Melinda Negrón-Gonzales, Associate Professor, Business, Politics, and Security Studies (UNHM) travel to Turkey

Melinda Negron-Gonzales
University of New Hampshire, Durham

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholars.unh.edu/international_travel

Recommended Citation
Negron-Gonzales, Melinda, "Melinda Negrón-Gonzales, Associate Professor, Business, Politics, and Security Studies (UNHM) travel to Turkey" (2019). Faculty Travel Reports. 134.
https://scholars.unh.edu/international_travel/134

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Global Education Center at University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Travel Reports by an authorized administrator of University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. For more information, please contact Scholarly.Communication@unh.edu.
In June 2019, I traveled to London to present a paper at the 3rd International Kurdish Studies Conference at Middlesex University and to conduct interviews with activists for a book project on human rights activism in Turkey.

My presentation was entitled, “Three Decades of Seeking Justice for the Disappeared in Turkey,” and it was included in a panel on human rights and justice. This topic is one human rights violation I am covering in a book on physical integrity rights and human rights activism in the context of Turkey’s armed conflict. My talk covered the strategies and tactics employed by civil society organizations in Turkey to address the hundreds of disappearances of mostly Kurdish men that occurred in the mid-1990s during the peak of conflict.

Scholars from 22 countries attended the conference and, interestingly, I was one of only a few Americans. There are only several newly created Kurdish Studies programs in the US whereas British universities (and European universities more generally) have been at the
forefront of developing Kurdish Studies. I especially relished the opportunity to learn more about the research being conducted by Kurdish scholars in Iraq and Turkey and I am now in the newly created Kurdish Research Network, a transnational network connecting scholars working in and on Greater Kurdistan (Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria). The conference ended with a fascinating panel presentation and discussion at the House of Commons in the British parliament which was organized by the London-based Center for Kurdish Progress. The talk was hosted by a member of parliament from the Labor Party and panelists addressed “The Kurdish Question in the Post Daesh (ISIS) Middle East.” The opportunity to participate in an international forum that was both academic and had policy implications was incredibly enriching.

In addition, during my time in London, I spoke with, among others, a long-time Kurdish activist and politician from Turkey as well as a representative from the Dialogue Platform Organization in Iraqi Kurdistan and the co-founder of the Mesopotamia Observatory of Justice. The interviews, conversations and panel discussions all provided crucial material for my book project and I am grateful to the Global Education Center for funding the trip.

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

📍 Conant Hall 315
10 Library Way, Durham, NH 03824

📞 603.862.1288

📧 oiss@unh.edu (mailto:oiss@unh.edu)