SERRA KOCAK

Department of Anthropology & Sociology, Lafayette College | Easton, PA
kocaks@lafayette.edu | serrakocak.weebly.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Lafayette College, Easton, PA | Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology & Sociology | July 2026–Present

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology, Binghamton University | May 2026

- Dissertation: Halal New York: How Success Happens for Second-Generation American Muslim Women
- Committee: Leslie Gates (Chair); Benita Roth (Chair, 2017–2023); Marina Sitrin; Filiz Garip (Princeton University); Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz

M.A. in Sociology, Binghamton University | 2019

B.A. in Sociology, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul, Turkey | 2012

- Undergraduate thesis: Istanbul, City of Labor: The Social and Spatial Practices of Work in the Metropolis

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Migration and Immigrant Incorporation | Social Networks and Digital Inequality | Race, Ethnicity, and Religion | Family and Social Mobility | Gender and Reproduction | Ethnography and Qualitative Methods

BOOK PROJECT

Halal New York: How Success Happens for Second-Generation American Muslim Women. Book manuscript in preparation.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Kocak, Serra. 2026. "From Tehran to Taksim: Constraint, Strategy, and Hybrid Repertoires of Islamic Feminism." Feminist Encounters: A Journal of Critical Studies in Culture and Politics 10(1):20. https://doi.org/10.20897/femenc/17995.

Kocak, Serra. 2026. "Aesthetics of Piety: Everyday Islamic Feminisms Among Modest Fashion Designers in Istanbul." In Gender, Religion, and Culture, edited by Sarojini Nadar, in Oxford Intersections: Gender Justice, edited by Madelyn Detloff. Oxford Academic. https://doi.org/10.1093/9780198960256.003.0158.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Kocak, Serra. "We Walked So She Could Run: Sibling Capital and the Emotional Labor of Mobility among Children of Immigrants."

Kocak, Serra. "Resonance as Method: Ethnographic Becoming with Second-Generation Muslim Women."

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Kocak, Serra. "Welcome to Habibi Wealth: Hybrid Network Capital among Second-Generation American Muslim Women." Manuscript in preparation.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Dissertation Year Award II, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University, Spring 2025.

- Excellence in Teaching Award, Graduate School, Binghamton University, Spring 2025.
- Critical Social Inquiry Summer Seminar Fellow, Institute for Critical Social Inquiry, The New School, June 2025.
- Dissertation Year Award I, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University, Fall 2022.
- Graduate Scholarship, Binghamton University, 2017–2022; 2023–2026.
- Professional Development Award, New York State/Graduate Student Employees Union, Spring 2019.

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

- Digital Scholarship & Communication Fellowship, Center for Public Humanities, Binghamton University, Summer 2025.
- Professional Development Funds, New York State/Graduate Student Employees Union, March 2026.
- Binghamton University Travel and Research Grants, 2018–2026 (multiple awards).
- Research Grant, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), 2009–2012.

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Halal New York Ethnographic Documentary | 2025–Present

- 24-minute documentary based on dissertation research on second-generation American Muslim women; supported by the Digital Scholarship & Communication Fellowship; campus screening in October 2025; currently under revision for broader public dissemination.

New York City Resources | Founder and Project Director | 2023–Present

- Public-facing digital platform curating educational and career resources for children of immigrants and disseminating research on migration, gender, and mobility. https://newyorkcityresources.com

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, 2026. "Gendered Emotional Labor, Sibling Capital, and Second-Generation Incorporation."
- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2026. "Halal New York: How Success Happens for Second-Generation American Muslim Women."
- Binghamton University Proseminar, 2025. "How to Survive/Thrive in Graduate School."
- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2024. "Social Mobility Among the Siblings: We Walked, So She Could Run!"
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 2023. "Welcome to Habibi Wealth: Networking among Second-Generation American Muslim Women."
- Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montréal, 2023. "Islamic Feminisms: Particularities, Limitations, and Contributions."
- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, 2023. "Class, Gender, and Networking: Information as a Socioeconomic Resource in Second-Generation American Muslim Women's Lives."
- Moroccan Institute for Advanced Studies, Rabat, Morocco, 2023. "Islamic Feminisms: Particularities, Limitations, and Contributions."
- Chicago Ethnography Conference, Loyola University Chicago, 2023. "Reflexivity, Positionality, and the Prospects of Ethnography."
- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 2020. "Neoliberalism and Young Muslim Women in Turkey."
- British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Annual Conference, University of Leeds, 2019. "In Between: The New Modernity Experience of Young Religious Women in Turkey."
- World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, Seville, Spain, 2018. "The New Modernity Experience of Young Religious Women in Turkey."

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lafayette College | Instructor of Record

- Introduction to Sociology, Fall 2026 (two sections)
- Reproductive Justice, Fall 2026

Binghamton University | Instructor of Record

- Crime and Society, Spring 2026
- Cine-Migration, Summer 2025 (asynchronous online)
- Gender, Immigration, and Labor, Spring 2024 and Fall 2025
- Sociology of Reproduction / Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Fall 2023 and Fall 2024

Elmira College | Instructor of Record

- Sociology of Sports, Spring 2026 (asynchronous online)

Binghamton University | Teaching Assistant | 2018–2023

- Introduction to Sociology, eight semesters, 2018–2022
- Social Research Methods, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021
- Founders of Sociology, Spring 2023

Istanbul Sehir University | Teaching Assistant | 2014–2016

- Formations of Modern Turkey, Summer 2016
- Exploring Istanbul, Spring 2016
- Classical Sociological Theories, Fall 2015
- Sociology of Work and Organizations, Spring 2014

MENTORSHIP

EXCEL Scholars Program Faculty Mentor, Lafayette College | Fall 2026

- Mentee: Jordyn Mays, undergraduate EXCEL Scholar. Project: Making Sociology Visible: Digital Storytelling, Gender, Migration, and Mobility.
- Mentor an undergraduate researcher in public and visual sociology, qualitative research, and ethnographic documentary development.

Graduate Student Mentor, University of Pennsylvania | Community Engaged Scholars and Teachers Mentorship Program | 2026–2027

- Mentee: Lindsay Dusard, Ph.D. Candidate, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania.
- Provide professional guidance related to immigration research, community-engaged scholarship, and academic career development.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Committee Member, Louis Wirth Best Article Award, International Migration Section, American Sociological Association, 2027.
- Early-Career Review Board, International Journal of Intercultural Relations, 2026–Present.
- Presider, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, "Meritocracy," 2026.
- Reviewer, Bentham Science Publishers, 2026–Present.
- Reviewer, The Research Competence, 2025–Present.
- Reviewer, Cambridge University Press, 2025.
- Reviewer, Binghamton University Undergraduate Journal, 2020–2024.
- Chair and Panel Organizer, Insurgent Ethnography Conference, "Emotions in Ethnography," 2024.

- Chair, Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting, "Gender and Power Relations in MENA," 2023.
- Presider, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2023.
- Chair, Insurgent Ethnography Conference, "Ethnography in the Middle East," 2023.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Conference Co-organizer, Insurgent Ethnography II, Binghamton University, 2023.
- Conference Co-organizer, Insurgent Ethnography Conference, Binghamton University, 2022.
- Treasurer, Sociology Graduate Student Organization, Binghamton University, 2018–2019.
- Conference Co-organizer, Emek Mekan Günleri, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, 2011.

METHODS AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Qualitative interviewing | Ethnography | NVivo | ATLAS.ti | SPSS | Documentary and video production (DaVinci Resolve)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Online Teaching Pedagogy Training Certificate, Binghamton University, 2025.
- Cinema Education, Hayal Perdesi Film Society, Istanbul, 2013–2014.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association |Eastern Sociological Society | Middle Eastern Studies Association | British Sociological Association |Sociologists for Women in Society

LANGUAGES

Turkish (native) | English (fluent) | Arabic (advanced intermediate: speaking and reading) | French (intermediate: reading)

- Intensive Arabic Language Course, Akdem, Istanbul, June–July 2019.
- Intensive French Language Course, Institut Linguistique Du Peyrou, Montpellier, June–July 2018.
- Intensive French Language Course, Galatasaray University, Istanbul, July–August 2017.
- Intensive Arabic Language Course, 29 Mayis University, Istanbul, August 2015–May 2016.

REFERENCES

Prof. Filiz Garip, Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Princeton University | fgarip@princeton.edu
Prof. Leslie Gates, Professor of Sociology, Binghamton University | lgates@binghamton.edu
Prof. Marina Sitrin, Associate Professor of Sociology, Binghamton University | msitrin@binghamton.edu
Prof. Gladys Jimenez-Munoz, Professor and Chair of Sociology, Binghamton University | gjimenez@binghamton.edu
Prof. Amitra Wall, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Sociology, Buffalo State University | HODGEAA@buffalostate.edu
Prof. Robert Smith, Professor of Sociology, Baruch College | robert.smith@baruch.cuny.edu
Prof. Caroline Lee, Professor of Sociology and Department Chair, Lafayette College | leecw@lafayette.edu
Prof. Rebecca Kissane, Professor of Sociology and Acting Department Head, Lafayette College | kissaner@lafayette.edu