



# Ayca Arkilic

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I feel very lucky to be one of the 2012-2013 Chateaubriand Fellowship recipients. I had the opportunity to conduct research at Sciences Po's CERI Research Institute for four months, where I established contacts with fellow researchers and attended enriching talks. My sojourn in Paris was an unforgettable life experience. Some of the highlights of my Chateaubriand adventure include meeting Jill Biden at the orientation weekend; conducting interviews with migrants and policy-makers in almost every single neighborhood of Paris and its banlieueus; getting lost in amazing museums on Free Museum Days; chatting with interesting academics, journalists, bureaucrats, and civil society leaders at chic French cafés; and exploring different libraries in Paris. During my fellowship, I witnessed quite a few demonstrations and strikes. By the end of my research stay, I was proud to have six different library cards in my wallet and to be able to change complicated metro lines without looking at the map. Despite all of these experiences, only after tasting the famous Chateaubriand steak and reading "René" and "Atala" by the Canal Saint-Martin, was I ready to say "à bientôt" to Paris!"