

Paasha Mahdavi

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Santa Barbara, CA 93106 *Site:* www.paashamahdavi.com
- ACADEMIC POSITIONS Assistant Professor, Political Science, UCSB, 2018–present. (*Parental leave Spring 2019*)
* Affiliated professor, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management.
Assistant Professor, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University, 2015–2018.
* Faculty Director, M.S. in Data Science for Public Policy program.
* Affiliated professor, Department of Government.
* Affiliated faculty, Georgetown Environment Initiative.
- EDUCATION Ph.D. in Political Science (Chair: Michael Ross), UCLA, 2015.
M.S. in Statistics, UCLA, 2015.
M.A. in Political Science, UCLA, 2012.
M.A. in International Policy, Stanford University, 2009.
B.A. in Economics, Columbia University, 2006.
- AFFILIATIONS Term Member, Council on Foreign Relations, 2019–2024
Payne Institute Non-resident Fellow, Colorado School of Mines, 2018–
Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP) Fellow, Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2017–
GFC Fellow for the Council on the Future of Energy, World Economic Forum, 2016–2018
- BOOK Paasha Mahdavi. 2020. *Power Grab: Political Survival Through Extractive Resource Nationalization*. Cambridge University Press (Series on Business and Public Policy).
* Reviews: *Democratization, Perspectives on Politics*
* Media coverage: *Huffington Post, Grist, Washington Examiner, New Books Network Podcast, The Elucidators Podcast, Eqtesād bā t'am siāsat (Economy with a Taste of Politics channel; in Persian), The New Republic*
- PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES Jessica Green, Jennifer Hadden, Thomas Hale, and Paasha Mahdavi. 2021. “Transition, Hedge, or Resist? Understanding Political and Economic Behavior toward Decarbonization in the Oil and Gas Industry.” Accepted, *Review of International Political Economy*.
Raphael Calel and Paasha Mahdavi. 2020. “Unintended consequences of anti-flaring policies and measures for mitigation.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 117(23): 12503-12507.
Paasha Mahdavi. 2020. “Institutions and the ‘resource curse’: Evidence from cases of oil-related bribery.” *Comparative Political Studies*. 53(1): 3–40.
Paasha Mahdavi and John Ishiyama. 2020. “Dynamics of the inner elite in dictatorships: Evidence from North Korea.” *Comparative Politics*. 52(2): 221–249.
Paasha Mahdavi. 2019. “Scraping public co-occurrences for statistical network analysis of political elites.” *Political Science Research and Methods*. 7(2): 385–392.
Michael Ross, Chad Hazlett, and Paasha Mahdavi. 2017. “Global progress and backsliding on gasoline taxes and subsidies.” *Nature Energy*. 2(16201): 1-6.

Paasha Mahdavi. 2015. "Explaining the oil advantage: Effects of natural resource wealth on incumbent reelection in Iran." *World Politics*. 67(2): 226–267.

Paasha Mahdavi. 2014. "Why do leaders nationalize the oil industry? The politics of resource expropriation." *Energy Policy*. 75(C): 228–243.

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

Paasha Mahdavi and Noosha Uddin. 2021. "Governance amidst the transition to alternative energy in the Middle East and North Africa." In Robin Mills and Li-Chen Sim (eds.) *Low Carbon Energy in the Middle East and North Africa*. London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan (International Political Economy Series).

Miriam Golden and Paasha Mahdavi. 2015. "The institutional components of political corruption." 2015. In Ruben Ruiz-Rufino and Jennifer Gandhi (eds.), *Handbook of Comparative Political Institutions*. New York, NY: Routledge Press.

Paasha Mahdavi. 2012. "Oil, monarchy, revolution, and theocracy: A study on the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)." In David Victor, David Hults and Mark Thurber (eds.), *Oil and Governance: State-owned Enterprises and the World Energy Supply*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

PUBLISHED DATA SETS

Michael Ross and Paasha Mahdavi. 2015 (September). [Oil and Gas Data, 1932–2014](#). Harvard Dataverse, V2.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

"Using Earnings Calls to Understand the Political Behavior of Major Polluters" (with Jessica Green, Jennifer Hadden, and Thomas Hale)
Revision submitted, Global Environmental Politics

"Expropriation and Human Rights: Does the Seizure of FDI Signal Wider Repression?" (with Nicole Janz and Noel P. Johnston)
Revision requested, Review of International Organizations

"Why Do Governments Tax or Subsidize Fossil Fuels?" Center for Global Development Working Paper 541. (with Cesar Martinez Alvarez and Michael Ross)
Revision requested, Journal of Politics

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

Understanding the impacts of cash transfers on individual political behavior
No taxation, no representation? Oil-to-cash transfers and government responsiveness

OTHER WRITINGS

Book review of *Crude Intentions: How Oil Corruption Contaminates the World* by Alexandra Gillies. 2021. *Perspectives on Politics* 19(1): 323–24.

"Oil companies aren't actually going green—but some are heading there faster than others." 2020. *Washington Post / Monkey Cage*. (with Jessica Green, Jennifer Hadden, and Thomas Hale)

"Power Grabs and Crude Decisions." 2020. *Invisible Histories* caption essay, Harvard Center for History and Economics.

"New Oil Finds Could Mean a Tripling of Guyana's GDP." 2019. *Foreign Policy*. (with Morgan Bazilian)

"Recommendations on the Draft Lebanese National Oil Company Bill." 2018. Report prepared for the Lebanese Parliamentary Committee on Public Works, Transportation, Energy, and Water.

- “Four things to know about nationalizations in the energy industry.” 2017. *Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP) Blog*.
- “Oil Conflict and Kurdish Independence.” 2017. *Global Policy*. (with Morgan Bazilian, Perikhan Aqrabi-Whitcomb, and Cyril Widdershoven)
- “How to get reelected if you are an Iranian MP.” 2015. *Washington Post / Monkey Cage*.
- “Will Iran’s parliament block the nuclear deal?” 2015. *Washington Post / Monkey Cage*.
- Reprinted in Marc Lynch (ed.), *Iran and the Nuclear Deal*. The Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Studies, Vol. 13.
- “Oil and Politics in Iran’s *Majles-e Shurā-ye Eslāmi*.” 2014. *The International Society for Iranian Studies Newsletter*. 34(4): 10-13.
- “Reforming National Oil Companies: Nine Recommendations.” 2014. *Natural Resource Governance Institute Briefing*. (with Patrick Heller and Johannes Schreuder)
- “The Petroleum Industry Bill and the Future of NNPC.” 2012. *Revenue Watch Institute Briefing*. (with Aaron Sayne, Patrick Heller, and Johannes Schreuder)
- “The Future Impact of Climate Change on the California Wine Industry.” 2009. Stanford IPS Report, prepared for California State Assembly Member Noreen Evans. (with Jonathan Gatto, Byung-oh Kim, Hirochika Namekawa, and Hung Tran)

AWARDS,
GRANTS, &
FELLOWSHIPS

External

- Hoover Institute, Workshop on Governance, Liberty, and Prosperity for American Indians, 2021-2022 (\$3,000)
- Balzan Foundation grant (with Jessica Green, Jennifer Hadden, and Thomas Hale, co-PIs), via Princeton University, 2018–2020 (\$75,000)
- Energy for Economic Growth Research Programme, U.K. Department for International Development (DfID) seed grant (with Michael Ross, PI), 2016–2020 (£15,000)
- Data Collection Grant, Natural Resource Governance Institute, 2014–15 (\$3,300)
- Adam Smith Fellowship, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, 2013–14 (\$6,750)
- NSF travel grant, Political Methodology Summer Conference, 2013 & 2014 (\$500)
- Research Grant, Revenue Watch Institute and DfID, 2012 (\$9,000)
- EITM travel grant, University of Houston, 2012 (\$1,000)
- FLAS Fellowship for Persian (Farsi), U.S. Department of Education, 2011–12 (\$18,000)

Internal

- UCSB ISBER Social Science Research Grants Program, 2019–2020
- Leslie Whittington Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year Award, McCourt School of Public Policy, 2017
- Seed grant (PI), Georgetown Environment Initiative, 2017–2018
- Seed grant (with Raphael Calel, co-PI), Georgetown Environment Initiative, 2016–17
- Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division, 2014–15
- Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division, 2012–13
- Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division, 2010 & 2011
- Graduate Research Opportunity Grant, Program on Energy and Sustainable Development, Stanford University, 2008–09
- Susan Ford Dorsey International Policy Fellowship, Stanford University, 2007–08
- Departmental Honors, Columbia University Department of Economics, 2006

- INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
- 2021: Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA); UC-National Lab Fees Research Program Workshop; Governance, Liberty, and Prosperity for American Indians (Hoover Institute, held in Bozeman, MT); Climate Futures Initiative (Princeton University, scheduled); American Political Science Association (APSA, scheduled).
- * = *Canceled due to COVID-19*
- 2020: Global Comparative Politics of Climate Change Policy Workshop (Stanford University); University of California Conference on International Cooperation (UC Riverside); International Studies Association (ISA)*; MPSA*; Claremont Graduate University*; UC Riverside*; Colorado School of Mines (webinar); Charting the Future Political Economy of Oil Workshop (ANU Crawford School of Public Policy, virtual); APSA (virtual); Global Research in International Political Economy (webinar); Johns Hopkins SAIS (webinar); World Bank, Office of Chief Economist of Sustainable Development (webinar).
- 2019: Global Comparative Politics of Climate Change Policy Workshop (Stanford University); Western Political Science Association (WPSA); APSA (Washington, DC); Southern California Methods Workshop (UC Riverside); University of Toronto; Ostrom Symposium on Natural Resource Governance for Young Scholars (Indiana University); RAI Inequality and Representation Workshop (Oxford University).
- 2018: Global Comparative Politics of Climate Change Policy Workshop (Stanford University); Research Frontiers in the Political Economy of Energy Policy (Princeton University); Stanley Kaplan Program in American Foreign Policy Keynote Lecture (Williams College).
- 2017: DC Area Climate & Energy Research Workshop (GWU); MPSA; University of Alaska Anchorage; Environmental Politics & Governance (Indiana University); APSA (San Francisco); Johns Hopkins SAIS; Harvard University Growth Lab.
- 2016: Columbia University International Politics Seminar; MPSA; Oxford University Department of Politics & International Relations; APSA (Philadelphia); Energy and Economic Growth Research and Matchmaking Conference (Center for Strategic & International Studies); Harvard University Comparative Politics Speaker Series.
- 2015: Energy & Extractives Communities of Practice (World Bank); MPSA; University of California Board of Visitors for Political Science (UCLA); APSA (San Francisco); Extractive Resources & Global Governance Workshop in Memory of Natasha Chichilnisky-Heal (Yale University); International Political Economy Society (Palo Alto).
- TEACHING
- PS 15: Introduction to Research in Political Science. Undergraduate lecture (methods requirement). Winter 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021.
- PS 211: Research Design in Political Science. Graduate seminar. Spring 2020, Spring 2021.
- PS 206: Political Research Methods II. Graduate seminar (part two of core methods sequence). Winter 2019, Winter 2020, Winter 2021.
- PPOL 637: Comparative Politics & Policy of Energy. Graduate seminar (elective). Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017.
- PPOL 502: Regression Methods for Policy Analysis. Graduate seminar (part two of required three-semester statistics sequence). Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018.
- ACADEMIC SERVICE
- At UCSB:
- Council on Research and Instructional Resources, Committee on Research Policy and Procedures and Committee on Faculty Grants, 2020–2022.
 - Committee on Mentoring Expectations in Political Science, 2021.
 - Coordinator, Comparative Politics & Political Economy Webinar Series, 2020–
 - Subfield Coordinator, Political Methodology, 2019–
 - Dept. Liaison, Planning Committee for an Undergraduate Major in Data Science, 2020–

- Faculty mentor for PS 15, Department of Political Science, 2019–
- Faculty Advisor for UCSB Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honors Society, 2019–
- Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Political Science, 2019–2020.
- Chair, Comparative Politics Comprehensive Exam, Spring 2019.
- Awards Committee, Department of Political Science, 2018–2019.

At Georgetown:

- Co-organizer, Energy & Climate Policy Research Seminar, 2015–18
- Advisory committee, Massive Data Institute, 2016–18
- Masters in Public Policy Thesis Prize committee, 2016.
- Steering committee, Georgetown Environment Initiative, 2016–18.
- Faculty search committee, Assistant Professor in Data Science, 2017.
- Judge, Georgetown University Energy Prize panel, 2017.
- Steering committee, Data Analytics Program, 2017–18.

Profession

- Discussant: APSA 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020; DC Area Climate & Energy Research Workshop 2016; Environmental Politics & Governance 2019; Virtual International Political Economy Society (V-IPES) 2020; MPSA 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020; WPSA 2019.
- Book workshop: Faisal Ahmed, Princeton University, *Conquest and Rents*, June 2020.

Referee

- *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *Electoral Studies*, *Energy Research & Social Science*, *Governance*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Journal of International Development*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Public Policy*, *Political Analysis*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Research & Politics*, *Resources Policy*, *Review of International Organizations*, *Review of Policy Research*, *World Politics*, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, National Science Foundation.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Languages: English (native), Persian (intermediate), Italian (intermediate)

Field Work: Iran (June-July 2009); United Arab Emirates (July 2012); Qatar (August 2012); British Petroleum Archives, Coventry UK (June 2016); Alaska (May 2017, July 2019)

CONSULTING & PUBLIC SERVICE

Natural Resources Governance Institute (formerly Revenue Watch Institute)

- Working Group on National Oil Companies and Climate Change, 2021–
- Lead Researcher for the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. project, 2012. (co-directed by Transparency International)
- Iran Country Researcher, 2010; Country Reviewer, 2016.

CALPIRG, Santa Barbara chapter

- Advisor, 2021–

PRIX Index

- Country analyst for the PRIX Political Risk Index for Oil Exports, 2015–2017.

Ergo Consulting

- Risk analysis of the Iranian political elite, 2013.
- Research analysis of the National Iranian Oil Company, 2011.

ICF International

- Research assistance for the Wholesale Power (Electric Utilities) division, 2006–07.

Updated June 2021