

# Introduction

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Conventional wisdom tells us that undergraduate education is about orientation and placement within the borders of the world we call home, about preparing for jobs, vocations and careers with the framework of the familiar. The reflections on experiences of travel published in this volume represent the emergence of a different perspective. Becoming a responsible citizen of the world begins in disorientation and displacement, in allowing oneself to enter a cultural zone in which familiar identities are placed in question and comfortable assumptions are opened to disruption and potential transformation. It would be naïve, however, to believe that all travel displaces the traveler into the world of the unfamiliar and produces the ability to see oneself and one's own home through the lens of other people in other places. Breaking away from the familiar, even while abroad, has become increasingly difficult. The experience of genuine displacement begins with a choice, a willingness to let the familiar go and embrace the adventure and danger of becoming a stranger.

After they return home travelers face another choice. Will they let the experience of displacement fade from memory and become lost in the re-entry into the familiar? Or will they rebuild their lives through a work of self-reflection that both recognizes the limitations of their original home and begins to build a framework for cross-cultural dialogue and collaborative engagement that can connect the familiar and the strange within a larger conception of what it means to be at home in the world? The students who have contributed to this volume have learned to pay attention to the sights, to listen to the voices, that they encountered in the worlds beyond the boundaries of their original home.

By listening to their voices, by seeing through their eyes, we can join them in both the adventure of transcending the confines of the familiar and in the self-reflective work of building a more expansive and humane community that will welcome the stranger into the circle of the "we".

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