

Rebecca A. Karam

Curriculum Vitae
2026

Department of Sociology
Michigan State University

karamreb@msu.edu
www.rebeccakaram.com

EDUCATION

- 2020 Ph.D. in Sociology, CUNY Graduate Center
Dissertation: *Making Muslim Americans: Parenting Practices, Parochial Schools, and the Transmission of Faith Across Generations in Metro-Detroit*
Committee: Nancy Foner (chair), Van C. Tran, Richard Alba, Philip Kasinitz
- 2011 B.A. in Sociology, University of Michigan-Dearborn
Summa Cum Laude
- 2009 A.A. in Liberal Arts, Oakland Community College
Summa Cum Laude

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2022-present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
- 2020-2022 Dean's Research Associate, Michigan State University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Migration; Race and Ethnicity; Sociology of Religion; Qualitative Methods; Muslim Studies; Arab American Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Muslims in the Suburbs (under second review, New York University Press)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Karam, Rebecca A., Jessica Saba, Najib Hourani, Stephen P. Gasteyer. 2026 "Seen but Unseen: Transcending the Invisibility/Hypervisibility Paradox among MENA American Faculty." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492261457393>
- Gambol, Brenda, Rebecca A. Karam, and Andrew Taeho Kim. 2026. "Nursing as Ethnic Capital: Perceptions of Intergenerational Niching among Filipino Americans." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 52(5), 1218–1242. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2025.2584342>

- Karam, Rebecca A. 2025. "Uncertain Safety: Uncovering the Religious Racial Socialization Process among Muslim American Families." *Journal of Family Studies* 31(2): 226-250.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13229400.2024.2433488>
- Karam, Rebecca A. 2021. "Meeting the Moral Markers of Success: Concerted Cultivation among Second-Generation Muslim Parents." *Sociological Forum* 36(4): 1071-1094.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/socf.12742>
- Karam, Rebecca A. 2020. Becoming American by Becoming Muslim: Strategic Assimilation among Second-Generation Muslim American Parents." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 43(2): 390-409.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2019.1578396>
***Winner of the 2019 Eastern Sociological Society's Candace Rogers Award for Outstanding Student Paper**
- Karam, Rebecca A. 2017. "Rust Belt Revitalization, Immigration, and Islam: Toward a Better Understanding of Mosques in Declining Urban Neighborhoods." *City & Community* 16(3):257-262. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cico.12244>

Articles under Review

- Karam, Rebecca A. and Ayse Perihan Kirkic. "(Re)Defining MENA: A Review of Middle Eastern and North African Migration, Identity, and Racial Classification in North America." *Sociology Compass*. Under Review.
- Karam, Rebecca A., Rania Mansour, and Stephanie Nawyn. "Risk Perception and Mitigation in Crisis: Navigating COVID-19 Responses in Refugee Humanitarian Aid." *Social Science & Medicine*. Revise and Resubmit.

Articles in Process

- Karam, Rebecca A. and Brenda Gambol. "Where is the Joy in Migration Studies?" in preparation for *Sociological Forum*.
- Puchalski, Vance and Rebecca A. Karam. "Reframing the Middleman: Immigrant Intermediary Entrepreneurs in a Stratified Market."
- Kim, Andrew Taeho, Rebecca A. Karam, and Brenda Gambol. "Ethnic Niching Trends in Nursing."

Book Chapters

- Karam, Rebecca A. 2025. "Soccer Moms and Social Justice: Concerted Cultivation among Affluent Arab Muslim American Families" in *Arab Detroit: Rights, Respect, Responsibility*, edited by A. Shryock and S. Howell. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.

Book Reviews

- Karam, Rebecca A. 2025. "Agents of God: Boundaries and Authority in Muslim and Christian Schools by Jeffrey Guhin" *American Journal of Sociology* 131(3): 714-716.
- Karam, Rebecca A. 2024. "Book Review of *Hadha Baladuna: Arab American Narratives of Boundary and Belonging*." *Mashriq & Mahjar* 11(1): 1-3.

Karam, Rebecca A. 2021. "Religious Pluralism in the City." *Sociology of Religion* 82(3): 380–384.

Published References

Karam, Rebecca A. 2017. "Optional Ethnicity." Pp. 1-3 in *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, edited by B. S. Turner. Thousand Oaks, CA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Karam, Rebecca A. 2013. "Anti-Muslim Xenophobia." Pp. 303-305 in *American Immigration: An Encyclopedia of Political, Social, and Cultural Change*, edited by J. Ciment and J. Radzilowski. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.

Reports

Karam, Rebecca A. 2017. "Muslims for American Progress: An Impact Report of Muslim Contributions to Michigan" Dearborn, MI: Institute for Social Policy and Understanding.
(<https://www.ispu.org/an-impact-report-of-muslim-contributions-to-michigan/>)

GRANTS & AWARDS

2026	Humanities and Arts Research Program Production Grant (\$4,500), "Making Muslim Americans," Michigan State University
2024-2025	The Dean's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant Program (\$5,000), "Counting MENA In: Middle Eastern and North African American Community Experiences at Michigan State University"
2023-2025	Creating Inclusive Excellence Grant, Michigan State University (\$30,000), "Counting MENA In: Middle Eastern and North African American Community Experiences at Michigan State University"
2022	Diversity Champion, College of Social Sciences, Michigan State University
2019	Eastern Sociological Society Candace Rogers Paper Award
2019	Eastern Sociological Society Travel Award (\$500)
2018-2019	Carell Dissertation Fellowship (\$20,000)
2017	Arab American Studies Association Travel Award (\$500)
2017	CUNY Graduate Center Dissertation Award (\$20,000)
2016-2017	Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (\$15,000), Committee for the Study of Religion at the CUNY Graduate Center
2015	ARC Research Praxis Fellowship (\$4,000), Advanced Research Collaborative at the CUNY Graduate Center
2012-2017	Enhanced Chancellor's Fellowship (\$72,000), CUNY Graduate Center.

- 2012 Michigan Difference Maker Award, University of Michigan-Dearborn
- 2011 Chancellor's Medallion, University of Michigan-Dearborn

PRESENTATIONS, TALKS, AND WORKSHOPS

National and International Conference Meetings

- 2026 "Reframing the Middleman: Immigrant Intermediary Entrepreneurs in a Stratified Market" presented at the 2026 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting with Vance Alan Puchalski. Roundtable Session: Urban Markets.
- 2025 "Risk Perception and Mitigation in Crisis: Navigating COVID-19 Responses in Refugee Humanitarian Aid" presented at the 2025 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Roundtable Session: Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Impacts on Migration.
- 2024 "Where is the Joy in Immigration Studies?" presented at the 2024 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Thematic Session: Bringing Joy to Immigration Studies.
- 2024 "Uncertain Safety: Uncovering the Racial Socialization Process among Muslim American Families," presented at the 2024 Muslim Studies Conference, Michigan State University. Thematic session: Unpacking Muslim Identity.
- 2024 "'I Fear for their Safety': Religious Racial Socialization Process among Muslim American Families during the 2016 Election," presented at the 2024 Eastern Sociological Association. Thematic session: Ethnicity, Race, and Racism (CSERR).
- 2024 "The Racializing of Religious Institutions: Coping Strategies among Arab and Muslim Families," Arab American Studies Association 2024 Annual Meeting.
- 2023 "The Racializing of Religious Institutions: Coping Strategies for Islamophobia in Mosques and Islamic Schools," American Sociological Association 2023 Annual Meeting. Invited session: Muslim Americans and Racialization Across Generations.
- 2022 "Uncertain Safety: Uncovering the Racial Socialization Process among Second-Generation Muslim American Parents," International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe (IMISCOE) Annual Meeting. Oslo, Norway.
- 2022 "Uncertain Safety: Uncovering the Racial Socialization Process among Muslim American Families," presented at the American Sociological Association 2022 Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. Thematic session: Racism and Anti-Racism.
- 2021 "Meeting the Moral Markers of Success: Success Framing and Concerted Cultivation among Second-Generation Muslim Parents," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Regular session: "Arab Americans."
- 2021 "Meeting the Moral Markers of Success: Success Framing and Concerted Cultivation among Second-Generation Muslim Parents," Arab American Studies Annual Meeting. Regular session: Migration Stories.

- 2020 “Soccer Moms and Social Justice: Concerted Cultivation among Affluent Arab Muslim American Families” at the Arab American Studies Association meeting. *Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.*
- 2019 “Leaving the Cultural Baggage Behind: How Second-Generation Muslim Parents Negotiate the Role of Immigrant Culture in Promoting Success in the Next Generation,” presented at the American Sociology of Religion 2019 Annual Meeting, New York City. Regular session.
- 2018 “Challenging Racism, Resisting Racialization: Raising Third-Generation Muslim Americans in the United States,” presented at the American Sociological Association 2018 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia. Thematic Session. American Fears: Islam’s Racialization and the Politics of Exclusion.
- 2018 “Leaving the Cultural Baggage Behind: How Second-Generation Muslim Parents Negotiate the Role of Immigrant Culture in Promoting Success in the Next Generation,” presented at the American Sociological Association 2018 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia. Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities Refereed Roundtable Session. Migrant Generations.
- 2016 “Redefining Islam: Adult Religiosity and Social Incorporation of Second-generation Muslim Americans,” presented at the American Sociological Association 2016 Annual Meeting, Seattle. Regular session.
- 2015 “The Impact of Childhood Mosque Participation on Adult Religiosity and Civic Participation,” presented at the Growing Up Muslim in Europe and the United States Conference, City University of New York.

Regional Conference Meetings

- 2025 “Beyond Refuge in Arab Detroit,” presented at the Historical Society of Michigan annual meeting, Oakland University.
- 2022 “Uncertain Safety: Uncovering the Racial Socialization Process among Second-Generation Muslim American Parents,” presented at the Midwest Migration, Race and Ethnicity Conference, Detroit.
- 2019 “Leaving the Cultural Baggage Behind: How Second-Generation Muslim Parents Negotiate the Role of Immigrant Culture in Promoting Success in the Next Generation,” presented at the Michigan Sociological Association 2019 Annual Meeting, Detroit. Thematic session: Immigrant Communities.
- 2019 “Becoming American by Becoming Muslim: Strategic Assimilation among Second-Generation Muslim American Parents,” presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston. Regular session on “Immigration, Assimilation, and Transnationalism.”
- 2015 “Faith in the Second Generation: South Asian Second-Generation Muslim Americans in Metro-Detroit,” presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New York City. Roundtable Session.

Invited Professional Presentations

- 2025 “Assimilation, Social Inequality, and American Immigration,” October 22nd, University of Texas-Dallas.
- 2025 “Beyond Refuge in Arab Detroit,” presented at Book Suey, Hamtramck, MI.
- 2025 “Beyond Refuge in Arab Detroit,” presented at University of Michigan-Dearborn.
- 2021 “Meeting the Moral Markers of Success: Success Framing and Concerted Cultivation among Second-Generation Muslim Parents,” presented at the Muslim Studies Program. October 7th. Michigan State University.
- 2021 “Muslim Americans and Patterns of Migration,” October 22nd. University of Pittsburgh.
- 2019 “Becoming American by Becoming Muslim: Strategic Assimilation among Second-Generation Muslim American Parents,” February 5th. University of Michigan-Dearborn.
- 2018 “Becoming American by Becoming Muslim: Strategic Assimilation among Second-Generation Muslim American Parents,” November 26th. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
- 2018 “Becoming American by Becoming Muslim: Strategic Assimilation among Second-Generation Muslim American Parents,” November 27th. University of Michigan-Dearborn.
- 2017 “Leaving the Cultural Baggage Behind: How Second-Generation Muslim Parents Negotiate the Role of Immigrant Culture in Promoting Success in the Next Generation,” presented at the Immigration Working Group, CUNY Graduate Center.
- 2016-2017 “Muslims for American Progress: Understanding Muslim Contributions to Michigan,” presented at academic and community venues throughout the nation.
- 2016 "Making Muslim Americans: Parenting Practices, Parochial Schools, and the Transmission of Faith Across Generations in Metropolitan Detroit," presented at the Committee for the Study of Religion seminar series, CUNY Graduate Center.
- 2016 “Anti-Immigrant Xenophobia in the United States,” Anthropology & Sociology Department, Baruch College.
- 2014 “The Making of Arab Americans,” Middle Eastern and Middle Eastern American Center, CUNY Graduate Center.

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND COLLABORATIONS

- 2025-pres. Co-Principal Investigator, Global Environment & Migration Study, with Maria Espinoza (Assistant Professor of Sociology) and Samantha Castonguay (Assistant Professor of Sociology).

2024-pres.	Principal Investigator, Locating Joy in Immigration, with Brenda Gambol (Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Texas at Dallas)
2023-pres.	Principal Investigator, Counting MENA In: Middle Eastern and North African American Community Experiences at Michigan State University with Najib Hourani (Anthropology), Stephen Gasteyer (Sociology), and Salah Hassan (Director, Global Studies)
2022-pres.	Affiliate, Center for Arab Narratives, Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
2019-2020	Collaborator, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Data Advocacy Collaborative, Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
2016-2019	Co-Principal Investigator, Faith in the Second Generation, CUNY Graduate Center
2015-2017	Principal Investigator, Muslims for American Progress Project, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding
2014-2016	Co-Principal Investigator, The Second Generation Project, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2013	Lead Interviewer & Ethnographer, Doing Business in Hamtramck Study, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2012-2013	Graduate Research Assistant, CUNY Graduate Center
2012	Research Assistant, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2010	Research Assistant, University of Michigan-Dearborn

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Courses

2023-2026	Contemporary Social Theory, Michigan State University
2023-2025	Migration and Social Change, Michigan State University
2024	Qualitative Field Research, Michigan State University

Undergraduate Courses

2026	Family and Society, Michigan State University
2024-2026	Advanced Seminar in Human Migration, Michigan State University
2022-2025	Advanced Research Methods: Qualitative Interviewing, Michigan State University
2021-2025	Global Migration, Michigan State University

- 2019-2020 Introduction to Arab American Studies, University of Michigan-Dearborn
- 2013-2016 Introduction to Sociology, Baruch College
- 2013-2016 Introduction to Anthropology, Medical Sociology, and Sociological Research Methods, Baruch College (Graduate Teaching Assistant)

Syllabi Developed for:

The Racialization of Religion; Race and Ethnicity; Urban Ethnography; Sociology of Religion; Social Inequality; Immigrant Religions

ADVISING EXPERIENCE

PhD Dissertation Advisees

- Ayşe Perihan Kırkıç, Global and Sociocultural Studies, Florida International University
- dee DuBose, Education, Michigan State University
- Şevval Yılmaz Aslan, Sociology, Michigan State University

MA Thesis Advisees

- Caroline Geer, Journalism, Michigan State University (2026)

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND NATIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Board

- 2024-2028 *Sociology Compass*, Race and Ethnicity section.

American Sociological Association

- 2025 By-Laws Committee Member, ASA Global MENA section-in-formation.
- 2024 Co-Organizer with Brenda Gambol (UT-Dallas), thematic session: “Bringing Joy to Immigration Studies.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting.
- 2023 Organizer, special session: “Muslim Americans and Racialization Across Generations.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting.
- 2023 Organizer, regular session: “Middle Eastern and North African Americans.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting.
- 2021 Presider, “America at Mid-Century: A Majority-Minority Society?” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting.

Arab American Studies

- 2019-Pres. Arab American National Research Initiative, ACCESS-Dearborn.
- 2017-2020 Arab American Studies Association Board of Directors, Web Coordinator.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2024-2026 Graduate Education Committee, Sociology Department, Michigan State University.
- 2024-2026 Muslim Studies Program Advisory Committee, Michigan State University.
- 2021-2024 Undergraduate Education Committee, Sociology Department, Michigan State University.
- 2022-2023 Delegate, Department of Sociology. College of Social Science DEI Strategic Planning Committee.
- 2020-2021 Research Symposium Committee, Sociology Department, Michigan State University.
- 2016-2017 Discussant, Immigration Working Group, CUNY Graduate Center.
- 2016 Distinguished Fellowship Selection Committee, Advanced Research Collaborative, CUNY Graduate Center.
- 2014-2015 Curriculum and Exams Committee, Sociology Students Association, CUNY GC.

PEER REVIEW SERVICE

Cogent Education, Sociology Compass, PNAS, American Sociological Review, Social Problems, Journal of Intercultural Studies, Social Forces, Sociological Perspectives, Sociological Focus, Sociology of Religion, The Sociological Quarterly

MEDIA (SELECTED)

- 2024 Faculty Voice, [MSUToday](#), “Arab Americans and the future of inclusion”
- 2021 Television discussant, Al Araby, “Ain Almakani”
- 2019 Television interview on Al Araby, “Ain Almakani”
- 2018 Television interview on PBS, “No Passport Required: Detroit,” July 10, 2018.
- 2017 Interview in *The Metro Times*, “Everyone in Michigan should read this new report on the state's Muslims,” September 14, 2017 (Shared by The Huffington Post and Moveon.org).
- 2017 Discussant on 910 AM, “Redline with Bankole Thompson,” July 20, 2017.
- 2016 Discussant on WCEV, “Chicagoland’s Ethnic Voice: Radio Islam,” May 6, 2016