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## Junior Faculty Spotlight

### Hajar Yazdiha, University of Southern California



#### What excites you most about your work right now?

Whew, this pandemic response has made both our inter- and intra-group inequalities so unavoidably salient, and I have been thinking a lot about power and the unequal distribution of choices and agency in a moment like this. I have been finding solace in studying how grassroots movements are organizing for racial justice amidst structural chaos, building radical hope (see psychologist Dr. Helen Neville's incredible work on this). I'm thinking about how experiences of violence, trauma, and oppression are not only constraining but can also be generative sources of creativity and political power, modes of connection for coalition-building to chart alternative futures.

#### What's the best paper or book you've read recently, and why do you like/love it?

Cristina Mora and Dina Okamoto's collaborative work on "Postcolonialism, Racial Political Fields, and Panethnicity" has been really generative for me in thinking about racialized group histories and panethnic mobilization. Tressie McMillan Cottom's *Thick* is just a master class in the power of narrative for conveying complex sociological ideas. Jose Itzigsohn and Andy Perrin's exchange on decolonizing social theory on the Scatterplot blog kept me up at night (in a good way). Not new, but a piece I revisit all the time in my work on race and collective memory is Louise Seamster and Victor Ray's theory piece, "Against Teleology in the Study of Race."

#### What has surprised you most about life after grad school?

There are a lot more ways to do Sociology, to do academia, than I imagined in grad school. I have been surprised and heartened to see how many sociologists are identifying systems of inequality/racism within their own departments and actively working to dismantle them. I encourage students to learn from scholars who generously share advice on the hidden curriculum I wish I had better understood in grad school, like Zawadi Rucks-Ahidiana (<https://practicalphd.net/>), Whitney Pirtle (<https://thesociologyphdandme.wordpress.com/>), Tanya Golash Boza (<http://getalifephd.blogspot.com/p/about-me.html>), Jess Calarco (<https://press.princeton.edu/books/paperback/9780691201092/a-field-guide-to-grad-school>), and Mirya Holman (<https://miryaholman.substack.com/>).

**Hajar Yazdiha** is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Southern California. Her research examines the mechanisms underlying the politics of inclusion and exclusion as they shape intergroup boundaries, ethno-racial identities, and intergroup relations.

#### Recent Publications:

Yazdiha, Hajar. "Toward a Du Boisian Framework of Immigrant Incorporation: Racialized Contexts, Relational Identities, and Muslim American Collective Action." Forthcoming at *Social Problems*.

Yazdiha, Hajar. 2020. "Racial Frames as Mechanisms of Ethnoracial Formation in News Media: Framing Muslims in the New York Times from 1992-2010." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. doi:10.1177/2332649220903747

Yazdiha, Hajar. 2019. "Exclusion through Acculturation? Comparing First and Second Generation European Muslims' Perceptions of Discrimination Across Four National Contexts." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 42(5): 782-800. doi:10.1080/01419870.2018.1444186