
Serap Kavas

University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley

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Academic Positions

2024-present Assistant Professor, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, USA

2022-present Research Affiliate, Cornell Population Center, Cornell University, USA

2022-2024 Visiting Scholar, Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy, Cornell University, USA

2011-2016 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Suleyman Sah University, Turkey

2009-2010 Fulbright Fellow, University of Michigan, USA

2006-2007 Lecturer, Academic Language Unit, Beykent University, Turkey

Education

2009-2010 Fulbright Fellow, Doctoral Research Training and Dissertation
Institute for Social Research,
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, US

2004- 2010 PhD in Sociology, Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey
Dissertation: *Postdivorce Experiences of Professional Women in Turkey*

1998-2002 BA English Language and Literature, Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey

Refereed Articles

- Kavas, Serap, and Arland Thornton. (2025). "The Influence of Developmental Idealism on Turkish Parents' Intention to Continue Childbearing". *Journal of Population Research*, 10.1007/s12546-025-09364-3.
- Kavas, Serap, and Ayse Güveli. (2024). "Transition to Higher Order Birth Among Migrant and Nonmigrant Turks: Does Having a Son Matter?" *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2024.2359701>.
- Kavas, Serap. (2022). Early Marriage and Motherhood from an Intergenerational Perspective: The Case of Turkey. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 41, 2143–2175. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-022-09718-2>.
- Kavas, Serap, and Arland Thornton. (2022). Distinguishing between Old and New Developmental Idealism and Among Beliefs about Correlation, Causation, and Future Expectations: Beliefs about Family Change and Development in Turkey. *Sociology of Development*, 8, 318–350.
- Kavas, Serap. (2021). It's a courage in ignorance': Retrospective Accounts of Young Mothers' Experience of early childbearing in Turkey. *Comparative Population Studies (CPoS)*, 47, 30-55 (Jan. 2022). DOI:<https://doi.org/10.12765/CPoS-2022-02>.
- Kavas, Serap (2021). Gender Role Attitudes and Turkish Parents' Intention to Continue Childbearing. *Comparative Population Studies (CPoS)*, 46, 503-532. <http://doi.org/10.12765/CPoS-2021-18>.
- Kavas, Serap and Julie de Jong. (2020). Exploring the mechanisms through which social ties affect fertility decisions in Turkey. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82, 1250-1269.
- Kavas, Serap. (2019). The gendered division of housework and fertility intention in Turkey. *Genus: Journal of Population Sciences*, 75, 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41118-019-0068-8>
- Kavas, Serap and Thornton, Arland. (2019). Developmental Idealism and Beliefs About Marriage and Fertility in Turkey. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 39, 47-75. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-019-09525-2>.
- Serap Kavas. (2015). Discourses of Demographic Change and Population Policies in Turkey in the Twentieth Century. *Demográfia English Edition*, 57, 91-112.
- Serap Kavas. (2015). The Wardrobe Modernity: Western Attire as a Tool of Modernization in Turkey. *Middle Eastern Studies*, 51, 515-539.
- Serap Kavas (2014). Facts and Figures about Fertility Decline in Turkey. *The Journal of International Social Research*, 7, 537-546.

Serap Kavas and Arland Thornton. (2013). Adjustment and Hybridity in Turkish Family Change: Perspectives from Developmental Idealism. *Journal of Family History*, 38, 223-241.

Serap Kavas and Ayşe Gündüz Hoşgör. (2013). The Parenting Practice of Single Mothers in Turkey: Challenges and Strategies. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 40, 56-67.

Serap Kavas and Ayşe Gündüz Hoşgör. (2011). "It Is Not a Big Deal, I Can Do It Too": Influence of Parental Divorce on Professional Women's Marital Experience in Turkey. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 52, 565-585.

Serap Kavas and Ayşe Gündüz Hoşgör. (2011). Divorce and Family Change Revisited: Professional Women's Divorce Experience in Turkey, *Demografia* English Edition, 53, 102-127.

Serap Kavas. (2006). Turkish Modernization: Present Challenges within the context of the AK Party and the European Union, *Insight Turkey*, 8, 33-48.

Other Contributions

Kavas, Serap, and Arland Thornton. (2020). Beliefs About Family Change And Development In Turkey (extended version). *PSC Research Report No. 20-897. 11 2020, University of Michigan, Population Studies Center (PSC), Institute for Social Research (ISR)*, <https://www.psc.isr.umich.edu/pubs/abs/16733>.

Work under Review and in Progress

- "Change and Variation in Women's Labor Force Participation in Turkey" (with Kelly Musick of Cornell University).
- "Intergenerational Transmission of family characteristics among young Turkish populations".
- "Female STEM Migrants: Migration Decisions, Destination Choices and Economic and Social Integration".

Teaching Experience

Sociology Department, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley (2024-)

2025 Spring
Social Problems
Introduction to Sociology

2024 Fall
Introduction to Sociology

Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy, Cornell University (2022-2024)

2023 Fall

PAM 3120 Research Design, Practice, and Policy (Co-instructor, with Divya Deepthi)
(3rd year undergraduate students)

2023 Spring

PAM 3380/PAM 5380 Comparative Perspectives on Gender, Work, Family and Public Policy
(Combined class of graduate and upper level undergraduate students)

2022 Fall

PAM 3120 Research Design, Practice, and Policy (Co-instructor, with Kelly Musick)
(3rd year undergraduate students)

Sociology Department, Suleyman Sah University (2012-2016)

2012 Fall

SOC 101- Introduction to Sociology

2013 Spring

SOC 151 – Basics of Sociology

2013 Fall

SOC 201-Introduction to Research Methods

SOC 205- Sociological Theory

2014 Spring

SOC-301 Sociology of Family

POL 340-Gender in the Middle East

SOC 306-Social Movements

2014 Fall

SOC 262-Sociology Of Gender

SOC 340-Family Processes and Relations

CULT 501-Research Technique and Practices in Cultural Studies (graduate students)

2015 Spring

Soc 422-Change in Contemporary Turkish Society

Soc 510-Contemporary Social Movements (graduate students)

Soc 533- Publics of the Middle East (graduate students)

Research Grants and Fellowships

2013-2016 Project Grant, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), the Career Development Program (3501) “Fertitli and Family Life in Turkey: Perspectives from Developmental Idealism” Project # 113K073, PI, (\$100,000), 2013-16.

2009-2010 Fulbright Fellow, (27,500\$) Doctoral Research training and dissertation Fellow, Institute for Social Research (ISR), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA

- 2012 Population Association of America (PAA) Travel Award, (5.000\$) for paper presentation at 77th Annual Meeting, May 3-5, 2012, San Francisco, California, USA
- 2010 Conference Travel Grant, Eastern Michigan University Office of Research Development for paper presentation at Workshop on Theoretical and Methodological Issues in the Study of Values in Islamic Countries May 16-18, 2010, Cairo, Egypt
- Conference Travel Grant, 17th International Sociological Association-ISA World Congress of Sociology, 11-17 July 2010 in Gothenburg, Sweden.
- Conference Travel Grant, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, for Poster presentation at Population Association of America (PAA) 2010 Annual Meeting, April 15-17, 2010, Dallas, Texas, USA
- 2005 Ford Foundation Conference Travel Grant, San Francisco State University, paper presentation, International Association For The Study Of Sexuality, Culture And Society (IASSCS) San Francisco State University, (2005)

Conference Presentations

- “Intergenerational Patterns of Family Formation Among Urban Turkish Families” Paper presentation at Annual Meeting of Population Association of America (PAA), April 12-15, 2024, Columbus, Ohio.
- “Educational Expansion, Changing Household Structure, and the Turnaround in Women's Labor Force Participation in Turkey in the Early 2000s” (with Kelly Musick) Poster presentation at Annual Meeting of Population Association of America (PAA), April 12-15, 2024, Columbus, Ohio.
- “The Influence of Developmental Idealism on Turkish Parents' Intention to Continue Childbearing?” (with Arland Thornton), Paper presentation at Annual Meeting of Population Association of America (PAA), April 12-15, 2023, New Orleans, LA, USA.
- Transition to Higher Order Birth Among Migrant and Nonmigrant Turks: Does Having a Son Matter? (with Ayse Guveli) Poster presentation at Annual Meeting of Population Association of America (PAA), April 12-15, 2023, New Orleans, LA, USA.
- “Fertility Decline and Developmental Idealism in Turkey” Poster presentation at Annual Meeting of British Society for Population Studies (BSPS), September 7-9, 2015, Leeds, UK.
- “Demographic Discourses and Demographic Change: Population Policies in the Early Republican Period in Turkey”, Invited Speaker, The Fourth European Congress on World and Global History (ENIUGH), September 4-7, 2014, Paris, France.

- “The Parenting Practice of Single Mothers in Turkey: Challenges and Strategies” paper presentation at the European Population Conference (EPC), June 13-16, 2012, Stockholm, Sweden.
- “Adjustment and Hybridity in Turkish Family Change” (with Arland Thornton), paper presentation at the 77th Annual Meeting of Population Association of America (PAA), May 3-5, 2012, San Francisco, California, USA.
- “Qualitative Interview Studies: Methodological Concerns in a study of Turkish Professional Women’s Experience of Divorce” , Paper presentation, at Qualitative Computing: Diverse Worlds and Research Practices Conference, February 24-26, 2011, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- “Divorce Revisited: Explaining the Change in Family through the Act of Divorce in Turkey” , Paper presentation at the 17th ISA World Congress of Sociology, 11-17 July 2010, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- “Family Change in Turkey: Perspectives from Developmental Idealism Framework” paper presentation at the Symposium on Globalization of Modernization Theory: Clashes of Modernities and Moralities, June 9-10, 2010, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.
- “Modernity and Change in Turkey” paper presentation at Workshop on Theoretical and Methodological Issues in the Study of Values in Islamic Countries, May 16-18, 2010, Cairo, Egypt.
- “Divorce Revisited: Explaining the Change in Family through the Act of Divorce in Turkey” Poster presentation at 75th Annual Meeting of Population Association of America (PAA), April 15-17, 2010, Dallas, Texas, USA.
- “Intergenerational Transmission of Divorce: Divorced Women, Mothers and Sisters”. International Sociological Association (ISA), Family Research Committee, June 15-17 2009, Oslo, Norway.
- “Using a Feminist Perspective for the Study of the Divorce Experience of Professional Women” paper presentation at Feminist Research Methods - An international Conference, February 4-6 2009, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden
- “The Sociological Analysis of Attitudes toward Rape among Turkish Students” paper presentation at The 5th International Conference at the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS), June 15-17 2005, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California, USA

Community Outreach Activities

Survey Supervisor for data collection and analysis for academic research projects, Social Science High School Students, (2013-2014), Istanbul, Turkey.

Social Science Project Reviewer for high school students’ projects in relevant fields (2013-2016).

Professional Service

Service to university

2012-2016 Erasmus Exchange program coordinator for sociology students.

2014–2016 Member of faculty research grant program selection committee.

2015 Workshop organizer, “Fertility and Family Life in Turkey: Survey Findings”.

Peer Review

Occasional manuscript reviewer for *Demography*, *Journal of Family Issues*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *Women’s Studies International Forum*, *Journal of Religion and Health*, *Personal Relationships*, *Journal of Human Fertility*, *Turkish Studies*.

Professional Memberships

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Population Association of America (PAA)

European Association for Population Studies (EAPS)

British Society for Population Studies (BSPS)

International Sociological Association (ISA)

Family Research Committee (RFC-ISA)

Asian Population Association (APA)