

---

# Highly-Skilled Immigrant Entrepreneurs in the United States and the Unique Competitive Advantages that They Possess over their Unskilled Counterparts

Areeg Barakat, State University of New York at Plattsburgh  
Kamal Dean Parhizgar, Texas A & M International University

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*The dominant immigrant entrepreneurial narrative in the United States has traditionally focused on the successes of unskilled immigrant entrepreneurs. Until recently, conspicuously absent from the discussion was any in-depth treatment of their highly-skilled counterparts. While it is indisputable that unskilled immigrant entrepreneurs have enjoyed success in the United States, closer analysis reveals that much of their gains may have been overstated, particularly with respect to certain immigrant groups. The experiences of unskilled immigrant entrepreneurs in the United States remain instructive and have tremendous explanatory force as a prism through which to conceptualize and understand the impressive achievements of highly-skilled immigrant entrepreneurs in the STEM disciplines over the last three decades.*

Keywords: Immigrant entrepreneurship; Highly-skilled; Social network theory; Competitive advantage; Infopreneur