Rebecca A. Karam

Curriculum Vitae
2026

Department of Sociology
Michigan State University

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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 (In production, New York University Press)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Karam, Rebecca A., Rania Mansour, and Stephanie Nawyn. Forthcoming. "Risk Perception and Mitigation in Crisis: Navigating COVID-19 Responses in Refugee Humanitarian Aid." *Social Science & Medicine*. *Conditional acceptance.*

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.* Minor Revision.

Puchalski, Vance and Rebecca A. Karam. "The Banking Status Gap: Money Services Businesses and Immigrant Intermediary Entrepreneurship in a Stratified Market." *Social Problems*. Under Review.

Articles in Process

Karam, Rebecca A. and Brenda Gambol. "Relationships as Indicators of Success: Identifying and Exploring "Blind Spots" in Immigrant Mobility Research" in preparation for *Sociological Forum*.

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 ($15,000), "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

2024-2026 Qualitative Field Research, Michigan State University

2023-2026 Contemporary Social Theory, Michigan State University

2023-2025 Migration and Social Change, Michigan State University

Undergraduate Courses

2027	Contemporary Communities: Middle Eastern & North African Americans, Michigan State University
2026	Family and Society, Michigan State University
2021-2027	Global Migration, Michigan State University
2024-2026	Advanced Seminar in Human Migration, Michigan State University
2022-2025	Advanced Research Methods: Qualitative Interviewing, 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; American Muslims; Race and Ethnicity; Urban Ethnography; Sociology of Religion; Social Inequality; Immigrant Religions

ADVISING EXPERIENCE

PhD Advisees

- Ayşe Perihan Kırkıç, Global and Sociocultural Studies, Florida International University (2026)
- dee DuBose, Education, Michigan State University (in progress)
- Şevval Yilmaz Aslan, Sociology, Michigan State University (in progress)
- Bee Hazelwood, Sociology, Michigan State University (in progress)

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

2026-2027 Access, Opportunity, and Excellence, Sociology Department, Michigan State University.

2026-2027 Chair Search Committee (ad hoc), Sociology Department, Michigan State University.

2025-2026 Speakers Committee (Environment, Migration, and Mobility cluster), Sociology Department, Michigan State University.

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

Ethnicities, Qualitative Sociology, 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 Almakan"
2019	Television interview on Al Araby, "Ain Almakan"
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