

Keenan Wilder

Sloan School of Management • 100 Main St. • Cambridge, MA 02142
kwilder4@mit.edu

Appointments

MIT Sloan School of Management

2026– Postdoctoral Associate, Work and Organization Studies Group

Brown University

2025–26 Research Affiliate in Sociology

Education

2025 Ph.D. in Sociology, Brown University
2015 M.A. in Near Eastern Studies, New York University
2012 B.A. in History and Political Science, University of New Mexico
Summa cum laude

Research

Areas of Interest

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

Publications

2026 “Workers, Oil, and Autocracy in Bahrain.” Forthcoming at *Socio-Economic Review*.
2023 “Getting a Worker: Recruiters, Culture, and On-the-Job Skillling.” *Sociological Forum* 38(2):532–52.
2015 “The Origins of Labour Autonomy in Authoritarian Tunisia.” *Contemporary Social Science* 10(4):349–63.

Under Review

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

Winner, Mayer N. Zald Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Student Paper Award, ASA Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements.

“The Union as Problem and Solution: Labor, Bureaucracy, and Cooptation in Tunisia.” Revise and resubmit at *American Journal of Sociology*.

“Few Such Cases: Rethinking Internal Validity Claims in Historical Sociology.” Under review.

“Democracy Approved: The Birth of Universal Suffrage in the Grand Duchy of Finland” (with Juho Korhonen). Under review.

Work in Progress

Books

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

Honorable Mention, Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Dissertation Award, ASA Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements.

Project on Middle East Political Science Junior Scholar Book Development Workshop, January 2026.

Articles

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

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

Reviews

Panel discussion of *Fueling Development: How Black Radical Trade Unionism Transformed Trinidad and Tobago*, by Zophia Edwards (Duke University Press). *Critical Sociology*.

Presentations

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2026 | Social Science History Association, Atlanta, GA
“Springboards or Wedges: Communal and Union Solidarity in Colonial Tunisia”
(Panel on Empire, Race, and Labour Movements)
Eastern Sociological Society
“Democratic Worldmaking under Empire: Women’s Suffrage in the Grand Duchy of Finland of the Russian Empire” (with Juho Korhonen) |
| 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 Socio-Economics, 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, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
	“Colony and Class Struggle: Unionization and Empire in Egypt and Tunisia”
2022	Middle East Studies Association, Denver, CO
	“Transnational Origins of Colonial Labor Policy in Tunisia and Egypt”
2020	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 East 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

2026	Honorable Mention, Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Dissertation Award, ASA Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements
2025	Winner, Mayer N. Zald Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Student Paper Award, ASA Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements
2011	University of New Mexico, Phi Beta Kappa

External Funding

2022	Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$13,200)
2020	American Institute for Maghrib Studies, Long-Term Research Grant (\$15,000)
2014	Qalam wa Lawh Center for Arabic Studies in Rabat, Ibn Battuta Merit Scholarship for Peace and Diplomacy (~\$1,500)

Internal Funding

2023	Brown University, Department of Sociology, Beatrice and Joseph Fienberg Memorial Award (\$479)
2021	Brown University Graduate School, Global Mobility Research Fellowship (\$14,300)
2020	Brown University, Watson Institute, Summer Research Funding
2019	Brown Center for Middle East Studies, Summer Research Funding

2019	Brown University, Watson Institute, Summer Research Funding
2018	Watson Institute, Graduate Program in Development Fellow
2018	Brown University, Watson Institute, Summer Research Funding
2017	Brown University, Watson Institute, Summer Research Funding
2015	New York University, Hagop 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

Teaching

MIT

2027	People, Teams, and Organizations
------	----------------------------------

Brown University

2025	Social Inequality (<i>Instructor of Record</i>)
2025	Foundations of Development (<i>Grader</i>)
2024	Foundations of Development (<i>Grader</i>)
2024	What's Wrong with Empowerment: Critical Perspectives on Development (<i>Grader</i>)
2024	Work, Inequality, and Social Change (<i>Instructor of Record</i>)
2023	Criminal Courts and the Law in an Era of Mass Incarceration (<i>TA</i>)
2021	Social Forces, Introduction to Sociology (<i>TA</i>)
2020	History of American Intervention (<i>TA</i>)
2020	Introductory Statistics for Social Research (<i>TA</i>)
2018	Globalization and Social Conflict (<i>TA</i>)

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

2026	Award Committee for Mayer N. Zald Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Student Paper Award, ASA Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements
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*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *American Journal of Sociology*

Professional 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