

LARA-ZUZAN GOLESORKHI

Department of Politics
University of Portland
5000 N. Willamette Blvd.,
Portland, Oregon 97203-5798
golel902@newschool.edu

EDUCATION:

New School for Social Research, New York, NY

PhD, Politics (2018)

Thesis: “State-Islam Relations in Germany and in the US: How Muslim Immigration increases Secularization”

New School for Social Research, New York, NY

MPhil, Politics (2015)

Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy, New York, NY

MA, International Affairs (2012)

Thesis: “Unveiled or unemployed-The German unveiling policies as a reflection on the intersection of religious neutrality, secularism and human rights”

Dissertation:

Does Islam belong to Germany? Does Islam belong to America? While these questions seem rhetorical when looking at the history of state-religion relations and Muslim immigration in both countries, the “place” of Muslims and Islam has been contested on either side of the Atlantic. The continuous growth of the Muslim population combined with institutional challenges to prevailing state-religion relations and the steady increase in anti-Muslim sentiments and acts have set up a framework of contestation for state-Islam relations and secularization. At core of this contestation lies the relationship between immigration and religion. Immigration and religion have significantly shaped the German and the American polity.

Despite historical differences, the two countries share important similarities regarding the organization of state-religion relations and the trajectory of Muslim immigration from the 1990s onward. These commonalities shape the context of my inquiry into the effects of Muslim immigration on state-religion relations in Germany and in the US. By examining legislative and judicial action on Islamic prayer in public education and Islamic religious garb in public employment, I establish how state-Islam relations have been organized and analyze the implications thereof for institutional secularization – meaning the exclusion of Islamic practices from public sectors. I find that in Germany, state-Islam relations have been largely organized through institutional interference, while in the US, state-Islam relations have been largely organized through institutional non-interference. Despite these differences in the organization of state-Islam relations, Muslim immigration has led to an increase in institutional secularization in both countries. I find that with the exception of Islamic prayer in the American public education sector, Islamic practices have been mainly excluded from public sectors such as education and employment.

My findings speak to important political and social developments relative to religion, immigration, institutions, ethnicity, and gender in the contemporary moment. They reveal a heightened concern to deal with Muslims and Islam in the sense of institutional action that corresponds with heightened exclusion of Muslims and Islam from public sectors in terms of secularization. Together, these developments challenge the conventional comparative paradigm of “Religious America, Secular Europe”.

Research Interests: American Politics, European politics, migration, gender, political institutions, Muslims and Islam, law, human rights.

Teaching Interests: American Politics, European politics, migration, gender, political institutions, Muslims and Islam, law, human rights.

Honors and Awards:

2018 ANKOMMER. Perspektive Deutschland Fellowship
2017-2018 New School for Social Research Dissertation Fellowship
2015-2017 New School Nominee Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award
2017 New School Teaching Fellowship
2016-17 New School Alvin Johnson Scholarship
2015 Winner UNHATE Foundation and UN Academic Impact Global Diversity Contest
2015 New School Winner Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award
2013-2017 New School Teaching Assistantship
2012-2014 New School University Scholarship
2012-2014 New School Politics Department Scholarship
2011 New School Nominee Student Leadership Award
2010-2012 Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy Director's Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS:

Academic publications:

- N.d. *Employment integration at any cost? Germany's 2016 Integration Act and employment measures for refugees.* UNDER REVIEW.
- 2018 _____ and Andrew Minster and Danielle Kavanagh-Smith (2018) "Institutionalist Review and Analysis of Immigration Effects on U.S. Jobs Markets" Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis and Department of Economics, The New School for Social Research, Working Paper Series 2018-1. <http://www.economicpolicyresearch.org/>
- _____ and Gina Walker and Ellen Freeberg. *Recovering Frieda Wunderlich: Gender, Knowledge and Exile.* Social Research: An International Quarterly of the Social Sciences, Johns Hopkins University Press. Volume 84, Number 4, Winter 2017. <http://muse.jhu.edu/issue/38051>
- 2017 *Unveiling Structural Challenges: The Headscarf and Employment Integration in Germany.* Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs, Volume 37, Number 2, Taylor and Francis. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13602004.2017.1345101>
- 2015 *Cases of Contention: Activism, Social Media and Law in Saudi Arabia.* Arab Media&Society. Issue 10, Winter 2015. <http://www.arabmediasociety.com/?article=859>

Policy publications:

- 2014 *Just a piece of fabric? – The visual politics of the headscarf.* Heinrich Boell Foundation: Migration-Integration-Diversity. Berlin, Germany. September 2014. <http://heimatkunde.boell.de/2014/09/23/nur-ein-stueck-stoff-die-visuelle-politik-des-kopftuchs>

2012 *Unveiled or Unemployed. An ultimatum between Allah and Work?* Heinrich Boell Foundation: Migration-Integration-Diversity. Berlin, Germany. November 2012.
http://www.migration-boell.de/web/diversity/48_3510.asp

Articles in Progress:

Anti-Muslim racism in Germany: A postcolonial approach

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis, New York, NY

Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, New York, NY

August 2017 – March 2018

Researcher / co-author

“Labor Economics of Migration” Working Group

Research and policy analysis on the labor market effects of immigrants from an economics perspective

Publication: Minster, A., Kavanagh-Smith, D. and Golesorkhi L. (2018) “Institutionalist Review and Analysis of Immigration Effects on U.S. Jobs Markets” Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis and Department of Economics, The New School for Social Research, Working Paper Series 2018-1.

<http://www.economicpolicyresearch.org/>

New School for Social Research, New York, NY

January 2016 – August 2017

Research Assistant

“Exile and Inequality” Project

Archival research on Frieda Wunderlich (German and US archives)

German translation and organization of archival material

Biographical datasheet and short essays on Frieda Wunderlich

Publication: Ellen Freeberg, Gina Walker, and Lara-Zuzan Golesorkhi. *The Case of Frieda Wunderlich: Gender, Knowledge and Exile* An International Quarterly of the Social Sciences, Johns Hopkins University Press. Volume 84, Number 4, Winter 2017. <http://muse.jhu.edu/issue/38051>

Leo Baeck Institute, New York, NY

July 2015 – November 2015

Exhibition Researcher

Research on German-speaking émigrés to the US in the 1930s for exhibit ‘Crisis and Opportunity: The Cultural Impact of German-Jewish Refugees’ <https://www.lbi.org/2015/11/exhibit-crisis-opportunity/>

Biographical datasheet and short essays on selected émigrés

Organization and visualization of archival material for exhibit

FIELD RESEARCH:

Germany

Summer 2018

“Refugees in the German Labor Market”: “The Refugee Gender Gap - Evidence from Germany, Turkey, Jordan, and the US” & “Employment integration at any cost? Germany’s 2016 Integration Act and employment measures for refugees”

The aim of the research is to better understand the employment integration of refugees in Germany and to change the perspective in integration debates by surveying the target groups’ perceptions and experiences of the early implementation of the 2016 Integration Act, as well as integration processes more broadly.

Amman, Jordan

March 2018

“The Refugee Gender Gap - Evidence from Germany, Turkey, Jordan, and the US”

Although data on the feminization of migration has been reported since the 1960s and standards for the integration of gender-specific programming in humanitarian efforts have been pushed on the international level, the participation of refugee women in the host country’s labor market often remains overlooked.

The project “The Refugee Gender Gap - Evidence from Germany, Turkey, Jordan, and the US” seeks to address this lack in understanding how economic participation of refugee women has been organized and what kind of specific challenges refugee women face in obtaining employment. By empirically capturing the persistent refugee gap from a gendered perspective, the objective of the project is to develop a supporting theory of the “refugee gender gap”. The project is based on an extensive literature review as well as interviews and observations concerning the economic participation of refugee women in Germany, Turkey, Jordan, and the US.

Istanbul, Izmir & Çeşme, Turkey

Winter 2018

Although data on the feminization of migration has been reported since the 1960s and standards for the integration of gender-specific programming in humanitarian efforts have been pushed on the international level, the participation of refugee women in the host country’s labor market often remains overlooked.

The project “The Refugee Gender Gap - Evidence from Germany, Turkey, Jordan, and the US” seeks to address this lack in understanding how economic participation of refugee women has been organized and what kind of specific challenges refugee women face in obtaining employment. By empirically capturing the persistent refugee gap from a gendered perspective, the objective of the project is to develop a supporting theory of the “refugee gender gap”. The project is based on an extensive literature review as well as interviews and observations concerning the economic participation of refugee women in Germany, Turkey, Jordan, and the US.

Stuttgart, Germany

Summer 2016

“With or Without – Women with Muslim Migration background in the German Employment Sector”

Interviews (open-ended and closed) with women with Muslim migration background

The aim of the research project was to gain an understanding of the factors that inform the challenges of women with Muslim migration background with or without the headscarf to access and to succeed in the German employment sector and to make suggestions about the optimization of the integration processes.

IRB Approval May 2016: The New School

Publication: *‘Unveiling Structural Challenges: The Headscarf and Employment Integration in Germany’*

Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs, Volume 37, Number 2, Taylor and Francis.

Hong Kong, Thailand, Philippines and Malaysia

Summer 2011

Interviews with and observation of sex workers and domestic workers

The aim of the field research was to gain a better understanding about the human rights issues faced by sex workers and domestic workers in Southeast Asia.

International Field Program: Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy

POLICY AND CIVIC EXPERIENCE:

CLAIM – Alliance against Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism, Stuttgart, Germany

June 2018 – present

Regional Delegate

Program and project coordination

Monitoring of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism

Development of action strategies regarding Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism

WoW e.V. (NGO) + WoW Project, Stuttgart, Germany

November 2015 – present

Executive Director and Founder

Program and project management

Fundraising and grant-writing

Media representation and spokesperson

Cooperation with key policy figures in immigration and integration

Volunteer and internship program management

www.wow-withorwithout.com

WoW e.V. (NGO), Stuttgart, Germany

January 2017 – present

Director of Research Department

Research project design, development, and execution; policy analysis

Lead researcher for knowledge game (“Muslims and Islam in Germany”) and program material

Amnesty International USA (AIUSA), New York, NY

September 2011 – August 2015

Country Specialist Saudi Arabia

Monitoring of human rights situation in Saudi Arabia

Collaboration with advocacy groups, US State Department, foreign embassies and consulates

Development of action strategies for human rights issues in Saudi Arabia

United Nations Women Fund for Gender Equality, New York, NY

April 2012

Consultant

Review Application Proposals for Grant-making Cycle 2012

Amnesty International Asia Pacific (AIAP), Hong Kong, China

June 2011 - Aug 2011

Human Rights Education Intern (Asia Pacific Youth Network)

Human rights education modules design (reproductive health and child migration)

Development of Urgent Action Kit on human rights issues in the Asia-Pacific region

Facilitation of Middle East North Africa online discussion platform for youth activists

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, New York, NY

Mentor

“Amman Spring Intensive”

March 2018

Sharing Perspectives Foundation & Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

Facilitator

“European Refuge/es – Critical Dialogue on the Crisis by Refugees and Non-Refugees”

Spring 2018

Queens College, Queens, NY

Adjunct Professor

“American Immigration Law”

Fall 2016 - Spring 2018

Eugene Lang College, New York, NY

Teaching Fellow

“Muslims and Islam in the U.S.”

Spring 2017

The New School, New York, NY

Teaching Assistant

“Famous Trials” Discussion Section (Professor Huestis)

Spring 2017

Eugene Lang College, New York, NY

Instructor

“Social Science Research, Theory & Practice Fellowship” - Independent Study

Summer 2015 - Spring 2018

The New School, New York, NY

Teaching Assistant

“America is Hard to Find” Discussion Section (Professor Varon)

Fall 2015

The New School, New York, NY

Teaching Assistant

“The US and the World in the 21st Century” Discussion Section – Theme: Immigration (Professor Plotke)

Spring 2014 and Spring 2015

CONFERENCES:

2018 “Migrant Organizations and the Future of Civil Society” Forum of Cultures Project Days 2018. Stuttgart, Germany

2017 “Women's Rights in Turbulent Times” European Commission Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights 2017. Brussels, Belgium.

“Employment integration at any cost? Germany’s 2016 integration law and employment measures for refugees” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, USA.

<https://apsa2017-apsa.ipostersessions.com/default.aspx?s=9A-99-55-6F-0F-62-EC-64-5F-00-B9-C1-20-FE-58-98>

- “80 cent job opportunities for refugees: employment integration, social disintegration, and ethnic discrimination” International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) Annual Meeting. Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- 2016 “Unveiling structural challenges: the headscarf and employment integration in Germany” Oxford Women’s Leadership Symposium. Oxford, UK.
- “Double Jeopardy: Female and Migrant – a historical overview of feminized migration in Germany” Women in the Economy Conference. Stuttgart, Germany.
- “With or Without – Women with Muslim migration background in the German employment sector” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, USA.
- “Women with Muslim migration background in the German employment sector” National Center of Competence in Research – The Migration - Mobility Nexus. Summer School - Measuring Discrimination. University of Neuchatel, Switzerland.
- “Life Experiences of Female Migrants – when two becomes one” Heinrich Boell Foundation. Mannheim, Germany. <https://www.boell-bw.de/veranstaltungen/archiv/2016/lebensrealitaeten-von-migrantinnen/>
- “The headscarf in public employment: Unveiled or Unemployed?” Berlin Summer School– Linking Theory and Empirical Research. Humboldt University Berlin & Berlin Social Science Center. Berlin, Germany.
- “Gender as factor in migration politics, refugee politics, and integration politics” Stuttgart Diversity Congress. City Council of Stuttgart – Department Gender Equality. Stuttgart, Germany.
- “State-Islam relations in contemporary Germany and the US - When Muslim Immigration and Secularization Meet” Heidelberg Center for American Studies – Spring Academy. Heidelberg, Germany.
- 2015 “United Nations Sustainable Development Summit” Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany. New York, USA.
- “With or Without (WoW) – Building a movement for Muslim women in Germany” United Nations. New York, USA <http://webtv.un.org/search/briefing-to-announce-the-winners-of-the-unaiunhate-foundation-co-sponsored-diversity-contest/4324203658001?term=UNAI>
- 2014 “Religious-accommodation of Muslims in the US employment sector under Title VII” Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Boston, USA.
- “Islam in the German Education Sector- A case of incoherence?” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, USA.
- “A Space for Integration: Islamic Religious Instruction in German Public Schools” New Directions in Immigration: Interdisciplinary Research Perspectives: Immigration Working Group Graduate Center CUNY, New York, USA.
- 2013 “Religion across the early canon - Machiavelli, Luther, Hobbes, and the role of religion in government” Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, USA.

“A Human Rights Mission: Advocacy on the local and global scale” The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy. University of Dayton. Dayton, USA.

MEMBERSHIP:

American Political Science Association
American Political Science Association: Section – Migration and Citizenship
American Political Science Association: Section – Religion and Politics
CLAIM – Alliance against Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism
International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion Network
World Citizen School / Global Ethics Institute
Women’s Caucus for Political Science

ADDITIONAL TRAINING:

UN Habitat Advanced Facilitation Training – Online (2018)
Soliya Online Facilitation Intensive Training – Online (2018)
American Political Science Pedagogy Workshop – San Francisco, USA (2017)
Leadership and Team Management for Change Training: Global Ethics Institute - Tuebingen, Germany (2017)
Fundraising for Non-Profit Organizations Seminar: Forum of Cultures - Stuttgart, Germany (2017)
Pedagogy Seminar: The New School – New York, USA (2014)
Advocacy, Organizing, and Activism Training: Amnesty International USA - Atlanta, USA (2009) and Boston, USA (2010&2011)

COMPUTER SKILLS - LANGUAGE:

Computer Skills: SPSS, Adobe Creative Suite
Language: Fluent in German, English, and French, Conversational in Farsi and Arabic

REFERENCES:

David Plotke
Politics Department
The New School for Social Research, NY
212.229.5747 ext. 3090
plotked@newschool.edu

Claudia Haupt
Yale Law School
Yale University, CT
203.432.1678
claudia.haupt@yale.edu

Gina Walker
Women's Studies Department
The New School for Public Engagement, NY
212.229.5150
WalkerG@newschool.edu