



COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**



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## A MESSAGE FROM WAFAA EL-SADR

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, COLUMBIA GLOBAL



## REFLECTIONS FROM İPEK CEM TAħA

DIRECTOR, COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL

'93BU, '93IA

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At Columbia Global, we firmly believe that for progress to occur in addressing major societal challenges, it will require coming together across geographic and institutional boundaries, united in mission and guided towards a common purpose. Our Global Centers, located in eleven major cities on four continents, are critical in this endeavor. They connect the university's scholars, researchers, and students with partners worldwide to address such challenges. How? By embracing curiosity, diversity of thought, global perspectives and catalyzing innovations. And through this achieve social impact that transforms lives and communities.

This past year has been challenging for so many. Communities are suffering through extreme heat, unseasonable hurricanes, earthquakes, and flooding. Democracies are under threat across the globe. According to the Economist Democracy Index, this is the 16th consecutive year of decline in global freedoms, with a decline in the number of fully democratic countries. Alarming, too, is the dramatic increase in displaced populations, many due to wars, climate disruptions and economic despair—reaching new heights.

Yet, in the midst of such overwhelming challenges, there are reasons for hope, as Columbia faculty, students and staff work hand-in-hand with partners around the world advancing inquiry and pursuing solutions together. Our Global Centers embody this ethos. Witness the Amman Center, which is welcoming another group of displaced scholars. Providing refuge and the chance for academic pursuit and continuity amidst turmoil and loss is no small thing. And through a unique partnership between the City of Rio de Janeiro and the Rio Center, concerted educational and research efforts are ongoing to address the consequences of climate change. At the Nairobi Center, a geologist from Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory is working with Kenyan land use experts on finding ways to protect the coastal resources along the Indian Ocean. A similar frisson occurs among students from Istanbul and Tunis, who are uniting through our centers there to define a curriculum for global citizenship.

What follows in this annual report is more than a catalog of our yearly achievements. It's a testament to creativity, commitment and partnership. I invite you to delve in, draw inspiration.

This year, we found ourselves confronted with twin earthquakes that rocked Southeastern Turkey, leaving a trail of devastation in both Turkey and Syria. These tragic events, which claimed tens of thousands of lives and reshaped entire landscapes, compelled us to reevaluate our priorities and redouble our commitment to resilience and equitable recovery.

In the wake of the seismic shocks that tested our resolve, we rallied around the theme of 'Re-Thinking the Global: The Path Towards a Resilient Future and Co-Existence.' Grounded in Columbia's unwavering commitment to tackling contemporary challenges, we focused our efforts on the process of rebuilding and recovery after the earthquakes. These disasters laid bare existing disparities and ushered in new challenges for equitable rehabilitation, magnifying the urgency of our work.

Drawing on the diverse expertise of Columbia's faculty, students, and local stakeholders, we embarked on an innovative journey. From emergency urbanism and migration studies to public health, gender equality, trauma, and collective memory, our multidisciplinary approach transcended boundaries, both disciplinary and geographic. We recontextualized existing programs and initiated new projects, all with the goal of fostering a more equitable and resilient future for the affected communities following the February earthquakes.

In this annual report, we showcase the breadth and priority of our initiatives, which reflect our commitment to creating dialogue, learning, and progress. Through carefully curated themes, we focus on pressing global issues, the resilience of displaced communities, challenges faced by democracies, and the power of journalism in speaking truth to power. From webinars to workshops and advocacy initiatives, our programs serve as beacons of knowledge, forging connections and advancing a more engaged world.

We invite you to explore our journey, to discover the stories of resilience, global citizenship, and truth-telling that have defined our year. Together, we believe in the transformative power of collective action and knowledge sharing to create a better future for all.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration.





Columbia Global was established in July 2022 to leverage the remarkable scholarship, expertise, and resources of Columbia University in addressing the world's most complex challenges. We bring together the university's major global initiatives, such as the Columbia Global Centers, to advance knowledge and foster global engagement through interdisciplinary research, education, collaboration, and action.

Our ambitious goal is to reimagine the 21st-century university's role in society—not just as a nexus for learning but as a catalyst for creativity, innovation, and impact locally and globally. Through Columbia Global, we look to inspire, surprise, and challenge, and in the process, turn cutting-edge thinking into transformative doing.

**COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL: A GLOBAL HUB FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul is a dynamic hub for academic and research collaboration between Columbia University Turkey, and the surrounding region. The Center brings together students, faculty, and scholars from around the world to address some of the most pressing issues of our times.

The Center's programs and initiatives cover a wide range of topics, from refugee health to gender equality, entrepreneurship to arts and culture, politics of memory to archaeology, and civil society to sustainability. The Center organizes and hosts programs and events that

promote dialogue and understanding among various stakeholders.

Based in Istanbul, we address regional and global issues and work with local, regional, and international partners along with the network of Columbia Global Centers since our inception in 2011.

Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul is a place where ideas are exchanged, partnerships are formed, and new knowledge is created. It is a vital resource for the Columbia community and for the people of Turkey.





ELECTIONS, EARTHQUAKES, AND THE QUEST FOR A NEW DIRECTION

The academic year 2022-2023 for Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul has been marked by the devastating twin earthquakes that epicentered in Southeastern Turkey, causing damage both in Turkey and Syria. Destroying an area as big as entire countries and resulting with the death of tens of thousands, the earthquake was a tragic incident that impacted our way of thinking this year, urging us to prioritize resilience and equitable recovery.

All this was possible due to our continuous multidisciplinary work that has been going on for a decade, during which we have cultivated valuable contacts and built a robust network. Our accumulated expertise has allowed us to achieve this decisive flexibility as throughout the years we have established a significant presence and an institutional structure in Istanbul and internationally, establishing and maintaining collaborations with partners and more.

With this approach, for this year's annual report, we united around the theme of, "Re-Thinking the Global: The Path Towards a Resilient Future and Co-Existence"; Rooted in Columbia's commitment to engaging pressing contemporary issues, our focus has been on the intricate process of rebuilding and recovery in the aftermath of the earthquakes. Disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities, the earthquakes magnified disparities, and ushered in new challenges for equitable rehabilitation.

Through consultations with Columbia's faculty, students, and local stakeholders, and drawing from our extensive background in various fields—ranging from emergency urbanism, migration studies, and public health to gender equality, trauma, and collective memory—we innovatively recontextualized existing programs in this regard and we started new projects. This process transcended disciplinary and geographic confines, especially pertinent in our endeavors for equitable recovery post the seismic shocks in Turkey and Syria.

For our Istanbul team, this year epitomized a journey of enlightenment. We are sanguine that our insights resonate not solely within our region, but also across other corners of the globe grappling with adversities—be they natural or human-made. In collaboration with the University, we are working on soon-to-be-announced projects and funds so that Columbia's expertise can be utilized in crises and disasters around the world. Our aim is to contribute meaningfully towards constructing a more resilient and collaborative future on an international scale.

In this section, we showcase our diverse range of impactful initiatives that mirror our commitment to fostering dialogue, learning, and progress. Through carefully curated themes, we delve into pressing global issues, resilience in the face of disasters, challenges to democracies, and the power of journalism in speaking the truth. From webinars to workshops and advocacy initiatives, our programs stand as beacons of knowledge, creating connections and contributing to the advancement of a more informed and engaged world.

**1. RISING FROM THE RUBBLE:** Within this theme, we initiated discussions on disaster management and displaced communities. Our expertise in the field comes to the forefront, providing engagement and learning.

**RISING FROM THE RUBBLE:** Engaged participants gained insights into disaster management strategies, fostering a sense of preparedness and resilience in their communities.

**ELECTIONS, EARTHQUAKES, AND THE QUEST FOR A NEW DIRECTION:** Constructive discussions on the intersection of politics and disasters sparked new perspectives on crisis response strategies.

**THE AFTERMATH OF THE TURKISH AND SYRIAN EARTHQUAKES FROM RELIEF TO RECONSTRUCTION:** Examining the Impact on Refugee and Displaced Populations: Participants explored the multifaceted impacts of earthquakes on displaced populations, paving the way for more inclusive recovery efforts.

**2. STRAINING DEMOCRACIES AND A PROMISE FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP:** Delving into challenges faced by democracies, these programs spotlighted many countries and regions. We explored the imperative for global citizenship in today's interconnected world.

**WORLD ORDER IN CONVULSION: THE WAR IN UKRAINE AND BEYOND AND TOPICS IN POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP:** Participants deepened their understanding of geopolitical challenges, creating cross-border insights for collaborative solutions.

**YOUTH-LED ADVOCACY INITIATIVE FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY, AND COOPERATION:** First in Istanbul and second in Tunis, young leaders emerged with enhanced awareness of global citizenship's significance, propelling them to initiate positive change in their communities.

**ELECTIONS IN TURKEY AND GREECE: STRENGTHENING OR STRAINING RELATIONS?:** Participants engaged in open dialogues, enriching their understanding of political dynamics and contributing to more informed discourse.

**3. SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER:** In collaboration with various journalism institutions and media outlets, we dissected crucial topics including disinformation and elections. We analyzed international media perspectives on Turkey in 2023 and provided valuable insights from polls.

**QUALITY JOURNALISM WEBINAR SERIES:** With the International Press Institute (IPI), participants gained insights into the role of journalism in confronting disinformation, promoting media literacy, and nurturing an informed public.

**FROM EARTHQUAKES TO ELECTIONS: INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF TURKEY IN 2023:** Participants gained nuanced perspectives on media's role in shaping narratives, promoting critical thinking and responsible consumption.

**TURKEY'S 2023 ELECTIONS: WHAT DO THE POLLS SAY?:** Columbia alumni accessed insightful predictions and analyses, empowering them to engage more effectively in the electoral process.



We invite you to explore the year's narrative through our collection of insightful articles. In this Publications section, we present a compilation of the articles that have woven together our journey, reflecting our engagement with diverse subjects, from academic collaborations to societal progress. These articles encapsulate our commitment to sharing knowledge and shaping discourse, creating a deeper understanding of the issues that matter most.

### 1. "RISING FROM THE RUBBLE" SERIES:

- [Vol I: Documenting Earthquake's Impact](#)
- [Vol II: Combating Violence Against Women](#)
- [Vol III: Unveiling the Human-Made Disaster](#)
- [Vol IV: Resilience, Hope, and the Power of Local NGOs](#)

### 2. PUBLICATIONS ABOUT THE ELECTIONS:

- [Journalism During Elections](#)
- [Elections, Earthquakes, and The Quest for a New Direction](#)
- [From Earthquakes to Elections: International Media Coverage of Turkey in 2023](#)
- [Elections in Turkey and Greece: Strengthening or Straining Relations?](#)

### 3. DISCUSSION REVEALS THE HISTORY OF POLICE BRUTALITY AND CORRUPTION IN OAKLAND

### 4. CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: NEZIHE MUHIDDIN (1889-1958), TURKISH FEMINIST, WRITER, JOURNALIST, AND ACTIVIST

### PUBLICATIONS FOCUS:

**1. Voices of Emerging Scholars** & JOTSA: Amplifying the innovative ideas of rising scholars, this publication presents cutting-edge research by accomplished Ph.D. students and candidates, shedding light on diverse academic insights. This year, more papers were published in [JOTSA Spring 2022 issue](#).

**2. World Order in Convulsion:** Discover a nuanced analysis of the war in Ukraine and Turkey's diplomatic dynamics in this comprehensive briefing. Uncover the intricate threads that shape global geopolitical landscapes.

**3. Countering Islamophobia:** Embarking on its early stages, this significant website is dedicated to combating prejudice and encouraging understanding surrounding Islamophobia, contributing to a more inclusive world.

**4. Center for Ancient Mediterranean – Turkey Visit:** Journey alongside a 2,000-kilometer odyssey through Western Turkey's ancient marvels. This travelogue preserves cultural heritage, fosters curiosity, and showcases Columbia University's global influence while serving as an educational resource for history and archaeology enthusiasts.



POLITICAL ECONOMY WORKSHOP WITH TIMOTHY M. FRYE

We remain committed to creating a positive impact on various fronts, from humanitarian crises to democratic values and media freedom.

Throughout the year, our center made significant strides in addressing global challenges and promoting resilience.

Through convenings in Istanbul and Tunis, our “Youth-led Advocacy Initiative for Global Citizenship” project brought together hundreds of students, academics, and experts to facilitate discussions on democratic challenges and prospects for an extended understanding of what it means to be a citizen of the world.

The “World Order in Convulsion” roundtable and its subsequent report provided valuable insights into geopolitical conflicts and diplomatic relations in the broader region.

Empowering journalists and upholding media integrity were essential aspects of our endeavors.

Based on the excursion with Columbia's Center for Ancient Mediterranean, our travel report highlighted the students' academic explorations on the region's shared history and cultural heritage.

In the latter half of the year, following the earthquake, we diligently prepared for the forthcoming announcement of the Resilience Fund in collaboration with Columbia Global. This initiative aims to make a meaningful impact by aiding in community rebuilding, offering relief, and facilitating the exchange of critical information.

As Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, we cherish the importance of constant learning, unlearning, and reinvention to remain relevant in tackling global crises effectively. We strive to strengthen our collective memory, foster resilience, and uphold our commitment to making a difference in the world.



### 1. PROGRAMS & THEMES: HOW MANY PROGRAMS, CATEGORIZED BY THEMATIC AREA

26 programs in total. Thematic division:

**DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE: 12**

**OTTOMAN GEOGRAPHIES: 4**

**PUBLIC HEALTH, CLIMATE, GEOPOLITICS AND ENERGY: 6**

**INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: 1**

**ARTS, CULTURE AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY: 3**

### 2. PROGRAMS & TYPES: SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, PUBLIC LECTURES

**SEMINAR: 13**

**WORKSHOP: 8**

**PUBLIC LECTURE: 4**

**BOOK LAUNCH: 2**

### 3. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Reached out to 1302 people in 26 programs; our average is 50 per event.

### 4. ORGANIZATION PARTNERS: OTHER ACADEMIC CENTERS, NGOS, MEDIA, GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

Partnered with 16 organizations

### 5. UNIVERSITY PARTNERS: ALL THE SCHOOLS WITH WHOM YOU PARTNERED

Partnered with 6 Columbia Schools

Partnered with 14 local and regional universities

### 6. COLUMBIA ENGAGEMENT: FACULTY AND RESEARCHERS, ADMINISTRATION HEADS, STUDENTS, ALUMNI

**FACULTY: 30**

**ALUMNI: 137**

**STUDENTS: 10**

\* We are excited to introduce the Resilience Fund, a breakthrough initiative aimed at supporting the earthquake region as it navigates the challenges of post-disaster scenarios. By financing adaptive projects, we strive to empower communities to rebuild and thrive in the wake of adversity.

\* In anticipation of a momentous milestone, we are diligently preparing a centennial conference titled **Building the Turkish Republic: The Early Decades** to commemorate the 100th year of the Turkish Republic. Our approach is marked by comprehensiveness and inclusivity, as we work to craft a concept that resonates with the diverse narratives and experiences that have shaped the country's first century.

\* Recognizing the crucial role of journalism in shaping public discourse, we're committed to conducting various workshops with an aim not only to combat the spread of disinformation but also to provide unwavering support to journalists navigating the intricate challenges of our evolving media landscape. Our latest workshop to be held throughout November and early December 2023, **Masterclass in Journalism**, is tailored for aspiring foreign correspondents - including journalism students, journalists, and academics seeking to publish articles on Turkey international media outlets. The participants will learn the art of crafting irresistible pitches to catch editors' attention and how to conduct research and identify compelling stories.

\* We have also been working on **four initiatives** dedicated to sustainability and climate action. These projects address pressing environmental challenges, foster global collaboration, and empower the next generation to champion a more sustainable future.

- **Collaborative Studies of Sea-Level Change in the Marmara Sea Region** aim to advance local knowledge and address regional needs for risk assessment. This project focuses on utilizing both local and global expertise in sea-level rise (SLR) science and exploring connections to broader scientific and social activities, including archeological studies and public information efforts, with the goal of enhancing both scientific understanding and societal impact in the Marmara Region.

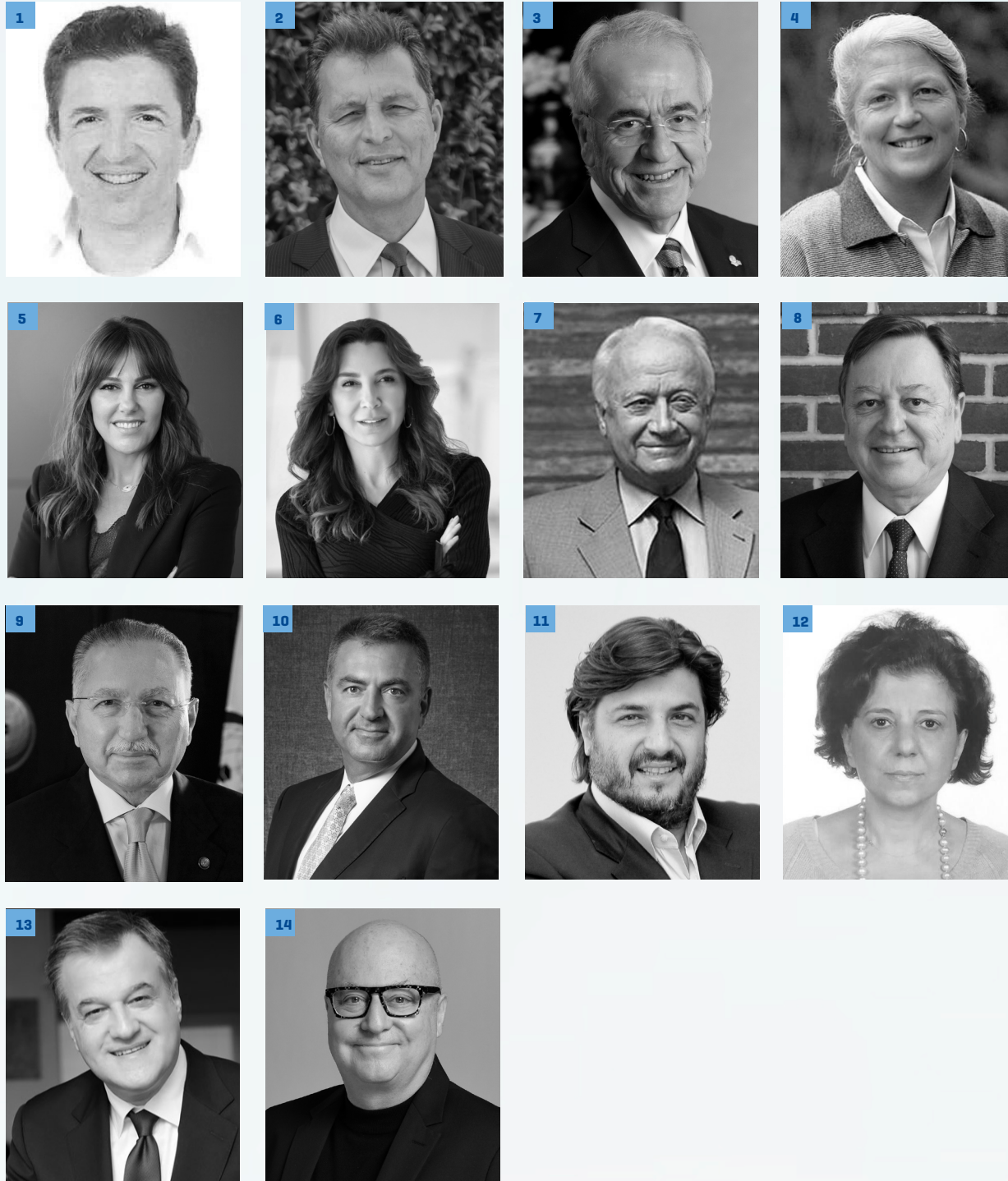
- The **Climate Change and Security** project is centered on building a global community that seeks to understand the impact of climate change on security dynamics. This initiative, with centers in Santiago and Istanbul, will facilitate dialogue and bring together interdisciplinary scholars, experts, policymakers, and activists to examine how climate change affects both regional and global security.

- The on-going **Youth-Led Advocacy Initiative for Global Citizenship** has a primary objective of establishing a network of university students who will advocate for curriculum updates in their respective institutions. The aim is to incorporate a multidisciplinary and mandatory course on global citizenship, covering topics such as sustainable development, climate change, international migration, one health, health equity, social inclusion, prevention of stigma, racism, and discrimination, as well as global diplomacy and cooperation. This initiative is operational in Istanbul and Tunis.

- In collaboration with (ECF), and other local and regional partners, we are organizing an intensive **Climate Journalism Workshop** where the participants will meet with scholars and experts, gaining firsthand insights into climate science, policy, and ethical reporting, equipping them to drive crucial narratives about the planet's most pressing issues.



## COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL 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:'22EN**; 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**; Founder and Chairwoman, Hepsiburada Group; Founder and Chairwoman, Nesine; Founder, D4 Ventures; Board Member, Aydın Doğan Foundation

**[6] VUSLAT DOĞAN SABANCI '96IA**; Founder, V Foundation; Vice President, Aydın Doğan Foundation; Board Member, Doğan Holding and Hepsiburada.com; Chair, Hurriyetemlak.com

**[7] PROFESSOR ÜSTÜN ERGÜDER** Chair, Executive Board of Hisar Education Foundation; Honorary Chair, Executive Committee of 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] PROFESSOR 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; Former President of The International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST); Honorary President, the Turkish Society for History of Science

**[10] KORHAN KURDOĞLU '91IA, P:'20CC**; Co-Founder & CEO, TAB Food Investmen

**[11] EMRE KURTTEPELİ '90EN, P:'22EN**; Founder and Chairman, Mynet Group

**[12] AYŞE SİNİRLİOĞLU** Ambassador (Ret.)

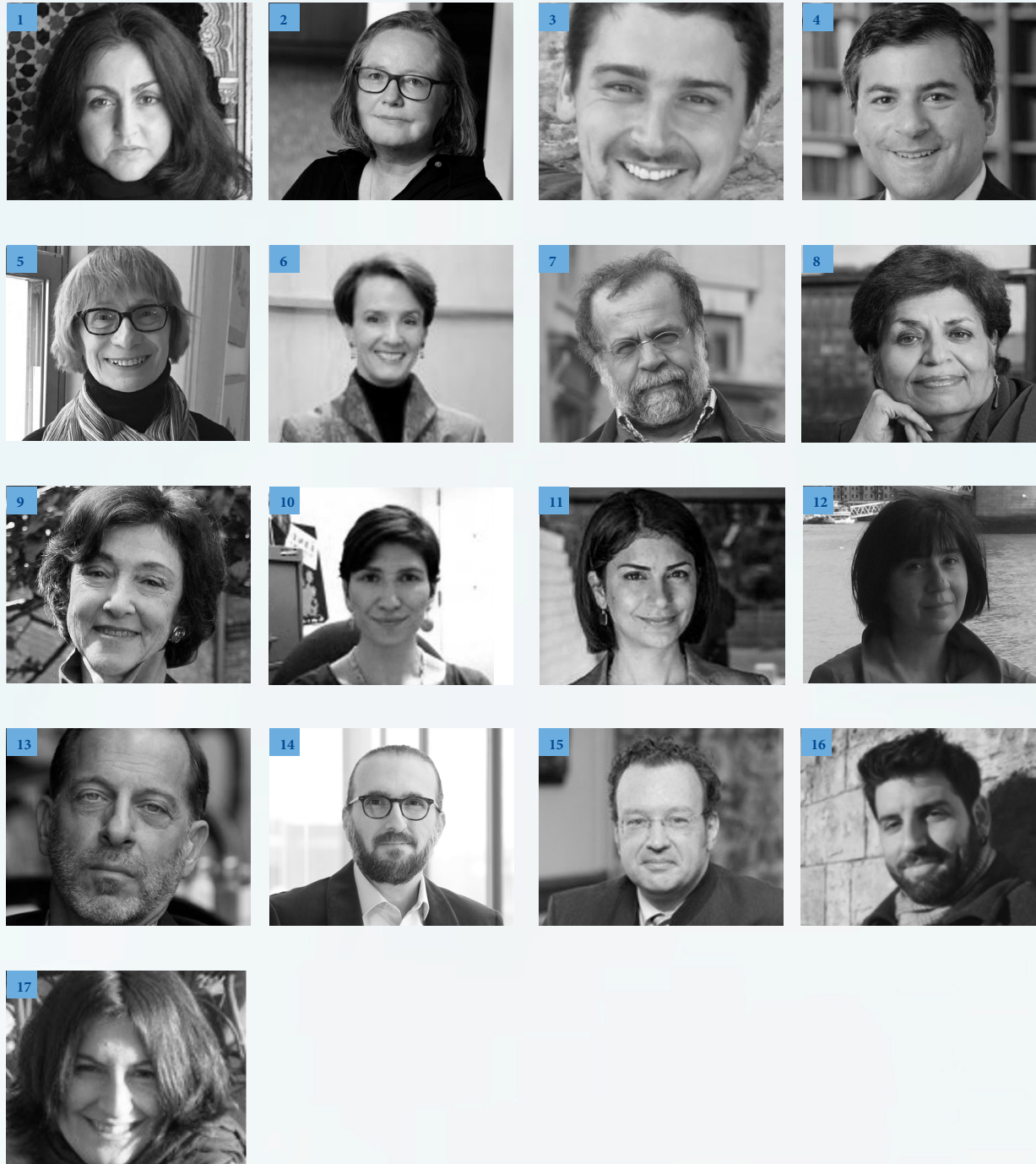
**[13] MUSTAFA SAY '84BU**; Founder and Managing Partner, Access Turkey Capital Group

**[14] AGAH UĞUR P:'17CC, P:'19AC**; Chairman & Partner, Boğaziçi Ventures

P: Parent of Columbia student or alumni



## COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



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, helps identify, expand, and advance scholarly exchange, and creates innovative and sustainable programming at and through the Istanbul Center.

**[1] ZAINAB BAHRANI CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE** Edith Porada Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Art History and Archeology, Department of Art History and Archeology

**[2] EMILY BELL** Director, Tow Center for Digital Journalism; Leonard Tow Professor of Professional Practice in the Faculty of Journalism

**[3] YANIS BEN AMOR** Assistant Professor of Global Health and Microbiological Sciences (in Pediatrics and the Earth Institute) at CUMC

**[4] JASON BORDOFF** Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs

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**[7] HAMID DABASHI** Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature

**[8] VISHAKHA DESAI** Vice Chair, Committee on Global Thought; Senior Advisor for Global Affairs to the President; Senior Research Scholar, SIPA

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**[13] RASHID KHALIDI** Professor of Modern Arab Studies, Department of History and Department of Middle Eastern, Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS)

**[14] ÇAĞHAN KIZIL** Associate Professor, Department of Neurology and The Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain Columbia University Irving Medical Center

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# COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | ISTANBUL

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