RICHARD NISA, PH.D.

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Associate Dean | Program Lead, Sustainability
Integrative Design, Arts, and Technology (IDeATe) Program

Associate Teaching Professor
School of Architecture

Courtesy Appointment
Department of History

EDUCATION

2013 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Ph.D., Geography

2007 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Master of Arts, Geography

2000 Syracuse University, Bachelor of Architecture *(James Britton Award for Outstanding Thesis)*

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2026- Associate Teaching Professor
School of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon University

2024- Associate Dean
Integrative Design, Arts, and Technology [IDeATe] Program, Carnegie Mellon University

2023- Special Faculty & Program Lead, Sustainability
Integrative Design, Arts, and Technology [IDeATe] Program, Carnegie Mellon University

2019-2023 Associate Professor of Geography
Fairleigh Dickinson University

2013 -2019 Assistant Professor of Geography
Fairleigh Dickinson University

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2026- Affiliated Faculty
Wilton E. Scott Institute for Energy Innovation at Carnegie Mellon University

2025- Courtesy Appointment
Carnegie Mellon Department of History

2023-2026 Affiliated Faculty
School of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon University

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Spring 2027 *The Capture Chain: U.S. Military Detainment from Truman to Trump* {University of Minnesota Press}.

PUBLICATIONS *(peer-reviewed)*

2025 "The Historical Geography of Infrastructure" bibliographic entry for the *Oxford University Press* list in Geography.

2023 "The Political Lives of Infrastructure" introduction to issue 147 of *Radical History Review*, co-written (and journal issue co-edited) with Dr. Wesley Attewell (University of Hong Kong) and Dr. Emily Mitchell-Eaton (Colgate).

2019 "Capturing the Forgotten War: Detainment and Police Power in Cold War Korea," *Journal of Historical Geography,* Vol. 64 (1), 13-24.

2015 "Capturing Humanitarian War: The Collusion of Violence and Care in U.S.-Managed Military Detention," *Environment & Planning A,* Vol. 47 (11) p. 2276-2291.

2008 "Erasure, Non-Existence, and the Production of Economic Legibility in Iraq," *Middle States Geographer.* Vol. 40: pp.1-9.

BOOK CHAPTERS, REPORTS, AND INTERVIEWS

2023 "Careful Killing: Humanitarian Warfare and the Politics of Precision Violence," *Routledge Handbook of Critical Philanthropy and Humanitarianism,* edited by Polly Pallister-Wilkens and Katharyne Mitchell.

2023 "Roundtable discussion with Laleh Khalili and Deb Cowen" for issue 147 of *Radical History Review*, with Dr. Wesley Attewell (University of Hong Kong), and Dr. Emily Mitchell-Eaton (Colgate).

2015 "Bodies of Information: Data, Distance and Decision-Making at the Limits of the War Prison," in *Algorithmic Life: Calculative Devices in the Age of Big Data,* edited by Louise Amoore and Volha Piotukh.

2007 Robert W. Lake, Kathe Newman, Philip Ashton, Richard Nisa, and Bradley Wilson, *Civic Engagement in Camden, New Jersey: A Baseline Portrait,* MDRC and the Ford Foundation, New York, NY.

MAPS, REVIEWS, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming Maps in Charmaine Chua, *The Logistics Counterrevolution: Fast Circulation, Slow Violence, and the Transpacific Empire of Capital* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2027).

2026 "Born in Flames: The Business of Arson and the Remaking of the American City, by Bench Ansfield," solicited book review for the *Journal of Urban Affairs*. {eprint 2025, print 2026}

2026 "Carceral Worlds: Legacies, Textures and Futures, edited by Hanneke Stuit, Jennifer Turner, and Julienne Weegels," Solicited book review for *Contemporary Sociology*. Vol. 55, No 1.

2018-2025 Maps in Matteo Pizzolo, *Calexit, Vols 1, 3*, & 5 (Black Mask Studios).

2023 "Badges Without Borders: By Stuart Schrader, an *H-Diplo* Roundtable" introduction to book review forum on *H-Diplo*.

2023 Maps and diagrams in: Wesley Attewell, *The Quiet Violence of Empire* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2023).

2022 "*Useful Captives: The Role of POWs in American Military Conflicts*," edited by Daniel Krebs and Lorien Foote.

2022 Map in: David M. Rosen, *Jewish Child Soldiers in the Bloodlands of Europe*, (New York: Routledge, 2022).

2019 "*Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War: The Untold History:* By Monica Kim," a book review on the *Society and Space Open Site*.

2019 Introduction to special review forum on "Transpacific Geographies" on the *Society and Space Open Site.* Co-authored with Dr. Wesley Attewell (NYU) and Dr. Emily Mitchell-Eaton (Bennington).

2017 "Rightlessness: Testimony and Redress in U.S. Prison Camps Since World War II: By A. Naomi Paik," a book review on the *Society and Space Open Site*.

PUBLISHED DESIGN WORK

2003 Haar, Clarke, and Hendrickson. 2003. *Architecture for Education: New School Designs from the Chicago Competition.* Business & Professional People for the Public. {project featured}.

INVITED LECTURES AND SYMPOSIA

2026 "Infrastructural Futures," Making Alive! Reworlding Cities: Decommodified · Regenerative · Pluriversal. April 2026.

2025 "Infrastructure/Justice/Transition," Remaking Cities Institute. October 2025.

2025 "IDeATe at Ten," invited to present in Carnegie Mellon Faculty Dialogues: Exploring the Intersection of Technology and Creativity. March, 2025.

2024 "Cold War Apprehensions on the Korean Peninsula, 1945-1953," presented draft of manuscript chapter in the Carnegie Mellon History Faculty Seminar, November, 2024.

2024 "Capturing the Carbon-Based War Machine: Infrastructures of US-Managed Military Detainment After WWII," American Society for Environmental History's Environmental History Week, April 2024.

2019 "Sustainable Infrastructures: The Uneven Geographies of Life and Death," invited lecture at St. Peter's University, October 2019.

2019 "Wartime Detention," guest lecture and discussion with Dr. Monica Kim presented in New York University Department of Social and Cultural Analysis course: *The Criminal Justice State* (Dr. Wesley Attewell, Instructor), October 2019.

2014 "Spaces and Practices of Wartime Detention," guest lecture presented in The New School for Social Research political science course: *Prisons, Punishment, and Global (In)Justice* (Hadas Cohen, Instructor), November 2014.

2014 "The Architecture of the Renaissance," guest lecture presented in Fairleigh Dickinson University history course: *The Renaissance* (Dr. Peter Burkholder, Instructor), October 2014.

2014 "Bodies of Information," invited lecture presented at the School of Architecture, Syracuse University: *Entanglements: Theorizing Contemporary Architecture and Urbanization*, a symposium held in March 2014.

2012 "On the Architecture and Geography of Detention," guest lecture presented in the Department of Art History, Rutgers University: *Curating Guantánamo: Public History and Public Awareness* (Andy Urban, Instructor), April 2012.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026 "Critical Geographies of Design and Repair," written with Nida Rehman, presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, March 2026.

2025 "Precision is a Hole in the Ground," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Detroit, March 2025.

2025 "Plotting Points: Mutual Provocations Between Architecture and Geography," roundtable participant at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Detroit, March 2025.

2023 "The Political Lives of Infrastructure," roundtable participant at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 2023.

2021 "Computation and Resistance in Cold War Detention Infrastructures," presented as part of a session on Detention as a Tool of Empire: US Carceral Colonialism in Haiti & Southeast Asia at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Historians of US Foreign Relations, Virtual, June 2021.

2019 "Empire's Classrooms: Care, Violence, and Curricula in the Carceral Spaces of America's Long War," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Washington, DC, April 2019.

2018 "Take No Prisoners: Disappearance and the Twenty-First Century American War Prison," presented at the International Conference on War and Imprisonment, New York, NY, May 2018.

2018 "The Transpacific War Prison," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New Orleans, LA, April 2018.

2017 "Wireless Empire: Movement, Surveillance, and Control in the Herero and Nama Wars," written and presented with Dr. Robert Houle presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa in Washington DC, October 2017.

2017 "Laboratories of Enemy Behavior: Cold War Social Science and the Korean War Prison," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, MA, April 2017.

2017 "The Contours of Pacification and Public Safety," Organizer and roundtable discussant at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, MA, April 2017.

2016 "Capture and the Afterlife of Occupation: Detainment and Police Power in Cold War Korea from 1945-1953," roundtable discussant in session on Transpacific Militarization and Permanent War at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2016.

2016 "Apprehensions in the Supply Chain: The Logistics of Military Detention in an Everywhere War," presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, March 2016.

2015 "Apprehensions in the Supply Chain: Networks, Logistics, and Military Detention," invited presentation at the Turbulent Circulation: Toward a Critical Logistics workshop at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, October 2015.

2015 "Apprehending Enemy Prisoners of War in Korea: Cold War Geographical Imaginaries and the Making of the UN Camps," presented at the 16th International Conference of Historical Geographers, London, UK, July 2015.

2014 "Anxiety, Fear, and Rumor in the Vietnam War: Thresholds of Power Between Air and Ground," presented at the 20th Annual Mini-Conference On Critical Geography, Philadelphia, PA, November 2014.

2013 "Capture at the Speed of Bandwidth: Digital Biometric Encounters in the Everywhere War," presented at Calculative Devices in a Digital Age, Durham, UK, November 2013.

2013 "Capturing Counterinsurgency Math: Distorted Economies of Violence in Late Modern War," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, CA, April 2013

2011 "The Walls of the War Prison, Reconsidered: Enclosure, Control, and U.S. Military Detention after 1949," presented at the Fugitive Geographies: Symposium at the Yale School of Architecture, New Haven, CT, March 2011.

2009 "Cellular Geopolitics: Moving Bodies, Security, and Justice in Control Societies," presented at The Professor and the Spy: Area Studies and the Politics of Global Security, The Eagleton Institute of Politics, New Brunswick, NJ, February 2009.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023- AS SPECIAL FACULTY, Integrative Design, Arts, and Technology [IDeATe] Program and AFFILIATED FACULTY in the School of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon University

Graduate Courses:
Infrastructural Landscapes: Design Histories and Futures; Issues in Global Urbanization (Stefan Gruber's syllabus); Situating Research (Neda Rehman's syllabus)

Undergraduate Courses:
Ethics in Architecture (in School of Architecture); Life in the Digital Factory (in IDeATe)

2013-2023 ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, Department of Social Science & History, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Environmental Geography; Ecologies of US Global Power; Honors Seminar on Sustainability for the Fairleigh Dickinson University Honors Academy (co-taught with Dr. Marzi Azar, civil engineer); Honors Seminar on the Politics and Economics of Homelessness (co-taught with former Governor Jon Corzine and Kevin Ryan of Covenant House); Global Development; Architectural History; Geography and World Issues; Economic Geography; Urban Geography; Surveillance and Security; Capture and Control: Global Geographies of Detainment

2017-2018 INSTRUCTOR, New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons Consortium (NJ-STEP Program)

Global History of Mass Surveillance (at East Jersey State Prison and *at Garden State Youth Correctional Facility); Surveillance and Security (at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women)*

2007-2013 INSTRUCTOR, Department of Geography, Rutgers University.

Transforming the Global Environment; Space, Place, Location: Introduction to Human Geography; *Geographic Background to Current World Affairs; Geography of Development; Cities: Urban Geography*

2010 INSTRUCTOR, Writing Department, Rutgers University: *Expository Writing*

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2005-2006 RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University
Robert W. Lake and Kathe Newman, Principal Investigators: Civic Engagement in Camden, New Jersey

AWARDS & HONORS

2019 Outstanding Honors Faculty Award, Fairleigh Dickinson University Florham Campus

2018 Becton College Teacher of the Year, 2017-2018 Fairleigh Dickinson University

2015 Cornell University Summer Institute on Contested Global Landscapes: *Occupation: Violence and the Long-term Control of Land and People,* Participant

2010-2011 Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, Graduate Fellow: *Narratives of Power: New Articulations of Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Class*

2011 Rutgers University: University and Bevier Fellowship *(Alternate)*

2008-2011 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (CASTL), Graduate Student Fellow

2008 Rutgers University Department of Geography, Graduate Teaching Award

2000 James Britton Memorial Award for Outstanding Thesis, Syracuse University School of Architecture

UNIVERSITY SERVICE *(at Carnegie Mellon University)*

Committees

2025- Associate Deans Council

Academic Leadership Forum

Middle States Self-Study: Standard 5 Working Group

Other Service to College/University

2026 Center for Arts and Society Advisory Board

University Lecture Series Review Committee

2025 CFA Arts x AI Jury

2024- GIS Day Planning Committee

2024- Global Humanities and Inclusive Artificial Intelligence Initiative Fellow

UNIVERSITY SERVICE *(at Fairleigh Dickinson University)*

Committees

2016-2023 University Senate; Member of the Faculty Rights and Welfare Committee

2015-2023 Sophomore Core Task Force

2015-2016 Study Abroad Task Force

2013-2014 Recruitment and Retention Committee

Other Service to College/University

2022-2023 Lead Author of the (NJ-State-approved) proposal for a new Environmental Studies Bachelor of Arts Major at FDU.

2020-2023 Department First-Level Academic Review Committee for tenure and promotion

2018 Rewrite of Honors Program literature and promotional material design (paid)

2017-2023 Committee exploring the recruitment of academically gifted students and the establishment of an Honors Academy

2017 Co-developed Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Minor

2016-2023 Creator and facilitator of Geography Minor

2016 Member of the University's Sophomore CORE program Task Force

2015-2016 Mentor for Becton College Student Leadership Network

2015-2023 Becton College Student Leadership Network

2013-2015 Study Abroad Committee

2013-2023 Department Liaison: QUEST (Question, Understand, Explore, Seek and Think) Program

EXTRAMURAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2004-2010 PRINT AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER, Lubrano Ciavarra Design, LLC–New York, New York

2003-2004 INTERN ARCHITECT, Neumann Monson Architects–Iowa City, Iowa

2000-2003 JUNIOR PROJECT ARCHITECT, Lubrano Ciavarra Design LLC–New York, New York

2000-2008 FREELANCE ARCHITECTURAL, PRINT & DIGITAL DESIGNER, New York, New York

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of American Geographers 2007-

- Chair: Urban Geography Specialty Group 2022-2024
- Vice Chair: Urban Geography Specialty Group 2020-2022
- Ethics, Justice, and Human Rights Specialty Group: Student Board Member 2011-2012

American Historical Association 2022-

American Studies Association 2013-2017; 2020; 2023-

International Studies Association 2015-2018

Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights: Rutgers University 2010-2013

Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis: Rutgers University 2010-2011