

Serra Kocak

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Employment

Lafayette College, Easton, PA — July 2026

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology & Sociology

Education

Ph.D. in Sociology, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY — May 2026

Dissertation: *Halal New York: How Success Happens for Second-Generation American Muslim Women*

Committee: Prof. Leslie Gates (Chair, June 2023–present); Prof. Benita Roth (Chair, 2017–June 2023, RIP); Prof. Marina Sitrin; Prof. Filiz Garip (Princeton University); Prof. Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz

M.A. in Sociology, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY, 2019

B.A. in Sociology, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul, Turkey, 2008–2012

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

Advisor: Prof. Yıldırım Şentürk

Research Interest

Migration & Immigrant Incorporation | Gender, Religion, and Culture | Ethnography and Mixed Methods | Crime & Society | Urban Sociology | Sociology of Sports

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Kocak, Serra. “From Tehran to Taksim: Constraint, strategy, and hybrid repertoires of Islamic feminism.” *Feminist Encounters: A Journal of Critical Studies in Culture and Politics* 2026 10 no.1(2026):20.

<https://doi.org/10.20897/femenc/17995>.

Kocak, Serra, “Aesthetics of Piety: Everyday Islamic Feminisms Among Modest Fashion Designers in Istanbul” in Sarojini Nadar (ed.), *Gender*,

Religion, and Culture, in Madelyn Detloff (ed.), *Oxford Intersections: Gender Justice* (Oxford Academic, 18 June 2026).
<https://doi.org/10.1093/9780198960256.003.0158>.

In Progress (available upon request) – *Migration Studies* “We Walked So She Could Run”: Sibling Capital and the Emotional Labor of Mobility among Children of Immigrants”

In Progress (available upon request) – *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*
“Welcome to Habibi Wealth: Networking among Second-Generation American Muslim Women”

In Progress (available upon request) – *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research*
“Resonance as Method: Ethnographic Becoming with Second-Generation Muslim Women”

Public Sociology and Community Engagement

Documentary Making & Screening (October 2025)– A feature-length ethnographic documentary based on dissertation research, exploring how second-generation American Muslim women in New York City navigate gendered, racialized, and religious barriers to achieve social mobility. [Synopsis is here.](#)

Website Development, 2023–present
– A public-facing platform curating educational and career resources for children of immigrants and disseminating research findings on migration, gender, and mobility. <https://newyorkcityresources.com>

Fellowships and Grants

(External) The New School, New York, NY
Critical Social Inquiry Summer Seminar Fellow (\$350), Institute for Critical Social Inquiry, The New School, New York, June 8–14, 2025

Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY
Travel Grant (\$500), Department of Sociology, Spring 2026

Digital Scholarship & Communication Fellowship (\$5000), Center for Public Humanities, Binghamton University, Summer 2025
Travel Grant (\$500), Graduate School, Spring 2025
Graduate Scholarship (\$22,000), 2023-Present
Travel Grant (\$1,000), Graduate School, Fall 2023
Travel Grant (\$500), Department of Sociology, Fall 2023
Travel Grant (\$500), Department of Sociology, Spring 2023
Travel Grant (\$500), Graduate School, Spring 2023
Summer Fellowship (\$2,500), Department of Sociology, Summer 2022
Research Fellowship (\$500), Department of Sociology, Winter 2022
Summer Fellowship (\$2,500), Department of Sociology, Summer 2021
Summer Fellowship (\$2,500), Department of Sociology, Summer 2020
Travel Grant (\$500), Graduate School, Spring 2020
Travel Grant (\$250), Graduate Student Organization, Fall 2019
Travel Grant (\$500), Department of Sociology, Fall 2018
Graduate Scholarship (\$22,000 with benefits), 2017-2022

(External)The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Istanbul, Turkey

Research Grant, supervised by Prof. Yildirim Senturk (\$400), 2009-2012

Awards

Excellence in Teaching Award (\$500), Graduate School, Binghamton University, **Spring 2025**

Dissertation Year Award II (\$22,000 with benefits), Department of Sociology, Binghamton University, **Spring 2025**

Dissertation Year Award I (\$22,000 with benefits), Department of Sociology, Binghamton University, **Fall 2022**

Professional Development Award (\$600), New York State and Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU), Binghamton University, **Spring 2019**

Professional Service

2024

Chair & Panel Organizer, Insurgent Ethnography Conference, Binghamton University, NY, Apr 18

“Emotions in Ethnography,”

2023

Chair, Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), 57th Annual Meeting, Montréal, Québec, Canada, Nov 2-5

“Gender and Power Relations in MENA,”

Presider, American Sociological Association (ASA), 118th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, Aug 17-21

“Welcome to Habibi Wealth: Networking among Second-Generation American Muslim Women,”

Chair, Insurgent Ethnography Conference, Binghamton University, NY, May 4

“Ethnography in the Middle East,”

Presentations and Workshops

2026

Eastern Sociological Association (ESS), Washington, DC (5-8 March).

“Halal New York: How Success Happens for Second-Generation American Muslim Women.”

2025

Proseminar (SOC-690E), Binghamton University, NY, Sept 2

“How to Survive/Thrive in Graduate School”

2024

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting (ESS), Washington, D.C., Feb 29–Mar 3

“Social Mobility Among the Siblings: We Walked, So She Could Run!”

2023

American Sociological Association (ASA) 118th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, Aug 17–21

“Welcome to Habibi Wealth: Networking among Second-Generation American Muslim Women”

Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) 57th Annual Meeting, Montréal, Québec, Canada, Nov 2–5

“Islamic Feminisms: Particularities, Limitations, and Contributions”

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting (ESS), Baltimore, MD, Feb 23–26

“Class, Gender, and Networking: Information as a Socioeconomic Resource in Second-Generation American Muslim Women’s Lives”

Moroccan Institute for Advanced Studies (MENASP), 10th Anniversary Conference, Rabat, Morocco, July 11-12

“Islamic Feminisms: Particularities, Limitations, and Contributions,”

Chicago Ethnography Conference, Loyola University, Chicago, Apr 15

“Reflexivity, Positionality, and the Prospects of Ethnography: In-Depth Interviews on Social Mobility with Second-Generation American Muslim Women”

Proseminar (SOC-690E), Binghamton University, NY, Oct 26

“Conferences: Why Go? How to Make the Most of Them?”

2022

Insurgent Ethnography Conference, Binghamton University, NY, Apr 8

“Reflexive Ethnography: In-Depth Interviews with Second-Generation American Muslim Women”

Teaching Practicum (SOC-690H), Binghamton University, NY, Feb 23

“Grading, Feedback, and Time Management”

2021

Insurgent Ethnography Conference, Binghamton University, NY, Apr 16

“Ethnography in Pandemic Times”

2020

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting (ESS), Philadelphia, PA, Feb 27–Mar1

“Neoliberalism and Young Muslim Women in Turkey: The Case of Young Modest Fashion Designers”

2019

British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Annual Conference, University of Leeds, UK, Jun 24–26

“In Between: The New Modernity Experience of Young Religious Women in Turkey: Modest Fashion Designers and Young Activists”

2018

World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), Seville, Spain, Jul 16–20

“The New Modernity Experience of Young Religious Women in Turkey: Based on Ethnography with Modest Fashion Designers and Young Activist Religious Women”

2011

Emek ve Mekan Günleri, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul, Turkey, Dec 27-29

“From Streets to Blocks: The Adventure of Carpenters and Cabinetmakers in Istanbul”

University Service

Binghamton University

Conference Co-organizer, Insurgent Ethnography II, 2nd Annual Conference, May 2023

Conference Co-organizer, Insurgent Ethnography Conference, April 2022

Treasurer, Sociology Graduate Student Organization, 2018–2019:

Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University

Conference Co-organizer, Emek Mekan Günleri ([Conference](#)), December 2011

Academic Service

Early-Career Review Board (ECRB), International Journal of Intercultural Relations (IJIR) (2026–present)

Reviewer, Bentham Science Publishers (2026-present)

Reviewer, *The Research Competence* (2025–present)

Reviewer, Cambridge University Press (2025)

Reviewer, Undergraduate Journal, Binghamton University (2020–2024)

Conference Assistant, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (Feb 29–Mar 3, 2024)

– Assisted with registration, logistics, and distribution of participant ID badges.

Research Assistant, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University (2009–2012)

– *Istanbul, City of Labor: The Social and Spatial Practices of Work in the Metropolis* — funded by TÜBİTAK, supervised by Prof. Yıldırım Şentürk.

– Prepared ethnographic field reports on everyday work practices among street vendors and carpenters in Istanbul.

Teaching Experience

Binghamton University- Instructor of Record

Cine-Migration – (SOC 380H) Summer 2025, (SOC 380G) Summer 2026
(Asynchronous Online)

Crime and Society (SOC 480X) – Spring 2026

Gender, Immigration, and Labor– (SOC 480D) Fall 2025, (SOC 380D) Spring 2024

Sociology of Reproduction (SOC 353) & Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS 384E), **Fall 2023**, Fall 2024

Elmira College- Instructor of Record

Sociology of Sports — (SOC 2930) Spring 2026, Term III (Asynchronous Online; blueprint development)

Binghamton University - Teaching Assistant

Led weekly discussion sections for up to 50 students and graded exams.

Founders of Sociology (SOC 200B), Spring 2023, Prof. Benita Roth

Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100B), Spring 2022, Prof. Ana M. Candela

Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100B), Fall 2021, Prof. Ana M. Candela

Social Research Methods (SOC 305), Spring 2021, Prof. Gladys M. Jiménez-Muñoz

Social Research Methods (SOC 305), Fall 2020, Prof. Gladys M. Jiménez-Muñoz

Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100B), Spring 2020, Prof. Marina Sitrin

Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100B), Fall 2019, Prof. Marina Sitrin

Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100B), Spring 2019, Prof. Marina Sitrin

Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100A), Fall 2018, Prof. Marina Sitrin

Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100B), Spring 2018, Prof. Mahua Sarkar

Istanbul Sehir University, Istanbul/Turkey- Teaching Assistant

Formations of Modern Turkey, Summer 2016, Prof. Kasim Kopuz,

Exploring Istanbul, Spring 2016, Prof. Yunus Ugur
Classical Sociological Theories, Fall 2015, Prof. Hızır Murat Kose
Sociology of Work and Organizations, Spring 2014, Prof. Nurullah Ardic

Skills

Qualitative & Quantitative Analysis

NVivo, ATLAS.ti, SPSS, Python (basic)

Creative & Multimedia Skills

Film & Video Production by Using DaVinci Resolve Software

Professional Training

Online Teaching Pedagogy Training Certificate, Binghamton University, NY, May 2025

Intensive Arabic Language Course, Akdem, Istanbul, Turkey, June–July 2019

Intensive French Language Course, Institut Linguistique Du Peyrou, Montpellier, France, June–July 2018

Intensive French Language Course, Galatasaray University, Istanbul, Turkey, July–August 2017

Intensive Arabic Language Course, 29 Mayıs University, Istanbul, Turkey, August 2015 – May 2016

Cinema Education, Hayal Perdesi Film Society, Istanbul, October 2013 – July 2014

Memberships

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)

Eastern Sociological Society (ESS)

Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)

British Sociological Association (BSA)

Hayal Perdesi Film Society, Istanbul

Languages

Turkish (Native)

English (Fluent)

Arabic (Advanced Intermediate - speaking and reading)

French (Intermediate - reading)