

Curriculum Vitae (Updated: January 2026)

Kemal Budak

Lecturer in Sociology
School of History and Sociology

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I. Earned Degrees

Ph.D. in Sociology, Emory University, August 2022

Dissertation: *It Takes a Village to Raise a Child: The Religious Socialization of Muslim Immigrant Children*

M.A. in Sociology, University of Houston–Clear Lake, May 2015 (GPA: 4.0)

M.A. in Islamic Studies and Christian–Muslim Relations, Hartford Seminary, June 2012 (GPA: 3.9)

B.A. in Translation and Interpreting, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey, June 2003

II. Employment History

Lecturer, Sociology, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2023–Present

Visiting Assistant Professor, Sociology, Emory University, 2022–2023

III. Honors and Awards

- Georgia Tech Honor Roll (Fall 2023–Present)
- Recipient of 2025-2026 Leaders in Teaching and Learning Program
- Sociology Graduate Student Teacher of the Year, Emory University (2021)

- Emory Libraries / ECDS Graduate Fellow (2020–2021)
- Empowering Interdisciplinary Teaching and Scholarship Grant, Institute for the Liberal Arts, Emory University (\$500, 2019)
- Emory University Research Grant (\$1,100, 2017)
- Thank a Teacher Certificate, Georgia Institute of Technology (Fall 2023–Present)

IV. Education and Mentorship

A. Courses Taught (Georgia Tech)

- Fall 2023 – Fall 2025 – SOC 1101: Introduction to Sociology
- Fall 2024 – HTS 3075: Religion and Immigration
- Spring 2025 & Fall 2025 – HTS 3018: New Religions and Cults in America
- Fall 2025 - HTS 3070: Culture and Society

B. Academic and Career Advising and Guidance

- Informal advising and mentoring of undergraduate students regarding coursework, research interests, graduate school preparation, and career pathways in the social sciences.

C. Research Advising and Guidance

N/A

D. Educational Innovations and Other Contributions

- Development of experiential and community-engaged assignments, including norm-breaking projects, cultural capital analyses, immigrant worship place visits, and media-based sociological analysis.
- Integration of interdisciplinary materials and applied sociological research into core curriculum courses serving STEM majors.

E. Educational Administration and Leadership

- **Chair**, HSOC Undergraduate Club, School of History and Sociology, Georgia Institute of Technology (2025–present).
- **Member**, Ad Hoc Committee for the Evaluation of Non-Tenure-Track Faculty, School of History and Sociology (2024–Present).
Contributed to departmental discussions regarding instructional quality, evaluation criteria, and professional standards for non-tenure-track faculty.
- **Member**, Speakers Committee, School of History and Sociology, Georgia Institute of Technology (2024–present).

- **Participant**, Leaders in Teaching and Learning Program, Center for Teaching and Learning, Georgia Institute of Technology (2025–2026).

V. Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities

A. Publications

- Cherry, Stephen M., Budak, Kemal, and Aida Ramos. 2018. “Latina/o Conversion and Miracle-Seeking at a Buddhist Temple.” *International Journal of Latin American Religions*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41603-018-0045-6>

B. Other Publications, Collaborations, and Creative Products

- Budak, Kemal. 2018. Book Review of *Rebranding Islam: Piety, Prosperity, and a Self-help Guru*. *Islam and Christian–Muslim Relations*.
- Budak, Kemal. 2014. Book Review of *Policing in Hong Kong*. *International Criminal Justice Review* 24(2):197–198.
- Interviewer. 2019. Project undertaken by Dr. Michael Rich - Atlanta Housing Authority’s Moving to Work Demonstration to assess the effects of public housing innovations on the well-being of low- and moderate- income families and their children
- Budak, Kemal. 2018. “Superheroes are Immigrants, or Immigrants are Superheroes?” *The Religious Studies Project*. Retrieved from <https://religiousstudiesproject.com/2018/06/07/superheroes-are-immigrants-or-immigrants-are-superheroes/>
- Budak, Kemal. 2016. “Living in Limbo.” *The Religious Studies Project*. Retrieved from <http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/2016/11/10/living-in-limbo/>
- Budak, Kemal. 2014. “Forget about Erdogan. The Freedom Party Won Turkish Elections.” *Your Middle East*. Retrieved from http://www.yourmiddleeast.com/opinion/forget-about-erdogan-the-freedom-party-won-turkish-elections_22766
- Published translations of academic and popular works (Turkish–English), including books by Dean Radin, Dean L. Overman, and Werner Heisenberg.

C. Presentations

- “From Campuses to Courtrooms: The Slow Death of Academic Freedom in Turkey” Presented at Academic Freedom and Human Rights Symposium, October 10, 2025, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA.

- “The Making of a Muslim-Turkish-American: Religious Socialization in Gülen Movement-Affiliated Turkish Families.” Presented at Annual Meeting of Georgia Sociological Association, October 9th – 11th, 2024, Columbus, GA.
- “Traditional vs. Cool vs. Light Islam: A Comparison of Three Muslim Suburban Weekend Schools” Presented at 118th Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association,” Philadelphia, PA, August 18, 2023.
- “From Motherland to Mother Tongue: Religious Socialization of Muslim Immigrant Children.” Presented at 115th Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association,” Online Presentation, August 9, 2020.
- “At Home, Unemployed, & Angry: Stereotypical Portrayal of Female Characters in Muslim Children’s Books.” Presented at 114th Annual Meeting of Southern Sociological Society,” Atlanta, GA, April 12, 2019.
- “Ali and the Spider: Representation of Gender in English-Speaking Muslim Children’s Books” Presented at 113th Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association,” Philadelphia, PA, August 11, 2018.
- “It is Ramadan, Curious George: Representation of Gender in English-Speaking Muslim Children’s Books” Presented at 112th Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association”, Montreal, QC, Canada August 14, 2017.
- “You Eat What You Are”: The Effect of Religious Identity on Halal and Kosher Diet” Presented at 111th Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association”, Seattle, WA, August 22, 2016.
- “Miracle-Seeking Latinos/as at a Buddhist Temple: Rational Choice Theory in Action” Presented at 110th Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association”, Chicago, IL, August 23, 2015.
- “How Do College Students Perceive Female Athletes?” Presented at the Annual Meeting of International Organization of Social Sciences and Behavioral Research, San Antonio, TX; November 3-4, 2014.

D. Grants and Contracts

- Emory University Research Grant, \$1,100 (2017)

E. Guest Lectures

- (Fall 2019) – “Gender Representation in Children’s Books” – Mercer University
- (Spring 2019) – “Frankfurt School and Culture Industry” Culture and Society class taught by Bin Xu
- (Spring 2019) – “Ms. Marvel, No Normal: Second Generation Immigrant Problems” – Introduction to Sociology class taught by Sonal Nalkur

- (Spring 2018) – “Cultural Capital and Childrearing in Middle and Working-Class Families - Introduction to Sociology class taught by Sonal Nalkur
- (Fall 2017) – “Black Characters in Children’s Books” – Sociology of Culture Graduate Seminar taught by Tim Dowd
- (Spring 2017) – “The Continuing Significance of Race” – Introduction to Sociology class taught by Sonal Nalkur
- (Spring 2017) – “Gatekeeping in Media Industry” – Advertising class taught by Roberto Franzosi
- (Spring 2017) – “Islam and Religious Identity” – Jewish, Christian, Muslim Dialogue class taught by Dianne Womack
- (Fall 2016) – “Islam 101: The Basics” - Islamophobia in America class taught by Eric Love
- (Fall 2016) – “Reflection Theory” - Language and Symbols of Media class taught by Roberto Franzosi
- (Fall 2016) – “Halal Food and Religious Identity” – Islam in America class taught by Dianne Womack
- (Spring 2016) – “Depictions of Rap and Heavy Metal” - Culture and Society class taught by Sonal Nalkur

F. Societal and Policy Impacts

- “Thriving, Not Just Surviving in High School Arena,” Hamzah Islamic Center, Alpharetta, GA. June 2024
- “Virgin Mary in Islam”, The Catholic Church of St. Ann, Marietta, GA, August 2018.
- “Spirit of Servant Leadership,” Institute for Spirituality and Health, Houston, TX, September 2015 “Generosity Across Traditions: Sacred Stories from the Abrahamic Religions”, Institute for Spirituality and Health, Houston, TX, December 2013.
- “Muslims in America and Christian-Muslim Relations”, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory, Houston, TX, November 2013.

VI. Service

A. Professional Contributions

- Member, American Sociological Association
- Member, Southern Sociological Society

- Member, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- Reviewer, *Poetics: Journal of Empirical Research on Culture, the Media and the Arts*

B. Public and Community Service

- Volunteer, Interfaith Ministries
- Volunteer, Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta

C. Institute Contributions

- Member, Ad Hoc Committee for the Evaluation of Non-Tenure Track Faculty, Georgia Institute of Technology (Fall 2024)

VII. Professional Growth and Development

- Advanced training and proficiency in academic software including SPSS, STATA, R, Atlas.ti, MAXQDA, ArcGIS, and Zotero.
- Languages: Turkish (native), English (native proficiency), French (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)