

NATASHA N. ISKANDER

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
New York University
The Puck Building, 295 Lafayette Street, rm. 3403, New York, NY 10012
natasha.iskander@nyu.edu
(212) 998-7479
www.natashaiskander.com

Academic Employment

New York University

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy 2022-present
Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy 2013-2022
Assistant Professor of Public Policy 2007-2013

Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies
Faculty Associate

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Faculty Associate

Department of Environmental Studies
Faculty Affiliate

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Sloan School of Management

Ph.D., Management, Institute for Work and Employment Research, 2006

Dissertation: "Innovating Government: Migration and Development Policy in Mexico and Morocco"

Department of Urban Studies and Planning

M.C.P., International Development, 1999

(*National Science Foundation Fellow – 1997-2001*)

Stanford University

B.A. Cultural Studies, with Honors and Distinction, 1994

Publications

Books

Iskander, N. 2021. Does Skill Make Us Human? Migrant Workers in 21st Century Qatar and Beyond. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (*American Sociological Association—Sociology of Development 2022 Book Award; American Sociological Association—Labor and Labor Movements 2022 Book Award*)

Iskander, N. 2010. Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. ILR imprint. (*International Studies Association – Distinguished Book Award -- Ethnicity, Nationalism and Migration Track; Social Science Research Council—Featured Publication*)

Special Issue

Iskander, N. and L. Landau. The Centre Cannot Hold: Arrival, Margins, and the Politics of Ambivalence. Introduction to ‘Arrival at the Margins’ a special issue of Migration Studies. 10, no. 2 (2022): 97-111.

Refereed Articles

America's Arrival City: How Immigration Made New York and How Immigrant Exclusion Almost Destroyed It. Ethnic and Racial Studies. *Under Review*.

Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. Biophilic Institutions: Building New Solidarities between the Economy and Nature. Daedalus. *Forthcoming*.

Iskander, N. 2022. “Reducing the “unskilled” to their bodies: Control, surveillance, and the new politics of skill.” In “Forum on the Politics of Skill.” Industrial and Labor Relations Review.

Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. 2021. “Turning Rules into Resources: Worker Enactment of Labor Standards Beyond Compliance and Why It Matters for Regulatory Federalism.” Industrial Labor Relations Review. 74(5): 1258-1282

Iskander, N. 2020. “Qatar, the Coronavirus, and *Cordons Sanitaires*: The Use of Public Health to Define the Nation.” Medical Anthropology Quarterly. 34(4): 561–577

Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. 2020. “Climate Change and Work: Politics and Power.” Annual Review of Political Science. 23(1): 111-131

Iskander, N. 2019. “On Detention and Skill: Reflections on immigrant incarceration, bodying practices, and the definition of skill.” American Behavioral Scientist. 63(9): 1370-1388.

Iskander, N. 2017. “The Political Right to have ‘Society in the Bones’: The Skill and Brawn of Male Workers in Qatar.” Women’s Science Quarterly. 45 (3/4): 234-244

Lowe, N. and N. Iskander. 2016. “Power Through Problem Solving: Latino Immigrants and the Inconsistencies of Economic Restructuring.” Population, Space and Place. 4(7): 23-37

Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. 2013. “Building Job Quality from the Inside-Out: Immigrants, Skill, and Jobs in the Construction Industry.” Industrial Labor Relations Review. 66(4): 785-807.

Iskander, N., C. Riordan, and N. Lowe. 2013. “Learning in Place: Immigrant Spatial and Temporal Strategies for Occupational Advancement.” Economic Geography. *Economic Geography*. 89 (1): 53-75.

Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. 2010. “Hidden Talent: Tacit Skill Formation and Labor Market Incorporation

of Latino Immigrants in the United States.” Journal of Planning Education and Research. 30(2): 132-146

Iskander, N., N. Lowe, and C. Riordan. 2010. “The Rise and Fall of a Micro-Learning Region: Mexican Immigrants and Construction in Center-South Philadelphia.” Environment and Planning A. 42(7): 1595-1612

Lowe, N., J. Hagan, and N. Iskander. 2010. “Revealing Talent: Informal Skills Intermediation as an Emergent Pathway to Immigrant Labor Market Incorporation.” Environment and Planning A. 42(3): 205-222

Iskander, N. 2007. “Informal Work and Protest: Undocumented Immigrant Activism in France.” British Journal of Industrial Relations. 45 (2): 309-334.

Iskander, N. 2005. “The Transnational Kingdom: Migration, Development and Social Change in Morocco.” Revue Critique Economique. 16 (4): 75-84.

Invited Articles

Iskander, N. 2018. How normative debates about immigration shape analyses of the assimilation processes of second-generation youth: lessons from Spanish Legacies. Ethnic and Racial Studies, 41(3): 484-491.

Iskander, N. 2016. “Controversy and Methodology: Birds of Passage Then and Now.” In Fine et al. “Celebrating the Enduring Contribution of Birds of Passage: Migrant Labor and Industrial Societies. ILR Review. 69(3): 774-782.

Iskander, N. 2012. "Street Vendors, Television Extras, Walmart Stockers, and More: Worker Subjectivity and Labor Processes in Atypical Work." Work and Occupations. 39 (3): 270-279

Book Chapters

Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. 2018. “Immigration and the Politics of Skill.” In Clark, G., M. Feldman, and M. Gertler, eds. The New Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. 2016. “The Transformers: Immigration and Tacit Knowledge Development.” In K. Elsbach and B. Bechky, eds. Qualitative Organizational Research - Volume 3. Charlotte NC: Information Age Publishing.

Iskander, N. 2015. “Partners in Organizing: Engagement between Migrants and the State in the Production of Mexican Hometown Associations.” In A. Portes and P. Fernandez-Kelly, eds. The State and the Grassroots: Immigrant Transnational Organizations in Four Continents. London: Berghahn Books. 111-138

Iskander, N. 2013. “Labor Migration and the Potential for Industrial Renewal.” In P. Osterman, ed. Economy in Society: Essays in Honor of Michael Piore. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. 2013. “Moving Skill: The Incorporation of Mexican Immigrants in the US and Mexican Construction Industries.” In Y. Kutznetsov, ed. How Talent Abroad Supports Growth, Innovation and Institutional Development at Home. Washington D.C.: World Bank.

Iskander, N. 2013. “Moroccan Migrants as Unlikely Captains of Industry: Remittances, Financial

Intermediation, and *La Banque Centrale Populaire*.” In S. Eckstein, ed. Immigrant Impact in their Homelands. Duke University Press.

Iskander, N. 2013. “Migration and development, global South / Mexico-Morocco.” In I. Ness, ed. The Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration. Wiley Blackwell.

Iskander, N. 2008. “Diaspora Networks for National Infrastructure: Rural Morocco, 1985-2005.” In J. Brikenhoff, ed. Diasporas and Development: Exploring the Potential. Washington, D. C.: Lynne Reider. 163-185

Iskander, N. and N. Bentaleb. 2008. “Assets, Agency, and Engagement in Community Driven Development: The Case of a Moroccan Community.” In A. Mathie and G. Cunningham. The Roles of Assets and Agency in explaining community-driven development, Sterling: Stylus Publishing. 161- 181.

Iskander, N. 2005. “Social Learning as a Productive Project: Zacatecas and Guanajuato’s Cautionary Tales.” Migration, Remittances, and the Economic Development of Sending Countries. Paris: OECD. 249-264.

Iskander, N. 2003. “International Labour Standards in Local Struggles.” Trade and Labour Protection: Can the Two be Made to Work Together? Eds. Frank Reid, Anil Verma, Sylvie Montreuil, Karen Bentham, Denis Harrison, and John Kervin. Quebec: Laval University Press. 87-100.

Working Papers

Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. 2011. *The Transformers: Immigration and Tacit Knowledge Development*. NYU Wagner Research Paper No. 2011-01.

Iskander, N. 2010. *Moroccan Migrants as Unlikely Captains of Industry: Remittances, Financial Intermediation, and La Banque Centrale Populaire*. NYU Wagner Research Paper No. 2010-12.

Reports & Op-Eds

- Iskander, N. 2022. Does Skill Make Us Human?: Migrant Workers in 21st-Century Qatar and Beyond (New Texts Out Now). Jadaliyya. Newton. July 20, 2022. <https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/44322/Natasha-Iskander,-Does-Skill-Make-Us-Human-Migrant-Workers-in-21st-Century-Qatar-and-Beyond-New-Texts-Out-Now>
- Iskander, N. 2022. “Skill, power, and control in the world of Qatar’s migrant workers.” Princeton University Press. Ideas. January 27, 2022. <https://press.princeton.edu/ideas/skill-power-and-control-in-the-world-of-qatars-migrant-workers>
- Iskander, N. 2022. “Qatar’s glittery World Cup disguises a dark reality.” Washington Post. Global Opinions. January 25, 2022. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/01/25/qatar-world-cup-workers-rights-inequality/>
- Iskander, N. 2020. Qatar, the Coronavirus, and Cordons Sanitaires SSRC - Items. May 14. <https://items.ssrc.org/covid-19-and-the-social-sciences/qatar-the-coronavirus-and-cordons-sanitaires-migrant-workers-and-the-use-of-public-health-to-define-the-nation/>
- Iskander, N. 2018. “Design Thinking Is Fundamentally Conservative and Preserves the Status Quo.” Harvard Business Review. September 5. <https://hbr.org/2018/09/design-thinking-is-fundamentally-conservative-and-preserves-the-status-quo>
- Iskander, N. and L. Hyman. “What the Mass Deportation of Immigrants Might Look Like.” Slate. November 2016. http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/history/2016/11/donald_trump_mass_deportation_and_the_tragic_history_of_operation_wetback.html
- Iskander, N. 2015. “The Future of Work: 19th-Century Brutality, in the 21st Century.” Pacific Standard Magazine. <http://www.psmag.com/business-economics/the-future-of-work-19th-century-brutality-in-the-21st-century>
- Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. 2012. “The Politics of Skill.” Immigration Policy Center – American Immigration Council. Washington, D.C.
- Lowe, N. and Iskander, N. 2011. “Beyond the Wal-Martization of Immigration.” Institute for the Study of the Americas.” University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.
- Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. 2011. “Toward a New Model of Transnational Labor Governance: Training and Skills Certification.” Report prepared for the Migration Policy Institute.
- Iskander, N. and N. Lowe. 2009. “Hidden Talent: The Incorporation of Mexican Immigrants in the US Construction Industry – Preliminary Findings.” Report prepared for The World Bank and The MacArthur Foundation.
- Iskander, N. 2008. “Evaluation of Water and Sanitation Delivery in the Informal Settlements of Dakar.” Report prepared for the World Bank.

Fellowships

Princeton Institute for Advanced Study

Faculty Fellow

2022-2023

New York University

19 Washington Square North

Faculty Fellow

2019-2020

International Center for Advanced Studies

Post-doctoral Fellow

2006-2007

New School for Social Research

Zolberg Institute for Migration and Mobility

Faculty Fellow

Spring 2019

Stanford University

Center for Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences

Faculty Fellow

2015-2016

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Global Research Institute

Faculty Fellow

2011-2012

Social Science Research Council

Book Development Fellowship

2007-2008

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Industrial Performance Center

Doctoral Fellow

2004-2005

National Science Foundation

Graduate Research Fellowship

1997- 2001

Johns Hopkins University & The American University in Cairo

Center for Arabic Study Abroad

Fellow

1996-1997

Selected Grants & Awards

NYU Research Challenge Fund	\$14,182	2022
19 Washington Square North – NYU	\$5,000	2020
NYU Global Research Institute	\$9,000	2019
University of Witswatersrand	\$11,000	2019
Wagner Research Grant	\$3,300	2017
Qatar National Research Foundation	\$550,000	2013
Macarthur Foundation – Upenn/World Bank Migration and Development Project	\$7,000	2013
Wagner Research Grant	\$11,000	2012
Macarthur Foundation – Upenn/World Bank Migration and Development Project (Qatar/India)	\$32,000	2011

International Studies Association – Distinguished Book Award, Ethnicity, Nationalism and Migration Track		2011
UC Davis Conference on Qualitative Research – Best Paper Award		2011
Wagner Research Grant	\$3,900	2010
Vladeck Junior Faculty Fellowship	\$15,000	2010
NYU Goddard Grant	\$4,000	2010
Sloan Foundation Industry Studies Fellowship	\$45,000	2010
Sloan Foundation Site Visit Grant	\$4,600	2009
Macarthur Foundation – Upenn/World Bank Migration and Development Project (Mexico/US)	\$23,000	2009
Wagner Research Fund Grant	\$20,000	2008
NYU Research Challenge Fund	\$10,500	2007
NYU Curricular Development Fund	\$3,500	2007
NYU Taub Foundation Research Grant	\$5,000	2006
IIE Fulbright Fellowship for Morocco	\$35,000	2003-2004
SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship	\$35,000	2003-2004
MIT Center for International Studies Macarthur Foundation Research Grant	\$6,000	2000

Professional Service

Membership in Professional Associations: American Collegiate Schools of Planning, Industry Studies Association, American Sociological Association, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, American Association of Economic Geographers.

Editorial Board: Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Urban Studies Review

Reviewer: Journal of Planning and Education Research, American Journal of Sociology, British Journal of Industrial Relations, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Ethnography, Health Affairs, Journal of Development Studies, International Migration, International Migration Review, Migration Studies, Journal of International Migration and Integration, Population Research and Policy Review, Population and Development Review, Journal of Comparative Politics, Journal of Public Policy, Social Science Research Center, the Gates Foundation, SUNY University Press, Stanford University Press, Oxford University Press, University of California Press, Cambridge University Press.

Founding Member: NYU Migration Network – New York University (Director); Future of Work and Workers Working Group – Stanford University

Course Offerings

Institutions, Governance, and Economic Development, Graduate Seminar

Advanced Project in Qualitative Research Methods: Studies in International Migration, Graduate Seminar

Advanced Project in International Public Finance and Planning, Graduate Seminar

Water Sourcing and Delivery in an Era of Climate Change, Graduate Seminar

Immigration Politics and Policy, Graduate Seminar

Languages

French, Spanish, Czech, Arabic (Modern Standard, Egyptian, and Moroccan)