



COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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ALMA MATER IS AN ICONIC SYMBOL OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, LOCATED IN FRONT OF COLUMBIA'S LOW LIBRARY AND SCULPTED BY DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH IN 1901.

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A MESSAGE FROM LEE C. BOLLINGER

PRESIDENT, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



PHOTO COURTESY OF EILEEN BARROSO

Our network of Global Centers has become central to the University's teaching, research, and scholarship. The Centers afford students and faculty the opportunity to engage with the people and ideas shaping the modern world, at a moment when that need could not be more urgent. And when they return to our home campuses, those who have travelled abroad play an essential role in broadening the intellectual outlook of all of us. It is simply a fact that we would not be the same institution without the Global Centers.

A MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR SAFWAN M. MASRI

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL CENTERS AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



PHOTO COURTESY OF EILEEN BARROSO

The 2019-2020 academic year was a particularly successful one for Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, with the staff working assiduously to bring to the fore important events and research projects addressing vital issues such as refugees, public health, and education. Istanbul has always been a place of reflection and dialogue for many of our leading global issues that we face as a University and as a network.

Now, responding to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, we have pivoted to a full slate of online programming, as we strive to continue bringing significant conversations, research projects, and education exchanges to serve our constituents, with insight, knowledge, and expertise from Columbia and the network of nine Global Centers.

Our founding charter, with its emphasis on adaptability, has proven prescient. With the world closing in on itself, what was a desire to be better engaged in the world has become a necessity. I am proud of the accomplishments of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, and I ask you to please join me in congratulating them on their sustained success.



REFLECTIONS FROM İPEK CEM TAHA

DIRECTOR, COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL
'93BU, '93IA



PHOTO COURTESY OF PINAR GEDİKÖZER

The 2019-2020 academic year was filled with unique and engaging programming on campus, across our Global Centers and at the Istanbul Center. These programs ranged from the Year of Water and the “JAY-Z” Carter Lecture Series on campus, to SIPA’s first global immersion course and the Committee of Global Thought’s Youth in a Changing World workshop at the Istanbul Center.

Starting in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a host of issues including a distressed global economy, transnational and racial tensions, and increasing authoritarianism. It has also created a physical and philosophical challenge to how universities will operate in our new normal. Concurrently, investigating new ways of collaboration and dissemination of our work has yielded fruitful results. When you shake the tree, more fruit will fall down and this is what we have experienced as both the Istanbul Center and the Global Centers network in our rethink mode.

The past several months have been incredibly challenging for our world. While the pandemic has led to many irreparable losses, it has equally been a time for hope and the possibility of transformation. We can also see this in the way that the Columbia community has come together in solidarity in supporting the fight against the coronavirus.

The same time period has been a productive one for the Columbia Global Centers, where we as a network have embraced new thinking on what it means to be global. It has been a moment when we have very quickly moved our programming online and collaborated further with each other, creating cross-network and cross-University programming and dialogue at an elevated level.

The Istanbul Center has also contributed to the global dialogue with its own webinar series, which commenced in early April 2020, bringing in local, regional, and global perspectives on a wide range of topics from health to the economy, from refugees to entrepreneurship, and from journalism to governance.

The Columbia Global Centers network will continue to play a key role in extending the global mission of Columbia University. We, as the Istanbul Center, are proud of our work and inspired by the new possibilities that lay ahead for the network of Global Centers.

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS NETWORK

The Columbia Global Centers provide physical and intellectual infrastructure around the world for scholars and practitioners to work together across disciplines to tackle the most pressing global issues of our time. Through the Centers, Columbia faculty and students engage in important work that enriches their scholarship and research, and results in real impact on the ground. The Columbia Global Centers help us to better understand each other, and bring firsthand perspectives back to the Columbia campus in New York City.



[Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul](#) serves as a hub for Columbia University's programs and initiatives that relate to Turkey and the region. It has clustered its themes as follows: Ottoman Geographies; Democracy and Governance; Art, Culture, and Contemporary Society; Public Health, Climate, Geopolitics, and Energy; and Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The Istanbul Center continues its close partnership with Columbia campus, the network of Global Centers, and the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies to create sustained programming through research, capacity building, public outreach and teaching.



[Columbia Global Centers | Amman](#) broadens engagement, fosters collaborations, and cultivates regional and global themes such as Forced Migration, Geopolitics, Education, Gender Issues, the Arts, and Youth and Entrepreneurship. The Center offers student programs in Architecture, Arabic Studies, and Environmental Sustainability. The Center also hosts an annual fellowship program for emerging displaced scholars interested in the humanities to continue and further develop their scholarly pursuits.



[Columbia Global Centers | Beijing](#) serves as a hub for the Columbia community in East Asia by facilitating and promoting academic exchange, research, and scholarship programs in the region, and connecting Columbia with local intelligence. The Center focuses on global themes including Art and Culture; Health and Medicine; Environment and Sustainability; Business and Entrepreneurship; Engineering and Applied Science; and Education. The Beijing Center is also committed to providing study abroad and career opportunities for Columbia students.



[Columbia Global Centers | Mumbai](#) serves as a knowledge platform for Columbia University, connecting it with regional South Asian scholars and institutions to address key global challenges. The Center develops programs related to critical issues in the region, such as Health, Environmental Sustainability, Education, Culture, and Entrepreneurship. Activities serve to deepen the impact of research, generate innovative solutions, and build capacity through educational programs and public lectures, exhibitions, and conferences.



[Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi](#) serves as a regional hub for Eastern and Southern Africa. The Center supports Columbia University's faculty, students, and alumni, and serves as a base for collaborative research and diverse programs around the themes of Business Empowerment, Creative and Liberal Arts, Education and Knowledge, Health Initiatives, and Refugees and Immigration. The Center engages the public through tailored programs, lectures, roundtables, and symposiums on diverse topics ranging from public health to business to international affairs.



[Columbia Global Centers | Paris](#) housed at the iconic Reid Hall, hosts undergraduate programs, a joint undergraduate/graduate architecture program, an M.A. in History and Literature, and an Executive M.A. in Technology Management. Its programming focuses on Creative and Liberal Arts, Sciences, Medicine, and Sociopolitical issues. "Columbia Sounds" presents concerts featuring composers and performers connected to Columbia University. The Center co-sponsors events with the Institute for Ideas and Imagination, which opened its doors at Reid Hall in September 2018.



[Columbia Global Centers | Rio de Janeiro](#) is a hub for Columbia programs and initiatives relevant to Brazil. Established in 2013, the Center contributes to Brazil's academic and research environment, while also allowing members of the Columbia community to increase their knowledge and explore academic opportunities within Brazil. The Center works in collaboration with local universities, non-governmental organizations, and public institutions to design cross-cutting, innovative programs that aim to improve the understanding of global challenges through a transdisciplinary, transcultural and applied perspective.



[Columbia Global Centers | Santiago](#)'s events and research projects focus on Earth Sciences (mainly Climate Change and Renewable Energies), Corporate Governance, Journalism and Public Policy. Its latest programs have addressed topics that range from fake news to the importance of purpose in business, and from pre-school education to how to treat depression. The Center promotes student exchanges and internships, while also actively engaging with alumni, having recently created a special fund to finance COVID-19 related research projects by them.



[Columbia Global Centers | Tunis](#), open since April 2018 and the newest Global Center, is a hub for Columbia University faculty and students with an interest in Western and Northern Africa. The Center is located in downtown Tunis, and runs programs across Tunisia and the region in the areas of Education, Entrepreneurship, Political Science, and other fields taught at Columbia University. The Center hosts classes, workshops, and public events frequently in order to connect Columbia University with Tunisia and the broader region.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENTS

COVID-19

“This is the message I hoped never to have to convey. I must report the first deaths from COVID-19 within our own extended Columbia community. In recent days, we have lost family members, neighbors, and now at Columbia, we have lost valued employees and one of our own students.”

LEE C. BOLLINGER, APRIL 9, 2020

How Campus Was Affected

An unprecedented health crisis led to an unprecedented global upheaval, with a profound and lasting effect on Columbia University. Located at the epicenter of the crisis in the U.S., campus was shut down in mid-March in an effort to keep its community safe. The nine Global Centers also moved to working remotely, starting with the Beijing Center. Online classes - 9,622 to be exact - started on March 30, 2020; and for the following two months, faculty, staff and students entered a new world of online classes and meetings.

Virtual Commencement



On a bittersweet May 20, 2020, Columbia held a virtual commencement for its Class of 2020, which included an original song written by Columbia alumnus and Tony Award-winning composer Tom Kitt and performed by Ben Platt, who won a Tony for originating the title role in Dear Evan Hansen on Broadway. At the Law School commencement, former Vice President Joe Biden challenged the graduates to “rewrite the social contract that’s been scrambled by nature’s fury and human failures.”

Medical & Community Outreach

As New York City became the battlefield for COVID-19 cases in the U.S., Columbia University was all hands on deck to help virus patients. Medical students in their final year at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons graduated a month early and were given the option to be employed by NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) until they started their residency. Columbia also lent physical spaces such as Baker Field to give additional space to the hospital. Residence halls were used by medical staff to ease their commutes. The libraries and the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) produced face shields with 3D printers.

At the same time, Columbia has been at the forefront of vaccine development. From repurposing existing drugs, to developing new therapies and studying human immune responses, Columbia's researchers have been investigating multiple public health approaches and treatment options to treat and prevent COVID-19.

Columbia has also taken every effort to stay in close touch with its community. As a centralized resource guide, the University created the site, covid19.columbia.edu. Here, the University has posted news on the outlook for the 2020-2021 academic year, the latest news on COVID-related research at Columbia, stories of Columbia healthcare workers at the frontline, and support tools for medical and harassment related issues.

Columbia University has also stepped up to help local food relief efforts by launching the Columbia Neighbors Food Relief Fund. It has brought together the extraordinary resources of the entire Columbia community to heighten awareness, raise funds, and deploy resources to address food insecurity in Upper Manhattan.

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENTS

The 2019-2020 academic year was a dynamic year for Columbia University. Here is a selection of the highlights:

COLUMBIA WORLD PROJECTS

In 2017, Columbia University launched a new initiative, Columbia World Projects (CWP), which mobilizes the University's researchers and scholars to work with governments, organizations, businesses and communities to tackle global challenges. In the 2019-2020 academic year, there were three active projects: Combating Household Pollution With Clean Energy (Ghana), Using Data to Catalyze Energy Investments (Uganda), and ACToday: Adapting Agriculture to Climate Today, for Tomorrow (Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Senegal and Vietnam). CWP also curates a wide range of events and convenings that engage faculty, students, and community members in its larger mission to connect the worlds of knowledge and action and operates the Obama Foundation Scholars Program to use university resources to help make an annual cohort of rising activists more effective in their work.

YEAR OF WATER

Columbia University named the 2019-2020 academic year the Year of Water, an interdisciplinary investigation of water in all its social, political, cultural, economic, and environmental complexities. Led by the School of the Arts and convened across the University, public programming for the Year of Water featured art presentations and exhibitions, lectures, screenings, readings, and research focused on our planet's most precious resource.

"JAY-Z" CARTER LECTURE SERIES

In February 2020, the African American and African Diaspora Studies (AAADS) Department launched its first named and endowed program, the Shawn "JAY-Z" Carter Lecture Series, honoring the New York City-born rapper, songwriter, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. Drawing inspiration from Carter's multimedia success, the series spotlights public intellectuals, artists, musicians, dancers, writers, and activists, as well as scholars and other noteworthy people who have made a major contribution to our understanding of African American and African Diaspora Studies.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change has become an increasingly important agenda item for Columbia University. In September 2019, President Bollinger announced the creation of a task force to consider what more the University should be doing with respect to climate change. Led by Alex Halliday, director of Columbia's Earth Institute, the 24-member task force represented diverse disciplines, from the arts and humanities to the natural and social sciences. An outgrowth of the task force were two Climate Town Hall discussions in November 2019 to explore ways in which students can help set a trajectory for Columbia's climate response that will serve as a model for higher education. In January 2020, the task force submitted a comprehensive report to President Bollinger, from which he announced new steps in the formation of a climate change school and the appointment of a Climate Change Officer. The University also seeks divestment recommendations and is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

NEW BANNER FOR BUTLER LIBRARY

In October 2019, a banner bearing the names of eight women writers was unfurled on the façade of Butler Library. Known as Butler Banner, it was part of an inside-outside exhibition led by Columbia students, which was supported and sponsored by Columbia Libraries. Based on an artifact—another banner also bearing the names of women authors—in the Libraries' collections and a historic campus event, the exhibition aimed to foster conversations about representation in University spaces and collections. It was on display through December 2019.

MANHATTANVILLE

In September 2018, Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger joined Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano, founder and principal of Renzo Piano Building Workshop, to inaugurate The Forum, a new 56,000-square-foot, three-story facility that completed the first ensemble of new buildings on Columbia's 17-acre Manhattanville campus in West Harlem. In the 2019-2020 academic year, construction focused on Columbia Business School's new building.

WORLD LEADERS FORUM

On March 6, 2020, Prime Minister Sanna Marin of Finland spoke at the World Leaders Forum at Columbia University. Her talk, which focused on climate change, gender equality, and social welfare, included a question and answer session with students in the audience.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

President Lee C. Bollinger shared a message as part of the the global discourse sparked by George Floyd's death: *"It is only a start to express empathy and solidarity with those in our community who are experiencing loss and apprehension...Universities are not perfect and we have to accept our share of responsibility for the state of affairs we have today...More than anything we will continue to provide the society and the world with all the knowledge we can preserve and create and with a new generation of citizens and leaders who are prepared to live by, and fight for, the values of respect for reason, the love of ideas, and the wish to use these to care for others."*

THE COLUMBIA-BARNARD COMMUNITY MOURNS THE LOSS OF TESS MAJORS

On December 11, 2019, Barnard student Tess Majors was attacked while walking through Morningside Park. Despite the efforts of the doctors and nurses at St. Luke's Hospital, Tess succumbed to the injuries she sustained in the attack. The following day, students and members of the Columbia-Barnard community gathered to mourn Tess Majors. Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger and Barnard President Sian Leah Beilock both spoke at the vigil.

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COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS NETWORK NEWS

TENTH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

In March 2009, the Columbia Global Centers launched with two Centers in Amman and Beijing. Ten years on, our network of nine Centers continues to expand the collaborative engagement of Columbia's faculty, students, and alumni with the world. In celebration of the 10th anniversary, the Global Centers organized a year-long series of 10 events on campus in 2019. Each program explored a distinct theme of global relevance from a regional perspective.



X-RAYING TURKEY EVENT



CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT

1. **PARIS:** Moving Bodies in Translation; La Rage de Vivre
2. **RIO:** Combating Inequality in Brazil: A Global Perspective on Diversity, Inclusion, Equity
3. **TUNIS:** Democracy in the MENA Region: Tunisia's Election Year
4. **BEIJING:** Global May Fourth
5. **NAIROBI:** Peace by Piece: How African Women Leaders are Building New Peace Movements Across Africa
6. **CHILE:** Leading the Path on Solar Energy
7. **MUMBAI:** City of Haze, Gardens of Beauty: Reimagining Nature in Urban India
8. **AMMAN:** The (R)evolution of Arab Queer Cinema: Queer Representation in Film Pre- and Post-Arab Uprisings
9. **ISTANBUL:** X-Raying Turkey: Current Realities and New Aspirations
10. **COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS NETWORK:** The Future of Climate Change: Perspectives from the Global Centers

GLOBAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Columbia Global Centers network held its second global Advisory Board meeting on campus, where 33 Advisory Board members representing the nine Centers - including several of our own Advisory Board members - came together. The meeting, chaired by Professor Safwan A. Masri, was a forum to discuss significant global issues in conversation with Columbia's leading schools and thinkers.

COVID-19 WEBINARS



WEBINAR WITH RASHID KHALIDI



WEBINAR WITH JEFFREY SACHS

In the past three months, the world has gone through once in a lifetime events - bringing into question the issues of health, diversity, populism, and the effects of hyperglobalization among others - all of which are at the heart of the discussions and debates that happen on Columbia's campus and through its network of Global Centers around the world. The Global Centers network contributed to the global dialogue with a series of webinars initiated by both the individual Centers and the network.

THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP FOR DISPLACED STUDENTS (CUSDS)

"As soon as I arrived on campus, it felt like home...It has truly been a life changing program."

QUTAIBA IDLBI

CUSDS is an effort to combat today's unprecedented humanitarian and economic loss by providing displaced students with the opportunity to pursue higher education at Columbia University. Started in 2016 by the Columbia Business School's Tamer Center for Social Enterprise, and now administered by the Columbia Global Centers, the scholarship supports displaced students from anywhere in the world who are unable to complete their higher education.

As the first-ever Columbia-wide scholarship, and the world's first scholarship of its kind, this program has committed up to \$6 million annually in support, per cohort, for up to 30 students each year.

*Qutaiba Idlbi was part of the CUSDS' inaugural cohort and graduated in May 2020 from the School of General Studies. His story was featured on CNN and ABC.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Living/syrian-refugee-graduates-columbia-12-years-beginning-college/story?id=70787396>



The Global Columbia Collaboratory was launched in June 2020, a new initiative developed by the Columbia Global Centers network and the Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement, designed to give students the skills, understanding, and networks to grow into the leaders our world needs to thoughtfully address our increasingly complex challenges.

The first Collaboratory seminar was held on June 22, 2020, on the topic of “The Future of Globalization: Consequences of the Pandemic on Supply Chains.” The speakers spoke about why the future of global supply chains matter; the consequences of threats to the collapse of supply chains and international trading systems, particularly in food, medicine, technology, and data; the impact of the global crisis and the U.S.-China trade war on the future of supply chains; and what history teaches us about supply chains as a physical manifestation of globalization and an interconnected world.

Speakers: Ian Bremmer, President and Founder, Eurasia Group and GZERO Media; Ruth DeFries, Professor of Sustainable Development, Columbia University; Martin Wolf, Chief Economist, Financial Times; Merit E. Janow, Dean, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University (moderator); Safwan M. Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University (introduction); and Shannon Marquez, Dean of Undergraduate Global Engagement, Columbia University (introduction)

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL

BRIEF HISTORY (2011-2018)



Columbia University extended its presence to Turkey in 2011 with the launch of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, celebrated by receptions in both New York and Istanbul with Lee C. Bollinger, Safwan M. Masri, and İpek Cem Taha. Over the years, Columbia faculty have flocked to Istanbul to do research, collaborate with local faculty and organizations, and engage in immersion study with students. Professors Rashid Khalidi, Jeffrey Sachs, Joseph E. Stiglitz, Wafaa El-Sadr, Carol Gluck, Zainab Bahrani, Elazar Barkan, and Vishakha Desai are some of the many faculty who have come to Turkey on issues ranging from sustainable development to historical reconciliation to public health to Ottoman Studies.

In 2013, Mailman School of Public Health Dean Linda Fried visited Turkey. Her visit initiated the foundations of a long-standing partnership between the Istanbul Center and the School of Public Health on public health related issues. This included a President's Global Innovation Fund project on "Confronting Non-Communicable Diseases in the Middle East and Turkey," developed by Professor Wafaa El-Sadr, Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine; Dr. Mathilde Krim, amfAR Chair of Global Health, and Director of ICAP; and Professor Miriam Rabkin, Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Columbia University Medical Center and Director of Health Strategies at ICAP. In 2014 and 2015, Public health specialists from Turkey, including representatives from the Istanbul Public Health Directorate and Turkish universities, were invited to attend and speak at the Epidemiology and Population Health Summer Institute in New York.

From 2013 to 2015, Columbia University offered a joint summer program at Boğaziçi University for a select group of advanced undergraduate and graduate students to learn about the history, urban development, and historic monuments of the city of Byzantium-Constantinople-Istanbul. Directed by Professor Holger A. Klein, Department of Art History and Archaeology, the program consisted of three courses and site visits designed to allow students to explore and understand Istanbul's modern topography. The program had a research and fieldwork component which helped students gain practical experience in architectural site survey and documentation, still and panoramic photography, archival work, and issues of architectural preservation.

In 2015, Columbia University launched a semester-long global core course in Istanbul, "Columbia Global Seminar: Byzantine and Modern Greek Encounters," building upon existing relationships with Boğaziçi University and the

Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul. Offered in the spring semester, the program was anchored by two seminars taught by two distinguished Columbia faculty, Martha Howell, Miriam Champion Professor of History and Karen Van Dyck, Kimon A. Doukas Professor of Modern Greek Literature. The following year, the program was simultaneously co-taught by Professor Dimitrios Antoniou in New York and Professor Matthew Gumpert in Istanbul.

In June 2015, Columbia University launched an intensive three-week summer program focused on democracy in Istanbul and Tunis, and enrolled 14 Columbia students alongside 12 students from leading universities in Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Turkey. Taught by John Huber, Professor of Political Science, the program focused on the concept of democracy, the challenges of democratic transitions and consolidation, and trade-offs associated with different ways of designing constitutions and organizing democratic institutions. The program was supported by the President's Global Innovation Fund and the Lee C. and Jean Magnano Bollinger Fellowship.

In 2015, nearly 40 Columbia Business School students joined the Chazen Institute's Global Immersion Program to explore how Turkey's startup scene has grown and evolved over recent years. Global Immersion Program classes bridge classroom lessons and business practices in another country. During the immersion week, students met with business executives and government officials while working on team projects.

In 2015, the Istanbul Center launched its second collaboration with the Mailman School of Public Health through the "Responding to Changing Health Needs in Complex Emergencies: A Policy Imperative" project, which was supported with a grant made possible by Columbia University's Global Policy Initiative. This three-year project focused on the issue of Syrian refugees in Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon, aiming to influence policy by providing a compelling, evidence-based argument that current frameworks for refugee health are not optimally configured for 21st century needs. The American University of Beirut and the Istanbul and Amman Centers were partners in this effort, led by Professor Wafaa El-Sadr, Professor Miriam Rabkin and Professor Neil Boothby, Allan Rosenfield Professor of Forced Migration and Health, Department of Population and Family Health.

In 2016 and 2017, the Istanbul Center in collaboration with the Asfari Foundation, organized two leadership workshops in Arabic for 10 Syrian women who are leaders of refugee-focused civil society organizations in the MENA region and around the world. The workshops were held in Istanbul and blended leadership training, self-care and peer-to-peer support through a series of modules that focused on the technical, professional and personal aspects of leadership.

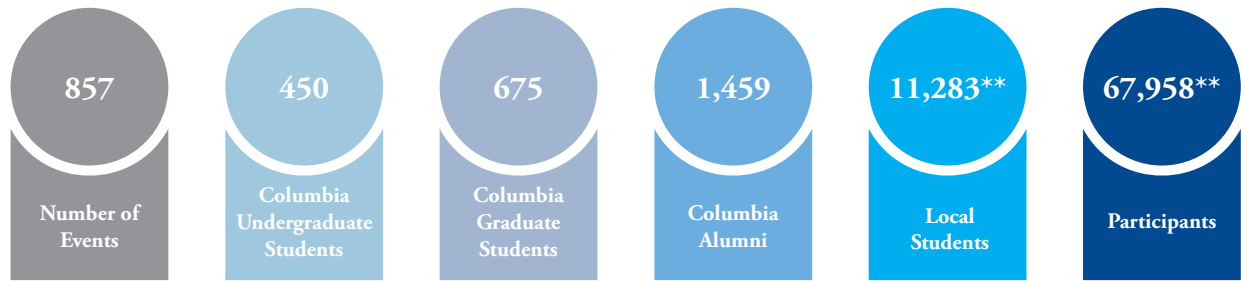
University Chaplain Jewelnel Davis was in Turkey three times - including in January 2020 - with Kraft Fellows to meet with leaders of various faith communities to spark curiosity and foster intercultural and interfaith dialogue. Gender was and still is a key theme of the Istanbul Center, having hosted Columbia's Women Mobilizing Memory working group in Istanbul in 2014 and pushed the dialogue forward on "Reframing Gendered Violence" through a 2-year workshop series in partnership with the Center for the Study of Social Difference. In 2015, the Istanbul Center co-curated and hosted a unique exhibition, a panel and a musical performance, "Blue Voyagers: The Art of Romare Bearden and Bedri Rahmi Eyüboğlu," in collaboration with the Consulate General of Greece in Istanbul.

Istanbul Center Advisory Board Members, His Excellency Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and Vuslat Doğan Sabancı were invited to speak at Columbia's World Leaders Forum on "The Islamic World in the New Century" in 2012 and "Fostering a Better Conversation and Understanding of Islam: The Vital Role of Media" in 2017, respectively.

Due to a change in global strategy of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), Studio-X Istanbul and all other Studio-X locations around the world were closed as of July 1, 2019. Studio-X Istanbul, which was co-managed by Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, was part of GSAPP's global network of laboratories for exploring the future of cities. Over the years, it became an iconic landmark on the Istanbul architecture, city and design scene, not only with its floor-to-ceiling glass facade, but also with its extensive programming and as a host of the third Istanbul Design Biennial in 2018. From 2013 to 2019, Studio-X Istanbul mounted numerous programs and hosted 202 events attended by over 25,000 people.

ISTANBUL CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

1. NUMBER OF EVENTS HELD IN ISTANBUL AND PARTICIPANTS SINCE OUR LAUNCH*



2. NUMBER OF COLUMBIA FACULTY INVOLVED IN OUR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SINCE OUR LAUNCH***

	TOTAL		TOTAL
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences	63	Barnard College	6
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation	40	Columbia Business School	6
School of International and Public Affairs	27	Law School	5
Mailman School of Public Health	15	School of Engineering and Applied Sciences	2
School of Journalism	15	School of Social Work	2
Earth Institute	10	Teachers College	2
School of the Arts	8	Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons	3
		School of Professional Studies	3

3. NUMBER OF COLUMBIA STUDENTS INVOLVED IN OUR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS HELD IN ISTANBUL*

	2012-2018	2019	2020****	TOTAL
Columbia Undergraduate Students	275	51	110	436
Columbia Graduate Students	571	21	111	703
Total Columbia Students	846	72	221	1,139

4. NUMBER OF ON-CAMPUS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SINCE OUR LAUNCH

The Istanbul Center has partnered with various schools and faculty at Columbia to sponsor and organize 24 events on campus on topics ranging from Ottoman History to the current political and economic crises in Turkey.

*These numbers reflect multiple interactions per person.

**These large numbers are also a function of frequent public events hosted at our Studio-X Istanbul venue between 2013 and 2019.

***These numbers reflect both on-campus and in Istanbul events.

****These numbers are for programs and events between January and June 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR (2019-2020)



AUGUST 2019

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Istanbul Center partnered with Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs (CORE), one of the University's largest student societies, to offer this workshop to 27 high school students. Led by two Columbia undergraduate students, the workshop focused on how entrepreneurial problem solving and design thinking can yield social impacts.



NOVEMBER 2019

JEFFREY SACHS IN ISTANBUL

In his visit to Istanbul, Jeffrey Sachs spoke at an event co-sponsored by the Istanbul Center and the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD), among other partners, calling attention to the urgent need for sustainable development. Jeffrey Sachs also spoke at another event about the Sustainable Development Goals 2019 Index, which was hosted by the Istanbul Center and Boğaziçi University's Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Turkey network.



NOVEMBER 2019

X-RAYING TURKEY:
CURRENT REALITIES AND NEW ASPIRATIONS

As part of a year-long series of 10 events celebrating the Columbia Global Centers' 10th anniversary in 2019, the Istanbul Center organized a panel on campus, which explored Turkey at yet another pivotal point in its history – given the recent political and economic crises as well as regional pressures – and aimed to uncover streams of challenges and opportunities for the country in 2020 and beyond.



NOVEMBER 2019

YOUTH IN A CHANGING WORLD

Led by Dr. Vishakha Desai, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Global Thought, the Youth in a Changing World (YCW) project held a workshop in Istanbul with the participation of 21 undergraduate students from Turkey, who spoke about how youth around the world are affecting and being affected by the rapidly changing world. Workshops were held in Brazil, Kenya, India, Jordan, Tunisia, Kenya, and the United States.



NOVEMBER 2019

POLITICS OF VISUAL ARTS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Led by Dr. Vishakha Desai, this roundtable brought together 10 of the leading artists, scholars, curators, and institutional leaders in the Turkish art community to discuss new trends that are affecting the creation, presentation, reception, and preservation of works of art in a diverse cultural context. The roundtable was part of a larger, ongoing initiative which started in the fall of 2018, and one of five roundtables held at the Global Centers around the world.



DECEMBER 2019

THE FUTURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE:
PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GLOBAL CENTERS

Through the lens of the Columbia Global Centers, Columbia faculty shared their perspectives on the impacts of climate change in different regions around the world and how each region has been working to mitigate these effects. This was the capstone event of the Columbia Global Centers' 10th anniversary in 2019.

DECEMBER 2019

GLOBAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Columbia Global Centers network held its second global Advisory Board meeting on campus, where 33 Advisory Board members representing the nine Centers came together. Istanbul Center Director, İpek Cem Taha; Advisory Board members, Ambassador Ayşe Sinirlioğlu, Tayfun Bayazıt '83BU, and Professor Ahmet Evin '66CC, '73GSAS; and long-time supporter, Eren Kuraner '87EN, '92BU, were in attendance.



DECEMBER 2019

IRAIDA BARRY, THOMAS WHITTEMORE &
ISTANBUL'S "RUSSIAN" MOMENT

Columbia professors Valentina Izmirlieva and Holger A. Klein spoke about two fascinating personalities, the Russian-born sculptor Iraida Barry and the American philanthropist Thomas Whittemore, founder of the Byzantine Institute of America, whose lives—each in their own ways—were transformed during Istanbul's "Russian" moment.



JANUARY 2020

KRAFT FELLOWS

As part of the Kraft Global Fellows Program, six Columbia University students traveled to Turkey to gain a better understanding of the diverse cultural and religious backgrounds in the country and in the region, and to explore multi-faith interconnectivity and other relevant topics. Chaplain Jewelnel Davis and Associate Professor Josef Sorett accompanied the fellows.



JANUARY 2020

FIRST SIPA GLOBAL IMMERSION COURSE

Twenty Master of International Affairs students spent 10 days in Turkey for the “Syrian Refugees: Public Policy and Development Responses in Turkey” course, designed and led by Professor Daniel Naujoks, interim director of the International Organization and UN Studies specialization. It offered a unique opportunity for the students to study issues related to Syrian refugees in the country that hosts the largest such population in the world.



FEBRUARY 2020

DARÜLFÜNUN: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST MODERN UNIVERSITY IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

H. E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu gave a talk on his new book on *Darülfünun*, which was recently published in English by Oxford University. In conversation with Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University professor Mustafa Kaçar, he discussed the significance of and steps towards the establishment of *Darülfünun*, or ‘House of Science,’ the first European style institution of higher education in the Ottoman Empire.



MARCH 2020

THE ROLE OF LITERATURE IN SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION: SERENADE FOR NADIA

Zülfü Livaneli gave a talk on campus to a full house on his new book based on the real-life tragedy of a refugee ship during World War I upon its publication in English by Other Press. The conversation also touched upon the interaction between literature and social events.



Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Istanbul Center moved its speaker series online. The aim was to keep the Columbia community and the public informed about the leading issues of these challenging times both in Turkey and globally.



The Istanbul Center focused on hosting local experts, who looked at the COVID-19 pandemic from many different perspectives including the effect on e-commerce, and social transformation.



The Istanbul Center curated webinars in partnership with Columbia counterparts, the network of Global Centers, and local partners, featuring regional and global topics and speakers such as Rashid Khalidi and Jeffrey Sachs.

This annual report gives further insight into the various projects and programs organized by the Istanbul Center, which took place during the 2019-2020 academic year (July 2019 - June 2020).

OUR WORK AND THEMES

Since its foundation in 2011, Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul has become a hub for the study of contemporary politics and history in Turkey and the broader region. Through a wide array of teaching programs and research projects at the intersection of history, political science, economics, and sociology, the Istanbul Center has contributed to the exchange of knowledge among scholars and students across different geographies. In this regard, the Istanbul Center has played a pivotal role in facilitating scholarly exchange between regional counterparts and the campus, and hence the development of new learning and research agendas from a transregional point of view.

We strongly believe that the Istanbul Center is a solid thought partner that contributes to the creation of a global conversation around these topics. The Center is also an important convenor on issues of global significance.

In the 2019-2020 academic year, as part of a strategic rethink, the Istanbul Center reorganized its themes to fall under five categories. In addition, the immense effect, disruption, and dialogue caused by the COVID-19 pandemic played a sudden and significant impact on our work, and as a result, we added the COVID lens to some of our work starting from April 2020.

OTTOMAN GEOGRAPHIES

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

ART, CULTURE AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

PUBLIC HEALTH, CLIMATE, GEOPOLITICS AND ENERGY

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

COVID-19

THEMES

OTTOMAN GEOGRAPHIES

Istanbul, the historic capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, is the starting point from which one can explore the vast geographies that these empires once covered: Turkey, Greece, Balkans, Mediterranean, Black Sea and the MENA region, with international trade and cultural connections with Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. The Istanbul Center has investigated such transregional connections through the lens of different disciplines. In addition, the Center has hosted a joint summer course three times since 2015 offered by Columbia University and Boğaziçi University on the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires studied through history, monuments, and urban life.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

THE STRUGGLE FOR MODERN TURKEY: JUSTICE, ACTIVISM AND A REVOLUTIONARY FEMALE JOURNALIST

October 14, 2019, Book Talk (On Campus)



Sabiha Sertel was born into revolution in 1895 as an independent Turkey rose out of the dying Ottoman Empire. The nation's first professional female journalist, her unrelenting push for democracy and social reforms ultimately cost Sertel her country and freedom. Shortly before her death in 1968, Sertel completed her autobiography, *Roman Gibi* (Like a Novel), which was written during her forced exile in the Soviet Union. Translated into English for the first time, it offers a rare perspective on Turkey's history as it moved to embrace democracy, then violently recoiled.

Speakers: Tia O'Brien, co-editor of *The Struggle for Modern Turkey*, journalist, and granddaughter of Sabiha Sertel; Nur Deriş, co-editor of *The Struggle for Modern Turkey*, independent translator, interpreter, and grandniece of Sabiha Sertel; James Ryan, historian, Kevorkian Center NYU; Suzy Hansen, journalist and Practitioner in Residence, Kevorkian Center NYU; Holger A. Klein, Director, Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies (welcome remarks)

Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul was a partner of this event, initiated by the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies.

OTTOMAN CULTURE AND LITERATURE IN THE AGE OF SÜLEYMAN THE MAGNIFICENT*

November 11, 2019, Public Talk (On Campus)

"Poetry was everywhere. They are speaking through poetry. In every level of society you can see poetry. The sultan himself was a poet. Poetry is a language for communication."

MEHMET KALPAKLI

Süleyman the Magnificent (1520 - 1566) was not only a sultan and patron of the arts, but also an artist (goldsmith) and poet. Moreover, his time was not only the zenith of Ottoman power, but also its "Golden Age" as the Empire reached its height in arts and culture. Kalpaklı stresses that *"we should certainly look not only for political history but cultural history. Otherwise it's a state history... The state is keeping the records, and as a historian, if you read the state records... you will portray a country in the way the state wants. But life isn't like that. [There are] ups and downs and emotions... Where do we find emotions in state records? Emotions are important. Literature gives us the emotions."*

Speaker: Mehmet Kalpaklı, Professor of Ottoman History, Chair of the Department of History and the Department of Turkish Literature, Bilkent University

Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, the Department of History, and the Department of Art History and Archaeology were partners of this event, initiated by the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies.

*Quotes taken from www.columbiaspectator.com/arts-and-entertainment/2019/11/13/the-power-of-poetry-transcends-class-in-the-16th-century-ottoman-empire-at-center-for-turkish-studies-event/.

NATURE AND THE SUPERNATURAL IN OTTOMAN CULTURE WORKSHOP

December 13-14, 2019, Workshop



Even though European, non-Ottoman (and especially pre-Ottoman), and Islamic perceptions and techniques dealing with the supernatural have been the object of intense study for more than a century now, very little work has been done with respect to the Ottoman culture. While it is true that historians of Islamic magic often reach as far as Taşköprüzade and Kâtib Çelebi, they only do so through their works in Arabic and without examining their historical context. This international workshop sought to explore the potential of such a research agenda, gathering together scholars interested in the topic with the aim of future collaboration.

This workshop was organized by the research project "GHOST: Geographies and Histories of the Ottoman Supernatural Tradition: Exploring Magic, the Marvelous, and the Strange in Ottoman Mentalities," funded by the European Research Council, and hosted by Columbia Global WCenters | Istanbul.

Participants:

Wonders and Marvels

Ido Ben-Ami, “Bewitched and bewildered: wonder in early modern Ottoman society”

Feray Coşkun, “Wondrous and strange in fifteenth century Ottoman cosmographies”

Güneş Işıksel, “Hamza in the realms beyond the mountain Kaf. Marvellous, magic and some minor chronotopes”

Kaan Üçsu, “Aĵā’ib in Abu Bakr al-Dimashqī’s geography”

Aslı Niyazioğlu, “Urban talismans and early modern Istanbul”

Visions of the World

Aslıhan Aksoy-Sheridan, “Taming the nefis: metempsychosis (tenāsüh) as recorded in a 17th-century mecmū’a”

Side Emre, “A preliminary study of mystical cosmologies in the early modern Ottoman world: authorship, esoteric content and inspirations in quest for a new type of learning”

Irvin Cemil Schick, “The legitimation of occult practices of dubious orthodoxy: a review of physiognomy, oneiromancy, and magic in İslam”

Marinos Sariyannis, “Knowledge and control of the future in Ottoman thought”

Guy Burak, “Materiality and ‘calligraphy’ in the section on invocations, prayers and magic squares in the Palace library of Bayezid II”

Occult Practices, Politics, and Everyday Life

Jean-Charles Coulon, “The occult response to the Black Death: ‘Abd al-Rahmān al-Bistāmī’s Kitāb Wasf al-dawā’”

Kostas Sarris, “Magical amulets, dried toads and confession: healing the plague between iatrosophia and Paracelsianism in the late 17th century Ottoman Ioannina”

Ahmet Tunç Şen, “Manuscript fragments of everyday divination and tracing the Ottoman history of emotions”

Harun Bekir Küçük, “The power of prayer in early eighteenth-century Ottoman chronicles”

Ethan L. Menchinger, “The battle of Haçova/Mezőkeresztes (1596): myth, miracle, and political theology in the Ottoman Empire”

DARÜLFÜNUN: HOW WAS THE FIRST MODERN UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED IN THE MUSLIM WORLD?

February 24, 2020, Book Talk



At the end of the 18th century, Ottoman leaders realized that their classical traditions and institutions could not compete with the European states’ technological and economic superiority. Thus, they initiated a European-style university called *Darülfünun*, which means ‘House of Science.’ For the first time, there was a reform aimed at training civil servants who could work in the Ottoman bureaucracy. Moreover, *Darülfünun* played an important role both in Ottoman modernization and in the development of the Turkish scientific language.

Speakers: H. E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, academic, diplomat, 9th Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), former member of the Turkish Parliament and PACE, Honorary President of the Turkish Society for History of Science, and Istanbul Center Advisory Board Member; and Mustafa Kaçar, Professor, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University (moderator)

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

The rising tide of populism and its impact on the preservation or dissolution of democratic values and institutions have become one of the most pressing issues globally. The study of liberal democracy and human rights in Turkey, a critical geopolitical actor, provides significant insights in understanding the issue. Even though Turkey is characterized by a particular set of historical, institutional, and political traditions, as well as economic dynamics, its move towards a more authoritarian political culture cannot be understood outside this global trend of rising populism. Freedom of speech, the refugee crisis, human rights, peace and security, democratic processes, and gender are critical areas of inquiry for the Istanbul Center.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

X-RAYING TURKEY: CURRENT REALITIES AND NEW ASPIRATIONS

November 7, 2019, Public Talk (On Campus)

“Since its foundation, Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul serves as a valuable medium for matters Turkish to be analyzed properly and be placed in a global context. Given the fact that most every major issue that preoccupies the world, and of course including the current all-encompassing threat of the pandemic, touches Turkey in one way or another, it is almost imperative that the country is understood correctly. The Istanbul Center also enables Turkish participants and contributors to check their knowledge against what goes on globally and gives them the opportunity to find new contacts and channels for their work.”

SOLİ ÖZEL



As part of a year-long series of 10 events celebrating the Columbia Global Centers' 10th anniversary in 2019, Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul organized a panel on “X-Raying Turkey: Current Realities and New Aspirations.” It explored Turkey at yet another pivotal point in its history – given the recent political and economic crises as well as regional pressures – and aimed to uncover streams of challenges and opportunities for the country in 2020 and beyond.

The panel started with Can Selçuki, who gave an overview of the electoral landscape and economy in Turkey and shared the most recent public opinion statistics. Can noted that voting behavior changes have been taking place since 2015 in Turkey, and the municipal elections in 2019 were the most recent evidence of this. Next, Ayşe Kadioğlu layered on the internal dynamics of de-democratization and the rise of illiberalism in Turkey. She noted that Turkey was actually part of a global rise of authoritarian zeitgeist, also happening in countries such as Brazil, Venezuela, Hungary, and Poland. Finally, Soli Özel took the discussion a step forward and talked about Turkey's international relations including its foreign policy towards Syria. He said that we may be experiencing a “1945 moment” right now, where Turkey took a clear strategic position to side with the West in the Cold War. Now, Turkey is considering jumping ship and moving away from these strategic alliances. Soli Özel noted that it is not a question of can it, it is more a question of should it. According to him, a Turkey, not aligned with the West, has not been thought through by its Western allies.

Speakers: Soli Özel, senior lecturer at Kadir Has University and columnist at Habertürk and T24 daily newspapers; Ayşe Kadioğlu, Professor of Political Science at Sabancı University and Visiting Scholar at the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies at Columbia University (2019-2020); Can Selçuki, co-founder of Istanbul Economics; İpek Cem Taha, Director of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (moderator)

Partner: The Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies

THE NARROW CORRIDOR: STATES, SOCIETIES AND THE FATE OF LIBERTY

December 20, 2019, Public Talk



In partnership with Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul and as part of the Kapuscinski Development Lecture Series, Daron Acemoğlu gave a talk on “The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies and the Fate of Liberty” - also the title of his recently-published book - to a full house of over 500 people at Boğaziçi University. He argued, based on his research, that when the power of the state is greater than that of the society, we have despotic states. When the state is weak, a complex set of norms and traditions regulate conflict and do not allow for a strongman to gain power. In between, there is a “narrow corridor” where both the state and society become stronger together and thrive. Being a democracy does not mean that the state is in the “narrow corridor;” however, there is a positive affinity between the two.

Daron Acemoğlu then spoke briefly about Turkey. Turkey has had several opportunities to enter the “corridor,” but has not taken them. Society’s power over politicians has to increase, and this has not yet happened in Turkey. Even though Turkey has had growth over the past 20 years, it has not been high-quality growth. One indication of this is that total factor productivity has been negative or zero over this time period. Turkey also exports low-tech products, whereas it should be aiming for medium-tech or high-tech exports. According to Acemoğlu, this creates inequality in society, which is at levels similar to those in Latin America.

Entering the “corridor” is not easy, while exiting it is. It is not a gift from leaders, but something that society demands. If society works at it, and the right conditions are present, then society together with better laws can help the state enter the “corridor.”

Kapuscinski Development Lectures are given by top global thinkers who discuss development in the European Union countries and beyond. The series is organized jointly by the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme and partner organizations, universities and development think-tanks. Since 2009, over 100 lectures have gathered over 30,000 participants.

Speaker: Daron Acemoğlu, Institute Professor at MIT

Introductions: Fikret Adaman, Professor of Economics at Boğaziçi University; İpek Cem Taha, Director of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul; and Ivan Zverzhanovski, Head of Partnerships at the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

Partners: European Commission, United Nations Development Programme, and Boğaziçi University

SIPA GLOBAL IMMERSION COURSE "SYRIAN REFUGEES: PUBLIC POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT RESPONSES IN TURKEY"

January 7-18, 2020, Student Trip



Twenty MIA students spent part of their winter break in Turkey, taking advantage of an opportunity to study issues related to Syrian refugees in the country that hosts the largest such population in the world. They did so as enrollees in SIPA's first global immersion course, entitled "Beyond the 'Refugee Crisis': Refugees in Turkey and Global Public Policy."

Designed and led by Professor Daniel Naujoks, interim director of the International Organization and UN Studies specialization, the course offered a unique learning opportunity within the SIPA MIA program's new enhanced curriculum.

Students in the course spent 10 days in Turkey. They were based in Istanbul, and convened at the Columbia Global Center in Istanbul for classes on refugee law and policy in Turkey and the world, multilateral cooperation, and how displacement-centered efforts link to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Participants also took a two-day trip to the southeastern city of Gaziantep, which has absorbed a large number of refugees from Syria and elsewhere in the region.

In both locales students visited experts in varied fields, political officials, and representatives of multilateral organizations—both from Turkey and other countries.

The Syrian-American journalist Rasha Ellass, for example, who covered Syria and the Middle East for more than 10 years, detailed her experience working undercover in government-controlled Syria and reporting on the several waves of refugees flowing out of the country. Professor Ahmet İçduygu, Director of the Migration Research Center at Koç University, explained Turkish policies regarding the influx of Syrian refugees, while UN resident coordinator Irena Vojackova Sollorano and Selen Ay of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees provided a deep dive into UN operations in Turkey.

Students also visited two refugee community centers. The first—the Mülteciler Derneği (Refugees Association) facility run by Istanbul's Sultanbeyli municipality—provides refugees free access to physical therapy, education, employment opportunities, and legal counsel. At the second—operated by Turkey's largest and oldest refugee-serving NGO, the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM)—students learned about programs like early childhood education, social cohesion activities for Syrians and Turkish citizens, and asylum case management, including for LGBTQ+ refugees.

The group also traveled to Gaziantep, which is located about 60 miles from Aleppo, Syria, which in turn has been devastated by the civil war. Gaziantep's population grew more than 30 percent over the past decade due to the migration of 500,000 Syrian refugees since the start of the war. One problem, students learned, was the mass exodus from Syria of over 70,000 private-sector companies—only 10,000 of which have been rebuilt in Turkey.



Students visited a range of UN agencies in Gaziantep, meeting with representatives of organizations including the International Organization for Migration, the World Food Program, the International Labour Organization, and UN Women. Each detailed their operations in Turkey and how they strive to ameliorate the lives of millions of Syrian refugees, while also supporting the communities that host them.

They also met representatives from non-governmental organizations—most of them partners with the UN—working on a variety of issues: one builds social bridges between refugee and non-refugee students in Turkish universities, another one supports Syrian refugee entrepreneurs, and a third seeks to provide economic and social empowerment programming to women.

In Gaziantep students were invited to dinner at the home of a Syrian family, where they enjoyed home-cooked Syrian delicacies and learned about their hosts' path to Gaziantep and life in Turkey.

Naujoks said the group benefited greatly from the support and coordination offered by Columbia Global Center in Istanbul.

"The Center not only served as our base, providing a great classroom setup, but our colleagues there were also critical in helping us to meet with local partners, refugee organizations, and international organizations," he said.

Participants gave SIPA's first immersion course high marks.

"It's very helpful to actually be in Turkey while studying the Turkish refugee policies," said Zeyi Yan MIA '20. "It felt less distant and more personal, especially for students like me who didn't have a personal connection to the Turkish or Syrian society."

“This has been one of my favorite SIPA experiences thus far,” said Loan Kim Chu MIA ’21, who expressed gratitude for the financial support that SIPA provided.

Naujoks summarized the students’ achievements.

“This course is what SIPA is all about,” he said. “Students engaged with some of the most important issues of our times in a place where they matter most. They investigated the potential and constraints for global public policy and connected local actions and outcomes to national, regional, and international processes.”

“This is the future of high-quality education in international affairs,” he said.

AUTHOR: CATHERINA GIOINO MPA ’20

MİSAFİR SCREENING & DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR ANDAÇ HAZNEDAROĞLU

January 16, 2020, Film Screening and Talk



Misafir (The Guest) is winner of the Antalya Film Festival “Audience Award,” and the International Bosphorus Film Festival “Best Feature Film” award. Eight-year old girl Lena, who has lost her family members in a war, wends her way with her little sister and their neighbor Meryem and other immigrants towards Europe. Lena really wants to return to her home, but they become the heroes of her own stories as they struggle with the problems that constantly arise in Istanbul, where she hardly arrived.

Speakers: Andaç Haznedaroğlu, Director; and Daniel Naujoks, Interim Director of the International Organization and UN Studies specialization, School of International and Public Affairs (moderator)

ART, CULTURE AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Istanbul, a mega city with a population of 16 million, has a vibrant arts and culture scene. As a hub for making global connections, the Istanbul Center organizes and hosts a variety of conferences, talks, exhibitions, and workshops on arts and culture.

Until its closing in 2019, architecture programming for the Istanbul Center was hosted at Studio-X Istanbul. Due to a change in the global strategy of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), Studio-X Istanbul and all other Studio-X locations around the world were closed as of June 2019. From 2013 to 2019, Studio-X Istanbul, as a part of the work of Columbia's Istanbul Center, mounted numerous programs and hosted 202 events attended by over 25,000 people.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

THE GODDESS THROUGH HISTORY: CREATOR, TRANSFORMER AND CONSUMER

July 10, 2019, Public Talk



At the heart of Elif Uras' artwork is the female. Each art piece is a story, told against the backdrop of her experience as a female growing up in Turkey, and influenced by the many women from different backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs she has met around the world. In particular, she spoke about how she was deeply influenced by women in İznik, a town in northwestern Turkey known for hand-painted İznik tiles from the Ottoman era. She also spoke about and showed pieces spanning from the Neolithic clay Goddesses of Çatalhöyük to paintings to ceramics, telling the stories of the female in each of them under the context of shared heritage, hybridity, tradition, labor and consumption.

Speaker: Elif Uras, '97JD, '03MFA, artist

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE / BEFORE SLEEP

October 1, 2019, Public Talk & Performance (at Columbia Global Centers | Paris)



In the iconic Reid Hall at Columbia Global Centers | Paris, Turkish pianist Renan Koen moved the audience with her performance of select works from her latest album titled *Before Sleep*, that honors composers whose destinies ended in the concentration camps, and then spoke about her research processes for the album. She conducted many years of detailed research on the lives of Pavel Haas, Gideon Klein, Zikmund Schul and Viktor Ullmann, four composers who were imprisoned in the Terezin Concentration Camp during the Second World War and who died there or in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. The album is a collection of piano and choral works by these four composers before and during their imprisonment.

Speakers: Renan Koen, musician; and İpek Cem Taha, Director of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (moderator)

Partner: Columbia Global Centers | Paris

YOUTH IN A CHANGING WORLD

November 5, 2019, Workshop

“This very idea [of Youth in a Changing World] came up because of our discussion with the Global Centers where all nine Centers, in one way or another, felt that the one issue in this current climate that needed to be addressed is how the young people are engaging with the world and being affected by the world. The idea of global is not simply to understand what [different places] have in common, but to understand the local specificities of an issue that may have global implications.”

VISHAKHA DESAI



The Youth in a Changing World (YCW) project was developed by Columbia's Committee on Global Thought and the Columbia Global Centers and asks the question: “How are youth around the world affecting and being affected by the rapidly changing world?” This project aimed to identify the commonalities and differences among global youth populations, towards producing concrete proposals for both global and local approaches to meet ongoing challenges.

The Youth in a Changing World Istanbul workshop was one of several workshops that spanned the globe in countries including Brazil, Kenya, India, Jordan, Tunisia, Kenya, and the United States. Twenty-one undergraduate students (including five youth facilitators) participated in the workshop.

Workshop Leads: Dr. Vishakha Desai, Senior Advisor for Global Affairs to the President of Columbia University, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Global Thought; Professor Demet Lüküslü, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Sociology Department, Yeditepe University (local liaison)

Local Youth Facilitators: Bilal Akar, Dila Okuş, Vildan Özer, Cansu Ceylan, and Ozan Aydın

Partners: Committee on Global Thought, and the Columbia Global Centers

POLITICS OF VISUAL ARTS IN A CHANGING WORLD

November 6, 2019, Workshop

"Through the Committee on Global Thought where I have been privileged to work with lots of different colleagues and the Columbia Global Centers, we have really taken to heart that our connection to the world actually can happen through the Global Centers such as in Istanbul...I have been [able] to establish relationships with [local art leaders and curators] through the Global Centers. These are the kinds of networks that you could not establish without the help of friends and colleagues right here at the Center."

VISHAKHA DESAI



This roundtable brought together 10 of the leading artists, scholars, curators, and institutional leaders in the Turkish art community to discuss new trends that are affecting the creation, presentation, reception, and preservation of works of art in a diverse cultural context. The roundtable was part of a larger, ongoing initiative which started in the fall of 2018, and one of five roundtables held at the Global Centers around the world. A conference and art installations at Columbia University, and dissemination of materials and essays through open source publication, were also part of the project.

Workshop Lead: Dr. Vishakha Desai, Senior Advisor for Global Affairs to the President of Columbia University, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Global Thought

Partners: Committee on Global Thought, and the Columbia Global Centers

IRAIDA BARRY, THOMAS WHITTEMORE & ISTANBUL'S RUSSIAN MOMENT

December 9, 2019, Public Talk



Few cities in the world have fascinated the Russian political imagination more than Istanbul. For centuries, the Russians called it “The City of the Tsar” (Tsargrad) and began to dream of reclaiming it for Eastern Christianity as soon as it fell to the Ottomans in 1453. During the First World War, the dream of a “Russian Constantinople” came deceptively close to becoming a reality, but the year 1920 crushed it with a dramatic and poignant twist. Surprisingly, the city’s importance for the dispersion of Russian ideas and culture in the 1920s has been unduly overlooked in Russian historiography. Similarly, the role of the Russian refugees in the history of modern Istanbul has only recently begun to receive the serious scholarly reflection it deserves. By opening a conversation on these concerns, this lecture sought to push against both conventional narratives of Istanbul’s “Russian” moment and traditional models for making sense of forced migration as a global experience, past and present. The talk focused on two fascinating personalities, the Russian-born sculptor Iraida Barry and the American philanthropist Thomas Whittemore, founder of the Byzantine Institute of America, whose lives—each in its own way—were transformed during Istanbul’s “Russian” moment, reflecting the transformations of the city itself.

Speakers: Valentina Izmirlieva, Professor of Slavic Literatures and Cultures, Columbia University; and Holger A. Klein, Lisa and Bernard Selz Professor of Medieval Art History in the Department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University

Partner: The Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies

IRAIDA BARRY AND THE “RUSSIAN ISTANBUL” OF THE 1920S

2016-2020, Research Project and Exhibition



IRAIDA BARRY. PHOTO COURTESY OF CENGİZ KAHRAMAN

Programs and projects at the intersection of history, gender, arts and culture have always been an important focus for the Istanbul Center. Discussions are underway on a potential exhibit on Russian Istanbul in the 1920s and its aftermath, and the life of Russian émigré artist Iraida Barry, a writer and sculptor who left behind an extensive archive of memoirs, correspondences and photographs available at the Bakhmeteff Archive at Columbia University.

This archive continues to inspire scholars, including Ayşe Kadioğlu, Professor of Political Science at Sabancı University, Istanbul and currently a Visiting Scholar at the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies at Columbia University. This article was also published in K24 in May 2020.

"Iraida Viacheslavovna Kedrina Barry's presence in Istanbul was akin to a 'message in a bottle' floating in uncharted waters. She had an inner world that she kept for herself. She remained guarded and aloof from the society that increasingly discriminated against non-Muslims. Her messages that metaphorically remained in a bottle in Istanbul finally reached the shores to be disclosed at the archives at Columbia University."

KRAFT GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP

January 3-12, 2020, Student Trip



As part of the Kraft Global Fellows Program, an initiative of the Kraft Family Fund for Intercultural and Interfaith Awareness and the Office of the University Chaplain, six Columbia University students traveled to Turkey to gain a better understanding of the diverse cultural and religious backgrounds in the country and in the region, and to explore multi-faith interconnectivity and other relevant topics. They met with a number of religious leaders and representatives from different denominations as well as representatives from community and faith-based organizations. Chaplain Jewelnel Davis and Associate Professor Josef Sorett accompanied the fellows.

This January, we had the opportunity to travel to Turkey. Upon arriving in Istanbul, we encountered a country with numerous layers of history, multiple cultures and many identities to uncover. In the 10 days we spent in Istanbul, we met a variety of individuals with different perspectives, opinions, religions and cultural backgrounds; from visiting the religious leaders of the main faiths in the country, to journalists, NGO's, government officials, musicians and so on. Perhaps my main take away from this experience was the pride and fortitude of the Turkish people. They recognize their history, embrace their culture and care about their future.

This trip allowed us to experience first-hand the complex dynamics at play in this country and begin to understand the nuance involved in all aspects of its society. I am so thankful for this opportunity as it has opened for me a whole new set of questions to study. As a student of international security, with a background of complex and often conflicting identities, the Kraft Global Fellowship and Turkey allowed me to explore many levels of my identity including my upbringing, religion, academic focus and interests in a way that permitted me to grow as an individual and a scholar.

With populism, nationalism, racism and other such forces on the rise, I believe that it is important to foster understanding and empathy amongst people from different faiths, nationalities, ethnicities, and so on. Only by recognizing the "other" and the traits that characterize our collective humanity can we achieve this understanding. I believe that the Kraft Global Fellowship Program in Turkey is an extraordinary opportunity to do this. By taking a step back from our preconceived perspectives and listening to one another, we were able to learn from ourselves and each other, as well as experience a multifaceted country with diverse experiences and cultures that intermingle to form such a rich society.

Partners: The Kraft Family Fund for Intercultural and Interfaith Awareness, and the Office of the University Chaplain

AUTHOR: DANIELLE MURAD WAISS '21IA

February 15, 2020



The Istanbul Center hosted H.E Ms. Niki Kerameus, Minister of Education and Religious Affairs of Greece, to discuss collaboration opportunities in higher education. Istanbul Center Advisory Board member, Professor Üstün Ergüder, and Columbia Alumni Association of Turkey co-chairs, Emre Çiçek and Ege Duruk, also joined the conversation.

This was a follow-up meeting to a Columbia delegation visit to Athens in January 2020, also joined by Ipek Cem Taha, which looked at global education opportunities related to Greece.

THE ROLE OF LITERATURE IN SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION: SERENADE FOR NADIA

March 4, 2020, Book Talk (On Campus)



PHOTO CREDIT: RENGİM MÜTEVELLİOĞLU

Zülfü Livaneli has been one of the leading symbols in Turkey in the quest for rights and justice. An artist who feels equally comfortable with the traditional Anatolian saz, the pen or the microphone, he is an international name followed by millions as a musician, writer, and political activist... Many generations grew up with his songs, and they accompany us from weddings to funerals and from political rallies to celebrations. He flows naturally from composer to performer, from author to politician, from international diplomat to film director... While his titles and awards grow each year, he has remained truthful to his essence beyond fame and recognition.

He is known as a man of peace and someone who endeavors to build bridges between nations through culture and art. Livaneli's books have been translated into thirty-seven languages and last week he was in New York for the launch of *Serenade for Nadia* from Other Press. Translated by Brendon Freely, the novel is based on the real-life sinking of a refugee ship during World War II.

Livaneli's U.S. publisher, Judith Gurewich, called the novel a 'page-turner' at the book launch event. She also said something that most would agree with, that is to say if you encounter Livaneli through his book and then discover all the other lives he has been living, you might feel a bit overwhelmed. As Judith put it: "You read a fantastic story and then you discover there is a legend behind it." *Serenade* has topped Turkish bestseller lists for many years and still remains a best seller.

It was a good coincidence, which we discovered about a month ago that Zülfü would be in New York the same week that I would be traveling here. As such, he was hosted at Columbia University for a lecture titled 'The Role of Literature in Societal Transformation,' which also caused a major queue for a book signing following the talk. Being quite the Renaissance man, Zülfü also managed to have three nights of concerts where both his Rumi Suite and Livaneli songs took center place. The musicians were mostly of our region, including Demet Sarioglu and Ara Dinkjian, and also utilizing many traditional musical instruments of the same geography. The Rumi Suite, with verses from Rumi and Zülfü's compositions, was sung by Lara Nome Doyle.

Livaneli believes in the transformative role of literature on society. He feels that literature should be accessible and also a positive force for society. When choosing his many topics for his novels and also his writing style, he says that he keeps these principles in mind. If you are familiar with his music, you can perhaps sense the same kind of intense emotion in his books as you do while listening to his music.

The author uses a historical canvas as a backdrop for many of his novels. In *Serenade for Nadia*, the historical backdrop of what happened to Struma and how it happened gives him an interesting setup that ties in the main character, Maya Duran, a single mother of a teenager, working at the Istanbul University. While most World War II stories are told from a European lens, this one also has Istanbul and parallel stories that we do not always associate with that time period, as Turkey was not a party to that war.

Zülfü Livaneli is a valuable voice of conscience not just for Turkey, but also for the international community. I am delighted that his universal tune is being sung in many more places, whether as music, movies, poetry or prose.

We need camaraderie and inspiration to keep realizing that we do not have a future – if not a collective one. And voices like Livaneli help us not to forget that.

Speakers: Zülfü Livaneli, world-renowned Turkish bestselling author, celebrated composer, film director, and political activist; İpek Cem Taha, Director of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (moderator)

Partner: The Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies

AUTHOR: İPEK CEM TAHA, DIRECTOR OF COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL

(This article was originally published in YetkinReport, adapted by the author to be published here.)

PUBLIC HEALTH, CLIMATE, GEOPOLITICS AND ENERGY

Climate change is arguably the top global issue of today's world, which can only be dealt with through joint efforts made by governments, universities, businesses, civil societies, as well as citizens. Considering Columbia University's commitment to climate response and Turkey's increasing political and public attention to this vital topic, the Istanbul Center focuses on public health and climate as programmatic priorities. The coronavirus pandemic has also opened the eyes of many both in Turkey and the region to the realities of local, regional and global health topics. There is huge potential to support joint research projects and cooperation between Columbia and local partners to find solutions for problems resulting from both climate change and public health.

With its strategic geographical position between the Middle East and Europe, Turkey plays a crucial role in regional geopolitics as well as energy politics. Turkey's chances for becoming an energy hub in Eurasia are highly affected by the relationships with its neighbors, where ongoing political, economic, and military conflict persist. The Istanbul Center aims to create a collaborative research environment to get a better understanding of the energy politics, as well as the energy transportation routes in Eurasia.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

TECHNOLOGY, HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

September 9, 2019, Public Talk



This panel discussed the key role technology is playing in fighting global health emergencies such as tuberculosis and Ebola. The panelists also explored the current problems and solutions regarding health literacy and health care access issues among refugees, with a special focus on more vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as young girls, sexual minorities, refugees living with a physical or mental disability.

Speakers: Dr. Yanis Ben Amor, Executive Director; Dr. Özge Karadağ Çaman, Senior Staff Associate, Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University; Dr. Selma Karabey, Professor of Public Health at the Istanbul School of Medicine, Istanbul University (moderator)

Partner: Istanbul University's Istanbul School of Medicine

REACH PROJECT STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

September 10, 2019, Workshop



REACH (Refugees Act and Communicate for Health) is a regional initiative of Columbia University, which aims to bridge the gap in health literacy and health care access among refugee and local youth via digital health technologies in countries mostly affected by forced migration.

At the stakeholder workshop in Istanbul, the principal investigators and local experts discussed current problems and solutions regarding health literacy and health care access issues among refugees, with a special focus on more vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as young girls, sexual minorities, refugees living with a physical or mental disability. They explored steps that academia, civil society, and businesses can take to strengthen the REACH initiative through the participation and contributions of all involved parties. One outcome of the meeting was the development of a long-running plan.

Principal Investigators: Dr. Yanis Ben Amor, Executive Director; and Dr. Ozge Karadag Caman, Senior Staff Associate, Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University

Partners: The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the Earth Institute; Istanbul University; and BirZ Association

Sponsors: President's Global Innovation Fund (PGIF) and Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF)

EURASIA AND CHINA'S BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE: POTENTIAL IMPACT, POTENTIAL DISPUTES, AND HOW TO ADDRESS THEM

September 19-20, 2019, Conference (On Campus)



This two-day conference analyzed the expansion of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) across Eurasia and the risks of conflict and dispute that the promoters of the Initiative might have to address. The event had a public lecture and a Chatham House, closed, by invitation only, roundtable, the next day. A publication that will serve as an agenda for further collaboration on this topic will soon be available.

Keynote Speaker: Bruno Maçães, author of *The Dawn of Eurasia: On the Trail of the New World Order*

Discussants: Lanxin Xiang, Professor of International History and Politics, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva; Alexander Cooley, Director, Harriman Institute, Columbia University; Nargis Kassenova, Senior Fellow, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University (moderator)

Organizers: Ahmet Evin '66CC, '73GE, Istanbul Center Advisory Board Member, Founding Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Professor Emeritus, Sabancı University and Senior Scholar, Istanbul Policy Center; Alexander Cooley, Director, Harriman Institute, Columbia University; François Carrel-Billiard, Associate Director, European Institute, Columbia University; and Holger A. Klein, Lisa and Bernard Selz Professor of Medieval Art History in the Department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University

Partners: Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul; Istanbul Policy Center–Stiftung Mercator Initiative; the Harriman Institute; the Weatherhead East Asian Institute; and the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP)

BEFORE THE LAST GLACIER MELTS

October 30, 2019, Book Talk



The national and international aftermath of the current climate crisis was the focus of Levent Kurnaz's talk, part of the Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul-Columbia Alumni Association of Turkey "House of Chats" series. Known for his work on climate change, Professor Kurnaz called attention to what we already know and the cold hard reality of climate change in our daily lives.

Speaker: Levent Kurnaz, Professor of Physics in the Faculty of Science and Letters at Boğaziçi University

Partners: Columbia Alumni Association of Turkey and Atölye (host)

HOW CAN WE ACCELERATE ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

November 1, 2019, Public Talk



“Economies are destroying nature without any ability of self-control...we’re facing calamitous ecological crises. We know it, the scientists tell us; we feel it; we see it; and we are simply unable to act.”

JEFFREY SACHS

In his visit to Istanbul, Jeffrey Sachs spoke about the urgent need to address and cooperate on sustainable development. He focused on two dynamics that are affecting our globe: instability and the destructive nature of today’s economies. He gave examples of the unrest in Chile and Hong Kong, and mass shootings in the US, to show the instability and fragility of the world right now. Today’s economies are negatively affecting the climate, creating mass pollution, and reducing biodiversity. He called attention to the fact that the climate today is 1.1 degrees Celsius higher than it was at its pre-industrial level, and that we are not prepared to combat this. He talked about the pollution that is damaging the Black Sea from heavy industry in Russia and Central Europe, shipping, and over-fishing. Species are going extinct due to global warming, deforestation for farming and construction, and chemical pollutants.

In short, we are suffering from major crises but are not working hard enough to find solutions for them. Though Professor Sachs applauded governments for signing onto the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement, he was quick to say that they are not living up to their words.

So, what can we do? Professor Sachs simplified the 17 SDGs and Paris Climate Agreement down to **six major areas** of focus:

1. **GOOD EDUCATION**, science and technology for every society: Countries should check their education system to ensure that all children are included, good science and technology are being taught, and that higher education institutions are being looked after.
2. **HEALTH**: Countries should ensure there is access to good healthcare, and that people are living a healthful life.
3. **DECARBONIZING THE ENERGY SYSTEM**: Countries should look at their plan to decarbonize their energy system, clean up their industrial waste, and look towards renewable energies.

4. SUSTAINABLE LAND USE: Countries should be protecting nature.

5. URBAN SETTLEMENTS: Countries should look after the healthfulness of the cities, including the air quality of their cities.

6. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: This is the essential new tool of our era that can be used for good.

Professor Sachs then told the audience that Turkey should have strategies for these six areas by using a multi-stakeholder approach with the government, private sector, academia, and civil society. He noted that it is important to have regional cooperation, and not just national solutions, and concluded by saying that “we have signed up to the goals because our lives depend on them.”

Speaker: Jeffrey Sachs, University Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, and Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN); Simone Kaslowski, President, TÜSİAD (introduction)

Partners: TÜSİAD, UN Global Compact Network Turkey, Business for Goals, and SDSN Turkey

AUTHOR: HANA ONAT, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2019 INDEX AND INDICATORS REPORT LAUNCH EVENT

November 1, 2019, Public Talk



At Boğaziçi University’s Albert Long Hall, Professor Sachs spoke on “Achieving the SDGs in Turkey and the West Asian Region.” He presented the SDG 2019 Index and Indicators Report and spoke about the importance of the metrics to measure the performance of SDGs around the world. He showed how Turkey performed on each of the sustainable development objectives, ranking 79 out of 162 countries on the SDG index. He then urged SDSN Turkey to play a more active role in developing these indices locally and to work with other SDSN networks in the region.

Speaker: Jeffrey Sachs, University Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, and Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Partner: Boğaziçi University’s SDSN Turkey network

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Innovation and Entrepreneurship is a relatively new priority theme that plays an important role as more is being shaped around the world by technology, digitalization, and new media. Innovation and entrepreneurship are vehicles to self-sufficiency for Turkish and regional entrepreneurs, the drivers of future economic growth. There is a small, but burgeoning, entrepreneur community which receives international and local non-governmental and governmental support. The goods and services that are created by Turkish entrepreneurs not only address gaps in the local economy, but also regional ones. In addition, we see this space increasingly giving a voice and a source of income to those in the periphery: women, refugees, and minorities.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

August 26-30, 2019, Workshop

"Being able to see the students in such a short amount of time is truly inspirational, and for me this has been a learning experience, learning from the students and sharing their love for learning and entrepreneurship."

IRENE KOO

"I learned that I didn't have to be perfect to start but instead I had to start somewhere to be perfect."

STUDENT PARTICIPANT

"I learned a lot about entrepreneurship and public speech. Also before, I didn't know much about design thinking but now I know a lot. I have new friends now and that's amazing. I will continue studying with them for our project."

STUDENT PARTICIPANT



During this workshop, 27 high school students took their first steps to becoming the next generation of social entrepreneurs in Turkey and around the world. The students learned about how entrepreneurial problem solving and design thinking can yield social impacts. They heard from social entrepreneurs: Marcello Bonatto '15MPA, Co-Founder of Recoded; Serhan Süzer, Chairman of Eko Group; Serra Titiz, Founder and Managing Director of Mikado Consulting; and Ismael Barry '19EN, Product Designer. They formed groups and pitched their ideas at the end of the workshop to Marcello Bonatto and Serra Titiz, who gave them feedback and advice on how to move forward.

Workshop leaders: Led by Columbia undergraduate students, Irene Koo '20CC and Anna Makowski '21BC

Partner: Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs (CORE), one of the University's largest student societies

DIGITAL DISRUPTION FOR TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

February 27, 2020, Master Class



Columbia's Center for Technology Management (CTM) serves as an interdisciplinary entity that encourages dialogue and collaboration among executives, practitioners, faculty, and students engaged in the study of improving technology management in businesses and social organizations. CTM hosted a one-day master class on Digital Disruption for 25 chief information officers (CIOs) from Turkey, including the participation of the Istanbul Center. CTM is also active with Columbia Global Centers | Paris and plans to expand its collaboration with Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul with regular scheduled events and seminars on technology related issues for local businesses, NGOs, and universities.

Speaker: Art Langer, Professor of Practice and Director of the Columbia Center for Technology Management

TEACHERS COLLEGE TRAINING AT HISAR SCHOOL

February, May 2020, Teacher Training

The Istanbul Center has been instrumental in bringing together the Center for the Professional Education of Teachers (CPET) at Teachers College and Hisar School, a top K12 independent school in Turkey, which has led to the development of a two-year custom training program for Hisar teachers. CPET is devoted to advancing global capacities in teacher education, research, and whole school reform. Over the two-year period, there will be five visits where two CPET coaches will provide in-depth professional learning experiences on the focus topic of the school year, conduct classroom visits, and meet with school administrators and teacher leaders to support action planning for full implementation of the learning in the coaches' absence. The first visit was in February 2020 and the second was conducted online in May 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19

Since March 2020 when COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic, Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul has also taken upon itself the task of adding to the global dialogue by looking at the COVID-19 pandemic from many different perspectives. We have brought in local, regional, and global perspectives on a wide range of topics from health to the economy, from refugees to entrepreneurship, and journalism to governance.

A popular offshoot of the webinars were our #IstTalks - five-minute interviews in English with our webinar speakers. As some of our webinars were in Turkish, the #IstTalks gave an opportunity to our global audience to hear a summary of the talks in English. The webinars are available on our Global Centers network YouTube channel.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS



**EŞİK
THRESHOLD**

HAZİRAN
JUNE
24

07:30 14:30 19:30
NYC IST TAPEI

RSVP:
BIT.LY/REACHPANFI

CANLI WEBINAR

**COVID-19 Nasıl bir Toplumsal Dönüşüm
Getirecek?: Sınırlar ve Olasılıklar**



Doç. Dr. Ayşecan Terzioğlu

Sabancı Üniversitesi
Sanat ve Sosyal Bilimler Fakültesi

21 Nisan Salı



COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL

**COVID-19 GÜNLERİNDE
BAKIM EKONOMİSİ KRİZİ
VE KADIN EMEĞİ**

10 HAZİRAN 18:00

COVID-19 salgını deha önce görülmemiş boyutlarda küresel bir sağlık krizi ile birlikte ekonomik krizi de beraberinde getirdi. Bu çifte krizler sosyoekonomik statü, cinsiyet ve kökene dayalı sistemik eşitsizlikleri daha da derinleştiriyor. Feminist iktisatçılar sağlık ve ekonomi alanlarındaki krizlerin keşfinde üçüncü bir olgu olarak küresel bir bakım krizine de işaret ediyorlar. Bu sohbet, küresel salgının ekonomik ve sosyal sonuçlarını toplumsal cinsiyet çerçevesinde irdelenecek. Uluslararası ve ulusal ekonomi politikası tartışmalarında sıklıkla duyulmaya başlayan bakım ekonomisi, sosyal bakım hizmetleri elyapısı, kapsayıcı ve sürdürülebilir büyüme için bakım ekonomisine yatırımlar gibi konular odağına alacak.

PROF. DR. İPEK İLKARACAN
MODERATÖR:
DOÇ. DR. EMEL MEMİŞ

LIVE WEBINAR

**RETHINKING PAST PLAGUES IN
THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS:
THE OTTOMAN EXPERIENCE**



NÜKHET VARLIK
in conversation with
A. TUNÇ ŞEN

MAY
13
WED

11:30 16:30 18:30
NYC TUNIS IST

REGISTER:
BIT.LY/OTTOMANEXPERIENCE

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TUNIS



İpek Cem Taha



İpek Cem Taha



Tunç Şen



Nüket Varlık

HOW WILL THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, AND SPECIFICALLY EMERGING MARKETS AND TURKEY?

April 8, 2020, Webinar

“Initially after this pandemic is over, there will be a lot of finger pointing...but for the medium/long run, I am a bit more optimistic. Globalization will take on a different meaning and will manifest in better cooperation because all of these problems - what caused this pandemic and other significant issues like global warming - need global cooperation. Without China, the Western world, and Emerging Markets contributing their parts, we cannot find a solution.”

TAYFUN BAYAZIT

Speakers: Tayfun Bayazit '83BU, Chairman of Marsh McLennan Group, Turkey & Bayazit Consulting Services; and İpek Cem Taha, Director of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (moderator)

LIVING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN OUR NEW “NORMAL”?

April 15, 2020, Webinar

“Pandemics have been predicted by many scientists. You can actually find many scientific articles and reports describing different pandemic scenarios and how to prevent them. But then why did we experience such a thing [now]? [It is] because those articles and reports stayed on the shelf, and they were not taken seriously by many of the policymakers...What is important is that we transfer all our knowledge and knowhow to the next generations to keep them safe and healthy.”

ÖZGE KARADAĞ ÇAMAN

Speakers: Dr. Özge Karadağ Çaman, Senior Staff Associate, Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), The Earth Institute; and İpek Cem Taha, Director of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (moderator)

WHAT KIND OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION WILL COVID-19 BRING?: LIMITS AND POSSIBILITIES

April 21, 2020, Webinar

“In medical anthropology, we always state that health is a cumulative matter. Previous health conditions and illnesses that we have as human beings affect how our bodies react to new diseases. The disadvantaged groups like Syrian refugees in Turkey already have significant chronic and infectious problems and disabilities. That is why COVID-19 affects them more.”

AYŞECAN TERZIOĞLU

Speakers: Ayşecan Terzioğlu, Associate Professor, Cultural Studies Program, Sabancı University; and İpek Cem Taha, Director, Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (moderator)

JOURNALISM IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

April 29, 2020, Webinar

“I don't think that the pandemic has contributed much to the state of journalism in Turkey. It was already in a bad state for years...In Turkey, the question of whether science will prevail or populist leaders will --- they are not alternatives. History is full of examples of how authoritarian leaders have used science [to their benefit]. It depends on the will of the politicians.. whether they want to use science in a better way or worse.”

MURAT YETKİN

Speakers: Murat Yetkin, editor and journalist, Yetkin Report; and İpek Cem Taha, Director of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (moderator)

SILICON VALLEY TO TURKEY: THE JOURNEY OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

May 6, 2020, Webinar

“At Hepsiburada, we were able to take timely actions by learning from other early pandemic markets such as Asia and Europe, before there was even a case in Turkey...It is a fact that the pandemic has accelerated the digital transformation in Turkey. We see two major consumer trends: the first one is that many more people are becoming digital and trying e-commerce for the first time, and [secondly] consumer needs have evolved in line with their offline habits.”

MURAT EMIRDAĞ

Speakers: Murat Emirdağ '08BU, CEO of Hepsiburada; İpek Cem Taha, Director of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (moderator)

RETHINKING PAST PLAGUES OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

May 13, 2020, Webinar

“One of the very interesting parallels [between Ottoman plagues and COVID-19] was the initial slow but invisible spread of the disease, which our historical sources sometimes failed to mention. Even though we have much better technology to track information [now], even we have not been able to do it. It makes us think about the disease as an entity and our knowledge about the disease as two different [things] and the tension between the two. We are talking about a disease that is recurring at least every decade [during the Ottoman times], which means that you have personal experience with it, you know it's going to come back, you know that there is a working knowledge within the society... One of the earliest poems that we have about the Black Death in Anatolia is by Seyyad Hamza. He talks about the agony of losing his children to the plague. The way he talks about it is very similar to a Welsh poet who composed a poem just around the same time. It's extremely grim, but at the same time, there is a sense of acceptance, but not resistance [in Ottoman society].”

NÜKHET VARLIK

Speakers: Nükhet Varlık, Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University–Newark and the University of South Carolina; Tunç Şen, Assistant Professor of History, Columbia University (moderator)

Partner: Columbia Global Centers | Tunis

BOOK TALK ON “THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR ON PALESTINE”

May 21, 2020, Webinar

“Democracy is not perfect but we need it for the Palestine issue, which is not only relevant to Palestine, but to the entire region.”

RASHID KHALIDI

Published by Metropolitan Books in 2020, *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonial Conquest and Resistance, 1917-2017* draws on a wealth of untapped archival materials and the reports of generations of family members—mayors, judges, scholars, diplomats, and journalists. It upends accepted interpretations of the conflict, which tend, at best, to describe a tragic clash between two peoples with claims to the same territory.

Speakers: Rashid Khalidi, Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies; Safwan M. Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University (chair); İpek Cem Taha, Director, Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (introductory remarks); Youssef Cherif, Deputy Director, Columbia Global Centers | Tunis (moderator)

Partners: Columbia Global Centers | Amman and Columbia Global Centers | Tunis

COLUMBIA GLOBAL BOOK SERIES ON “THE AGES OF GLOBALIZATION”

June 5, 2020, Webinar

"Globalization has always created risks. The bad spreads very quickly, along with the good."

JEFFREY SACHS

Speakers: Jeffrey Sachs, University Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University; David Lawler, Axios' World News Editor; Safwan M. Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University (chair)

Partners: Columbia Global Centers, Columbia University Press, Center for Sustainable Development, Committee on Global Thought, Center on Global Economic Governance at the School of International and Public Affairs, the MPA in Environmental Science and Policy Program at the School of International and Public Affairs

FEMINIST ECONOMICS PERSPECTIVES ON COVID-19: CARING LABOR, CARE ECONOMY AND GENDER EQUALITY

June 10, 2020, Webinar

"As the demand for unpaid work and household production increased under the pandemic containment measures, the bulk of that demand was absorbed through women increasing their unpaid work within the household... As men switched to working from home, we observe quite a substantial increase of unpaid work performed by them. We see a change from under 30 minutes on a daily basis in the pre-pandemic period to close to 1.5 hours in the pandemic period. It is still much less than women's work, which is over 3.5 hours, but comparatively for men, it's a substantial increase. When you create the employment conditions that are flexible, men also have the capacity to contribute to unpaid work. It is not so much of a cultural impediment or an attitude problem, it is more a problem of the material conditions of employment."

İPEK İLKARACAN

Speakers: İpek İlkkaracan, Professor of Economics, Istanbul Technical University; and Emel Memiş, Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences, Ankara University (moderator)

THE GLOBAL COLUMBIA COLLABORATORY ON THE FUTURE OF GLOBALIZATION: CONSEQUENCES OF THE PANDEMIC ON SUPPLY CHAINS

June 20, 2020, Webinar

The Global Columbia Collaboratory was launched in June 2020, a new initiative developed by the Columbia Global Centers network and the Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement, designed to give students the skills, understanding, and networks to grow into the leaders our world needs to thoughtfully address our increasingly complex challenges.

This inaugural seminar was held online, and touched on why the future of global supply chains matter; the consequences of threats to the collapse of supply chains and international trading systems, particularly in food, medicine, technology, and data; the impact of the global crisis and the U.S.-China trade war on the future of supply chains; and what history teaches us about supply chains as a physical manifestation of globalization and an interconnected world.

Speakers: Ian Bremmer, President and Founder, Eurasia Group and GZERO Media; Ruth DeFries, Professor of Sustainable Development, Columbia University; Martin Wolf, Chief Economist, Financial Times; Merit E. Janow, Dean, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University (moderator); Safwan M. Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University (introduction); and Shannon Marquez, Dean of Undergraduate Global Engagement, Columbia University (introduction)

BLACK LIVES MATTER

June 29, 2020, Webinar



With the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, and countless others, America reached a tipping point. Again. This time, the impact is global. With the rapid spread of racial justice protests across the world, the panelists discussed the history of civil rights, slavery, white supremacy, and the global trajectory and intersectionality of the Black Lives Matter movement in this Columbia Global Centers network-wide event.

Speakers: Jelani Cobb, Ira A. Lipman Professor of Journalism, Columbia University, Staff Writer for the New Yorker; Farah Griffin, Chair, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, Columbia University; Safwan M. Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University

PRIDE WITHOUT PREJUDICE: THE MORAL ARC OF LGBTQ+ LAW & JUSTICE

June 30, 2020, Webinar

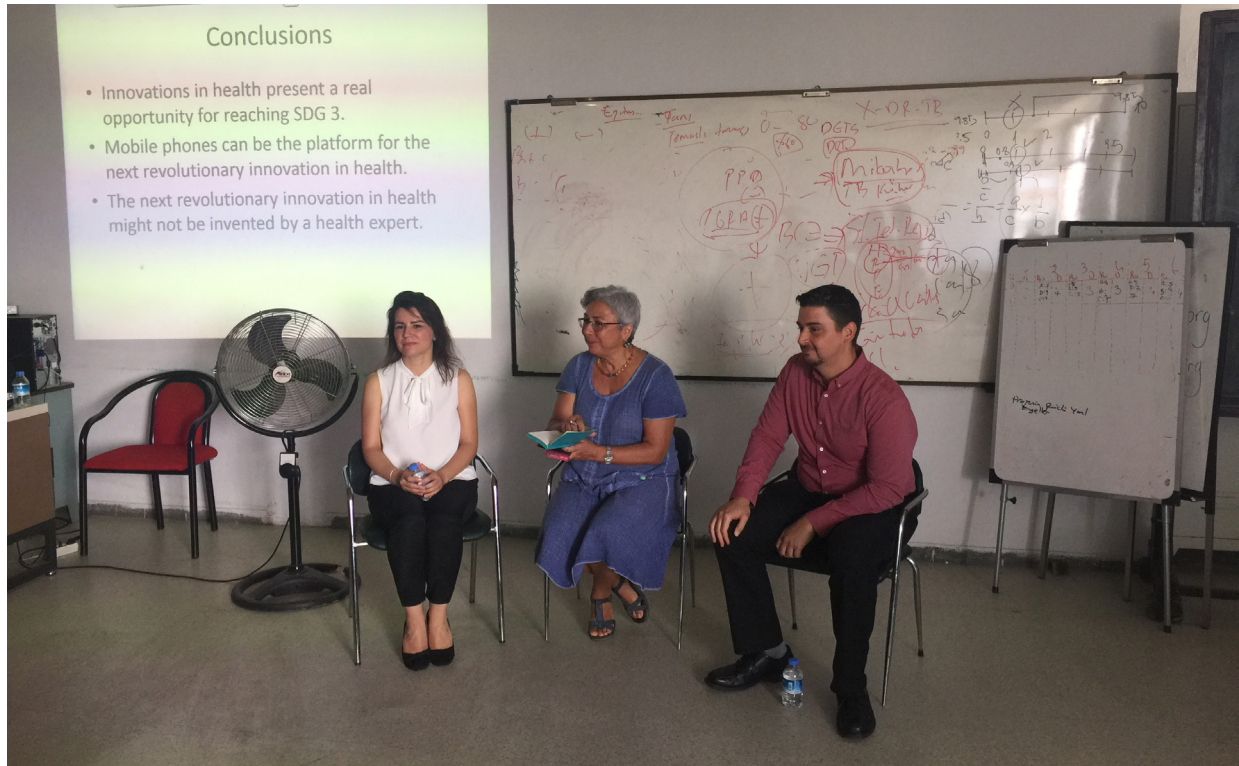


The landmark Supreme Court ruling in June 2020 extended anti-discrimination workplace protection of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to the LGBTQ+ community. In this Columbia Global Centers Network-wide event, the panel discussed the ruling's global impact, how it fits within the overall arc of social change movements concerned with LGBTQ+ issues, the role of civil society and social change movements that don't depend on legalism, and trans and queer protests, in the United States and around the world.

Speakers: Kendall Thomas, Nash Professor of Law, Columbia Law School; Jack Halberstam, Director of the Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality, and Professor of English and Comparative Literature; Suzanne Goldberg, Herbert and Doris Wechsler Clinical Professor of Law, Executive Vice President for University Life; Safwan M. Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University

PRESIDENT'S GLOBAL INNOVATION FUND PROJECTS (PGIF)

Launched in March 2013 by President Lee C. Bollinger, the President's Global Innovation Fund (PGIF) awards grants to Columbia faculty members to leverage and engage with the resources and facilities of Columbia's global centers network. The program is designed as a venture fund to enable the development of projects and research collaborations across the nine global centers.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
ÖZGE KARADAĞ ÇAMAN, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY; SELMA KARABEY, ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY; AND YANIS BEN AMOR, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

“The REACH PGIF project is the first partnership between the Center for Sustainable Development at the Earth Institute and Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul. From the beginning, Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul has allowed the project to be rolled out smoothly, and being part of the worldwide Global Centers network, it has allowed for expansion of opportunities beyond the original scope of Turkey. This wide network worldwide has been particularly essential in the current COVID-19 era where all meetings and conferences are online webinars. This has significantly increased the opportunity to reach a wider audience globally.”

YANIS BEN AMOR, RECIPIENT OF A 2019 PGIF AWARD

“Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul has a very creative and hardworking team that always brings new ideas and opportunities, and has a very central role in what we plan and do as part of our projects in the region. It also has a very active role in connecting Columbia University with Eastern Europe and Central Asia as well as with the other Global Centers. The Istanbul Center truly acts as a hub and a bridge for researchers, trainers, students and everyone who would like to contribute to science, art, education and policy making for a more sustainable world.”

ÖZGE KARADAĞ ÇAMAN, RECIPIENT OF A 2019 PGIF AWARD

The following table shows the PGIF projects that have partnered with the Istanbul Center:

PROJECT TITLE	FACULTY	DURATION
Confronting Non-Communicable Diseases	Professor Wafa El Sadr and Professor Miriam Rabkin, Mailman School of Public Health	2013
Global Leadership Matrix	Professor Sheena Iyengar, Columbia Business School	2013
Global Migration Network	Professor Julien Teitler, School of Social Work, and Professor Sandro Galea, Mailman School of Public Health	2013
Istanbul Documentation Project	Professor Holger Klein, Department of Art History and Archaeology	2013
Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments	Professor Zainab Bahrani, Department of Art History and Archaeology	2013-2016
De-Provincializing Soft Power	Professor Victoria De Grazia, Department of History	2014
Global Operational Data Index	Professor Susan McGregor, Columbia Journalism School	2015
Changing Health Needs in Complex Emergencies: Non-Communicable Disease Services for Syrian Refugees in Jordan	Professor Neil Boothy, Professor Wafaa El Sadr, and Professor Miriam Rabkin, Mailman School of Public Health	2015-2018
Sustainable Waste Management	Professor John Themelis, School of Engineering and Applied Science	2015
Mapping Human Networks of Transnational Architectural Projects	Professor Mabel O. Wilson, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation	2015
Regional Network for Historical Dialogue and Dealing with the Past (RNHDP)- 2016 Summer Training Program	Professor Elazar Barkan, School of International and Public Affairs	2016
Providers ASPIRE	Professor Nabila El-Bassel and Professor Neeraj Kaushal, School of Social Work	2016-2018
Black Sea Networks	Professor Valentina Izmirlieva, Department of Slavic Languages	2016-2019
Co-Creating an Urban Displacement Solutions Alliance	Professor Neil Boothby, Mailman School of Public Health	2018-2019
REACH: Using Technology to Increase Health Literacy and Health Care Access for Refugees in Turkey Project Meeting	Professor Yanis Ben Amor, Center for Sustainable Development	2019-2020
Youth Health Promotion Via Digital Technologies: Towards Building an International Research Network in Forced Migration Settings	Professor Yanis Ben Amor, Center for Sustainable Development	2020-2022
Health and Repatriation: Rebuilding the Health Care System in Post-Conflict Syria	Professor Monette Zard, Mailman School of Public Health	2020-2022

TURKEY ON CAMPUS

Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul has increased the dialogue related to Turkey and the region on Columbia's campus through its expanded programming and events over the years, which has been further solidified by the work of the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies on campus. The two have partnered on various events - on campus, in Istanbul, and abroad. In addition, the Istanbul Center has partnered with many of the Schools and Institutes at Columbia University on Turkey-related programming including the Program in Hellenic Studies, the Women Creating Change program at the Center for the Study of Social Difference, and the Columbia Global Centers network.

THE SAKIP SABANCI CENTER FOR TURKISH STUDIES

Established at Columbia University in June 2016 with a generous gift from the Sabancı family, the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies aims to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and the exchange of ideas between scholars and students engaged in any area of Turkish Studies, including the history, language, religion, and culture of the peoples and empires that occupied the Anatolian peninsula from ancient to modern times. The Sakıp Sabancı Center supports academic research, course offerings, and public events both within and outside of Columbia University, using the resources of both the university's New York campus and Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul.

Four years after its foundation, under the leadership of Director Holger A. Klein, Lisa and Bernard Selz Professor of Medieval Art History and Archaeology, the Sakıp Sabancı Center continues to offer a wide variety of academic and public programs. In the 2019-2020 academic year, it again hosted conferences, lectures, and workshops in different subfields of Turkish Studies, offered its usual summer fellowships for Columbia doctoral students in Turkish Studies, and inaugurated a new academic-year fellowship for doctoral students in their final year of dissertation research and writing. The first recipients will take up their fellowships in the 2020-2021 academic year. During the past academic year, the Sakıp Sabancı Center was also delighted to host Professor Ayşe Kadioğlu, former Acting President and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of Sabancı University, as its second Sakıp Sabancı Visiting Scholar.

THE SAKIP SABANCI SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

The Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies offers a competitive summer fellowship for doctoral students in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division of the School of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University in any area of Turkish Studies. This year's Sakıp Sabancı Summer Fellows and respective projects are:

YASEMİN AKÇAGÜNER (DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY): *The relationship between changing notions of "time" and "science" in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century Ottoman Empire*

ERIK BLACKTHORNE-O'BARR (DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN, SOUTH ASIAN, AND AFRICAN STUDIES): *The effects of cultural alienation and linguistic homogenization in the 20th century Turkish Republic and Pahlavi Iran*

NANCY KO (DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY): *Ottoman Omissions: Jewish Belonging and the Politics of Nostalgia in the Post-Tanzimat Middle East*

ARARAT ŞEKERYAN (DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE): *Iraida Barry and the Russian Moment of Istanbul*

DEBORAH SOKOLOWSKI (DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES): *Culture and Countryside in Roman Bithynia*

ERHAN TAMUR (DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY): *Site-Worlds: An Account of Material Lives from Tello (ancient Girsu)*

EURASIA AND CHINA'S BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE: POTENTIAL IMPACT, POTENTIAL DISPUTES, AND HOW TO ADDRESS THEM

September 19-20, 2019

Public lecture by Bruno Maçães (Hudson Institute & Renmin University) and panel discussion featuring Lanxin Xiang (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva); Nargis Kassenova (Harvard University); Alexander Cooley (Columbia University), followed by a closed roundtable featuring industry and academic experts.

Partners: Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul; Istanbul Policy Center–Stiftung Mercator Initiative; the Harriman Institute; the Weatherhead East Asian Institute; and the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP)

THE STRUGGLE FOR MODERN TURKEY: JUSTICE, ACTIVISM AND A REVOLUTIONARY FEMALE JOURNALIST

October 14, 2019

Book launch and panel discussion featuring Tia O'Brien, co-editor, journalist; Nur Deriş, co-editor, translator; James Ryan, NYU Kevorkian Center; and Suzy Hansen, journalist.

Partners: Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, the Department of History, the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), the Department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia's School of Social Work, and NYU's Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies

THE ARTIST'S EYE, THE HISTORIAN'S GAZE: OTTOMAN PAVILIONS AT WORLD'S FAIRS

October 23, 2019

Panel discussion featuring Columbia artist Baris Göktürk (School of the Arts). Speakers included Zeynep Celik, Adjunct Professor in the Department of History, author of *Displaying the Orient: Architecture of Islam at Nineteenth-Century World's Fair*; Matthew Buckingham, Chair of the Visual Arts Department; A. Tunç Şen, Assistant Professor in the Department of History (moderator); Holger A. Klein, Director of the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies (introduction)

Partner: Columbia University Libraries – Performing the Libraries Project

X-RAYING TURKEY: CURRENT REALITIES AND NEW ASPIRATIONS

November 7, 2019

Panel discussion featuring Ayşe Kadioğlu, Sabancı University (Visiting Scholar, Sakıp Sabancı Center); Soli Özel (Kadir Has University); Can Selçuki (Istanbul Economics Research)

Organized by the Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul and hosted by the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies

OTTOMAN CULTURE AND LITERATURE IN THE AGE OF SÜLEYMAN THE MAGNIFICENT

November 11, 2019

Lecture by Mehmet Kalpaklı, Professor of Ottoman History (Bilkent University)

Partners: The Department of History, the Department of Art History and Archaeology, and Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul

FROM CONFLICT TO SYNTHESIS: RELIGION IN GREEK AND TURKISH NATIONALISM

November 12, 2019

Lecture by Ioannis N. Grigoriadis (Bilkent University)

Organized by the Columbia Program in Hellenic Studies

Partners: The Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies and the Department of Art History and Archaeology

BETWEEN TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION: SHABBAT MUSICAL PRACTICE IN THE COMMUNITY OF JEWISH ISTANBUL

November 19, 2019

Lecture by Dr. Joseph Alpar, visiting faculty member in ethnomusicology and music history at Bennington College for the 2019-2020 academic year

Support: Kaye and Radov Families

Organized by the Hebrew Union College and the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies

Partner: The Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies

IRAIDA BARRY THOMAS WHITTEMORE & ISTANBUL'S RUSSIAN MOMENT

December 9, 2019

Joint Lecture by Professors Valentina Izmirlieva (Department of Slavic Languages) and Holger A. Klein (Department of Art History and Archaeology)

Organized by the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies

Hosted and co-sponsored by Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul

IRAQI STUDIES: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

February 28-29, 2020

Conference organized by doctoral student and former Sakıp Sabancı Summer Fellow Zeinab Azarbadegan (Department of History), this conference featured Dina Khoury (George Washington University), Orit Bashkin (University of Chicago), Eric Davis (Rutgers University), and Sara Pursley (New York University).

Partners: The Department of History, the Center for International History, the Center for the Study of Muslim Societies, the Seminar on Ottoman and Turkish Studies, the Department of Art History and Archaeology, the Middle East Institute (MEI), and ISERP

SHIELDING HOPE, KILLING HOPE AND THE LIMITS OF BELONGING IN TURKEY

March 4, 2020

Lecture by Ayşe Parla, Assistant Professor of Anthropology (Boston University). Introduction by Lila Abu-Lughod, Joseph L. Bottenweiser Professor of Social Science in the Department of Anthropology, Columbia University (moderator)

Partners: Department of Anthropology, and Department of Art History and Archaeology

THE ROLE OF LITERATURE IN SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION: SERENADE FOR NADIA

March 4, 2020

Podium discussion featuring Zülfü Livaneli in conversation with Ipek Cem Taha

Organized by Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul

Hosted by the Sakıp Sabancı Center and co-sponsored by the Department of Art History and Archaeology

MESAAS 10TH ANNUAL GRADUATE CONFERENCE

March 5-6, 2020

MESAAS Graduate Student Conference, organized annually by the graduate students of Columbia University's Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies. The conference brings together graduate students working on the social and intellectual traditions of those three regions for constructive exchanges in a welcoming and stimulating environment. Through these exchanges, participants have the opportunity to learn from each others' diverse range of backgrounds by exploring common theoretical and methodological challenges and concerns.

AUTOCRATIC LEGALISM: THE USE OF LEGALITY IN AUTHORITARIAN CONSOLIDATION

April 6, 2020, Online Workshop

Online workshop organized by Prof. Ayşe Kadioğlu, featuring, among others, Kim L. Scheppele (Princeton University), Javier Corrales (Amherst College), R. Daniel Kelemen (Rutgers University), Valerie Sperling (Clark University), and Orçun Selçuk (Luther College), this workshop addressed several dimensions of new authoritarianism with particular focus on the use of legality in authoritarian consolidation.

Partners: The Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies and the Istanbul Policy Center, Stiftung Mercator Initiative, Sabancı University



STUDENT AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



EDUCATION AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Creating a solid ground for global education is a priority for Columbia University and the Global Centers. Since its foundation, the Istanbul Center has developed and facilitated various education and learning programs in collaboration with regional partners. These programs enable Columbia students to study a variety of subjects and enhance their global awareness through local engagement.

The Istanbul Center has worked with Columbia faculty to support specific programming for courses that take place partially or fully in Turkey. Additional partners have included the Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement (UGE), the Office of the University Chaplain, SIPA, among others.

THE GLOBAL COLUMBIA COLLABORATORY

The Global Columbia Collaboratory was launched in June 2020, a new initiative developed by the Columbia Global Centers network and the Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement, designed to give students the skills, understanding, and networks to grow into the leaders our world needs to thoughtfully address our increasingly complex challenges. The inaugural Collaboratory seminar was held on June 22, 2020, on the topic of “The Future of Globalization: Consequences of the Pandemic on Supply Chains.”

STUDENT INTERSHIPS

The Istanbul Center facilitates opportunities for Columbia students to conduct internships with leading organizations from different sectors in Istanbul. In the past, Columbia students have been accepted for summer internships at leading policy think-tank Istanbul Policy Center of Sabancı University, Kiron Open Higher Education, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Women for Women’s Human Rights, among others. In 2018 and 2019, the Istanbul Center hosted two graduate students through the Global Opportunities (GO!) program offered by the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University.

In 2020, the Columbia Global Centers network initiated the Columbia Global Centers | Virtual Internships Program, offering hundreds of virtual internship opportunities for Columbia students globally by leveraging each Centers’ wide local and regional networks. Twelve interns were placed at organizations in Turkey, including one at the Istanbul Center. The Istanbul Center was an active member of the team to organize this program, and Columbia Alumni Association of Turkey was instrumental in helping find internship opportunities in Turkey.

COLUMBIA STUDENT GATHERINGS



Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul organizes bi-annual gatherings for current and incoming undergraduate students and their parents, in addition to special events with undergraduate and graduate students, and alumni. Currently, there are 45 Turkish undergraduate students and 62 Turkish graduate students studying on campus. We integrate the students and their parents, and alumni, and friends into the larger lifelong Columbia community with mentorship and networking opportunities.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

August 26-30, 2019, Workshop



Twenty-seven high school students learned about how entrepreneurial problem solving and design thinking can yield social impacts.

Workshop leaders: Led by Columbia undergraduate students, Irene Koo '20CC and Anna Makowski '21BC

Guest speakers: Marcello Bonatto '15MPA, Co-Founder of Recoded; Serhan Süzer, Chairman of Eko Group; Serra Titiz, Founder and Managing Director of Mikado Consulting; and Ismael Barry '19EN, Product Designer

Partner: Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs (CORE), one of the University's largest student societies

COLUMBIA TURKISH STUDENTS MEET & GREET: ZÜLFÜ LIVANELİ

March 4, 2020, On Campus



PHOTO CREDIT: EGE ÖZGÜROĞLU

The Columbia Turkish Students Association hosted an intimate gathering with Zülfü Livaneli on campus and talked about topics that ranged from his new book, *Serenade for Nadia*, to life as a Turkish youth today.

VIRTUAL MEETING WITH COLUMBIA TURKISH STUDENTS

May 20, 2020, Online



The Istanbul Center, in collaboration with the Columbia Turkish Students Association and Columbia Alumni Association of Turkey, organized a virtual community meeting over Zoom with current and newly admitted students.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

The Istanbul Center is a hub for Columbia alumni in the region, organizing regular gatherings where current and prospective students, parents, and alumni can learn about the Center's projects and programs, get to know Istanbul Center staff and each other, and gain awareness about Columbia's mission on global education. We are delighted about the support of the Columbia community in Istanbul and Turkey for both the Center and amongst the community members.

COLUMBIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The University-wide Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) was founded in 2005 and has grown to support over 100 alumni clubs and shared interest groups for over 338,000 Columbia alumni today. Since its inception, CAA Turkey has grown to 735 alumni (262 undergraduate and 497 graduate alumni).

CAA Turkey has been led by co-chairs, Ege Duruk '07CC and Emre Çicek '07CC, since 2018, and has been an incredible partner in building, supporting, and engaging the alumni community in Turkey.



OPENING GET-TOGETHER

September 18, 2019



Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul and CAA Turkey hosted a get-together to kick off the 2019-2020 academic year.

ALUMNI NEW YEAR GATHERING

January 9, 2020



Over 150 Columbia alumni and students came together for a New Year gathering hosted by Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul and CAA Turkey. Special guests included the Kraft Global Fellows and SIPA students who were in Istanbul for their respective student trips.

VIRTUAL MEETING WITH COLUMBIA TURKISH STUDENTS

May 20, 2020, Online

The Istanbul Center, in collaboration with the Columbia Turkish Students Association and CAA Turkey, organized a virtual community meeting over Zoom for current and newly admitted students.

HOUSE OF CHAT SERIES

In 2019, Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul and CAA Turkey initiated the “House of Chats” series where speakers from a variety of fields speak to an intimate group of alumni on timely and interesting topics.

BEFORE THE LAST GLACIER MELTS

October 30, 2019

The IKnown for his work on climate change, Levent Kurnaz, Professor of Physics in the Faculty of Science and Letters at Boğaziçi University, discussed the national and international aftermath of the climate crisis through his new book, *Before the Last Glacier Melts*. The talk was hosted by Atölye.

TRANSITION FROM QUARANTINE TO A NEW NORMAL

June 23, 2020, Webinar

Clinical Psychologist Dr. Zeynep Armay spoke on the psychological impact of transitioning from life in quarantine back to our daily lives and how to cope with the stress of this pandemic while adjusting to a “new normal.”

GOVERNANCE

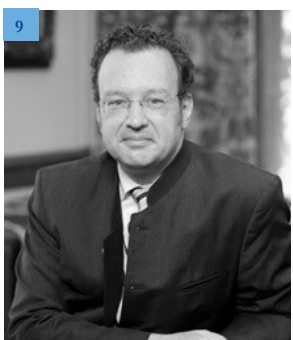
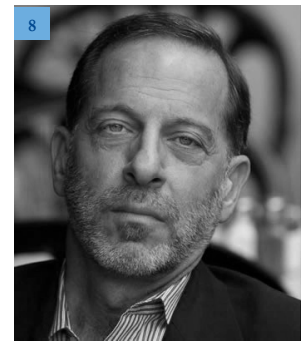
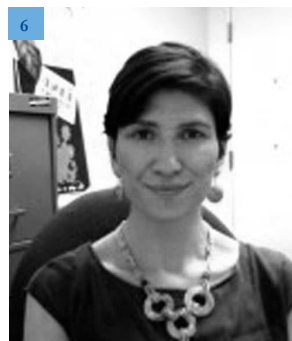
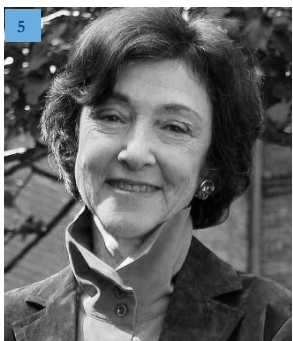
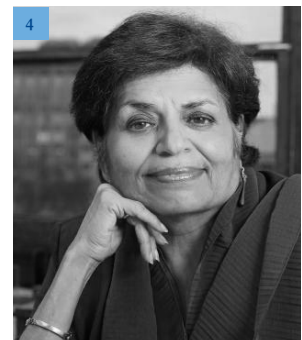
FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2019-2020

The Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) provides academic and intellectual input, leadership, and advice regarding the Center's activities and plans, supports its engagement with faculty, as well as helps identify, expand, and advance scholarly exchange, and create innovative and sustainable programming at and through the Istanbul Center.

The FAC is chaired by a faculty member who serves a renewable three-year term and is viewed as a thought leader by other members of the faculty. Committee members represent a wide spectrum of faculty interests and disciplinary areas, and are selected because of their commitment to globalization and their familiarity with and scholarly interest in the region.

“The difficulties of the global COVID pandemic have shown us just how important the Global Centers are for our continuing communication as members of the Columbia community. While quarantine and travel restrictions have forced us to postpone much of our work in the region, at the same time we have found the importance of the Global Centers growing as venues for the exchange of ideas among faculty and students both in New York, and at all the regional centers.”

ZAINAB BAHRANI, ISTANBUL CENTER FAC CHAIR



- (1) **ZAINAB BAHRANI** Edith Porada Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology; Department of Art History and Archaeology
- (2) **JASON BORDOFF** Director, Center on Global Energy Policy; Professor of Professional Practice in the Faculty of International and Public Affairs
- (3) **SARAH CLEVELAND** Professor Human and Constitutional Rights; Faculty Director, Human Rights Institute
- (4) **VISHAKHA DESAI** Senior Advisor for Global Affairs to the President of Columbia University, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Global Thought
- (5) **CAROL GLUCK** George Sansom Professor of History, Department of History and Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures; Chair, The Committee on Global Thought
- (6) **AYTEN GÜNDOĞDU** Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Barnard College
- (7) **VALENTINA IZMIRLIEVA** Professor of Slavic Languages; Chair, Department of Slavic Languages
- (8) **RASHID KHALIDI** Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies, Department of History and Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies
- (9) **HOLGER A. KLEIN** Professor of Art History and Archaeology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Director of the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies
- (10) **AHMET TUNÇ ŞEN** Assistant Professor of History, Department of History
- (11) **NESLİHAN ŞENOCA** Assistant Professor, Department of History

FORMER MEMBERS*

AMALE ANDRAOS Associate Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation; Architecture Advisor to the President; Dean, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

ELAZAR BARKAN Professor of International and Public Affairs; Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, School of International and Public Affairs

CAROL BECKER Professor and Dean, School of the Arts

HIBA BOU AKAR Assistant Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

MARY C. BOYCE MORRIS A. and **ALMA SCHAPIRO** Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Dean, Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science

AGNÈS S. CALLAMARD Director, Columbia Global Freedom of Expression; Special Adviser to the President, Office of the President

DAVID CUTHELL Adjunct Associate Professor, School of International and Public Affairs

LINDA FRIED DE LAMAR Professor of Public Health and Dean, Mailman School of Public Health; Senior Vice President, Columbia University Medical Center; Professor of Epidemiology and Professor of Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons

TIMOTHY FRYE Marshall D. Shulman Professor of Post-Soviet Foreign Policy; Chair, Department of Political Science

JEAN-MARIE GUEHENNO Arnold Saltzman Professor of Professional Practice, School of International and Public Affairs

MARIANNE HIRSCH William Peterfield Trent Professor of English, Department of English and Comparative Literature

BRUCE KOGUT Sanford C Bernstein and Co-Professor of Leadership and Ethics, Columbia Business School

CHRISTINE PHILLIOU Assistant Professor, Department of History

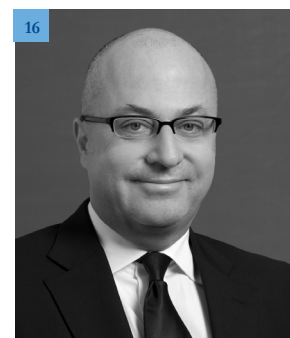
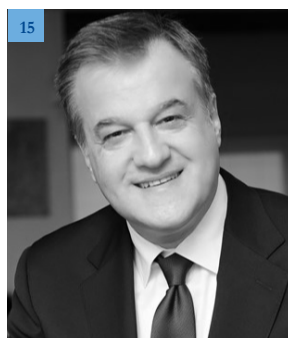
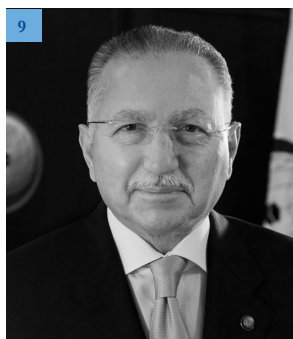
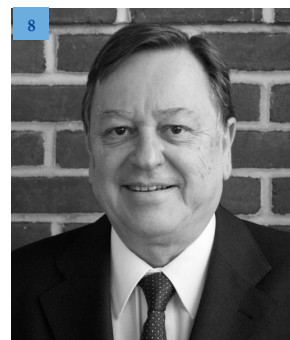
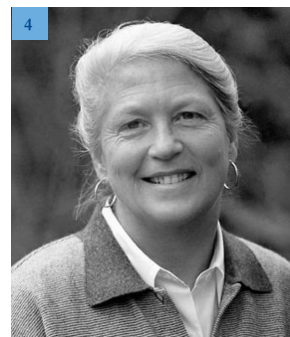
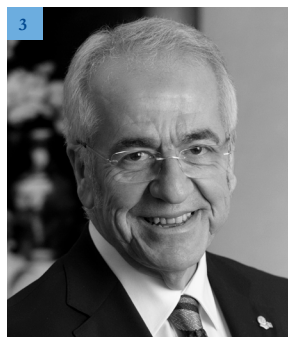
KAREN RHOADS VAN DYCK Kimon A. Doukas Professor of Hellenic Studies, Department of Classics, Columbia College

ALEXANDRE M. ROBERTS Assistant Professor of History, Department of History

* These titles were the titles they held at the time of their membership.

ADVISORY BOARD

The Istanbul Center's Advisory Board provides oversight for the Center's activities and is composed of prominent academics, public figures, and business leaders. The Board meets annually.



- (1) **LEON AMRAM** '88BU; industrialist; entrepreneur; investor
- (2) **TAYFUN BAYAZIT** '83BU; Chairman, Marsh McLennan Group, Turkey and Bayazit Consulting Services
- (3) **EROL BİLECİK P:**'22; Chairman, Index Group; Former President, TUSİAD
- (4) **JEAN MAGNANO BOLLINGER** '72TC, P:'02LW, '11IA; a practicing artist with an academic background in education
- (5) **HANZADE DOĞAN BOYNER** '99BU; Chairwoman of Doğan Online and Hepsiburada Group, Vice Chairwoman of Doğan Holding and Doğan Media Group, and Chairwoman of Aydın Doğan Foundation
- (6) **VUSLAT DOĞAN SABANCI** '96IA; Founder, V Foundation; Vice President, Aydın Dogan Foundation; Board Member, Dogan Holding and Hepsiburada.com; Chair, Hurriyetemlak.com
- (7) **PROF. ÜSTÜN ERGÜDER** Chair, Executive Committee, Education Reform Initiative; Founding Director, Istanbul Policy Center, Sabancı University; Former President, Magna Charta Observatory of Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy, Bologna, Italy; Former President, Boğaziçi University
- (8) **AHMET EVİN** '66CC, '73GSAS; Founding Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Professor Emeritus, Sabancı University; Senior Scholar, Istanbul Policy Center
- (9) **HIS EXCELLENCY EKMELEDDİN İHSANOĞLU** academic; diplomat; 9th Secretary General, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); former member, Turkish Parliament and PACE; Founder and Chairman, History of Science Department, Istanbul University; Founding Director-General, IRCICA; Honorary President, the Turkish Society for History of Science
- (10) **MUHTAR KENT P:**'12CC; retired CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors, The Coca-Cola Company
- (11) **JOHN KLUGE JR.** '05CC; entrepreneur; Founder and Managing Director, The Refugee Investment Network
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- (15) **MUSTAFA SAY** '84BUS; Founder and Managing Partner, AccessTurkey Capital Group
- (16) **AGAĞ UĞUR P:**'17CC, P:'19AC; former CEO; VC partner; startup investor

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The Istanbul Center works in collaboration with local universities, non-governmental organizations, and public institutions to design cross-cutting, innovative programs and partnerships with different Schools, Centers, and Institutes within Columbia. Below is a list of our partners since our launch.



PHOTO ABOVE: The “How Can We Accelerate Action on Sustainable Development?” panel on November 1, 2019 featured Jeffrey Sachs, University Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, and was in partnership with the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD), UN Global Compact Network Turkey, Business for Goals, and SDSN Turkey.

LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

BİLGİ UNIVERSITY
BİLKENT UNIVERSITY
BOĞAZİÇİ UNIVERSITY
HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY
İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY
İSTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
KADIR HAS UNIVERSITY
KOÇ UNIVERSITY
MARMARA UNIVERSITY
SABANCI UNIVERSITY

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)

ANADOLU KÜLTÜR
THE ASFARI FOUNDATION
ASHOKA
ATLANTIC COUNCIL
BİRİZ ASSOCIATION
CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICY STUDIES (EDAM)
DARÜŞŞAFKA
DEPO
EDUCATION REFORM INITIATIVE (ERG)
ENDEAVOR
EUROPEAN STABILITY INITIATIVE (ESI)
FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FES)
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ISTANBUL FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (İKSV)
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MOTHER CHILD EDUCATION FOUNDATION (AÇEV)
OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION
OXFAM
PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF OSLO CYPRUS CENTER (PRIO CYPRUS CENTER)
SALT
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (SDA)
THIRD SECTOR FOUNDATION OF TURKEY (TÜSEV)
TRUTH, JUSTICE AND MEMORY STUDIES CENTER (HAFİZA MERKEZİ)
TURKISH BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS' ASSOCIATION (TUSİAD)
TURKISH WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NETWORK (TURKISHWIN)
UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)
UN GLOBAL COMPACT
UN POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)
UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)
UN WOMEN
WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP ASSOCIATION
THE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION OF TURKEY (KAGİDER)

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CONSULATES OF THE US, GREECE, THE NETHERLANDS, AND SWEDEN, AMONG OTHERS
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT
ISTANBUL MAYOR'S OFFICE
ISTANBUL PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION (MEB)
THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

DONORS

The Istanbul Center is supported by a generous community of donors who have given big and small; each donation strengthens the essential foundation for the Center to sustain its cutting-edge programming and pursue its mission in Turkey and the region. We thank and recognize all donors who gave throughout the year and on Giving Day with various amounts.

In addition, we recognize below the strong leadership support of donors who have given \$10,000 and above since the launch of the Istanbul Center.



RYAN CARMICHAEL

We are also thankful to Columbia University's Development team, and in particular, to Ryan Carmichael, Vice President for University Development, Columbia University, for supporting our fundraising efforts throughout the years.

GIFTS OF \$10,000 AND ABOVE PRIOR TO THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

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P: Parent of Columbia student or alumni

GIFTS IN THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

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CELIA ZEILBERGER

GIVING DAY 2019

October 23, 2019, Online Fundraiser

Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul participated in Columbia Giving Day, an annual 24-hour online fundraising event where Columbians around the world – alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, and friends – come together to show their support for the university. In total, Columbians made 18,622 gifts to raise a record-breaking \$22 million, changing lives that change the world.

P: Parent of Columbia student or alumni

* Donors who gave gifts of \$10,000 and above

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