



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



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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

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