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Summary and Acknowledgments

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SEMINAR SUMMARY

Within the past ten years, Macalester College has conducted five Faculty Development International Seminars. The first seminar was held in *Hungary* in the summer of 1995 with a thematic focus on “*Transition and Globalization in Central and Eastern Europe*.” The second was conducted in *Brazil* in the summer of 1997 and emphasized “*Landscape, Culture and Globalization*.” The third seminar, focusing on “*Transformation and Multiculturalism in the New Millennium*,” took place in *South Africa* in January of 2000. The fourth seminar was based in *Malaysia*, examining “*Crossroads of Diversity in Southeast Asia*,” during January 2002.

Building on the foundations of these four previous seminars, our fifth one, in the summer of 2004, aimed to further internationalize Macalester’s brand of liberal arts education by engaging participants in an intensive intellectual and cross-cultural seminar in *Turkey*. This seminar engaged participants in learning about the achievements and challenges of a geographical region that has long contributed to the intellectual and cultural endowment of the world. We had six explicit and interrelated *purposes*:

- To have Macalester participants jointly explore, with host society scholars, practitioners, and others, interdisciplinary themes in a particular zone of the world;
- To foster a community of internationalist scholars among Macalester participants;
- To provide opportunities for individual Macalester participants and host society counterparts to engage in discussions on topics of shared intellectual interests;
- To expose Macalester participants to study abroad programs of relevance to our curriculum and of interest to our students;
- To engage Macalester participants in fruitful discussions with Macalester alumni abroad; and
- To share Seminar outcomes with a wider community in and beyond Macalester.

The *basic structure* of the Seminar included the following components:

- *Several* pre-departure discussions, guest presentations, and orientation meetings at Macalester College in December 2003 and during the Spring Semester 2004.
- *One* pre-departure lead commissioned paper, a keynote address, and discussions with a distinguished scholar of the Eastern Mediterranean and Turkey, held at Macalester College in mid-April 2004.
- *Four* additional commissioned papers with on-site presentations and discussions with local scholars.
- *Twelve* formal oral presentations and group discussions on selected topics of interest to the Macalester participants and of importance to an understanding of the host countries and region.
- *Five days* dedicated to Seminar participants' self-designed independent study projects.
- *Several* group or individual educational excursions.
- A Macalester College alumni meeting in Istanbul.
- Post-seminar evaluation meetings, discussions, and the publication of participant essays.

The 2004 Seminar was designed to help participants grapple, both intellectually and through hands-on personal experience, with compelling issues facing Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean in an unfolding epoch of globalization. The Seminar was also designed to capture an important moment in Macalester College's fundamental mission of educational excellence in the context of the interrelated ideals of *internationalism*, *multiculturalism*, and *civic engagement*. To help accomplish this, the Seminar included carefully selected commissioned papers and guest presentations; discussions with scholars and practitioners from various fields; guided and independent visits to cultural, educational, ecological and historical sites; opportunities for independent study and collaboration with colleagues in Turkey and Cyprus; visits with alumni; and various forums for sharing the experience and the learning gained through the Seminar.

To accomplish the explicit goals of the Seminar, presentations and activities were organized around a broad interdisciplinary theme. The seminar on *Hybrid Geographies in the Eastern Mediterranean: Views from the Bosphorus* introduced participants to the history of the region, critical contemporary issues, cultural and intellectual achievements, and selected challenges facing Turkey and Cyprus as dynamic countries in a complex region. The overall theme and subtopics were

designed both to be focused enough to add depth to the content of the seminar and supple enough to stimulate each individual participant's intellectual interests.

The primary site of the seminar sessions was *Istanbul*, a city thick with history and culture that stands on the Bosphorus as a threshold to both Europe and Asia.

Commissioned papers, oral presentations, educational excursions, individual explorations, and group discussions engage participants in a wide variety of topics with the overall aim to provide a panoramic introduction to the region's life and culture.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Any faculty seminar of this magnitude, complexity, and seriousness of purpose would be impossible without a high level of dedication and the collegial collaboration of many people. From the initial correspondence (dating back to Fall of 2002), through exploratory visits in January 2003, seminar development visits during the summer of 2003, and the rather intensive exchange of ideas during academic year 2003–2004, colleagues from many places in the United States, Turkey, and Cyprus offered fine suggestions and guidance. From the development of an extensive bibliography, to the identification of authors and presenters, to the minutia of logistics and local arrangements, the insights and generosity of many individuals were critical to this undertaking.

The intellectual project could not have found its wings without the direct involvement of both Macalester faculty and our colleagues abroad. First and foremost these include the participating *authors* (whose essays are included in this volume) and the *oral presenters*. These include the following individuals (all faculty members at Bogazici University unless otherwise noted):

- **Sevket Pamuk**, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs
Topic: The Ottoman Empire: Institutional Change and Longevity
- **Gunan Danisman**, Architecture Department
Topic: The History and Architecture of Istanbul and the Mosques of Sinan
- **Zafer Toprak**, Institute of Ataturk Principles and Modern Turkish History
Topic: Ataturk: Biography and Legacy