

# Rebecca A. Karam

*Curriculum Vitae*

2023

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

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociology of Religion; Ethnic and Racial Studies; International Migration; Qualitative Methods; Muslim American Studies; Arab American Studies

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book

*Making Muslim Americans* (under contract with New York University Press)

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Karam, Rebecca A. The Racializing of Religious Institutions: Coping Strategies for Islamophobia in Mosques and Islamic Schools. (In preparation for *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*.)

Karam, Rebecca A. "Uncertain Safety: Uncovering the Racial Socialization Process among Muslim American Families." (Submitted to *Journal of Family Studies*.)

Karam, Rebecca A. 2021. "Meeting the Moral Markers of Success: Concerted Cultivation among Second-Generation Muslim Parents." *Sociological Forum* 36(4): 1-39.

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

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.  
**\*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.

### Book Chapters

Karam, Rebecca A. 2023. "Soccer Moms and Social Justice: Concerted Cultivation among Affluent Arab Muslim American Families" in *Arab Detroit 2020: Rights, Respect, Responsibility*, edited by A. Shryock and S. Howell. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.

### 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

2022 Diversity Champion, College of Social Sciences, Michigan State University

2019 Eastern Sociological Society Candace Rogers Paper Award

2019 Eastern Sociological Society Travel Award

2018-2019 Carell Dissertation Fellowship

2017 Arab American Studies Association Travel Award

2017 CUNY Graduate Center Dissertation Award

- 2016-2017     Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Committee for the Study of Religion at the CUNY Graduate Center
- 2015           ARC Research Praxis Fellowship, Advanced Research Collaborative at the CUNY Graduate Center
- 2012-2017     Enhanced Chancellor’s Fellowship, 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**

- 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**

- 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**

- 2021 “Meeting the Moral Markers of Success: Success Framing and Concerted Cultivation among Second-Generation Muslim Parents,” presented at the Muslim Studies Program. October 7<sup>th</sup>. Michigan State University.
- 2021 “Muslim Americans and Patterns of Migration,” October 22<sup>nd</sup>. University of Pittsburgh.
- 2019 “Becoming American by Becoming Muslim: Strategic Assimilation among Second-Generation Muslim American Parents,” February 5<sup>th</sup>. University of Michigan-Dearborn.
- 2018 “Becoming American by Becoming Muslim: Strategic Assimilation among Second-Generation Muslim American Parents,” November 26<sup>th</sup>. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

- 2018 “Becoming American by Becoming Muslim: Strategic Assimilation among Second-Generation Muslim American Parents,” November 27<sup>th</sup>. 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**

- 2022-pres. Principal Investigator, Practicing Medicine while Muslim, Michigan State University
- 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            “Contemporary Social Theory,” Michigan State University
- 2023            “Migration and Social Change,” Michigan State University

### **Undergraduate Courses**

- 2022-2023    “Advanced Research Methods: Qualitative Interviewing,” Michigan State University
- 2021-2023    “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:*

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

## **UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 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.
- 2022-2023    Delegate, Department of Sociology. College of Social Science DEI Strategic Planning Committee.
- 2021-2023    Undergraduate Education Committee, Sociology Department, Michigan State University.
- 2021            Presider, “America at Mid-Century: A Majority-Minority Society?” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting.
- 2019-2022    Arab American National Research Initiative, ACCESS-Dearborn.
- 2020-2021    Research Symposium Committee, Sociology Department, Michigan State University.
- 2017-2020    Arab American Studies Association Board of Directors, Web Coordinator.
- 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 Graduate Center.

**PEER REVIEW SERVICE**

*PNAS, Social Problems, Journal of Intercultural Studies, Social Forces, Sociological Perspectives, Sociological Focus, Sociology of Religion, The Sociological Quarterly*

**MEDIA APPEARANCES (SELECTED)**

2021 Television discussant, Al Araby, “Ain Almakam”

2019 Television interview on Al Araby, “Ain Almakam: Arab American Political Mobilization in Detroit” November 2019.

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 Radio discussant on 910 AM, “Redline with Bankole Thompson,” July 20, 2017.

2016 Radio discussant on WCEV, “Chicagoland’s Ethnic Voice: Radio Islam,” May 6, 2016