**Agustín Escobar Latapí**

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Research Professor Rank “C”

CIESAS Occidente

SNI - Level III since 2003

**Formal Education**

**PhD in Sociology (1984)**

Faculty of Economic and Social Studies, University of Manchester, UK.

Thesis: *Dependent industrialisation and labour market structure: the case of Guadalajara, Mexico*

**Master’s in Sociology (1981)**

Faculty of Economic and Social Studies, University of Manchester, UK.

Thesis: *The State and the labour aristocracy in Mexico*

**Degree in Social Anthropology (1979)**

Ibero-Americana University, Mexico.

Thesis: *Centralización e Intermediación: las agroindustrias del Sur de Jalisco*

(co-author: Mercedes Gonzalez de la Rocha).

**Professional Experience**

**Research professor, CIESAS Occidente**

1981 to date

**Coordinator of the social sciences PhD at CIESAS Occidente**

1997-1999

**Regional director of CIESAS West**

2000-2003

**Academic researcher and member of steering committee**

National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL)

2006-2010 and 2010-2014

**Visiting professor**

University of California in San Diego, USA (twice); University of Texas in Austin, USA (twice); University of Cambridge, UK (once, honorary).

**Areas of Research**

My main academic interests focus on Mexican social policy and the assessment thereof, and Mexico-USA migration, mainly from the poor Mexican populations. I have made proposals that bring both interests together, exploring ways in which Mexican social policy can be employed to regulate temporary migration through Mexico to the United States and to reintegrate migrants returning to Mexico, providing access to the programs and benefits to which they are entitled.

Nevertheless, at the same time throughout my academic career I have explored other areas of research such as: labor studies and labor market, social mobility, inequality and inequity in urban contexts, gender and masculinity.

**Approved Directed Theses**

PhD: 15, Master’s: 1, Degree: 4.

**Leadership of Large and/o International Research Projects**

* **Gender, Age, Family and Work: The Restructuring of Urban Society in Mexico (1994-1996)**

Co-directed alongside Mercedes González de la Rocha (CIESAS) and funded by the Ford Foundation and Conacyt, the project brought together 12 researchers, 5 Mexican research institutions and 2 foreign institutions. The study involved the design and implementation of a specialized social mobility survey which addressed 17,500 households in six Mexican cities.

* **Managing Mexico-United States Migration (2004-2007)**

Co-directed with Susan Martin (Georgetown University) and funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, this study involved 9 renowned academics from both Mexico and the United States, as well as officials with authority on this subject.

* **Effective Access to Social Programs and Services in Priority Zones (2010-2012)**

For this research project, anthropologists where stationed in the Mexican states Chiapas, Oaxaca, Jalisco and Chihuahua to establish how far, and in what ways, inhabitants with low incomes in the priority areas of these states were able to effectively access the benefits of social programs and services. Funded by the MacArthur Foundation.

* **Binational Analysis of social conditions and well being of Mexican Migrants in the United States and Migrants Returning to Mexico (2011-2013)**

An extensive final report was released to the media in April 2013 as well as to the academic community at different institutions, such as CIESAS, COLEF and COLMEX, during that same year. The study, funded by the MacArthur Foundation, CIESAS and the Mexican government, brought together the analysis of various aspects related to migrants in their place of origin and destination: health, education, politics, access to social programs and safety, among others. Twenty-eight senior researchers from Mexican and US institutions collaborated on this project.

* **Study Network on Globalization and Inequality in the South (2012-2017)**

Project director alongside Evelyne Mesclier from the Institute for Research and Development (IRD) in France. This was a comparative study of the inequalities generated by the processes of globalization in emerging countries, mainly in Latin America.

* **Dialogue on Migration Policy between Central and North America (2014-2016)**

Funded by the MacArthur Foundation, the project’s objective is to update and disseminate rigorous analysis of the migratory flows, mainly from Central America. The coordination of this study is supported by a regional network of institutions and researchers in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico and the United States.

**Publications by Area of Research**

*Overview of Publications (1977-2013)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Books: Author and complier either sole authorship or multiple authors | 23 |
| Book Chapters | 77 |
| Articles in scientific journals | 41 |
| Reports to Congress and other national and international governmental agencies | 13 |
| Others | 6 |
| Publications in Mexico | 112 |
| Foreign publications | 48 |

*Recent Publications by Area of Research (2007-2013)*

*Mexican Social Policy and Evaluation*

González de la Rocha, Mercedes and **Agustín Escobar** (coords.), *Pobreza, transferencias condicionadas y sociedad*, CIESAS, 2012 (Including introduction and chapter entitled: “Acción pública y sociedad: dos conceptos imprescindibles de programas de transferencias condicionadas”).

(CONEVAL): Hernández Licona, Gonzalo, Thania de la Garza, Carolina Romero, Manuel Triano, Paul Cáceres, **Agustín Escobar** et al., a) *Evaluación Estratégica de Protección Social en México*, CONEVAL, 2012.

**Escobar, Agustín** and Mercedes González de la Rocha, *La calidad de la rendición de cuentas: Transparencia y acceso efectivo al Seguro Popular y al programa Oportunidades en México*, CIESAS (electronic publication), 2012.

**Escobar, Agustín** and Mercedes González de la Rocha (Co-direction and coordination), *Acceso a la información, servicios y apoyo en zonas de atención prioritaria- a) Chiapas, b) Michoacán, c) Jalisco, d) Oaxaca, and e) Migración, pobreza y políticas públicas*, CIESAS (e-publications, 5 manuscripts), 2012.

**Escobar, Agustín**, “Trayectorias vitales de jóvenes pobres extremos mexicanos, o la vida después del programa Oportunidades”, *Revista del Trabajo*, Year 8, No. 10, pp.185-204, Buenos Aires, 2012.

**Escobar, Agustín**, Gonzalo Hernández Licona and Thania de la Garza, *El Ramo 33 en el desarrollo social en México: evaluación de ocho fondos presupuestales*, CONEVAL, México, 2011.

Acosta, Félix, Fernando Córtes Cáceres, **Agustín Escobar Latapí**, Graciela Freyermuth, Juan Rivera Dommarco, Graciela Teruel, Gonzalo Hernández and Víctor Pérez, “Metodología para la medición multidimensional de la pobreza en México”, *Reality, Data and Space: International Journal of Statistics and Geography*, vol.2, pp. 36-63, 2011.

**Escobar, Agustín** and Mercedes González de la Rocha, “Girls, Mothers and Poverty Reduction in México: Evaluating Progresa-Oportunidades”, in Razavi, Shahra, *The Gendered Impacts of Liberalization: Towards Embedded Liberalism?*, USA: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, 2009.

**Escobar, Agustín**, “Mexico’s Progresa-Oportunidades Program: Where do we go from here?”, in Bane, Mary Jo and René Zenteno, *Poverty and Poverty Alleviation Atrategies in North America*, USA: Harvard University, 2009.

Cortés, Fernando, **Agustín Escobar** and Mercedes González de la Rocha, *Método Científico y Política Social, sobre la Evaluación Cualitativa del Programa Oportunidades*, COLMEX, 2008 (Includes preface, acknowledgements, chapters entitled “Evaluación cualitativa rural de mediano plazo del Programa de Desarrollo Humano Oportunidades 2004” and “Vulnerabilidad de los hogares: El Programa Progresa Oportunidades en ciudades pequeñas” and conclusions).

**Escobar, Agustín**, “Descentralización y Política Social: del centralismo al desconcierto”, in Jusidman, Clara, *Reflexiones ciudadanas sobre la política social*, México: Consejo Consultivo de Desarrollo Social, 2008.

**Escobar, Agustín**, “Programme éducation, santé, alimentation: et maintenant où allons nous?” in Hernández, Valeria, Pépita Ould-Ahmed, Jean Papail and Pascale Phélinas, *Turbulences monétaries et sociales. L ́Amérique Latine dans une perspective comparée*, Paris: L ́Harmattan, 2007.

*Mexico-United States Migration*

**Escobar, Agustín**, “Le retour des migrants au pays: quelle politique sociale?”, *Politique Americaine*, no.21, pp. 165- 194, Paris, 2013.

**Escobar, Agustín**, Susan F. Martín, Lindsay Lowell and Rafael Fernández de Castro, “Estudio binacional sobre migrantes mexicanos en Estados Unidos y en México”, *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica*, vol. 13, no.3, pp. 12-18, 2013.

**Escobar, Agustín** and Laura Pedraza, “Las remesas familiares: ¿de qué familia?”, *Coyuntura Demográfica*, no. 4, pp. 55-61, 2013.

**Escobar, Agustín**, “Migration vs. development? The case of poverty and inequality in Mexico”, *Migration Letters Special Issue: Migration and development: Comparing Mexico-US and Turkey-Europe*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 65-74, 2012.

**Escobar, Agustín**, “Acabar con el “Dejar partir”, *México Social*, vol. 19, 2012.

**Escobar, Agustín**, “La política social mexicana y los migrantes de retorno”, in Calva, José Luis, *Análisis estratégico para el desarrollo. Empleo digno, distribución del ingreso y bienestar*. Vol 11. México, Juan Pablos Editor / Consejo Nacional de Universitarios, 2012.

**Escobar, Agustín**, Mercedes González de la Rocha and Bryan Roberts, “Migración, mercados de trabajo y economía internacional: Jalisco y los Estados Unidos”, in *Visiones múltiples. El occidente de México desde la antropología y la historia*. Tomo 1, CIESAS, 2012.

**Escobar, Agustín**, “Recognition, Empowerment and Capacity Building of Migrant Organizations. Migrant organizations as agents furthering development: current and emerging forms of action” presented at the Global Forum on Migration (http://www.gfmd2010mexico.org/), 2010.

**Escobar, Agustín**, “The Future of Migration in the Americas”, the source document for *The World Migration Report* 2010, OIM, 2010.

**Escobar, Agustín**, “Can migration foster development in Mexico? The case of poverty and inequality”, *International Migration*, vol. 47, no. 5, pp. 75-113, 2009.

**Escobar Latapí, Agustín** (coord.), *Pobreza y Migración Internacional*, CIESAS, 2008 (Including chapters entitled, “Pobreza y migración internacional en el México rural: un enfoque antropológico” and “Remesas y costo de oportunidad. El caso Mexicano”).

**Escobar, Agustín** and Susan Martin (eds.), *Mexico - U.S. Migration Management: A Binational Approach*, Lexington Books, Lanham, Maryland, Estados Unidos, 2008 (Includes introduction, chapter entitled “Mexican policy and Mexico-U.S. Migration” and conclusions).

**Escobar, Agustín** and Susan Martin (coords.), *La gestión de la Migración México-Estados Unidos: un enfoque binacional* (translation), México: DGE-Equilibrista / Instituto Nacional de Migración / CIESAS / Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, 2008 (includes introduction, chapter entitled “Las políticas públicas mexicanas y la migración entre México y Estados Unidos” and conclusions).

**Escobar, Agustín** (coord.), *Nación, Estado, Comunidad: consolidación y emergencia en la emigración mexicana*, Buenos Aires: Antropofagia, 2007 (includes introduction).

**Escobar, Agustín** and Susan Martin, “Gestión migratoria México-Estados Unidos: un enfoque binacional" in Calva, José Luis, *Empleo, Ingreso y Bienestar, Colección Agenda para el Desarrollo*, Vol. 11, Miguel Ángel Porrúa / UNAM / H. Cámara de Diputados LX Legislatura, 2007.

*Labor Studies and Labor Markets*

**Escobar, Agustín**, “Measuring the progress of societies: work, equality of opportunity and social wellbeing”, in Mariano Rojas, *Measuring the Progress of Societies. Reflections from Mexico*, México: Foro Consultivo Científico y Tecnológico, 2009.

González de la Rocha, Mercedes and **Agustín Escobar**, “Choices or Constraints? Informality, Labour Market and Poverty in Mexico”, *IDS Bulletin*, vol. 39, no. 2, pp. 37-47, 2008.

*Social Mobility and Social Structure*

**Escobar, Agustín** and Laura Pedraza, “Clases medias en México: transformación social, sujetos múltiples”, in Franco, Rolando, Martín Hopenhayn and Arturo León (coords.) *Las clases medias en América Latina*, CEPAL coedited with Siglo XXI, México, 2010.

Cortés, Fernando, **Agustín Escobar** and Patricio Solís (coords.), *Cambio estructural y movilidad social en México,* COLMEX, 2007 (includes introduction and co-authored discussion, and a chapter entitled “Modelos de acumulación y movilidad social intergeneracional en los años de reforma económica: un estudio del México urbano”).

*Inequity in urban settings*

**Escobar Latapí, Agustín** and Laura Pedraza Espinoza, “Bienestar en Jalisco: una década de cambio”, in *Secretaría de Promoción Económica, Desarrollo económico de Jalisco: retrospectiva y retos*, Gobierno de Jalisco, 2013.

**Escobar Latapí, Agustín** and Laura Pedraza Espinoza, “Diagnóstico 4. Sociedad”, in *Jalisco a Futuro*. *Construyendo el Porvenir* 2012-2032, CESJAL / CEED – Universidad de Guadalajara, 2013.

**Escobar Latapí, Agustín** y Laura Pedraza Espinoza, “Jalisco: una década de cambio social”, in Renée de la Torre y Santiago Bastos (coords.), *Jalisco hoy. Miradas antropológicas*, Col. CIESAS Occidente, veinticinco años, CIESAS, 2012.

**Participation in Conferences and Seminars**

I have presented and discussed papers at more than 200 conferences and seminars in Mexico and in many other countries around the world.   
I have organized more than a dozen meetings and conferences as well as national and international seminars with wide attendances.  
In addition, I have maintained a Permanent Seminar on Migration Studies in Western Mexico (SEPEMIO) in CIESAS, which has been running for more than 13 years and has provided the platform to expose issues related to migration between Mexico and the United States, as well as migration research that has relevance for other countries and regions.

***Curricular Commentary***

**Agustin Escobar Latapí**

*Highlights*:

* Degree in social anthropology, Master’s and PhD in sociology.
* Member of the National System of Researchers since 1985; Level III since 2003.
* CIESAS researcher since 1981 and founder of CIESAS Occidente (1987).
* Academic adviser and researcher for CONEVAL in the Steering Committee and Executive Committee — in the latter, I was in charge of the specific work of the Council. (2006-2014).
* Adviser for the Independent Evaluation of Jalisco Technical Council.
* Honorary researcher at the French IRD.
* Member or ex-member of various institutional and editorial boards for the UN, IOM, and universities.
* Married to Mercedes Gonzalez de la Rocha.

My educational background combines social anthropology and sociology, with formal studies in Mexico (UIA) and abroad (University of Manchester), while my career as a professor and researcher illustrates the various interests I have within those fields. Currently, the main work and research I carry out are related to international migration and Mexican policy, and the relationship between them: the migration of poor Mexicans and the potential influence of Mexican social policy on migration. I have conducted extensive investigations on both issues.

On the topic of social policy, evaluation is an important element, including official external studies of social programs (mainly PROGRESA - Opportunities, amongst others), guidance to SEDESOL for its design of evaluation systems, participating in the design of CONEVAL’s Mexican evaluation system, direct responsibility for the development of some of the assessments coordinated by CONEVAL, and national and international academic publications derived from evaluations and research on public policy.

On the subject of migration, my main experience began in 1995. I was a member of the core group for a binational study of Mexico - United States migration from 1995 to 1997; co-directed a similar large binational study between 2004 and 2007, and a much larger study (28 researchers) between 2010 and 2013. I have also developed personal research on these issues, and have accompanied an already extensive number of students so that their contributions were published. For these research projects and others, I have obtained extensive external funding.

My initial interests were in regional development and the formation of urban societies and labor markets. I have completed many studies focusing on the city of Guadalajara and the state of Jalisco in Mexico, having carried out studies on work, poverty and equality in the city as well as developed multiple research projects about the Mexican social structure, social mobility and the middle class. I have produced many publications on these issues. I was among the pioneers for the resurrection of these three themes in the nineties, as research on them had almost disappeared after its heyday in the seventies.

Although I am known as an anthropologist within evaluation circles, I have conducted research that results from combining disciplines and methods, including large surveys (the 1994 social mobility survey comprised 17,500 homes in seven cities) and I have reflected on these combinations in texts worked alongside Fernando Cortez and Mercedes Gonzalez de la Rocha. In these projects, I combined techniques, topics and approaches. My anthropological study of three generations of men in the cities identified by the study is an example of this.

Both in the research about social structure and evaluation as well as that on migration, it has been my interest to bring together experts from various disciplines. Although the dialogue between disciplines has its difficulties, the combination of approaches and theories is deeply enriching for social knowledge. I aim to reflect this open multi-disciplinary approach in much of my work, and I have experience in facilitating dialogues between different experts.

These discussions have also addressed the need to confront and reach a consensus within the different national approaches. During the various binational studies (and now regional between Central and North America) and my longstanding involvement as honorary researcher at the French IRD, I have sought to combine these different traditions and institutional styles, and already have valuable experience in participating in such dialogues and in making them fruitful.

In 1984, Eduardo Matos Moctezuma, general director of CIESAS, asked me to coordinate a group of researchers from CIESAS in Guadalajara. With this group and the support of Leonel Duran, I managed to receive approval for the creation of CIESAS Occidente en 1987. I was regional director from 2001 to 2003, after having previously coordinated the doctorate program in social sciences (the first in western Mexico) from 1997 to 1999.

My experience in academic administration has also been enriched by my time with CONEVAL, where I played the dual responsibility of being a member of both the steering committee and the executive committee. In the latter, all of the substantive work of the committee is decided, designed, approved and followed up; I am very pleased to have been part of such a team which has produced knowledge of social utility, and which has enjoyed legitimacy both in and of itself as well as from its transparency and openness to manage information from any interested party. Although we did not explicitly propose that CONEVAL abide by the guidelines of Open Government, today it is one of the Mexican institutions that comes closest to realizing this approach, albeit from a perspective based on our understanding of the information needs of Mexican society.

I have directed 20 approved theses, have advised and evaluated over 40, and have presented more than 200 papers in governmental, intergovernmental and academic forums.

Finally, I have tried to encourage the dialogue and development of researchers in the different Mexican regions through conferences and publications; for some years I have improved my ability to communicate research results to the media and society. I am open to putting my personal research in second place for the next five years. I am interested in further developing mechanisms to improve communication and the impact of academic work, and in assisting others to do so more systematically and effectively.