

Islam and Support for Gender Inequality among Women in Turkey: Comparing Attitudes across Institutional Contexts

*John P. Bartkowski, Gabriel A. Acevedo,
Gulcimen Karakeci, and Favor Campbell*

Abstract

Turkey has been characterized as a nation that exhibits an amalgam of Eastern and Western cultural values. For a long time, Turkey had prohibited Muslim women's wearing of the veil in many public venues. Yet, the vast majority of this nation's citizens are highly devout Muslims. Our study uses these paradoxes as a springboard for investigating early twenty-first-century religious influences on Turkish Muslim women's attitudes toward gender inequality. We introduce the theoretical construct of diversified institutional contexts, arguing that gender is not simply a singular institutional form but rather ebbs and flows with women's mobility across variegated institutional settings. We hypothesize that religious devotion among Muslim women in Turkey circa the year 2000 will be associated with greater support for gender inequality across several institutional domains, namely, family, education, the workplace, and politics. In addition, we anticipate that as women move across

Dr. John P. Bartkowski (Ph.D., Sociology, University of Texas-Austin, 1997) is Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). Much of his research focuses on religion, gender, and civil society. His latest book is *The Arc of Faith-Based Initiatives: Religion's Changing Role in Welfare Service Provision* (Springer 2018). Dr. Gabriel Acevedo (Ph.D., Sociology, Yale University, 2005) is a Data Analytics Consultant specializing in human service evaluation and management. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas. Gulcimen Karakeci (M.S., Sociology, UTSA) is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Essex, UK. Favor Campbell (M.S., Sociology, UTSA) is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Texas at San Antonio.