

# LEILA KAWAR

University of Michigan  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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2019-present University of Michigan  
Associate Professor of American Culture  
Associate Professor, Social Theory & Practice, Residential College

2018-2019 University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Associate Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies

2015-2018 University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Assistant Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies

2011-2015 Bowling Green State University (Ohio)  
Assistant Professor of Political Science

## VISITING FELLOWSHIPS AND APPOINTMENTS

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Spring 2020 NYU Institute of French Studies  
Visiting Scholar

Fall 2019 McGill University Faculty of Law  
Visiting Scholar

2011-2012 Indiana University, Maurer School of Law  
Jerome Hall Postdoctoral Fellow

2008-2011 Bates College  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics

## EDUCATION

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### New York University

Ph.D., Law and Society Program, May 2009  
Awards: McCracken Graduate Fellowship

### London School of Economics

M.Sc. Social Anthropology (with distinction), 2000

### Harvard College

B.A. (*magna cum laude*), 1998  
Awards: Elizabeth Cary Agassiz Certificate of Merit, Harvard College Scholarship

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book

*Contesting Immigration Policy in Court: Legal Activism and Its Radiating Effects in the United States and France*. Cambridge University Press, 2015 (paperback August 2016).

- Law and Society Association Herbert Jacob Award for best book in law and society
- American Political Science Association Migration and Citizenship Section award of Best Book

*Reviews of Contesting Immigration Policy in Court: Law & Society Review; Perspectives on Politics; Law and Politics Book Review; Refuge; Zeitschrift für Ausländerrecht und Ausländerpolitik; Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*

### Articles/Peer-Reviewed Chapters

- “Learning Migration Governance: Professional Training Programs and the Representation and Reception of International Norms” *Revue Européenne des Migrations Internationales* (Special Issue on Migration and Development: Political Implications, Forthcoming 2024).
- “Mapping the Judicialization of Politics: A Reflection on Methodological Issues in Writing a Social Science Review Paper,” *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, Vol. 22 (2023).  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069231160981>
- “Assembling an International Social Protection for the Migrant: Juridical Categorization in ILO Migration Standards, 1919-1939,” *Global Social Policy*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (2022): 244-262.
- “Recasting Labor Standards for the Contemporary: International vs. Transnational Frameworks at the ILO,” in Christopher L. Tomlins and Justin Desautels-Stein, eds., *Searching for Contemporary Legal Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 2017): 219-237.
- "Making the Machine Work: Technocratic Engineering of Rights for Domestic Workers at the International Labour Organization," *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, Vol. 21 (2014): 483-511. [Selected for presentation at the 2013 ASIL-ESIL-Rechtskulturen Junior Scholars Workshop]
- “Commanding Legality: The Juridification of Immigration Policymaking in France,” *Journal of Law and Courts*, Vol. 2 (2014): 93-116.
- "Défendre la cause des étrangers en justice aux Etats-Unis." *La Revue des Droits de l'Homme*. Trans. Johann Morri. Vol. 4 (2013).
- “Juridical Framings of Immigrants in the United States and France: Courts, Social Movements, and Symbolic Politics,” *International Migration Review*, Vol. 46 (2012): 414-455.
- “Finding a Place for Marginal Migrants in the International Human Rights System.” *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society*. Vol. 56 (2011): 67-90.
- “Legal Mobilization on the Terrain of the State: Immigrant Rights Practice in Two National Legal Fields.” *Law & Social Inquiry*. Vol. 36 (2011): 354-387.
- “Legality and [Dis]membership: Removal of Citizenship and the Creation of ‘Virtual Immigrants’.” *Citizenship Studies*. Vol. 14 (2010): 573-588.

### Book Chapters

- “The International Labour Organization and Migration,” in Vincent Chetail, ed., *Elgar Concise Encyclopedia of International Migration Law* (Edward Elgar, Forthcoming 2024).
- “Enacting Immigration Politics in a Juridical Register” (Co-authored with Jonathan Miaz), in Shauhin Talesh, Heinz Klug, and Elizabeth Mertz, eds., *Research Handbook on Modern Legal Realism* (Edward Elgar, 2021): 161-175.
- "Legal Mobilization in the Governance and Politics of Migration: The Dynamics of Turning to Courts," in Emma Carmel, Katharina Lenner, and Regine Paul, eds., *Handbook of the Governance and Politics of Migration* (Edward Elgar, 2021): 380-390.

### Review Essays and Book Reviews

- Review Essay of Matthew C. Canfield, *Translating Food Sovereignty: Cultivating Justice in an Age of Transnational Governance*, Stanford University Press. *PoLAR*. Vol. 46 (June 2023) : e40-e42  
DOI: 10.1111/plar.12548
- “Meanings of Palestinian Peoplehood,” *Against the Current*, Vol. 225 (July/August 2023): 42-44.
- “Reclaiming the Narrative: Immigrant Workers and Precarity,” *Against the Current*, Vol. 215 (Nov/Dec 2021): 34-36.

- “Grappling with Global Migration: Judicial Predispositions, Regulatory Regimes, and International Law Systems,” *Tulsa Law Review*, Vol. 51 (2016): 101-114.
- Critical Dialogue Review Essay of Stuart Chinn, *Recalibrating Reform: The Limits of Political Change*, Cambridge University Press. *Perspectives on Politics*. Vol. 14, Issue 3 (2016): 826-830.
- Review Essay of Emmanuelle Saada, *Empire's Children: Race, Filiation, and Citizenship in the French Colonies*, Trans. by Arthur Goldhammer, University of Chicago Press. *Law & Politics Book Review*. Vol. 22 (2012): 422-426.
- “New Directions in Comparative Public Law,” symposium essay with Mark Fathi Massoud, responses from Karen Alter, Michael McCann, Martin Shapiro, and Lee Walker. *APSA Law & Courts Newsletter*, Vol. 22 (2012).
- Review Essay of Austin Sarat, Lawrence Douglas, and Martha Merrill Umphrey (eds.), *Law and the Stranger*, Stanford University Press. *Law & Politics Book Review*. Vol. 21 (2011): 50-54.
- Review Essay of Daniel Kanstroom, *Deportation Nation: Immigrants in American History*, Harvard University Press. *Law & Politics Book Review*. Vol. 18 (2008): 527-530.
- Review Essay of Hiroshi Motomura, *Americans in Waiting: The Lost Story of Immigration and Citizenship in the United States*, Oxford University Press. *Law & Politics Book Review*. Vol. 17 (2007): 542-545.

### **Working Papers**

- “Promoting (Reflexive) Methodological Pluralism: An Autoethnographic Account of Mapping the Political Science Research on Judicialization.” Interpretive Methodology Working Paper. Michigan Interpretive Analysis Workshop. August 11, 2021. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3902264>

### **Op-Eds and Public Commentary**

Radio/Television invited appearances:

- BBC News Channel, 28 January 2017
- "On Critical Theory Today: Stewart Motha," video-recorded interview and commentary, Amherst Program in Critical Theory, 13 February 2017.
- “Migration as Protest,” *Duck of Minerva*, 21 September 2015.
- “Defending Migrant Rights in French Courts,” *Fifteen Eighty-Four*, 28 July 2015.
- "Teaching and Practicing the Politics of Immigrant Rights in 'America's Whitest State'." *Migration and Citizenship Newsletter*. Vol. 1 (2013): 43-44.

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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- Law and Society Association Herbert Jacob Prize for best book in law and society, 2016
- American Political Science Association Migration and Citizenship Section award of Best Book, 2016
- American Political Science Association Best Conference Paper Award (Migration and Citizenship Section), for best paper on migration and citizenship, 2015
- Bates College, Harvard Teaching Award, for best new public-engagement teaching initiative, 2011

### **EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship, 2019-21.
- Law and Society Association, International Research Collaborative Award (with Doris Marie Provine, \$5,025), 2010-12
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$10,300), 2006-07

Lurey Foundation Fellowship for Research in France (\$20,000), 2006-07  
French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chateaubriand Fellowship (declined), 2006-07  
Council for European Studies Pre-Dissertation Fellowship (\$2,500), 2005-06

### **INTERNAL GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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University of Michigan, Humanities Collaboratory, 5x5 Incubator Grant, 2020-21  
Five Colleges Inc., Faculty Seminar Grant (\$1000), 2017-18  
Five Colleges Inc., Crossroads in the Study of the Americas Fellowship, 2016-17  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Interdisciplinary Studies Institute Fellowship, 2016-17  
Bowling Green State University, Institute for Culture and Society Fellowship (declined), 2015-16  
Bates College, Harvard Center for Community Partnerships, Publicly-Engaged Academic Projects Grant (\$2,675), 2011  
Institute for Advanced Study Berlin, Summer Institute on Regulating the World Society, 2011  
Institute for Constitutional History at Yale Law School, Workshop on Constitutional Development, 2010  
European University Institute, Workshop on Euro-Mediterranean Migration, 2005  
New York University Pre-Dissertation Research Grant (\$2,000), 2005

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC LECTURES**

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“Promoting Reflexive Methodological Pluralism.”  
**Australian National University**, Interpretation, Method, and Critique Workshop, October 2021  
“Constructing Europe and Its Others in Interwar Migrant Labor Conventions.”  
**New York University**, Institute of French Studies, March 2020  
“Labor Migration Governance through the Lens of Transnational Learning Communities.”  
**McGill University Faculty of Law**, October 2019  
“Migration and the Transformation of Public Law: Litigation as a Legal Laboratory”  
**Humboldt University Berlin**, Law & Society Institute, October 2017  
“Legal Activism and Deportation Resistance: Comparative and Historical Perspectives”  
**University of Massachusetts Amherst**, Resistance Studies Program, November 2016  
“International versus Transnational Frameworks for Migrant Worker Protection”  
**University of California Los Angeles**, Center for the Study of International Migration, November 2016  
“Comparison as a Research Paradigm for Social Studies of Labour Regulation,” *Social Studies of Labour Regulation International Conference*  
**Kent University (UK)**, Faculty of Law, June 2016  
“Migration, Globalization, and the Construction of Social Rights”  
**Sciences Po Paris**, Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches Internationales, March 2016  
“Défendre la Cause des Etrangers en Justice,” *Migrations: Regards Croisés Speaker Series*  
**Musée National de l’Histoire de l’Immigration / Université Paris-Ouest Nanterre**, March 2016  
Invited Participant, Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop  
**Harvard Law School**, June 2015  
“Methodological Issues in Comparative Sociolegal Research”  
**Cornell Law School**, October 2013

Panelist, “Law, Politics, and Social Sciences: Future Directions in Comparative and International Approaches”

**University of Washington**, Comparative Law and Society Studies Center, September 2012

Invited Participant, Workshop on Legal Innovation toward Social Change

**University of Wisconsin Madison**, Global Legal Studies Center, May 2012

Plenary Panel Speaker, “Revisiting Villegas’s ‘Symbolic Power Without Symbolic Violence’.”

**Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Chicago**, June 2010

## **RECENT CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

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“Dynamics of Decolonization in International Lawmaking on the Migrant Worker Question, 1950-1970.”

Paper Presented at the Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, November 2022

“Refugees and the Violence of Welfare Bureaucracy.” Discussant Comments for an Invited Conference Theme Panel at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, August 2022.

“Evidencing Border Violence in Europe: The Social Realities of Litigation and Adjudication.” Discussant Comments Presented at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Lisbon (conference held in hybrid format), July 2022.

“Dynamics of Decolonization in International Lawmaking on the Migrant Worker Question.” Paper Presented at the Decolonizing Global Migration Law Workshop, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, June 2022

“Migrant Rights Activism and Legal Support.” Discussant Comments Presented at the Council for European Studies Annual Meeting, Lisbon (conference held in hybrid format), June 2022.

“Learning Migration Governance.” Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Anthropology of Social Change and Development (APAD), Lomé, Togo (conference held remotely), November 2021

“Assembling an International Social Protection for the Migrant.” Paper Presented at the Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA (conference held remotely), November 2021

“The Social Law Movement as Public Lawyering?” Paper Presented at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO (conference held remotely), May 2020.

“Labor Migration Governance through the Lens of Transnational Capacity-Building.” Presentation at the Crime, Law and Deviance Workshop, NYU Department of Sociology, February 2020.

“The Construction of ‘Guestworkers’ in International Lawmaking.” Presentation at the Michigan Faculty Forum, University of Michigan Law School, February 2020

“Equivalence and Exclusion: Constructing Europe and Its Other in Interwar Migrant Labor Conventions.” Paper Presented at the Canadian Council on International Law Annual Meeting, Ottawa, October 2019.

“Mapping Judicialization: On the Politics of Methodological Pluralism.” Paper Prepared for the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, September 2019.

“Equivalence and Exclusion: Constructing Europe and Its Other in Interwar Migrant Labor Conventions,” Paper presented at the international conference: Globalization and Social Justice, a Century of ILO action, 1919-2019. Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne / Ministère du Travail, June 2019.

“Global Migration Governance as Policy Knowledge.” Paper Presented at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, 2018.

- “Human Mobility and the Law of Work.” Paper Presented at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Mexico City, 2017. (Panel Organizer)
- “International versus Transnational Frameworks for Migrant Worker Protection.” Paper Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, 2017.
- “Author-Meets-Reader: Contesting Immigration Policy in Court, by Leila Kavar.” Panel at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2016.
- "Beyond Compliance." Paper Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2015.
- "Immigrant Rights Legal Activism and the Enactment of Adversarial Legalism." Paper Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2014. (Panel Organizer)
- "Making the Machine Work: Technocratic Engineering of Migrant Rights." Paper Presented at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 2014.
- "The Emergence of Immigrant Rights Legal Activism in the United States and France in the 1970s." Paper Presented at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, 2014.
- "Investigating the Juridical Politics of the International Labour Organization." Paper Presented at the 4th Regional Colloquium on Globalization of Law, International Organizations, and International Law, American Bar Foundation, Chicago, Illinois, March 2014.

## TEACHING

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### *University of Michigan, Department of American Culture and Residential College*

- AMCULT 301: Law and Border – FA20, FA22, FA23
- AMCULT 498: Law in American Culture - WN19, WN21, WN23
- AMCULT 601: Cultural Studies of Law – WN24
- RCSSCI 205: Global Workers’ Rights – WN21, WN23, WN24
- RCSSCI 302: Contemporary Social and Cultural Theory – FA22
- RCSSCI 316: Law and Social Policy - WN19, FA20, FA23

### *University of Massachusetts Amherst, Legal Studies Program and Political Science Department*

- LEGAL 275: Interdisciplinary Legal Studies – Fall 2016, 2017
- LEGAL 319: Law and the Regulatory State – Fall 2015, 2016, 2017
- LEGAL 391LS: Law in Society – Spring 2017
- LEGAL 393LG: Law and Global Migration – Spring 2017
- LEGAL 492: Field Research in Legal Studies – Fall 2015
- POLISCI 796: Graduate Independent Study in Sociological Theory – Spring 2017

### *Bowling Green State University, Political Science Department*

- POLS 4160: Constitutional Law: Powers and Relations – Fall 2012, 2013, 2014
- POLS 4170: Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties – Spring 2013, 2014, 2015
- POLS 4000/5800: Law and Society – Spring 2013, 2014, 2015
- POLS 4730/5730: International Law – Fall 2014
- POLS 4200/5200: Administrative Law – Fall 2013

**Doctoral Committees:** Erica Kowsz (2016-2021)

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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### *University of Michigan*

University Level: President's Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights (2020-24), Davis, Markert, and Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture Planning Committee (2019)

Residential College: Lecturer Reappointment Review Committees (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24)

Department of American Culture: Executive Committee (2022-24), Graduate Admissions Committee Chair (2020-21), Graduate Admissions Committee (2018-19, 2021-22), Joint Tenure Committee Chair (2022), Third Year Review Committee (2022-23)

American Association of University Professors (AAUP), University of Michigan Chapter: External Harassment Committee Chair (2022-24)

UM Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine: (2023-present)

### *Law and Society Association*

J. Willard Hurst Book Award Committee (2021), Academic Freedom Taskforce Chair (2019), Best Article Award Committee (2018)

International Research Collaborative on Immigration: Co-Organizer (2010-12)

Immigration and Citizenship Collaborative Research Network (CRN): Co-Organizer (2008-12)

### *American Political Science Association*

Law and Courts Section: Graduate Student Paper Committee (2019), Service Award Committee (2013)

Migration and Citizenship Section: Co-Founder, Secretary (2012-14), Best Paper Award Committee (2017), Elections Committee (2018), Emerging Scholar Award Committee (2023)

Related Group on Migration and Citizenship: Co-Organizer (2010-2012), Program Co-Chair (2012)

Interpretive Methods Conference Group: Graduate Student Paper Award Committee (2016)

Editorial Advisory Board for *Michigan Journal of Law & Society* (2021-2024)

Reviewer of manuscripts for *Law & Society Review*, *Law and Social Inquiry*, *Law and Policy*, *American Political Science Review*, *Economy and Society*, *Labor: Studies in Working Class History*, *Studies in Social Justice*, *Antipodes*, Cambridge University Press, Cornell University Press, Yale University Press, Stanford University Press, American Political Science Association Small Research Grant Program, National Science Foundation Law & Social Sciences Program.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

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### **American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, New York Chapter**

Government Affairs Committee (2001-2008)

### **Arab-American Family Support Center, Brooklyn, New York**

Advisory Board Member (2002-2005)

**LANGUAGES**

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English, French (proficient), Arabic (spoken)