

STUDENT ADMINISTRATION  
BURSARIES & SCHOLARSHIPS  
SANTANDER TRAVEL AWARD  
POST-TRAVEL REPORT  
By M. Evren EKEN

As a PhD student based at Geography Department, Royal Holloway, London, I was entitled to receive the Santander Travel Award in 2015-2016 term. Thanks to this award, I attended a major International Relations conference in the US, visited Atlanta and NYC for interviews, published a book chapter and arranged another conference attendance. Below are the details of these academic projects and their invaluable assistance towards my studies at RHUL.

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Proposal title: Observing the International: Governmentality of Geopolitics and Visual Culture

Country/ies visited: Unites States

Institution(s) visited: ISA

Dates of travel: 15-25.03.2016

Travel report:

I. Overview of intentions/activity

Prior to the award, I was accepted by two conferences in the US. The first of these is International Studies Association`s Annual Convention, in Atlanta, USA; the second is of Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association`s Annual Conference in Seattle, USA. Although my main aim was to attend both of them, following a unique possibility of an interview in NYC, I decided to make the interview in NY, rather than the second conference attendance in Seattle. First of all, the interview is more important for my studies than attending to the conference. Second, time wise and financial wise, NYC option was more suitable, as I was become aware of the positive outcome of the Award after the first conference. Hence, thanks to the Santander Travel Award, I attended the ISA 2016 conference, presented two papers, and made my interviews in NYC.

II. In preparation for the trip abroad

I booked my ticket from American Airlines and they costed me £750. I booked three different rooms through Airbnb during my travels for accommodate myself, and they costed me a total of £300.

### III. Upon arrival/specific activities

I arrived a day before the conference and for my first presentation was the first day of the conference, I had to replan and rehearse my presentation. Following the day the conference ended, I moved to NYC and met my contact to initiate the interview. I also found the chance to visit 9/11 sites for its relevance to my interview. Thanks to these travels, I found the opportunity to present my research to my international colleagues, received their feedback, elicited data out of my interviews and published a book chapter with in Turkish. Moreover, thanks to my liaisons in those days with international colleagues, I arranged a post-doc possibility.

### IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next steps

My visit to Atlanta and NYC enabled me to support my research, and Santander Travel Award has both morally and financially aided me. I am glad to be able to receive such a support and honored to stamp it to the publication I made. I will definitely continue to do so.