

# Djavad Salehi-Isfahani

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## Education

1971	B.Sc. in Economics, University of London (Queen Mary College)
1974	M.A. in Economics, Harvard University
1977	Ph.D. in Economics, Harvard University

## Academic positions

2001-present	Professor, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech
1989-2000	Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech
1984-1989	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech
1995-2000	Head, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech
1977-1984	Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Pennsylvania

## Affiliations

Fall 2023	Visiting Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University
2016-present	Research Affiliate, Middle East Initiative, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School
2009-2021	Non-resident Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development, the Brookings Institution
2018 (spring)	Visiting Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University
2016-2017	Visiting Scholar, Middle East Initiative and the Iran Project, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School
2013 (fall)	Kuwait Foundation Visiting Scholar, Middle East Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School
2007-2008	Visiting Fellow and Director of Research, Middle East Youth Project, Wolfensohn Center for Development, the Brookings Institution

## Other Professional Appointments

2011- 2015 Associate Editor, *Middle East Development Journal*.  
2014- 2020 Editorial Board member, *Middle East Law and Governance*.  
2011- present Editorial Board member, *Asian Development Perspectives*

## Publications

### Books

- *How Sanctions Work: Iran and the impact of economic warfare*, with Narges Bajoghli, Vali Nast and Ali Vaez, Stanford University Press, Stanford University Press, 2024.

- *After the Spring: Economic Transitions in the Arab World*, Magdi A., R. Assaad, N. al-Baharna, K. Derviş, R. Desai, N. Dhillon, A. Galal, H. Ghanem, C. Graham, D. Kaufmann, H. Kharas, J. Page, D. Salehi-Isfahani, K. Sierra, T. Yousef, Oxford University Press, 2012.
- *Models of the Oil Market*, with Jacques Crémer, *Fundamentals of Pure and Applied Economics*, monograph no. 44, 1991, Chur, Switzerland: Harwood Academic Publishers.

### Edited volumes

- *The Production and Diffusion of Public Choice Political Economy: Reflections on the VPI Center*, with Douglas Eckel and Joseph C. Pitt, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2004.
- *Labor and Human Capital in the Middle East: Studies of Markets and Household Behavior*, Reading, England: Ithaca Press, 2001. Selected as a [Noteworthy Book](#) of 2001 by Princeton University Industrial Relations Section.

### Journal Articles

1. "The impact of sanctions on household welfare and employment in Iran", *Middle East Development Journal*, lead article vol 15, no. 2: 189-221, 2023.
2. "The Human Opportunity Index in the Middle East and North Africa," with Atiyeh Vahidmanesh, *Asian Development Perspectives*, Vol. 13 Issue 1, pp. 36-58, 2022.
3. "Inequality of opportunity in educational attainment in the Middle East and North Africa: Evidence from household surveys," with Ragui Assaad and Rana Hendy, *International Journal of Educational Development*, vol 66, pp. 24-43, 2019.
4. "Education and the allocation of time of married women in Iran," with S. Taghvatalab, *Review of Economics of the Household*, 17: 889-921. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11150-018-9407-3>, 2019.
5. "Cash transfers and labor supply: evidence from a large-scale program in Iran," with M. H. Mostafavi-Dehzooie, *Journal of Development Economics*, vol. 135, pp. 349-367, 2018.
6. "Does the Type of Higher Education Affect Labor Market Outcomes? Evidence from Egypt and Jordan," *Higher Education*, with Ragui Assaad and Caroline Krafft, 75(6): 945-995 (lead article), 2018.
7. "Inequality of Opportunity in Wages and Consumption in Egypt", with Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft, and John Roemer, *Review of Income and Wealth*. Vol. 64, issue s1,(S26-S54), DOI: 10.1111/roiw.12289, 2018.
8. "Poverty and income inequality in the Islamic Republic of Iran," *Revue Internationale des Etudes du Développement*, (1): 113-136, 2017.
9. "[Human Development in the Middle East and North Africa](#)," *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, in S N. Durlauf and L. E. Blume (Eds.). London: Palgrave Macmillan, March 2016.
10. "The reform of energy subsidies in Iran: the role of cash transfers," with Bryce Stucki and Joshua Deutschmann, *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, 51(6), 1144-1162, 2015.
11. "Inequality of opportunity in educational achievement in the Middle East and North Africa," with Nadia Belhaj-Hassine and Ragui Assaad, *Journal of Economic Inequality*, 12(4) 489-515, 2014.
12. "Rethinking human development in the Middle East and North Africa: The Missing Dimensions," *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 14(3), 341-370, 2013.
13. "From Health Service Delivery to Family Planning: The Changing Impact of Health Clinics on Fertility in Rural Iran," with Ali Hashemi, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 61(2), 281-309, 2013.

14. "Mobility and the Dynamics of Poverty in Iran: Evidence from the 1992-1995 Panel Survey," with Mehdi Majbouri, *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, 53(3) 257-267, 2013.
15. "Inequality of opportunity in child health in the Arab World and Turkey," with R. Assaad, C. Kraft, N. Belhaj-Hassine, *Middle East Development Journal*, 4(2), pp. 3-40, 2012.
16. "Education, Jobs, and Equity in the Middle East and North Africa," *Comparative Economic Studies*, 54(4), pp. 843-861, 2012.
17. "The effect of Homework on Exam Performance: Experimental Results from Principles of Economics," with Steve Trost, *Southern Economic Journal*, 79(1), pp. 224-242, 2012.
18. "Iranian Youth in Times of Economic Crisis," *Iranian Studies*, 44:6, 789-806, October 2011.
19. "Reversal of Fortunes: the Rise and Fall of Lifetime Earnings of Iranian Men," with Marenglen Marku, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 59(4): 877-906, July 2011.
20. "Family Planning and Fertility Decline in Rural Iran: The Impact of Rural Health Clinics," with M. J. Abbasi and M. Hosseini-Chavoshi, *Health Economics*, Volume 19, Issue S1, 159-180, 2010.
21. "Youth Transitions to Employment and Marriage in Iran: Evidence from the School to Work Transition Survey, with Daniel Egel, *Middle East Development Journal*, 2(1), 89-120, June 2010.
22. "A comparative study of returns to education of urban men in Egypt, Iran, and Turkey," with Insan Tunali and Ragui Assaad, *Middle East Development Journal*, 1(2), 145-187, December 2009.
23. "Poverty, Inequality, and Populist Politics in Iran," *Journal of Economic Inequality*, 7(1): 5-24, March 2009.
24. "The Revolution and the Rural Poor," *Radical History Review*, issue 105 (summer 2009), pp. 139-144.
25. Growing up in Iran: Challenging times for the Revolution's Children, *The Brown Journal of World Affairs*, 15(1), 63-74, Fall/Winter 2008.

### **Book chapters**

1. Iran's Economy since the Revolution: Populism and Pragmatism, *The Iranian Revolution at Forty*, Suzanne Maloney (ed), Brooking Press, 2020.
2. "Consumer subsidies in the Islamic Republic of Iran: Simulations of further reforms," with M. H. Mostafavi, in Paolo Verme and Abdelkrim Araar (Eds.) *The Quest for Subsidies Reforms in the Middle East and North Africa Region: A Microsimulation Approach to Policy Making*, Natural Resource Management and Policy, Volume 42, Springer, 2017: 259-289.
3. "The Iranian family in transition," *Inside the Islamic Republic: Social Change in Post-Khomeini Iran*, Mahmood Monshipouri, (ed), Oxford University Press and Hurst Publishers, 2016: 133-150.
4. "Schooling and Learning in the Middle East and North Africa: The Roles of the Family and the State," in Edward Sayre and Tarik Yousef (Eds.), *Young Generation Awakening: Economics, Society, and Policy on the Eve of the Arab Spring*, Oxford University Press, 2016.

5. "Energy Subsidy Reform in Iran", *The Middle East Economies in Transition*, Ahmed Galal and Ishac Diwan (Eds.), International Economic Association Series, Palgrave Macmillan, Palgrave pp. 186-198, 2016.
6. "Family Planning and Female Empowerment in Iran", in "Women, Work and Welfare in the Middle East and North Africa: the Role of Socio-demographics, Entrepreneurship and Public Policies, Nadereh Chamlou and Massoud Karshenas (Eds.), London: Imperial College Press, 2016.
7. "Population and Human Capital in the Persian Gulf," in *The Political Economy of the Persian Gulf*, Mehran Kamrava (ed.), New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 147-171, 2012.
8. "Beyond Statism: Toward a New Social Contract for Iranian Youth," with Daniel Egel, in *Generation in Waiting: The Unfulfilled Promise of Young People in the Middle East*, Navtej Dhillon and Tarik Yousef (eds.). Brookings Institution Press, 2009.
9. "Looking Ahead: Making Markets and Institutions Work for Young People," with Navtej Dhillon, in *Generation in Waiting: The Unfulfilled Promise of Young People in the Middle East*, Navtej Dhillon and Tarik Yousef (eds.). Brookings Institution Press, 2009.
10. "Oil Wealth and Economic Growth in Iran," in A. Gheissari (ed.), *Contemporary Iran*, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2009.

#### **Selected Commentary:**

1. [Iran's Conservative Tightrope](#), *Project Syndicate*, December 6, 2022.
2. [Iran's Vienna Gambit](#), *Project Syndicate*, Jan 18, 2022.
3. [Is Iran's Economy Really Sinking?](#) *Responsible Statecraft*, May 7, 2021.
4. [Iran's Empowered Hardliners](#), *Project Syndicate*, May 4, 2021.
5. [Iran's Middle Class And The Nuclear Deal](#), Brookings Institution, *Future Development*, April 8, 2021.
6. [The Dilemma of Iran's Resistance Economy](#), *Foreign Affairs*, March 17, 2021.
7. [The Coronavirus is Iran's perfect storm](#), *Foreign Affairs*, March 18, 2020.
8. Iran: The Double Jeopardy of Sanctions and COVID-19, Pandemic Discourses, New School for Social Research, reprinted at [Brookings](#) and [Responsible Statecraft](#) blogs. September 2020.
9. [Trump's Blind March to War](#), *Project Syndicate*, Jan 5, 2020.
10. [Will U.S. sanctions force Iran to the negotiating table?](#), *Congressional Quarterly*, November 2019
11. [Can Iran Outlast Trump?](#) *Project Syndicate*, Dec 3, 2019
12. [The Islamic Revolution at 40](#), *Project Syndicate*, Feb 12, 2019
13. [How will Iran respond to the currency crisis?](#) *Foreign Affairs*, September 25, 2018.
14. [Do cash transfers make the poor work less?](#) International Growth Center, LSE, April 25, 2018, with M. H. Mostafavi.
15. [Inequality of opportunity in Egypt](#), Brookings Institution, July 25, 2017.
16. [Could the Iranian Economy Sink Rouhani?](#) *Project Syndicate*, May 15, 2017.
17. [Success of Iran nuclear deal – and Rouhani – depends on Iran's working class](#), *Christian Science Monitor*, Dec 12, 2013.

18. [Success in Iran](#), *Los Angeles Times*, December 2, 2012.
19. [With These Friends: How the sanctions might hurt America's potential allies inside Iran](#), *Foreign Policy*, October 12, 2012.
20. [Where Will the Power Lie in Iran? - Room for Debate](#), NYTimes.com
21. [Behind the Protests, Social Upheaval in Iran - Room for Debate](#), NYTimes.com

### **Working papers**

1. Electrification and the narrowing of the gender gap in education in Iran, with Sara Taghvatalab, under review.
2. The impact of single-sex education on female educational attainment in Iran, with Mohammad Vesal, 2019.
3. [Inequality, Autonomy and Change in the Arab Region](#), with Ishac Diwan, ESCWA, United Nations, 2018.

### **Fellowships and Grants**

- World Bank “The impacts of COVID-19 on female labor outcomes in Iran”, with Hai-Anh Dang, World Bank. MNACE’s Labor and Gender Research Program, 9/2022-9/2023 (\$7,000).
- Peer effects and job search of Saudi youth, Harvard Kennedy School, Saudi Labor Market Research (PI, with Sudipta Sarangi and Wen You, \$100,000)
- Peer effects and job search of Saudi youth, Travel Grant, Harvard Kennedy School, Saudi Labor Market Research (PI, with Sudipta Sarangi and Wen You, \$15,000)
- 2014-2015, Inequality of opportunity (co-PI, with Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft, and John Roemer, ERF \$60,000)