

# RENGIN BAHAR FIRAT

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## EDUCATION

- 2013 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Iowa  
Thesis: “Apathetic Racism Theory: A Neurosociological Study of How Moral Emotions Perpetuate Inequality”  
Committee: Steven Hitlin (Chair), Jennifer Glanville, Mary Campbell, Daniel Tranel (Neurology), Vincent Magnotta (Radiology, Psychiatry)
- 2009 M.A., Sociology, University of Iowa
- 2006 B.A., Sociology, Koç University (*full scholarship and honors*)

## APPOINTMENTS

- 2015-present Assistant Professor, Global Studies Institute, Georgia State University
- 2015-present Affiliate Assistant Professor, Sociology, Georgia State University
- 2015-present Associate Assistant Professor, Neuroscience Institute, Georgia State University
- 2013-2015 Post-doctoral Researcher, Evolution, Cognition and Culture Lab., Université de Lyon

## RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

- 2014-present Research Associate, Laboratory for Comparative Social Research, HSE, Russia

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Social Psychology, Neurosociology, Comparative Sociology, Values and Morality, Well-being

## SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2013 Emerging Diversity Scholar Citation, National Center for Institutional Diversity at the University of Michigan
- 2012-2013 Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowship, Graduate College, Univ. of Iowa
- 2010 Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship Award (Discrimination Studies), Social Science Research Council
- 2007-2009 Full Fellowship for M.A., Turkish Ministry of National Education

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Articles

- Firat, Rengin B. and Pascal Boyer. 2015. “Coalitional Affiliation as a Missing Link Between Ethnic Polarization and Well-being: An Empirical Test from the European Social Survey.” *Social Science Research*, Vol. 53, pg. 148-161.

- Boyer, Pascal, **Rengin Firat** and Florian van Leeuwen. 2015. “Safety, Threat and Stress in Inter-Group Relations: A Coalitional Index Model.” *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, Vol. 10(4), pg. 434-450.
- Firat, Rengin B. 2014. “Media Usage and Civic Life: The Role of Values.” *Journal of Social and Political Psychology*, Vol. 2(1), pg. 117-142.
- Firat, Rengin and Steven Hitlin. 2012 (Invited paper). “Morally Bonded and Bounded: A Sociological Introduction to Neurology.” In *Advances in Group Processes*, Vol. 29, Emerald (Eds. Kalkhoff, Will, Shane Thye and Edward Lawler), pg. 165-199.
- Firat, Rengin. 2012. “Trust and Political Participation: A Multi-Dimensional Comparison of Four Nations.” *Sosyoloji Arastirmalari Dergisi (Journal of Sociological Research)*, Vol. 15(2), pg. 45-76.

### **Edited Book Chapters**

- Kwon, Hye Won and **Rengin Firat**. (Invited Chapter *underway*). “A Cross-Cultural Investigation of Altruistic Value Boundaries and Well-Being.” In *Alleviating World Suffering: The Challenge of Negative Quality of Life*, Springer (Ed. Ronald E. Anderson).
- Firat, Rengin and Chad M. McPherson. 2010. “Towards an Integrated Science of Morality: Linking Mind, Society and Culture.” In *Handbook of the Sociology of Morality*, Springer (Eds. Hitlin, Steven and Stephen Vaisey), pg. 361-384.

### **Non-Refereed Publications**

- Firat, Rengin and Steven Hitlin. 2014. (Invited Encyclopedia entry) “Self.” *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Theory in Psychology*, (In press).
- Firat, Rengin and Steven Hitlin. 2012. (Invited Review Essay). “Neurosociology and the Difficult Art of Building Interdisciplinary Bridges.” *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*, Vol. 41(6), pg. 780-783.
- McPherson, Chad M. and Rengin Firat. 2011. “Towards an Integrated Science of Morality.” In *Newsletter of the Altruism, Morality & Social Solidarity Section of the American Sociological Association*, Vol. 2(2), pg. 38-57.

### **Selected Works In Progress**

- Firat, Rengin. “Discrimination and Well-being: The Moderating Effects of Value Orientations.” Revise and Resubmit at *Social Indicators Research*.
- Firat, Rengin and Jennifer L. Glanville. “Measuring Voluntary Association Diversity: A Comparison of Proxy and Direct Approaches.” Revise and Resubmit at *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*.
- van Leeuwen, Florian, Helena Miton, **Rengin Firat** and Pascal Boyer. “Gay men seen as defectors: Commitment to group defense predicts aggressive homophobia.” Revise and Resubmit at *Evolutionary Psychology*.
- Firat, Rengin and Steven Hitlin. “Moral Apathy and Aversion: Neurological Evidence for the New Structural Racism.” Under review at *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*.
- Firat, Rengin, Ethan Rogers, Hye Won Kwon and Steven Hitlin. “A New Measure of Moral Boundaries: Investigating Group Values.” Under review at *Sociological Science*.

## **EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS**

### **In Progress**

2015 “Self And Well-Being in Sub-Saharan Africa: Communal Identity, Value Boundaries and Religious Belief as Foundations of Happiness.” LOI invited for full proposal submission (Principal Investigator, with co-investigators Jennie Burnet, Todd Whitmore and Roberto Foa, \$300,000).

### **Funded**

2013 “Moral Schemas, Cultural Conflict, and Socio-political Action.” U.S. Department of Defense Minerva Research Initiative (Co-PI (international) and PI (France), with Steven Hitlin (PI, international), \$676,793)

## **SELECTED INTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS**

2012, 2010 Executive Council of Graduate and Professional Students (ECGPS) Research Grant, UIowa (\$500 + \$1,000)  
2010 MRI Research Facility Pilot Study Support, UIowa (10 free functional MRI scans, worth approximately \$6,000)  
2010 Research Grant, Dept. of Sociology, UIowa (\$300)

## **SELECTED REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

### **2015**

Firat, Rengin. “Discrimination and Subjective Well-being: The Moderating Effects of Agentic Value Orientations. (Progress Report)” Paper presented at the 5th International Annual Research Conference “Cultural and Economic changes under cross-national perspective,” Moscow, Russia.

Firat, Rengin, Ethan Rogers, Steven Hitlin and Hye Won Kwon. “Value Boundaries, Altruism and Well-Being.” Paper presented at the Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity Section Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Chicago, IL.

Firat, Rengin, Steven Hitlin and Hye Won Kwon. “Values and Group Boundaries: A Novel Measurement Technique.” Paper presented at the European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Firat, Rengin, Steven Hitlin and Hye Won Kwon. “Values; Social Identities and Civic Engagement.” Paper presented at the 68th Annual World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Firat, Rengin. “The Moral Basis of Racial Cognition in the Human Brain.” Paper presented at the Prosociality and Cognition Session at the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA) Conference, Helsinki, Finland.

Firat, Rengin. “Discrimination and Subjective Well-being: The Moderating Effects of Value Orientations.” Paper presented at the Social Capital and Subjective Well-being Session at the XVI April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development, Moscow, Russia.

**2014**

Firat, Rengin. "Coalitional Affiliation as a Missing Link Between Ethnic Polarization and Well-being: An Empirical Test from the European Social Survey." Paper presented at the 4th LCSR international conference on Cultural and Economic Changes in Cross-National Perspective, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Firat, Rengin. "Coalitional Psychology: The Missing Link between Ethnic Polarization and Well-being." Paper presented at the Understanding Democracy and Polarization Session at the XV April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development, Moscow, Russia.

Firat, Rengin and Steven Hitlin. "Moral Schemas, Cultural Conflict, and Socio-Political Action." Paper presented at the regular session on Peace and Conflict at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), San Francisco, CA.

**2012**

Firat, Rengin. "A Theory of Prejudice in Everyday Life: From Symbolic Markers to Somatic Markers." Refereed Roundtables for the Section on Social Psychology at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Denver, CO.

**2011**

Firat, Rengin. "Moral Emotions and Racial Prejudice: A Neurosociological Approach." New Directions in Social Psychology Session for the Section on Social Psychology at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Las Vegas, NV.

**2010**

Firat, Rengin and Jennifer L. Glanville. "Voluntary Associations and Tolerance: The Role of Membership Composition." Voluntary and Non-Profit Organizations Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Atlanta, GA.

Firat, Rengin. "Moral Emotions." Social Psychology Session, Joint Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society/North Central Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.

**2009**

Civettini, Nicole H.W., stef shuster and Rengin Firat. "Effects of Same Sex Unions on Mental Well-Being." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Des Moines, IA.

**INVITED TALKS**

2013           Firat, Rengin. "Sosyal Nörobilime Yeni Bir Bakış Açısı: Sosyo-Politik Davranışlar Üzerine Disiplinler ve Uluslar Arası Bir Proje." ("A New Way of Looking at Social Neuroscience: An Inter-disciplinary and Inter-national Investigation of Socio-Political Behavior.") Dept. of Neurology, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey.

2012           Firat, Rengin. "Evaluations of Race and Social Class in the Human Brain." Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Iowa.

2012           Firat, Rengin. "Symbolic Boundaries and the Human Brain." Neuroscience Graduate Program, University of Iowa.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Lecturer (UIowa)

- Fall 2011 Lecturer, Social Inequality (Undergraduate)  
Spring 2011 Lecturer, Social Inequality (Online, Undergraduate)

### Teaching Assistant (UIowa)

- Spring 2012 Teaching Assistant (T. A.), Layana Navarre-Jackson (Instructor), Introduction to Sociology Principles (Undergraduate)  
Spring 2011 T. A., Jae-On Kim (Instructor), Introduction to Sociology Principles (Undergraduate)  
Fall 2010 T. A., Mary Campbell (Instructor), Introduction to Sociology Principles (Undergraduate)  
Spring 2010 T. A., Steven Hitlin (Instructor), Gender and Society (Undergraduate)  
Fall 2009 T. A., Steven Hitlin (Instructor), Principles of Social Psychology (Undergraduate)

## SERVICE

### University Service

- 2015 Center for Human Rights and Democracy, Faculty Affiliate & Curriculum Committee Member (GSU)  
2010-2012 Council on the Status of Women, Diversity and Climate Committee (UIowa)  
2010-2012 University of Iowa Unwelcomed Behavior Survey Committee (UIowa)  
2008 - 2009 President, Turkish Student Association (UIowa)  
2007-2008 Vice President, Turkish Student Association (UIowa)

### Departmental Service

- 2015 Recruitment Committee Member, Global Studies Institute (GSU)  
2015 Seed Grant Selection Committee Member, Global Studies Institute (GSU)  
2010-2011 Diversity Committee Member, Dept. of Sociology (UIowa)  
2009-2010 Graduate Studies Committee Member, Dept. of Sociology (UIowa)

### Service to the Profession

#### *Committee:*

- 2015 Evolution, Biology and Society Section, Program Committee  
2015 Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity Section, Program Committee

#### *Discussant/Organizer:*

Working Session 4.2 at the 5th International Annual Research Conference “Cultural and Economic changes under cross-national perspective,” Moscow, Russia. (2015, Discussant)

Session on “Trust, social capital and institutions” at the XVI April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development, Moscow, Russia. (2015, Discussant)

Working Session 5.1, the 4th LCSR international conference on Cultural and Economic Changes in Cross-National Perspective, St. Petersburg, Russia (2014, Discussant)

Regular Session on “Social Psychology” at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), San Francisco, CA (2014, Discussant)

Organizer & Discussant, Round-table Session on “Morality, Culture and Ideology” at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, St. Louis, MO (2011, Organizer & Discussant)

***Reviewer:***

Social Science Research (2015), the Journal of Social and Political Psychology (2015), Psychological Reports (2011 – 2015), Social Science Journal (2012, 2014, 2015), Current Sociology (2012), American Journal of Sociology (2011), Sociology Compass (2011, 2015), Current Research in Social Psychology (2010, 2011).

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Sociological Association (Sections: Social Psychology; Evolution, Biology & Society; Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity)

International Sociological Association (Section: Social Psychology; Social Stratification)

Society for Cultural Evolution

**PROGRAMMING & STATISTICAL SKILLS**

Stata (advanced), Mplus (advanced), AFNI (Analysis of Functional Neuroimages, advanced), E-prime (advanced), Qualtrics (advanced)

**LANGUAGES**

Turkish (native), English (fluent), French (basic), German (basic)