University of Massachusetts.

Provided consultant for the design and management of online courses to faculty members at the university.

*Consultant* – Cambridge Energy Solutions.

Technical writing and software documentation with engineers working on a forecasting software for energy prices in the United States.

## Service

*University*

Committee of Intellectual Affairs. Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Allocations Committee co-chair. Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Honor's thesis chair: Michela Sandberg

*Discipline*

Program committee member for Organization, Occupations and Work. American Sociological Association.

Plenary session president. Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference, New Orleans (2018).

Manuscript reviewer for *Erkenntnis*; *Socio-Economic Review*.

*Community*

Lawrence History Center. Lawrence, MA.

Cataloging and curation of labor history documents in Yiddish, Hebrew and Arabic.

Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership. Lowell, MA.

Organization and collection and visualization of data on minority borrowers to generate reports on the results of educational programs run by the non-profit.

## Professional affiliations

Social Science History Association; American Sociological Association; Southern Sociological Association

## References

Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, Professor  
Department of Sociology  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
200 Hicks Way  
Amherst, MA 01003  
[tomaskovic-devey@soc.umass.edu](mailto:tomaskovic-devey@soc.umass.edu)

Laurel Smith-Doerr, Professor  
Department of Sociology  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
200 Hicks Way  
Amherst, MA 01003  
[lsmithdoerr@soc.umass.edu](mailto:lsmithdoerr@soc.umass.edu)

Ofer Sharone, Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
200 Hicks Way  
Amherst, MA 01003  
[osharone@soc.umass.edu](mailto:osharone@soc.umass.edu)

William Lazonick, Professor  
Department of Economics  
University of Massachusetts-Lowell  
[William\\_Lazonick@uml.edu](mailto:William_Lazonick@uml.edu)