



Irem Inal, The 2018-2019 Eltoukhy East-West Gateway Fellow at International House, UC Berkeley



I am İrem İnal from Ankara, Turkey and I graduated with high honors from Boğaziçi University in İstanbul with a double-major in Sociology and Economics. I am a new Ph.D. student in Sociology, interested in determinants and mechanisms of change and persistence in organizations and economic/political institutions.

I have had the opportunity to experience living with strong ties to an international community in Varese, Italy in 10th grade for a whole year as an intercultural exchange student and in Amsterdam, Netherlands for one semester during my bachelor's. Diversity is always interesting, but what actually fascinates me each time, is seeing how similar we are as human beings. I am looking forward to the third experience, this time in a different continent.

Among my non-academic interests are SCUBA and free-diving, hiking, camping, dancing and travelling. I feel very lucky, as I believe I will have the chance to enjoy all these activities and more - if time permits!- with a variety of people from the I-House. My academic achievements have always been stimulated by my social environment, so I could not have imagined a more fruitful start to Ph.D.



The Eltoukhy East-West Gateway Fellowship was established in 2006 by the Eltoukhy Family Foundation, with the goal of bettering and improving the relationship between East and West, and with the aspiration of furthering increased awareness of the principles and beliefs of Islam and the Moslem peoples.

Dr. Atef Eltoukhy served on the International House, Berkeley Board of Directors. Dr. Eltoukhy is the Chairman of Aurum Capital Management, a family office in Woodside, CA. He is a member of the Board of Trustees at the American University in Cairo. Formerly, he was a professor at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, a scientist at IBM in San Jose, and an entrepreneur in Silicon Valley, where he co-founded two companies in the digital storage industry and took them public. Dr. Eltoukhy authored many patents/publications in the semiconductor and magnetic thin film deposition technology. In the early 1990s, he launched a new career in investment management, wherein he co-founded two registered entities in San Francisco: a broker-dealer and an investment adviser. Dr. Eltoukhy's education includes a Ph.D. from University of Illinois and BS and MSc degrees from Cairo University. He was also a graduate student and an instructor at the Materials Science Dept. at the American University in Cairo. His current philanthropic activities under the Eltoukhy Family Foundation include building a school in Sharkia, Egypt and sponsoring endowed fellowships for the benefit of Egyptian/Middle Eastern students at UC-Berkeley as well as at Stanford University. In addition, the Eltoukhy family has sponsored the Atef H. and Fofa

A. Eltoukhy Endowed Scholarship at the American University in Cairo for the benefit of talented and deserving Egyptian students.