Dying Abroad

On any given day, the remains of countless deceased migrants are shipped around the world to be buried in ancestral soils. Others are laid to rest in countries of settlement, sometimes in cemeteries established for religious and ethnic minorities, where available. For immigrants and their descendants, perennial questions about the meaning of home and homeland take on a particular gravitas in death. When the boundaries of a nation and its members are contested, burial decisions are political acts. Building on multi-sited fieldwork in Berlin and Istanbul – where the author worked as an undertaker – Dying Abroad offers a moving and powerful account of migrants’ end-of-life dilemmas, vividly illustrating how they are connected to ongoing political struggles over the stakes of citizenship, belonging, and collective identity in contemporary Europe.

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Dying Abroad

The Political Afterlives of Migration in Europe

OSMAN BALKAN
University of Pennsylvania
To my family, with love, gratitude, and admiration.

And to C, my light.
This strange experience of hospitality transgressed, through which you die abroad and not always at all as you would have wanted.

— Jacques Derrida, Of Hospitality
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## Abbreviations

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<td>AfD</td>
<td>Alternative für Deutschland/Alternative for Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKP</td>
<td>Ak Parti/Justice and Development Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BfV</td>
<td>Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz/Office for the Protection of the Constitution</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDU</td>
<td>Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands/Christian Democratic Union of Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIMG</td>
<td>Confédération Islamique Millî Görüş France/Islamic Confederation National Vision France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DITIB</td>
<td>Diyanet İşleri Türk İslam Birliği/The Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTJ</td>
<td>Deutsch Türkisches Journal/German Turkish Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTA</td>
<td>Hometown Associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGMG</td>
<td>Islamische Gemeinschaft Millî Görüş/Islamic Community National Vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAGPRA</td>
<td>Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act</td>
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<td>PEGIDA</td>
<td>Patriotische Europäer gegen die Islamisierung des Abendlandes/Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAA</td>
<td>Société Algérienne d’Assurance/Algerian National Insurance Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPD</td>
<td>Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands/Social Democratic Party of Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOEFL</td>
<td>Test of English as a Foreign Language</td>
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