

INYI Featured Member: Esra Ari (PhD Candidate)



Esra Ari Esra Ari is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at Western University, supervised by Dr. Anton L. Allahar. Esra's areas of interests are social inequality, race and ethnicity, racialization, social class, migration, and multiculturalism. Her current research examines the interlocking effects of "race" and class on the economic and social integration of second-generation Jamaicans and Portuguese and the role of multicultural ideology in the integration process of two second-generation groups. For her research, she conducted forty-three semi-structured and in-depth interviews in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) between the years of 2015-2016. Esra's education and work span both Canada and Turkey. She holds an M.A. (sociology) from the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. Her M.A. research examined the children of internally displaced Kurdish people, education, child labor and child poverty, comparing conditions and outcomes in two cities, one in eastern, and the other in western Turkey. Her thesis was entitled "Educational Perception of the Internally Displaced Families' Children: Evidence from Izmir and Diyarbakir." Esra also worked in a Non-Governmental Organization, Civil Society Development Center, in Ankara, Turkey as a training programs assistant for local NGOs throughout Turkey. She developed and took part in a number of field research studies in various regions in Turkey, conducting interviews on multiple issues such as poverty, child labor, child poverty, local and rural economies, and female prisoners in Turkey.

She has also done volunteer work with children, youth and immigrants, both in Turkey and Canada. Esra has written several conference papers concerning youth, education, ethnic minorities, child labor and poverty and presented in Canada and in the U.S. In contrast, her more recent work has focused on multiculturalism, second-generation populations, integration, assimilation and racialization, all of which are related to her Ph.D. research. Esra published an article about the role of multiculturalism in the integration of black Jamaicans and Portuguese in Toronto in the International Network on Youth Integration (INYI) Journal, as well as coauthoring a book chapter with Dr. Fernando Nunes along with two other coauthors who were participants in her Ph.D. research. That chapter, entitled "Contested Integration: Class, Race and Education of Second and Third-Generation Minority Youth, Through the Prism of Critical Pedagogy," is a comparative study of Jamaican and Portuguese youth in Canada; the book will be published in 2018 by Springer. Recently, Ari, serving as the first author, and Allahar wrote an article about these two second-generation groups, multiculturalism, integration, and assimilation, which is in the submission process.

Esra also teaches courses on Social Inequality, Minority Groups and Sociology of Work at King's University College at Western and taught at Western University, London, Ontario as a part-time instructor.

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