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# Belonging to Istanbul

## An evaluation of national policies and urban practices of migrant integration in Turkey

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**Kristen Biehl** studied social anthropology and development studies for her undergraduate degree at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London (2003-2005). In 2008, she completed a Masters in Sociology at the Bogazici University in Istanbul, writing her thesis titled "Governing through Uncertainty: 'Refugeeness' in Turkey," which examines the impact of migration and asylum policies in Turkey on the everyday experiences and migratory decisions of refugees. She works for the Migration Research Program at Koc University in Istanbul where she assisted with the research and publication of the Istanbul city report for the British Council project called "Living Together: Migrant Cities" and currently she is also the Turkish Junior Researcher for the EU project "Managing International Urban Migration: Turkey-Italy-Spain." Aside from her academic work, since 2006, she has also been working with various refugee-related Turkish NGO's, such as the International Catholic Migration Commission. Currently she also works as the advocacy program and research assistant for the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly, Refugee Advocacy and Support Program, in Istanbul.