

# RENGIN BAHAR FIRAT

Global Studies Institute  
Georgia State University  
25 Park Place Suite 1821  
Atlanta, GA 30302

Email: [rfirat@gsu.edu](mailto:rfirat@gsu.edu)  
Phone: 404-413-6641

---

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2015-present Assistant Professor, Global Studies Institute, Department of Sociology and the Neuroscience Institute, Georgia State University  
2013-2015 Post-doctoral Researcher, Evolution, Cognition and Culture Laboratory, Université de Lyon, France

## EDUCATION

- 2013 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Iowa  
2009 M.A., Sociology, University of Iowa  
2006 B.A., Sociology, Koç University (*full scholarship and honors*)

## RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

- 2015-present Transcultural Conflict and Violence Initiative, Georgia State University  
2014-present Laboratory for Comparative Social Research, Higher School of Economics, Russia

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Social Psychology, Neurosociology, Global 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, University 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 and Jennifer L. Glanville. 2017. "Measuring Voluntary Association Diversity: A Comparison of Proxy and Direct Approaches." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, Vol. 46(1), pg 1-13, pg. 218-230.  
Firat, Rengin. 2016. "Discrimination and Well-being: The Moderating Effects of Value Orientations." *Social Indicators Research*, pg 1-13, *OnlineFirst*.  
van Leeuwen, Florian, Helena Miton, **Rengin Firat** and Pascal Boyer. 2016. "Gay men seen as defectors: Commitment to group defense predicts aggressive homophobia." *Evolutionary Psychology*, pg. 1-8.  
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 *Forthcoming*). "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. 2016. (Invited Encyclopedia entry) "Self." *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Theory in Psychology*, Sage Publications (ed. Harold L. Miller), pg. 824-825.
- 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, Hye Won Kwon, Ethan Rogers and Steven Hitlin. "A New Measure of Moral Boundaries: Investigating Group Values." Revise and Resubmit at *Social Psychology Quarterly*.
- Firat, Rengin, Steven Hitlin, Vincent Magnotta and Daniel Tranel. "Putting Race in Context: Target Social Class Modulates Processing of Race in the vmPFC and The Amygdala." Revise and Resubmit at *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*.
- Firat, Rengin, Gregory Berns, Alexandre Franco, Michael Prietula and Anthony Lemieux. (Invited for full submission). "The Neurobiology of Economic Inequality: A Multi-level Model of the Effects of Cultural Narratives on Beliefs, Choice & Justification." Under Review at *Social Justice Research*.

## EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS

### Funded

- 2013 "Moral Schemas, Cultural Conflict, and Socio-political Action." U.S. Department of Defense Minerva Research Initiative. Role: Co-PI (international) and PI (France). Steven Hitlin (PI, international). Total award: \$809,456.

### Under Review

- 2017 "From social networks to brain networks: Investigating human values." Invited for full proposal submission for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Young Faculty Award. Role: Principal Investigator. Co-investigators: Sarah Brosnan, Yubao Wu. Total award: \$462,837.

- 2016 “III: Small: Mining Dynamic Information Flows Over Large-Scale Networks.” National Science Foundation (NSF), Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS): Core Programs (16-581). Role: Co-Principal Investigator. Overall PI: Yubao Wu, GSU. Co-PI: Yichen Cheng. Total award: \$273,600).

## **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)

## **REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

### **International**

- Firat, Rengin, Hye Won Kwon and Steven Hitlin. “Moral Inclusion and Social Identities: A cross-national investigation of in-group and out-group values” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, Nagoya, Japan. August 2016.
- Firat, Rengin. “Ethnic Polarization and Well-being: The Moderating Effects of Agentic Value Orientations” Paper presented at the Prosociality, Value Orientations, and Well-being Session at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, Warsaw, Poland. July 2016.
- Firat, Rengin. “Investigating Moral Conflict and Political Decisions in the Human Brain” Paper presented at the Brain Processes Involved in Political Decisions Session at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, Warsaw, Poland. July 2016.
- 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. November 2015.
- 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. July 2015.
- 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. July 2015.
- 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. March 2015.
- 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. April 2015.
- 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. November 2014.
- 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. April 2014.

## National

- Firat, Rengin. “New Approaches to Morality: Integrating Sociology with Neuroscience” Paper presented at the Section on Sociology of Emotions Invited Session. New Frontiers: Morality, Altruism, and Emotions (co-sponsored with Section on Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity) at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Seattle, WA. August 2016.
- Ethan Rogers, **Rengin Firat**, Hye Won Kwon and Steven Hitlin. “A New Measure of Moral Boundaries: Investigating Group Values.” Paper presented at the Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity Section Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Seattle, WA. August 2016.
- 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. August 2015.
- 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. August 2014.
- 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. August 2012.
- 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. August 2011.
- 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. August 2010.

## Regional

- Firat, Rengin. “Agency, Ethnic Polarization and Well-being: A Cross-national Analysis” Paper presented at the Suicidal Ideation, Agency and Meaning Panel at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (SSS), Atlanta, GA. April 2016.
- Firat, Rengin. “Moral Emotions.” Social Psychology Session, Joint Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society/North Central Sociological Association, Chicago, IL. March 2010.
- 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. March 2009.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2016      Firat, Rengin. “From Brains to Minds: A Novel Approach to Investigating Moral Boundaries of Race.” Race & Diversity Lecture Series at Dept. of Sociology, University of Georgia.
- 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**

### **Assistant Professor (GSU)**

Fall 2016       Global Issues in Global Psychology, PhD seminar in Sociology, Psychology and Global Studies.  
 Fall 2016       “Neurosociology of Race and Ethnicity” for the Global Studies Module of Scientific Perspectives on Global Problems Section 063.  
 Spring 2016    Research Methods, Sociology Dept., Undergraduate course, 2 sections.

### **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**

2016            Served as judge on the Undergraduate Student Case Challenge hosted by the GSU Center for International Business Education & Research (February 26, 2016)  
 2015-2016      Center for Human Rights and Democracy, Faculty Affiliate & Curriculum Committee Member (GSU)  
 2015-2016      Middle East Center, 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, 2016     Research Synergy Committee Member, Global Studies Institute (GSU)  
 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**

#### ***Briefings:***

2016            Brief presented to the Congressional Staff: Multi-level Approaches to Polarization and Conflict

- 2016 Brief prepared for the Strategic Multilayer Assessment (SMA) Reach-Back and US Joint Staff report presented to the United States Central Command: Public Opinion on ISIL
- 2016 Briefing presented to Congressman Buddy Carter on the Minerva project: Moral Schemas, Cultural Conflict, and Socio-political Action

***Committee:***

- 2016-2017 Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity Section, Publications Committee
- 2015-2016 Evolution, Biology and Society Section, Program Committee
- 2015-2016 Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity Section, Program Committee

***Discussant/Organizer:***

- Refereed roundtable sessions for the Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Seattle, WA (2016, 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)

***Journal Reviewer:***

- Social Psychology Quarterly (2017), Journal of Behavioral and Applied Management (2016), Oxford Bibliographies (2016), Social Science Research (2015, 2016), 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).

***Grant Reviewer:***

- The U.S. Army Research Office (January, 2017)

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- American Sociological Association (Sections: Social Psychology; Evolution, Biology & Society; Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity)
- International Society for Political Psychology
- 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), Italian (basic)