

UGUR ORAK
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY Major in Sociology Areas of Concentration: Criminology, Mental Health, and Military Sociology	2018
M.A.	LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY Major in Sociology Area of Concentration: Criminology	2015
B.S.	TURKISH MILITARY ACADEMY Major in Systems Engineering Minor in Business Administration	2013

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Department of Sociology and Anthropology Middle Tennessee State University	2024 – Present
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Department of Sociology and Anthropology Middle Tennessee State University	2020 – 2024
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Department of Sociology & Anthropology Utica University	2018 – 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

COORDINATOR Criminology Minor and Concentration Programs Middle Tennessee State University	2021 – Present
ACTING DIRECTOR Sociology Undergraduate Program Middle Tennessee State University	2023 – 2024

CONSULTING, RESEARCH, AND OTHER AFFILIATIONS

FACULTY MENTOR Business and Economic Research Center Middle Tennessee State University	2024 – Present
AFFILIATE FACULTY Middle East Center Middle Tennessee State University	2024 – Present
RESEARCH FELLOW NAVI Research Institute. Washington, DC.	2023 – Present
GRADUATE FACULTY College of Graduate Studies Middle Tennessee State University	2020 – Present
RESEARCH CONSULTANT Council on Criminal Justice. Washington, DC	2023 – 2024
FACULTY FELLOW Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center, Middle Tennessee State University	2021 – 2022
NON-RESIDENT RESEARCH FELLOW Beyond the Horizon International Strategic Studies Group, Zaventem, Belgium	2017 – 2018
RESEARCH FELLOW Department of Sociology Turkish Military Academy. Ankara, Turkey	2013 – 2016

RESEARCH INTERESTS

CRIMINOLOGY

Developmental and life-course criminology, health criminology, juvenile delinquency, violent crime, criminological theories

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health and crime, structural strain and stress process models, negative affective states, adverse childhood experiences, PTSD and trauma, coping

MILITARY AND VETERANS

Military service as a life transition, veterans' health and behavioral problems, veterans' social integration

QUANTITATIVE METHODS

Longitudinal data analysis, multilevel modeling, fixed-effects modeling, structural equation modeling, categorical data analysis

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- *Orak, Ugur, Christine Soileau, Jessica Harter, Claire Dobson, and Meredith Huey Dye. 2024. "Juvenile Violent Victimization and Adult Criminal Outcomes: The Role of Military Service as a Turning Point in Young Adulthood." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 39(7-8): 1830–1852. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605231211923>
- Orak, Ugur, Katherine Kelton, Michael G. Vaughn, Jack Tsai, and Robert H. Pietrzak. 2023. "Homelessness and contact with the criminal legal system among U.S. combat veterans: An exploration of potential mediating factors." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 50(3): 392–409. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548221140352>
- Orak, Ugur and Ozgur Solakoglu. 2023. "Strain and Deviant Reactions in Compulsory Military Service: An Investigation of Mediating Mechanisms." *Crime & Delinquency* 69(4): 841-863. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128721999337>
- Orak, Ugur, Muhammed Yildiz, Ramazan Aydogdu, Harold G. Koenig, and Robert H. Pietrzak. 2023. "The relationship between combat exposure and suicide risk in U.S. military veterans: Exploring the role of posttraumatic stress symptoms and religious coping." *Journal of Affective Disorders* 341: 77–87. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2023.08.115>

- *Hamilton, Boman, Ugur Orak, and Brandon Wallace. 2023. "Internet Use as a Moderator of the Relationship between Age and Depression: Implications for Older Adults." *Journal of Applied Gerontology* 42(5): 942–950. <https://doi.org/10.1177/07334648221142930>
- Orak, Ugur, Alper Kayaalp, Mark H. Walker, and Kevin Breault. 2022. "Resilience and Depression in Military Service: Evidence from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health)." *Military Medicine* 187(11-12): 1441–1448. <https://doi.org/10.1093/milmed/usab364>
- Yıldız, Muhammed, Ugur Orak, and Ramazan Aydoğdu. 2022. "Enduring Effects of Early Life Traumas on Adult Suicidal Ideation." *Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma*, 16(2): 297–307. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-022-00482-1>
- Orak, Ugur and Mark H. Walker. 2021. "Military Service: A Pathway to Conformity or a School for Deviance?" *Crime & Delinquency* 67(6-7): 1046-1069. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128719850497>
- Aydogdu, Ramazan, Muhammed Yildiz, and Ugur Orak. 2021. "Religion and wellbeing: devotion, happiness and life satisfaction in Turkey." *Mental Health, Religion & Culture* 24(9): 961–975. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2021.1969353>
- Aydiner, Cihan, Ugur Orak, and Ozgur Solakoglu. 2020. "What Factors Influenced Turkish Military Officers' and NCOs' Motivation to Serve Prior to the July 2016 Coup Attempt?" *Armed Forces & Society* 46(4): 635-656. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0095327X19841663>
- Orak, Ugur, Muhammed Yildiz, Ozgur Solakoglu, Ramazan Aydogdu, and Cihan Aydiner. 2020. "The Utility of Social Learning Theory in Explaining Cigarette Use in a Military Setting." *Substance Use & Misuse* 55(5): 787–795. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2019.1702701>
- Yildiz, Muhammed, Ugur Orak, Mark H. Walker, and Ozgur Solakoglu. 2019. "Suicide contagion, gender, and suicide attempts among adolescents." *Death Studies* 43(6): 365-371. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2018.1478914>
- Orak, Ugur and Kasim Dogan. 2018. "What Comes After ISIS: A Sociological Analysis of Radicalisation into Violent Extremism." *Horizon Insights* 2018(1):23-38. <https://www.behorizon.org/what-comes-after-isis/>
- Orak, Ugur and Ozgur Solakoglu. 2017. "Alcohol Consumption among Turkish Adolescents: An Empirical Test of General Strain Theory." *Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse* 26(4): 293-302. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1067828X.2017.1305931>
- Solakoglu, Ozgur and Ugur Orak. 2016. "School Truancy among Turkish High School Students: A Test of General Strain Theory." *Journal of Human Sciences* 13(1):1460-1472. <https://doi.org/10.14687/ijhs.v13i1.3670>

Orak, Ugur and Ozgur Solakoglu. 2016. "A Comparative Analysis of Attitudes toward Immigrants." *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology* 5:143-153. <https://www.lifescienceglobal.com/pms/index.php/ijcs/article/view/3954>

**With students*

RESEARCH REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS

*Dobson, Claire and Ugur Orak. 2024. "A Scoping Review of the Effects of Climate Change on Crime Rates." *NAVI Research Institute*. <https://nato-veterans.org/a-scoping-review-of-the-effects-of-climate-change-on-crime-rates/>

Orak, Ugur. 2024. "Reflections on Civil-Military Relations in Fragile States." *NAVI Research Institute*. <https://nato-veterans.org/reflections-on-civil-military-relations-in-fragile-states/>

Orak, Ugur. 2024. "The Role of Military Service in Human Life and Behavior." *NAVI Research Institute*. <https://nato-veterans.org/the-role-of-military-service-in-human-life-and-behavior/>

Orak, Ugur. 2023. "From Service to Sentencing: Unraveling Risk Factors for Criminal Justice Involvement Among U.S. Veterans." *Council on Criminal Justice*. <https://counciloncj.org/from-service-to-sentencing-unraveling-risk-factors-for-criminal-justice-involvement-among-u-s-veterans/>

**With students*

WORK IN PROGRESS

*Davenport, Chloe, Ugur Orak, Vaun Baltimore, and Rachel Davis. "Hidden Perspectives: The Homeless Population and Their Perceptions of Unfair Police Treatment." First draft completed.

*Baltimore, Vaun, Ugur Orak, Chloe Davenport, and Rachel Davis. "School Safety Concerns in Adolescence and Criminal Offending in Short and Long Terms." First draft completed.

*Fowler, Casey and Ugur Orak. "An Analysis of the Relationship Between Work-Related Stressors and Criminal Behavior." First draft completed.

*Escobedo, Allison E. and Ugur Orak. "A Scoping Review of Veterans as Criminal Justice Actors." In progress.

**With students*

PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Orak, U. and Fowler, C. "Work-Related Stressors and Criminal Behavior." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society 2024 Annual Meeting in April 2024 in New Orleans, LA.
- Orak, U., Soileau, C., Harter, J., Dobson, C., & Huey Dye, M. "Juvenile Violent Victimization and Adult Criminal Outcomes: The Role of Military Service." Presented at the American Society of Criminology 2023 Annual Meeting in November 2023 in Philadelphia, PA.
- Orak, U. "Moral Injury and Criminal Justice Involvement among Veterans," Presented at the Southern Sociological Society 2023 Annual Meeting, The Sheraton, Myrtle Beach, SC, United States of America.
- Orak, Ugur, Katherine Kelton, and Michael Vaughn. "Homelessness and Contact with Criminal Legal System among Combat Veterans." Presented at the American Society of Criminology 2022 Annual Meeting in November 2022 in Atlanta, GA.
- Orak, Ugur. "Combat experience, negative affect, religiosity, and suicidality: A conditional process analysis." Presented at Mid-South Sociological Association 2022 Annual Meeting in October 2022 in Nashville, TN.
- Orak, Ugur. "Military Service Status, Combat Experience, and Suicidal Trajectories: Moderating Effects of Sex, Race, and Socioeconomic Status." Presented at Southern Sociological Society 2022 Annual Meeting in April 2022 in Birmingham, AL.
- Orak, Ugur. "Trauma Exposure, Religiosity, and Suicide Ideation among Veterans." Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society 2022 Annual Meeting in March 2022. Virtual.
- Orak, Ugur, Southern Sociological Society 2021 Annual Meeting, "Strain and deviant reactions in compulsory military service: An investigation of mediating mechanisms," Virtual.
- Orak, Ugur, Suheyl Gurbuz, Muhammed Yildiz, and Emirhan Demirhan. "Drug-Using Behaviors of Turkish Armed Forces Soldiers: A Social Control Perspective." Presented at *American Sociological Association* Annual Meeting in August 2019 in New York, NY.
- Orak, Ugur. "The Effect of Military Service on Trajectories of Psychological Distress." Presented at *American Sociological Association* Annual Meeting in August 2019 in New York, NY.

- Orak, Ugur. "Deviant Behaviors and Their Determinants in a Conscription Military System." Presented at *Eastern Sociological Society* Annual Meeting in March 2019 in Boston, MA.
- Orak, Ugur. "A Longitudinal Analysis of Differential Mental Health Outcomes of the Military Service." Presented at *Southern Sociological Society* Annual Meeting in April 2018 in New Orleans, LA.
- Orak, Ugur and Muhammed Yildiz. "Stress Process Model of Suicidal Behaviors: Findings from National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health)." Presented at *Southern Sociological Society* Annual Meeting in April 2018 in New Orleans, LA.
- Orak, Ugur and Cihan Aydiner. "Organizational Predictors of Work Engagement among Turkish Military Officers." Presented at the *Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society* Annual Meeting in November 2017 in Reston, VA.
- Orak, Ugur and Cihan Aydiner. "Motivation to Serve in Turkish Armed Forces." Presented at the *Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society* Annual Meeting in November 2017 in Reston, VA.
- Orak, Ugur. "An Analysis of Natives' Attitudes toward Immigrants." Presented at the *Southern Sociological Society* Annual Meeting in April 2017 in Greenville, SC.
- Orak, Ugur. "A Criminological Assessment of Tobacco Use among Turkish Cadets." Presented at the *Eastern Sociological Society* Annual Meeting in February 2017 in Philadelphia, PA.
- Orak, Ugur, Ozgur Solakoglu. "Alcohol Consumption among Turkish Adolescents: A Test of General Strain Theory." Presented at the *American Society of Criminology* Annual Meeting in November 2016 in New Orleans, LA.
- Orak, Ugur. "A Panel Data Analysis: Examining Trends in the Gender Gap in Fear of Crime, 1994-2012." Presented at the *Southern Sociological Society* Annual Meeting in April 2016 in Atlanta, GA.
- Orak, Ugur. "Modeling Deviance in a Military Context: Deviant Soldiers Approach." Presented at the *Eastern Sociological Society* Annual Meeting in March 2016 in Boston, MA.

INVITED AND CAMPUS TALKS

- Orak, U. 2021. "Getting the most out of Professional Conferences." *MT Student Sociologists & Proseminar Career Night*. Middle Tennessee State University.
- Orak, U. 2019. "The Relationship between Poverty and Crime." *Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency Poverty Symposium*, Carbone Auditorium, Utica, NY, January 28, 2019.

- Orak. U. 2018. "A Comparative Analysis of Influences of Military Service on Deviant Behaviors." *Utica University Faculty Research Day* in November 2018 in Utica, NY.
- Orak. U. 2018. "The Decline of a Modern Democracy: Turkey, Turkish Politics, and the U.S.-Turkey Relations," Presented at *Pizza and Politics*, Utica University, October 10, 2018.
- Orak. U. 2016. "Military Responses to Syrian Refugees Crisis: Social, Demographic, and Security Implications." *NATO Strategic Military Partners Conference*, January 2016, Izmir, TURKEY.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

FUNDED

Principle Investigator. 2019. "Mental Health Problems among Traumatized Highly Educated Immigrants." Funded by the *Utica College Harold F. Clark Summer Research Grant*. \$3,500.

Turkish Land Forces Command Doctoral Fellowship. 2013. \$50,000.

NOT FUNDED

Principle Investigator. 2019. "Stressors, Acculturative Stress, and Mental Health Problems among Traumatized Highly Educated Immigrants." *National Science Foundation* (NSF 14-579). Requested Amount: \$109,592.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSES TAUGHT

Middle Tennessee State University

Social Statistics (Graduate)
Topics in Crime and Deviance (Graduate)
Criminology
Juvenile Delinquency
Social Deviance
Drugs in Society
Data Analysis
Introductory Sociology

Utica University

Criminology
Social Deviance
Introduction to Sociology

Louisiana State University

Introduction to Sociology
Research Methods

DIRECTED THESES/DISSERTATIONS

Casey Fowler. 2024. "Work-related Stressors and Criminal Behavior." Master's Thesis Committee Chair.

Kasey Bowe. 2024. "Public Perceptions of Prison Labor." Master's Thesis Committee Co-Chair.

Angela Womack. 2023. "Psychedelics for Mental Health: The Experiences of Combat Veterans with Stress and Trauma-Related Disorders." Master's Thesis Committee Member.

Boman Hamilton. 2021. "The Impact of Social on Elders' Mental Health." Master's Thesis Committee Member.

DIRECTED STUDENT LEARNING AND RESEARCH

Research Project. Khadijah Alnassari. 2024. "Undergraduate Muslim Students Experiences in Evolutionary Sciences."

Internship. Olivia Prater. 2024. Murfreesboro Police Department.

Research Project. Yuri Lim. 2024. "Comparative Analysis of Multicultural Policy Approaches: Lessons from Developed Countries for Addressing Challenges in Local Governance in Korea."

Research Project. Claire Dobson. 2023. "A scoping review of climate change's effects on crime using strain theory."

Research Project. Casey Fowler. 2023. "The Criminogenic Effects of Job Strain."

Internship. Alexander Taylor. 2022. U.S. Attorney's Office. Nashville, TN.

Internship. Alayna Baird. 2022. Scott Country Family Justice Center. Huntsville, TN.

SERVICE

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Co-Chair. MTSU Department of Sociology and Anthropology Scholarships and Awards Committee. (August 2022 - Present).

Member. MTSU Department of Sociology and Anthropology Tenure and Promotion Committee (August 2024 – Present).

Member, MTSU Department of Sociology and Anthropology Graduate Admissions Committee. (September 1, 2020 - Present).

Member, MTSU Department of Sociology and Anthropology Chair Search Committee. (August 2023 - February 2024).

Member, MTSU Department of Sociology and Anthropology Faculty Search Committee. (August 2022 - February 2023).

Member, MTSU Department of Sociology and Anthropology Graduate and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. (August 2022 - December 2022).

Member, MTSU Department of Sociology and Anthropology FTT Search Committee. (February 2022 - May 2022).

Member, MTSU Department of Sociology and Anthropology Assessment Planning Committee. (September 2021 - November 2021).

Department Representative, Utica University Major, Minor, and Program Fair, October 31, 2018.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member. MTSU College of Liberal Arts Steering Committee. 2024 – Present.

Member. Middle Tennessee State University Strategic Planning Committee. 2024 – Present.

Member. Middle Tennessee State University Grade Appeals Committee. 2022 – Present.

Judge, Utica University Student Research Conference, April 17, 2019.

Member, Utica University Campus Theme Committee. 2018 – 2020.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Executive Committee Member. NAVI Research Institute. 2024 – Present.

Board Member, World Veterans, Washington, DC. January 15, 2021 - December 30, 2021.

Co-Organizer. Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency Poverty Symposium. Carbone Auditorium, Utica, NY. January 2019.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Committee Member, Mid-South Sociological Association Committee on the Profession. 2023 – Present.

Editorial Board Member. *Sociological Spectrum*. 2020 – Present.

Committee Member, Southern Sociological Society Program Committee. 2023 - 2024.

Committee Member, Veterans Studies Association Social Media and Engagement Committee. 2023 – 2024.

Presider, Mid-South Sociological Association 2022 Annual Meeting, Session "Religion and Society", Nashville, TN. October 15, 2022.

Presider, Southern Sociological Society 2022 Annual Meeting, Paper Session on Visibility in Military Studies, Birmingham, AL. April 7, 2022.

Editorial Board Member. *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology*. 2019 – 2020.

Member, Sociology Graduate Students Association. Department of Sociology, Louisiana State University. 2017.

Judge. The 9th Annual LSU Undergraduate Research Conference, Louisiana State University Student Union, November 2017.

Ad Hoc Reviewer

Crime & Delinquency

Criminal Justice Studies

Substance Use & Misuse

Youth & Society

Population Health

Armed Forces & Society

Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse

European Journal of Criminal Policy and Research

International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice

Mental Health, Religion, and Culture

Military Behavioral Health

Turkish Studies

Sociation

Horizon Insights

Routledge

MEDIA APPEARANCES

US Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice

https://www.justice.gov/atj/fact-sheet-access-justice-access-veterans#_ednref11

Death Penalty Information Center

<https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/news/a-veterans-day-review-uneven-progress-understanding-the-role-of-military-service-in-capital-crimes>

USA Today

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2023/11/10/jail-incarceration-criminal-justice-fail-struggling-veterans/71426586007/>

Daily Memphian <https://dailyMemphian.com/section/metro/article/34624/memphis-juvenile-crime-mscs-truancy-chronic-absenteeism>

Psych Central

<https://psychcentral.com/health/social-learning-theory>

Observer-Dispatch

<https://www.uticaod.com/story/news/education/2019/01/29/symposium-explores-cycle-poverty/6172820007/>

HONORS AND AWARDS

MTSU Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center Faculty Fellow. 2021.

Faculty Leadership Award, Utica University, NY. 2019.

Louisiana State University Graduate School Travel Award to present at Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Greenville SC. 2017.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Criminology

American Sociological Association

Southern Sociological Society

Mid-South Sociological Association

Veterans Studies Association

Eastern Sociological Society

Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society