
**STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR
2020 INITIATIVES PROJECT**

PROJECT LEADER(S):	Dr. Raz Segal, Dr. David Roessel, and Dr. Tom Papademetriou
PROJECT TITLE:	Faculty-Led Program in Thessaloniki and Haifa: Nationalism, Nation States, Mass Violence, and the Transformation of Mediterranean Cities in the Twentieth Century
DATE:	9-21 June 2019
CC:	

- *The boxes below expand as needed to accommodate your notes. You may also include/submit appendices or attachments, if needed.*
- *Email a copy of this completed form to Jessica Kay, Senior Planning Analyst at: 2020@stockton.edu or Jessica.Kay@stockton.edu.*

Please provide a summary of the project and your experience.

The study tour consisted of walking tours in each city, seminars with scholars, visits in historical museums, sessions with local artists, and tours to nearby towns --- Veria in Greece and Nazareth in Israel. In both cities, we addressed histories of mass violence; displacement; urban destruction, erasure, and reconstruction; and attempts to remember and forget these pasts.

One of the Stockton students wrote after the study tour that “the most interesting programs from the study tour, in both cities, were those that had to do with people working and living in these cities today. ... the presentations that made me think the most were those that had to do with how people now, people born in those places who have no memories of other places, interact with the past/memory-
scape of what had happened there before they were born to shape the place they happen to have grown up in. I think our more challenging, and engaging, group discussions followed those [presentation], which makes me think that I'm not alone in having been very impacted by them.” She also added: “I learned a lot on the walking tours, and I think their role in the program was very important to flesh out some of the articles we read in advance.”

Another Stockton student wrote that “every day you offered us new things to think about, and I appreciate that.” He also stressed that “the perspectives of Alia and Hend [two of the three Palestinian students from the University of Haifa who were part of the core group in both cities] were unique and very important for our purposes. Without them, our time in Haifa would have been much less meaningful.”

This last comment touches on a key learning goal of the study tour that we discussed with all the students in the group (from Stockton, Greece, and Israel): that students raise new questions during and after the study tour that they could not imagine asking before departure. Asking new questions, even if confusing at first, is crucial to any learning process. In this case, the very diverse and international

character of the group --- including black and Muslim students from Stockton, Greek students, and Jews and Palestinians from Israel --- created intellectual and social interactions that made room for students' unique perspectives, such as those of Alia and Hend, and thus facilitated the emergence of new questions that enhanced the group's learning experience. As one of the Greek students wrote after the study tour, "the multi-ethnic background of the participants provided me an excellent opportunity to learn from and exchange experiences with the others fellows. It helped in better understanding the point of view of every individual 'other' in an informal and constructive way."

Finally, the multi-disciplinary nature of the study tour also helped students think about the issues and questions we explored. Indeed, between a fascinating walking tour with a long-time memory activist in Veria who insists on remembering and reminding the town's residents that once Jews and Muslims had also lived there; a presentation by two of Dr. Antoniou's students on a superb digital humanities project they researched and designed, mapping Holocaust victims among students in schools across Thessaloniki; a thought-provoking walking tour of Haifa with Dr. Mahmoud Yazbak, one of our partners, on the attempts to erase Palestinian history in the city; and a session with Palestinian artists in Khashabi Theatre in Haifa who labor, with much success, to remember and create Palestinian culture in Haifa --- students understood the multiple ways of examining and thinking about the difficult histories in both cities and the ways in which they shape the societies there today.

Please see a number of attached photos from the study tour.

Please attach a copy of your original proposal or list your stated objectives and expected outcomes.

Please see attached a copy of the 2020 proposal for this project.

Please describe the results of your project and compare them to your original expectations. Elaborate on how well your objectives were met and how they might have changed. Note any particular obstacles that may have prevented your achieving full satisfaction on desired outcomes.

We met the two main objectives of the study tour: (1) student learning, as described above, and (2) the establishment of new international connections.

- (1) As our 2020 proposal focused on Globalization, we begin with the second objective, which we met fully: we strengthened the connection between Stockton and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki through our work with Dr. Giorgos Antoniou, the Jewish Studies Chair. **And the success of the program has resulted in an invitation to collaborate with RePast (<https://www.repast.eu/>), an EU Horizon 2020 project that deals with the impact of troubled pasts on current conflicts.**

Dr. Antoniou is a partner in RePast. Initial discussions in Thessaloniki about our plans to organize a study tour in summer 2020 to Nicosia and Jerusalem, focusing on divided cities, prompted him to reach out to Dr. Dimitra Milioni from Cyprus University of Technology, who is also a partner in RePast. We then received an email (27 July 2019), inquiring whether we would like to organize a meeting to discuss collaboration with RePast; we agreed happily, and we held a Zoom meeting on 20 August. We are now working on the next step: an abstract and initial program of the Nicosia/Jerusalem study tour, which we will send to Dr. Antoniou and Dr. Milioni by 3 September.

This invitation to join a EU project fulfills a central goal of the study tour, as formulated in the proposal: “To strengthen and create new collaborations for Stockton University within and outside the US, which would promote Stockton University’s global visibility.”

- (2) The feedback of students in the study tour helps us in planning specific kinds of activities before and during our next study tour, which would improve students’ participation and learning. Students noted specifically that we could consider:
 - (a) incorporating a mini project that would involve hands-on activities connecting the students more closely to some of the core issues we addressed and the areas we visited. Collaboration with the RePast project will make it very easy to include hands-on activities that would contribute to the project’s aim of designing “innovative actions for creating participatory experiences, i.e. interactive storytelling ... a treasure-hunt game to discover troubled pasts, and digital games for renegotiating troubled pasts.”
 - (b) allocating more time in the program for students to reflect on their experiences together and discuss various ideas and points of view;
 - (c) including in the reading material for the group before departure background historical accounts that some students in the group may barely know. For example, the Greek students wrote after the study tour that they would have benefited from more background reading on the history of Israel/Palestine.

Please list any follow-up actions (publications, presentation venues, etc.)

The five Stockton students will present on their experiences in the study tour at Day of Scholarship in spring 2020.

Are you recommending the continuation of this project? If so:

- **What are the next action steps you foresee or recommend?**
- **What are the expected budget requirements going forward?**
- **Please identify the program, department, or division you should be working with to secure continuation of funding for your project.**

[Note: continuation proposals must be approved and incorporated into the appropriate budget process. This report will not constitute a request for permanent funding.]

As mentioned above, we are already planning a related study tour for June 2020 in Nicosia and Jerusalem, in the same format but dealing with the history, legacies, and contemporary situation of divided cities in the second half of the twentieth century.

We are working with our partners in the Thessaloniki/Haifa study tour --- Dr. Giorgos Antoniou from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Dr. Mahmoud Yazbak from the University of Haifa and Mada Al-Carmel: Arab Center for Applied Social Research in Haifa --- as well as with **new partners** in Cyprus in the framework of the RePast project and in Jerusalem.

We plan to request \$3,500 from the Presidential Initiative Funding, in order to cover accommodation for 5 Stockton student in Nicosia and Jerusalem (again, a week in each city). **Our request for funding is based on the success of the Thessaloniki/Haifa study tour and in order to strengthen the international connections we have established and build new ones through the RePast project.**

FINANCES: Based on your proposal, please outline below how the award has been spent.		
	Amount	Notes/Comments
Beginning Budget Balance as of:	\$	
Salary Expenditures		
• Stipends	\$	
• Full-time staff salaries	\$	
• Full-time faculty salaries	\$	
• TES salaries	\$	
• Fringe Benefits	\$	
Total Salary and Fringe Expenditures	\$	
Non-Salary Expenditures (<i>supplies, travel, etc.</i>)		
• Accommodation in Thessaloniki and in Haifa	\$ 3,500	
•	\$	
•	\$	
•	\$	
•	\$	
•	\$	
Total Non-Salary Expenditures	\$ 3,500	
Total Salary + Non-Salary Expenditures	\$ 3,500	
Ending Budget Balance as of:	\$ 3,500	

If there are remaining expenditures required to complete the project, and your project was approved for multiple fiscal years, please itemize them with expected amounts and timing for payment.

IMPORTANT: *Unused funds reverted to the general 2020 Initiative Fund at the end of the fiscal year 2019, if not approved and encumbered for project costs in the next FY.*

Item	Expected Amount	Expected Timing for Payment
Total		











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