

RENGIN BAHAR FIRAT

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Department of Sociology
University of California, Riverside

1220 Watkins Hall
Riverside, CA 92521
Email: rbfirat@ucr.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2018-present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California, Riverside
- 2015-2018 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
Thesis: “Apathetic Racism Theory: A Neurosociological Study of How Moral Emotions Perpetuate Inequality”
Committee: Steven Hitlin (Chair), Jennifer Glanville, Mary Campbell, Daniel Tranel, Vincent Magnotta
- 2009 M.A., Sociology, University of Iowa
- 2006 B.A., Sociology, Koç University (*full scholarship and honors*)

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

- 2014-present Laboratory for Comparative Social Research, Higher School of Economics, Russia
- 2015-2018 Transcultural Conflict and Violence Initiative, Georgia State University

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Social Psychology, Race and Ethnicity, Neurosociology, Emotions, 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 B. 2019. “Opening the “Black Box”: Functions of the Frontal Lobes and Their Implications for Sociology.” *Frontiers in Sociology* (Evolutionary Sociology and Biosociology section). 4:3.
- Firat, Rengin B., Hye Won Kwon, and Steven Hitlin. 2018 . “A Novel Measure of Moral Boundaries: Testing Perceived In-Group/Out-Group Value Differences in a Midwestern Sample.” *Socius*, 4:(1-11).

- Alban Lauka, Jennifer McCoy and **Rengin Firat**. 2018. “Mass Partisan Polarization: Measuring a Relational Concept.” Special Issue of *American Behavioral Scientist* on Polarization and Democracy: A Janus-Faced Relationship with Pernicious Consequences, (62)1: 107 - 12.
- Firat, Rengin, Steven Hitlin, Vincent Magnotta and Daniel Tranel. 2017. “Putting Race in Context: Target Social Class Modulates Processing of Race in the vmPFC and the Amygdala.” *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 12(8): 1314–1324.
- 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. 2017. “Discrimination and Well-being: The Moderating Effects of Value Orientations.” *Social Indicators Research*, 134(1): 167–194 (First published online August 2016).
- 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**. 2017. “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), pg. 147-164.
- 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 and Linzie S. Taylor. An fMRI Investigation of the Effects of Agentic vs. Communalistic Self Construals on Responses to Social Exclusion. In preparation.

Firat, Rengin, Dariga Abilova Jennifer McCoy and Alban Lauka. "Moral Polarization: The Effects of Value Polarization on Democratic Attitudes." In preparation, draft available.
Hitlin, Steven, Hye Won Kwon and **Rengin Firat**. "Moral Boundaries Across Cultures." In preparation.

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.

Not Funded (Invited for Full Proposal Submission)

2017 "Overcoming Cascades of Unsustainability: Investigating Inequalities in Well-being at the Intersections of F-W-E." Sustainable Urbanisation Global Initiative Food-Water-Energy Nexus. Role: Principal Investigator (Global). Co-PIs: Wolfgang Aschauer (PI for Austria, University of Salzburg) and Viktoriya Pantyley (PI for Poland, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University in Lublin). Total award: €1,600,458, GSU Award: €690,522.

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 and Jennifer McCoy. "Moral Polarization" Paper presented at the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists-the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SASP-SPSSI) Conference on the Morality of Conflict and Cooperation, Melbourne, Australia. April 2017.

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 New Methodological Challenges to Investigation of Human Values Session at the joint 7th LCSR International Workshop on Subjective Well-Being and Growing Inequality Across the Globe and the XVIII April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development, Moscow, Russia. April 2017.

Firat, Rengin and Camilo Cristancho. "The Socio-psychology of polarization and de-polarization" Paper presented at the Workshop on Polarized Politics: Causes, Consequences and Solutions, Budapest, Hungary. March 2017.

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. “Capturing Emotions using Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI)” Paper presented at the Methodological Advances in the Sociology of Emotions Invited Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA. August 2018.
- Firat, Rengin and Linzie Taylor. “An fMRI Investigation of the Effects of Individualistic vs. Collectivistic Priming on Responses to Social Exclusion” Paper presented at the Neurosociology: Fundamental Advances and Applications Invited Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA. August 2018.
- Firat, Rengin. “Moral Polarization and Support for Democracy: Polarizing Around Values” Paper presented at the invited half-day workshop on Extreme Political Polarization and Legitimacy at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), San Francisco, CA. August 2017.
- Firat, Rengin. “Why Do We Need the Frontal Lobes? The Neurological Foundations of Complex Human Social Life” Paper presented at the Sociology of Mental Health, Biosociology, Neurosociology and Mental Health Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada. August 2017.
- Hitlin, Steven, Hye Won Kwon and **Rengin Firat**. “Moral Boundaries Across Cultures” Paper presented at the Social Psychology Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada. August 2017.
- 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, Seattle, WA. August 2016.
- Rogers, Ethan, **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, 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, 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, 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, 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, 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, Atlanta, GA. August 2010.

Regional

- Abilova, Dariga and **Rengin Firat**. "Can Values Explain Attitudes towards Petty Bribery?" Paper presented at the Legitimacy, Values and Political Behavior Session at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, IL. April 2018.
- 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 (UC Riverside)

- Teaching Practicum (Graduate, Sociology): Fall 2018
 Methods of Sociological Inquiry (Undergraduate, Sociology): Winter 2019
 Social Psychology of Emotions (Graduate, Sociology): Spring 2019

Assistant Professor (GSU)

Scientific Perspectives on Global Problems: Happy :) - The Science of Happiness: Spring 2018

Cognitive Sociology (Graduate, Sociology): Spring 2016

Global Issues in Social Psychology (Graduate, Sociology, Psychology and Global Studies): Fall 2016, Spring 2018

Neurosociology of Race and Ethnicity (Online Undergraduate, Global Studies): Fall 2016

Research Methods (Undergraduate, Sociology): Spring 2016, Fall 2017

Lecturer (UIowa)

Social Inequality (Undergraduate): Fall 2011, Spring 2011

Teaching Assistant (UIowa)

Introduction to Sociology Principles (Undergraduate): Fall 2010, Spring 2011, 2012

Gender and Society (Undergraduate): Spring 2010

Principles of Social Psychology (Undergraduate): Fall 2009

THESIS COMMITTEES & MENTORSHIP

UCR:

PhD Dissertation Committees: John Aldecoa, Zeinab Shuker.

PhD Prospectus Committees: Melanie Kushida, Phoenicia Fares.

MA Thesis Committees: Logan Valenty.

Undergraduate Capstone Honors Thesis: Ashley Jimenez (2018-present), Benjamin Williams (2019-present).

Fulbright Scholar: Lukasz Remiswicz (Fulbright Scholar from Poland, October 2018-March 2019).

GSU:

MA Thesis Committee Member: Dariga Abilova (Political Science, completed Spring 2017).

MA in Passing Paper Committee Member: Nimendra Mawalagedara (Political Science, completed Spring 2018, Rustam Mussa (Political Science, completed Spring 2018).

SERVICE

UC RIVERSIDE:

Departmental Service

2018-2019 Graduate Affairs Committee

2018-2019 Social Psychology Area Specialization Committee

2018-2019 Department Newsletter Committee

GSU:

University Service

2017 Reviewer for the GSU Internal Grants program from the Office of the Vice President for Research & Economic Development

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

2015-2016 Middle East Center, Faculty Affiliate & Curriculum Committee Member

Departmental Service

2015-present Research Synergy Committee Member, Global Studies Institute

2015 Recruitment Committee Member, Global Studies Institute

2015 Seed Grant Selection Committee Member, Global Studies Institute

UIowa:

University Service

2010-2012 Council on the Status of Women, Diversity and Climate Committee
2010-2012 University of Iowa Unwelcomed Behavior Survey Committee
2008 - 2009 President, Turkish Student Association
2007-2008 Vice President, Turkish Student Association

Departmental Service

2010-2011 Diversity Committee Member, Dept. of Sociology
2009-2010 Graduate Studies Committee Member, Dept. of Sociology

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:

2018-2019 Social Psychology Section, Graduate Student Investigator Award Committee
2018-2019 Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity Section, Membership Committee (Chair)
2018-2019 Evolution, Biology and Society Section, Graduate Student Paper Award Committee
2017-2018 Evolution, Biology and Society Section, Graduate Student Paper Award 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, 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, 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:

American Journal of Sociology (2011, 2018), British Journal of Psychology (2018, 2019), Current Research in Social Psychology (2010, 2011), Current Sociology (2012), Journal of Behavioral and Applied Management (2016), Journal of Research in Personality (2016), Journal of Social and Political Psychology (2015), Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly (2017, 2018), Oxford Bibliographies

(2016), Psychological Reports (2011 – 2015), Social Indicators Research (2018), Social Psychology Quarterly (2017, 2018), Social Science Journal (2012, 2014, 2015), Social Science Research (2015, 2016, 2018), Sociology Compass (2011, 2015).

Grant Reviewer:

GSU Internal Grants (2018)

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

The U.S. Army Research Office (June, 2017)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

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)