

THE ACKERMAN CHRONICLE

BERLIN'S REFUGEE CRISIS

UT Dallas graduate student Kathryn Yates traveled to Berlin, Germany in May of 2018 to explore how museums are working to support refugees and promote tolerance, empathy and understanding within an increasingly diverse population.

Yates conducted interviews with museum staff and community outreach professionals to discuss the programs in place for assisting refugee families from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq and the controversy regarding Germany's immigration policies. She visited many sites as part of her research, such as the Anne Frank Zentrum, where refugee children are given a guided tour of the museum.

The children are able to parallel their own experience of fleeing violence and persecution with that of the Frank family. Yates also visited an exhibition at Humboldt University that features oral testimonies from asylum seekers and education about differences in culture and religious beliefs. Yates interviewed two Syrian refugee families at the Museum for Islamic Art who shared their experiences working as tour guides for the Multaka program, which provides tours for displaced asylum-seekers living in Germany.

Yates's research question led her to Berlin where she explored many of the issues surrounding the refugee

crisis, and through this incredible opportunity she left Germany with a new awareness inspired by her travels. ▲



Kathryn Yates, UT Dallas graduate student, discusses her 2018 summer research in Berlin, Germany