

## EDITORIAL

Scientific Studies Association (ILEM) has organized 5th STT-MENA Conference on “Migration and Socio-Cultural Change” on December 12-13, 2016 in Sakarya hosted by Sakarya University Middle East Institute. In this conference, scholars from various disciplines have discussed different aspects and effects of migration in societies of the region and the world. This conference aimed to go beyond current agenda and perspectives on the topic and highlight new dimensions to promote new ideas in the study of migration through theoretical and methodological discussions and cases of interdisciplinary fieldwork.

Migration is a catalyst for socio-cultural change at both macro and micro levels in sending and receiving societies. However, examining different aspects of the migration relates to socio-cultural change is a daunting task. Migration presents big opportunities and challenges for researchers and policymakers at the same time in an era that numbers of moving people have been rising and mobility patterns have become increasingly complex. It creates spaces for interaction between migrants as individuals; and between communities of origin, transit and destination as a whole. Migrants establish connections between societies and cultures, as well as causing many social problems. As a result of migration, societies experience some rapid changes in terms of social structures, identities, attitudes, norms, and practices. Effective migration policies can help harness the drawbacks of migration while maintaining social cohesion and facilitate inclusion for the benefit of both sides.

This special issue consists six papers from the conference specifically related to the Middle Eastern societies. These papers have been selected after a rigorous evaluation and review process. I am very thankful to the authors for their collaboration in the process and patience.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lütfü Sunar  
Special Issue Editor