

Nadia Almasalkhi

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

- Ongoing Ph.D., Sociology
2023 Graduate Certificate, Applied Data Science
2021 M.A., Sociology

University of Kentucky

- 2018 B.A., International Studies (Comparative Politics & Societies)
2018 B.A., Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (Arabic & Islamic Studies, French & Francophone Studies)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Migration, Immigrant Integration, Global & Transnational Sociology, Politics, Middle East

WORK EXPERIENCE

RAND Corporation

June 2022 – present

Summer Associate, Adjunct Research Assistant

Washington, DC

- Assisted on projects related to politics, security, justice, and mental health in the Middle East and projects on U.S.-China strategic economic competition
- Sole-authored report on role of U.S.-Chinese return migration on economic competition
- Designed qualitative research protocols
- Conducted data analysis in Stata and created code documentation to streamline teamwork
- Led drafting of academic article to disseminate project findings to public health audience
- Developed project management experience in the context of team-based research
- Designed and conducted a pilot study using focus group research methods
- Supervised by Dr. Daniel Egel, Dr. Howard Shatz, and Mr. Jeffrey Martini

Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley

August 2019 – May 2023

Graduate Student Instructor

Berkeley, CA

- Instructed discussion sections for two introductory sociology courses and two upper-division courses on migration
- Independently set learning targets and designed lesson plans for each meeting
- Guided the development of students' reading, writing, and research skills through instruction, facilitated discussions, hands-on activities, and one-on-one mentorship
- Coordinated with co-GSIs to ensure consistency in teaching and assessment across sections
- Built automated tools in Google Sheets to calculate and compare grading across sections
- Directed a team of trained undergraduates who provided technical support for students conducting their final research projects
- Awarded a 2023 Outstanding GSI Award

Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative

October 2018 – December 2021

Policy & Communications Fellow

Berkeley, CA

- Wrote clear and engaging policy briefs to disseminate research findings to non-academic audiences
- Interviewed and workshopped pieces with researchers to faithfully represent their work
- Collaborated with public policy students and other Fellows to create bi-annual thematic reports and research-backed recommendations for policy-makers and social service providers
- Applied Adobe Creative Cloud skills to design materials for publication
- Managed organization's communications team, supervising and mentoring undergraduates

Social Science Research Pathways Program, IRLE

October 2020 – June 2021

Graduate Mentor

Berkeley, CA

- Mentored non-traditional/transfer students in research apprenticeship program
- Trained undergraduates in transferable research and communication skills
- Fostered collaborative intellectual environment to support students' growth
- Advised undergraduates on their independent projects

Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley

May 2019 – August 2019

Graduate Student Researcher

Berkeley, CA

- Research assistant to Drs. Cybelle Fox and Irene Bloemraad
- Conducted literature reviews of several disciplines and drafted critical memos applying previous analytical frameworks to the project at hand

Department of Geography, University of Kentucky

September 2017 – July 2018

Research Assistant

Lexington, KY

- Assisted on NSF-funded project supervised by Dr. Patricia Ehrkamp
- Traced the development of rhetoric on refugee resettlement in the various U.S. cities
- Recruited and participated in informant interviews
- Contributed novel ideas and analyses to the project, reflected by co-author status.

Immigration Services, Kentucky Refugee Ministries

August 2016 – May 2018

Legal Assistant

Lexington, KY

- Compiled research to support immigration petitions
- Wrote direct examinations for asylum trials
- Maintained records, translated documents, communicated with clients, interpreted for clients

Resettlement Services, Kentucky Refugee Ministries

January 2015 – December 2015

Casework Intern

Lexington, KY

- Performed the duties of caseworkers, job developers, English teachers, and medical caseworkers based on on-the-job training
- Improved the quality of client services by developing positive relationships with clients and encouraging proactive communication between clients and caseworkers
- Developed in-depth knowledge of U.S. refugee admissions program

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation	2020-25
Catherine & William L. Magistretti Fellowship, UC Berkeley Graduate Division	2018-19
Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship	2020
Phi Beta Kappa	2018
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , University of Kentucky Graduation Honors	2018
Patterson Scholarship, University of Kentucky	2014-18
National Merit Scholar, National Merit Corporation	2014-18
Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship, KHEEA	2014-18

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

“The Role of Organizations and Local Dynamics in Syrian Transnational (In)Activism”

2022 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting

“A Home That Is No Longer There: Loss, Grief, and Resilience among Syrian Refugees”

2021 International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Annual Meeting
Coauthored work with Drs. Niveen Rizkalla and Steven P. Segal

“The Civic Ideologies of the U.S.-Based Syrian Diaspora: Implications for Immigrant Integration and the Syrian Regime”

2020 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (*cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic*)

“Institutionalized Xenophobia: An Electorate’s Prejudice and Swiss Institutions”

2017 National Conference on Undergraduate Research

2017 Southeastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium

Invited Presentations

“High-Skilled Chinese Return Migration from the U.S.: Challenges and Opportunities for Future Research”

2023 RAND Corporation, Mass Migration Strategy Group

“Modern Syrian History & State Violence”

2022 University of Redlands, Department of History

2021 University of Redlands, Department of History

2020 University of Redlands, Department of History

Academic Publications

Almasalkhi, Nadia. 2017. “Institutionalized Xenophobia: An Electorate’s Prejudice and Swiss Institutions.” *Columbia Undergraduate Law Review* 14(2):1-44.

Policy Publications

Almasalkhi, Nadia, and Shelly Culbertson. 2023. “Normalizing Assad Won’t Solve Syrian Refugee Crisis.” *Al-Monitor* [opinion], August 22.

Rivera Lopez, Michelle, Nadia Almasalkhi, and Alexandra Gessesse. 2022. “Addressing Racial Bias in the Immigration System.” *BIMI-OBI Policy Brief Series*. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative.

Almasalkhi, Nadia. 2021. “Indigenous Latinx Students: Visibility & Empowerment in the American School System.” *BIMI-OBI Policy Brief Series*. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative.

Almasalkhi, Nadia. 2021. “Conservative Jurisprudence and Noncitizens’ Political Voice.” *BIMI-OBI Policy Brief Series*. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative.

Almasalkhi, Nadia. 2020. “Links between Anti-Immigrant Bias and Racial Prejudice in California.” *BIMI-OBI Policy Brief Series*. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative.

Almasalkhi, Nadia. 2020. “Changing Partisan Opinions on Immigration.” *BIMI-OBI Policy Brief Series*. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative.

Almasalkhi, Nadia. 2020. “High-Skilled Immigrant Workers Benefit American Industry, But U.S. Policies Threaten Them.” *BIMI-OBI Policy Brief Series*. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative.

Almasalkhi, Nadia, Irene Bloemraad, Esther Cho, Jaco Roesch, Jasmijn Sloopjes. 2019. “Responding to the Public Charge Rule: Immigrant Well-being and Access to Services.” *BIMI Policy Report*. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative.

Almasalkhi, Nadia. 2019. “A Public Health Crisis in the Shadows.” *BIMI-HIFIS Policy Brief Series*. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative.

Almasalkhi, Nadia. 2019. “Immigrant Rights are American Values.” *BIMI-HIFIS Policy Brief Series*. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative.

Almasalkhi, Nadia. 2019. “Immigrants Lack Access to Legal Representation.” *BIMI-HIFIS Policy Brief Series*. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative.

Almasalkhi, Nadia. 2018. “Justice or Politics? How Swiss Immigration Courts React to Xenophobic Politics.” *FORsooth Newspaper*, April 1. Louisville, KY: Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Works in Progress

Almasalkhi, Nadia. "Internalized Political Repression: Legacies of Authoritarianism in the U.S.-based Syrian Diaspora during the Arab Spring." *Under review*.

Almasalkhi, Nadia. "The Role of Organizations and Local Dynamics in Syrian Transnational (In)Activism." *In-progress, presented as ASA's 2022 Annual Meeting*.

Rizkalla, Niveen, Nadia Almasalkhi, and Steven P. Segal. "A Home That Is No Longer There: Loss, Grief, and Resilience among Syrian Refugees." *In-progress*.

Egel, Daniel, Samer Atshan, Nadia Almasalkhi, Peter Glick, Wenjing Huang, Jad Isaac, and Umaiye Khammash. "Assessing the Mental Health Impacts of Israel's Presence in the West Bank by Combining Geospatial Data with a Representative Survey of Palestinian Youth." *In-progress*.

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP

- Speaks and reads English (native), Arabic (Modern Standard and Levantine dialects at B2 level), French (B2 level in speaking, C1 level in reading), and Spanish (A2 level in speaking, B2 level in reading)
- Proficient in Adobe InDesign and Acrobat, Microsoft Office, STATA, Jupyter Notebooks, and Python
- Strong public speaking skills
- Excellent academic and professional writing skills; served as Meeting Rapporteur for CIFAR Boundaries, Membership, and Belonging Conference in February 2022 and completed report in half the allotted time
- Effective in engaging students and managing classrooms
- Volunteer Coordinator of Honors Thesis Mentorship Program at UC Berkeley, 2021-22, which matched undergraduate Sociology majors completing their honors thesis projects with graduate student mentors
- Coordinator for Interdisciplinary Immigration Workshop at UC Berkeley, 2021-22
- Weekly Volunteer at Berkeley Food Pantry, 2020
- Volunteer at Refugee Children's Summer Day-Camp (an educational program for recently-arrived refugee children in Louisville, Kentucky), 2012-2014
- Chair of 2018 Muslim Student Association Midwest Conference
- Refugee Benefit Gala Committee member in the Muslim Student Association of the University of Kentucky; secured non-profit status for the organization
- Coach, Captain of University of Kentucky Mock Trial team, 2014-2017