

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

- Education** **Ph.D., Management**, Institute for Work and Employment Research
Sloan School of Management – Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2006
Dissertation: “Innovating Government: Migration and Development Policy in Mexico and Morocco”
- M.C.P., International Development**, Department of Urban Studies and Planning
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1999
(*National Science Foundation Fellow – 1997-2001*)
- B.A. Cultural Studies**, with Honors and Distinction
Stanford University, 1994
- Current Position** Associate Professor of Public Policy
Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
New York University
- Course Offerings** Institutions, Governance, and Economic Development, Graduate Seminar
Advanced Project in Qualitative Research Methods: Studies in International Migration
Advanced Project in International Public Finance and Planning, Graduate Seminar
Water Sourcing and Delivery in an Era of Climate Change, Graduate Seminar
Labor Migration and Public Policy, Graduate Seminar
- Book** 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*)
- Peer-reviewed Articles** Iskander, N. & 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, & 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, & 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, & 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. 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. "The Skills of Immigrants." The Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography. Oxford: Oxford University Press. *Forthcoming*.

Iskander, Natasha and Nichola Lowe. "The Transformers: Immigration and Tacit Knowledge Development." In K. Elsbach and B. Bechky, Eds. Qualitative Organizational Research - Volume 3. Charlotte NC: Information Age Publishing. *Forthcoming*.

Iskander, N. 2015. "Partners in Organizing: Engagement between Migrants and the State in the Production of Mexican Hometown Associations." In A. Portes Ed. The State and the Grassroots: Immigrant Transnational Organizations in Four Continents. London: Berghahn Books.

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. & 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. & 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.

Iskander, N. 2000. "Immigrant workers in an irregular situation: The case of the garment industry in Paris and its suburbs." Combatting the Illegal Employment of Foreign Workers. Paris: OECD. 45-53

**Book
Reviews**

Iskander, N. 2015. Review of: *Transit States: Labour, Migration, and Citizenship in the Gulf*. Edited by Abdulhadi Khalaf, Omar AlShehabi, and Adam Hanieh. London: Pluto Press, 2015. Migration Studies. *Forthcoming*.

Iskander, N. 2014. Review of: *Emigration and Political Development*, by Jonathon W. Moses. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2011. Contemporary Sociology. 43 (2): 245-247

Iskander, N. 2013. Review of: *Locating Migration: Rescaling Cities and Migrants*. Nina Glick Schiller and Ayse Caglar, Eds. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2010. Urban Studies. 50 (9): 1908-1911

Iskander, N. 2012. "Review of *Spiritual Economies: Islam, Globalization and the Afterlife of Development* by Daromir Rudnyckyj. Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, 2010." British Journal of Industrial Relations. 50 (2): 384-386.

Iskander, N. 2011. "Review of *Palestinians in Lebanon: Refugees Living with Long-Term Displacement* by Rebecca Roberts. London and New York: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2010." International Migration Review. 45:3: 746-747

**Working
Papers**

Iskander, N. & 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.

Iskander, N. 2005. "Innovating State Practices: Migration, Development and State Learning in the Moroccan Souss." Cambridge: MIT Industrial Performance Center, Working Paper. MIT-IPC-05-009

**Manuscripts
under
Review**

Lowe, N. and N. Iskander. Power Through Problem Solving: Latino Immigrants and the Inconsistencies of Industrial Restructuring. *Population, Space and Place*. Under review.

Iskander, N. & N. Lowe. More than Staying Alive: Immigrants, Labor Standards, and Institutional Repurposing. In preparation.

Iskander, N. Heat: Occupational Health, Labor Standards, and Product Design. In preparation.

Reports & Op-Eds

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.

Awards & Fellowships

Center for Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University, Fellowship	N/A	2015-2016
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
Global Research Institute-UNC- Chapel Hill	\$55,000	2011-2012
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
SSRC Book Fellowship		2007
NYU Research Challenge Fund	\$10,500	2007
NYU Curricular Development Fund	\$3,500	2007
NYU Taub Foundation Research Grant	\$5,000	2006
NYU International Center for Advanced Studies -- Postdoctoral Fellowship	\$40,000	2005-2006
MIT Industrial Performance Center Doctoral Fellowship		2004-2005
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

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship 1997- 2001
Johns Hopkins University & The American University in Cairo
Center for Arabic Study Abroad Fellow 1996-1997

**Annual
Conference
Presentations**

“Skill Erasure: Migrant Workers and Returns to Skill in Qatar’s Construction Industry.” American Association of Geographers. Chicago. April 2015.

“The Transformers: Immigration and Localized Knowledge Development.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. Cambridge. June 2012.

“Author Meets Critics: The Problem with Categorizing Migrants: Critique of Modern Migrations by Maritsa Poros.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. Cambridge. June 2012.

“Building Job Quality from the Inside-Out: Immigrants, Skill, and Jobs in the Construction Industry.” Global Research Institute. Industry Studies Association. Pittsburg. May 2012.

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” Association of American Geographers. New York. April 2012.

“Author Meets Critics: Discussion of *Creative State* with Diane Davis, Anna Hardman, and Smita Srinivas.” Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Salt Lake City. October 2011.

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” American Sociological Association. Las Vegas. August 2011.

“The Transformers: Mexican Immigrants and the Development of Tacit Knowledge.” The UC Davis Conference on Qualitative Research. Davis, California. March 2011. *Awarded Best Paper Award.*

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” International Studies Association. Montreal. March 2011.

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” American Political Science Association. Washington, D.C. September 2010.

“Tacit Knowledge in Construction: How Well Does It Travel?” Industry Studies Association Meetings. Chicago. May 2010.

“How Invisible Skills Travel: Mexican Construction and Skills Transfer Between the U.S. and Mexico.” Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Crystal City. October 2009.

“The Rise and Fall of a Learning Region: Mexican Immigrant Workers and Construction in South Philadelphia.” Industry Studies Association Meetings. Chicago. May 2009.

“Banking the Unbankable: Interpreting Financial Services for Moroccan Emigrants.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. Costa Rica. July 2008.

“Building Churches, Roads, and Political Power: Mexico’s 3x1 Program as an Unintended Platform for Migrant Mobilization.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. Costa Rica. July 2008.

“Informal Work and Protest: The Interactive Effects of Spaces, Production Practices, and Immigration Law on Immigrant Employment.” Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Chicago. July 2008

“Teaching the State: Migration, Development and State Practices in the Moroccan Souss.” Portland: American Collegiate Schools of Planning Meeting. October 2004.

“International Labor Standards in Local Struggles: Tehuacan, Mexico.” Toronto, Canada: International Industrial Relations Association. June 2002.

“Regional Development Strategies in a Developing World.” Chicago: American Collegiate Schools of Planning Meeting. October 1999.

**Invited
Academic
Presentations**

“Heat: Occupational Health, Labor Standards, and Product Design.” Sociology of Development, Brown University. March 2015.

“Skill-Building and Industry Development through Migration.” Workshop: Transnational Approaches to Intangible Remittances. Princeton University. September 2014.

“Partners in Organizing: Engagement between Migrants and the State in the Production of Mexican Hometown Associations.” Center for Migration and Development. Princeton University. May 2012

"Belonging and Dispossession: Lessons from Migration and Development Policy." Institute for Public Knowledge. NYU. April 2012.

"Hidden Talent: Book Proposal." Global Research Institute. UNC- Chapel Hill. April 2012.

“Migration and Knowledge for Development.” International Migration, Economic Development and the City-Region: What Do We Know and What Do We Most Need to Learn? MIT. November 2011.

“Building Job Quality from the Inside-Out: Immigrants, Skill, and Jobs in the Construction Industry.” Industry and Labor Relations Review—Conference on Job Quality. Cornell University. October 2011.

“Building Job Quality from the Inside-Out: Immigrants, Skill, and Jobs in the Construction Industry.” Global Research Institute. UNC- Chapel Hill. October 2011.

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” Global Research Institute. UNC- Chapel Hill. September 2011.

“What a Comparison Reveals: Moroccan and Mexican Migration and Development Policy.” New School for Social Research. International Center for Migration, Ethnicity and Citizenship. May 2011.

“Diasporas, Democracy, and Development: How International Migration Impacts Sending States.” New School for Social Research. With Devesh Kapur and Yossi Shain. May 2011.

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” University of California, Los Angeles. International Institute. May 2011.

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” Université Paris- Dauphine- OECD. Discussants: Choukri Hmed, Jean-Pierre Garson (OECD). April 2011.

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” Université Paris 13. Groupe Mediter. April 2011.

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” Princeton. Center for Migration and Development. April 2011.

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” World Bank – InfoShop. Discussants: Kathleen Newland (Migration Policy Institute) and Kemal Dervis (Brookings Institute). April 2011.

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” MIT. Department of Urban Studies and Planning. April 2011.

“What a Comparison Reveals: Moroccan and Mexican Migration and Development Policy.” Princeton University. Transnational Immigrant Organizations Conference. March 2011.

“The Transformers: Immigration and the Development of Tacit Knowledge.” MIT- Sloan School of Management. Institute for Work and Employment Research. March 2011.

“Creative State: Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico.” NYU Wagner School of Public Service. Book Launch. Discussants: Craig Calhoun, Ruth Milkman, Jorge Castañeda. September 2010.

“The Rise and Fall of a Learning Region: Mexican Immigrant Workers and Construction in South Philadelphia.” Institute for Work and Employment Research. MIT- Sloan School of Management. February 2009.

“Organizing Creativity: Migrant Labor Mobilization and Infrastructure Development in Mexico and Morocco.” Rutgers University—School of Management and Labor Relations. October 2007.

“Interpretative engagement for global services: The case of La Banque Centrale Marocaine.” George Washington University. Washington, D.C. April 2007.

“Mexico, Remittances, and Development: Rethinking linkages.” Columbia University – SIPA. New York. October 2006.

“Innovating the State: Migration, Development and State Learning in the Moroccan Souss.” Cambridge: MIT Industrial Performance Center. October 2004.

“The Opposite of Path Dependence: Migration and Transnational Governance in Morocco.” Cambridge: MIT-- Migration and Development Working Group. May 2004.

“Bringing the State Back In: Migration, Development and the ‘Three-for-one’ in Zacatecas.” Cambridge: MIT Industrial Performance Center. December 2003.

“Symbolic Corporatism: The Origins and Construction of Transnational Sovereignty.” Cambridge: MIT-Sloan Institute for Work and Employment Research. November 2003.

“Migración internacional y políticas publicas en Marruecos.” Satillo: Coloquio de Movilidad. Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila and Centre français d'études mexicaines et centreaméricaines. April 2003.

“Migración internacional y políticas publicas en Marruecos.” Zacatecas: Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas. March 2003.

“Labor Standards in Local Context: The case of garment production in Tehuacan, Mexico.” Cambridge: MIT-Sloan Institute for Work and Employment Research. December 2001.

“Hybrid Informality and Divided Labor Markets: The Role of Work Permits in the Paris Garment Industry.” Tijuana: the Colegio de la Frontera Norte. July 2000.

**Policy
Presentations**

“Picking up the Winning Lottery Ticket: How to Use Migration for Poverty Alleviation.” World Bank. December 2014.

“Les atouts et vulnérabilités de la demarche de Migrations et Développement. ” Maroc de demain: Bilan et perspectives de Migrations et Développement. Taroudant, Morocco. May 2012.

“Moving Skill: The Incorporation of Mexican Immigrants in the US and Mexican Construction Industries.” World Bank. Knowledge for Development Conference. January 2011.

“Transferencia de habilidades tacitas a través de migrantes mexicanos.” Evaluación y transferencia de competencia laboral. Instituto para los Mexicanos en el Exterior, Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores. Mexico City. September 2010.

“Practice and Power: Migration and Development in the Moroccan Souss.” World Bank. February 2009

“Migration and Development: Enabling policies and interpretation.” United Nations: Ad-hoc expert group meeting on “Strengthening the business sector and entrepreneurship in developing countries: the potential of diasporas.” New York. October 2006.

“ Migrations and Development: mutual benefits?” Discussant. Agence Française de Développement/ EU Development Network. Paris. November 2006.

“Emigration and Infrastructure Innovation in Morocco.” Beirut: World Bank Country Office. January 2006.

“Emigration, Interpretative Engagement, and Infrastructure Reform in Rural Morocco, 1985-2005.” Beirut: American University of Beirut. January 2006.

“La capitalización de las remesas: México y Marruecos.” Madrid: BBVA Board of Directors and Research Group. June 2005.

“Social Learning as a Productive Project: Zacatecas and Guanajuato’s Cautionary Tales.” Mexico City: Migration, Remittances and Development in Mexico. National Institute of Migration and the OECD. November 2004. Marrakech: Migration, Remittances and the Economic Development of Sending Countries. OECD. February 2005.

“Evaluating Gendered Impacts of Export Processing: An Ethnographic Approach.” Washington, D.C.: The World Bank. May 2003.

“Immigrant workers in an irregular situation: The case of the garment industry in Paris and its suburbs.”
The Hague: OECD Seminar on Employment of Workers in an Irregular Situation. April 1999.

**Professional
Service**

External committee service: Industry Studies Association – Early Career Development Committee (Chair (2011-2012) (2010-2012)

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.

Reviewer: Journal of Planning and Education Research, British Journal of Industrial Relations, Ethnic and Racial Studies, International Migration Review, Population and Development Review, Journal of Managerial Psychology, Social Science Research Center, the Gates Foundation, SUNY University Press.

Editorial Board: Journal on Migration and Human Security

Founding Member: Labor Standards and Migration Research and Policy Group; Future of Work and Workers Working Group

Consultant on Migration and Skills Transfer Policy: Government of Mexico, Government of Morocco, the World Bank, the InterAmerican Development Bank, Laborers International Union of North America, Open Society Foundation

Consultant on Migration and Water and Sanitation Provision: The World Bank

Languages

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