

**SU | GENDER** SABANCI UNIVERSITY  
GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES  
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

# **SU Gender**

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## **Activity Bulletin**

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**2019 / Issue 7**

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issue

**SU Gender**  
Activity Bulletin

**2019**

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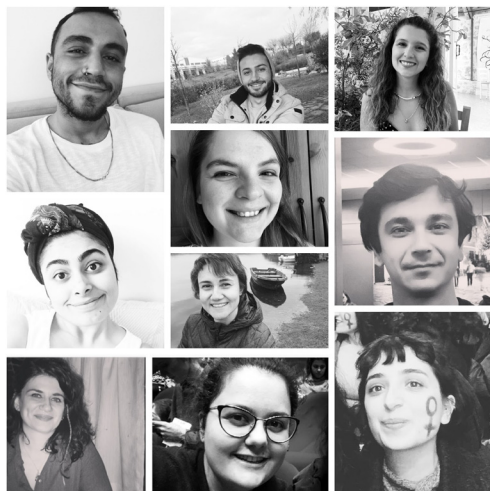
# GREETINGS

2019 was a year of many openings in terms of transnationalization, research, publications, education, and the dissemination of our work. The preparation of the gender action plan that would transform all the units of our university; the acceleration of gender equality trainings inside and outside the university; the organization of the Purple Certificate Program for high school teachers after three years again in our Tuzla campus; trainings aimed at candidate teachers and NGOs; the extensification and dissemination of Purple Folders; the publication of our collaborated work as a book under Ayşe Gül Altınay's editorship with Columbia University Press, one of the most prestigious university presses in the world; numerous activists engaging with the Transformative Activism Project; the European Union projects; and Marie Curie researchers joining us, all have made this year marvelously fruitful. When I took over the director position from my dear Ayşe Gül Altınay in October, the research and education themes of the Center had been extended toward the study of migration, intersectionality, performance and cinema, memory and trauma, along with gender equality, and the Center's activities, including its researchers and instructors, had become renowned both nationally and worldwide. I convey my thanks to Ayşe Gül for her



extraordinary work making the Center cross many thresholds with creative and inspiring potential. Reiterating what grace it is to have her among us, I would like to draw attention to this year's cornerstones.

One of the major developments in terms of research was the publication of the edited book *Women Mobilizing Memory* prepared within the **Women Mobilizing Memory** study group, which we have been a part of since 2013. In the book, SU Gender researchers (Ayşe Gül Altınay, Hülya Adak), international researchers and Sabancı University faculty members (Sibel Irzik), master's students and graduates (Bürge Abiral, Dilara Çalışkan, Armanç Yıldız) convened in a publication. The article titled "Curious Steps: Mobilizing Memory Through Collective Walking and Storytelling" has incorporated **Curious Steps**, which we have been conducting since 2014, into our academic research by conceptualizing the walks in the context of feminist studies of memory and feminist production of knowledge. This year, we also hosted researchers and activists who inspired Curious Steps, such as Andrea Petö, Aylin Vartanyan, Margarida Queiros, and Alexandra Luis for the conference **Walking the City Together: Feminist Pedagogies**, held as part of the various March 8<sup>th</sup> events and celebrations, where we organized walks and panels that brought Lisbon, Budapest, Istanbul, and Bochum together.



We hosted various speakers throughout the year: in March, Marianne Hirsch from Columbia University gave a very stimulating seminar on memory, art, identity, and the body, inspired by diaspora artists. Our Advisory Board member Andrea Pető from Central European University (CEU) organized a workshop for us and young researchers, concerning the place and importance of gender studies in the European Union. Moreover, our Advisory Board member Cynthia Enloe gave two different seminars to students and faculty members regarding feminist research and publications, and the #MeToo movement. As hundreds of researchers, activists, and students attended these events, we began to build networks on these research areas and turned to new research themes, too.

In 2018, we combined our ongoing and newly launched studies on gender equality mechanisms under the name of the **Gender Equality Program (GEP)**. Our work in the field of gender equality in higher education continued this year as well. The report "Gender Equality Mechanisms in Higher Education Institutions in Turkey: A Primary Evaluation Study" was completed and published in April with the cooperation of SU Gender and Research Worldwide Istanbul, and with the support of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. In the report, SU Gender researcher Zeynep Gülrü Göker and Aslı Polatdemir analyzed the efforts to achieve gender equality in eight universities within the framework of expert opinions.

Another important development in terms of research in 2019 was that Zeynep Gülrü Göker, Ayşe Gül Altınay, and the project manager Ilayda Ece Ova launched the **GEARING-Gender Equality Actions in Research Institutions to transForm Gender Roles** project in January. We held the publicity and kick-off meeting of the project at Sabancı University with the agenda of supporting women in the fields of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) as one of the main goals of the project. Speakers and participants from many different units of the university took part in this meeting. Within the scope of the project, the first phase of researching the current situation and identifying the needs for achieving gender equality at Sabancı University has been completed. Gender equality action plans will be developed and implemented in 6 European universities and research institutions, including Sabancı University, over the next 4 years.



Through these studies, we hope to have the opportunity to focus on the status of gender equality at our university and to rethink and discuss the equality mechanisms within the institution. We organized the "How many colors are there in the rainbow?" seminar for Sabancı University employees in cooperation with the Human Resources Department in September. In addition, we launched the **Cat Talks** series in order to involve university students in these discussions, reaching over 250 students in 5 talks and 3 film screenings organized in collaboration with Kadir Has University. We will continue to discuss gender equality in different contexts at the university in the upcoming period as well.

In May 2019, Rüstem Ertuğ Altınay joined SU Gender as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow under my supervision with the project entitled **Queers of the Empire, Subjects of the Republic: Queer Historiography Policies in Turkey**. This scholarship has been a precursor in many ways. First of all, drama, performance, and queer studies were added to SU Gender's research themes. Also, for the first time, researcher support was provided to SU Gender within the scope of Marie Skłodowska Curie. Thanks to this scholarship, we have observed that Ertuğ's position as a Marie Curie fellow would bring other Marie Curie researchers to SU Gender and that SU Gender has been recognized as an important center among European Union research centers.

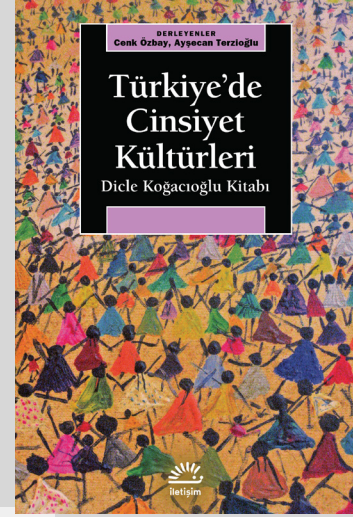


The panel of the Ottoman and Turkish special issue that we prepared for *Comparative Drama*, the leading journal in the field of comparative drama, together with R. Ertuğ Altınay, was held on July 9<sup>th</sup> at the Freie University of Berlin with the participation of all authors. According to Elizabeth Bradburn, the editor of the journal, this work presented one of the most important English sources on Ottoman and Turkish theater and introduced one of the most unique issues of *Comparative Drama*, which rather focuses on European theatre. There are significant articles on the gender critique of Ottoman and Turkish theater as well in the special issue of **Performing Turkishness: Theater and Politics in Turkey and its Diasporas**.

Kristen Biehl, one of the researchers who joined us recently, has made significant contributions to SU Gender on migration studies. The most important work was the workshop titled **Migration Studies in Turkey from a Gender Perspective**, organized in collaboration with the Association for Migration Research (GAR) on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Selected articles from the workshop, which featured presentations by young researchers including one of our graduates, Mert Koçak, are under preparation to be published as an e-book by Kristen Biehl and Didem Daniş as co-editors.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dicle Koğacioğlu Article Award, articles selected from all the awarded works were published by İletişim in June with the title *Gender Cultures in Turkey: The Dicle Koğacioğlu Book* compiled by SU Gender members Ayşecan Terzioğlu and Cenk Özbay. The book is divided into three parts: cities and spaces; languages and subjectivities; masculinities and sexualities. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, the date we lost Dicle, we organized an event with the contributors of the award and the book to commemorate her. The book attracted great attention; other universities in Istanbul and the METU Department of Sociology organized panels and contributed to the dissemination of the research of the book on the themes of the city, subjectivity, masculinity, and sexuality. In addition, on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award, we shared a video featuring Dicle's family, friends, students, and colleagues, talking about her, her contributions to gender studies, and their memories at the award ceremony on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

(To access the video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6cwLUQBVIY&t=48s>)



The Purple Certificate Gender Equality trainings, now going on for 12 years, were given to high school teachers, prospective teachers, and NGO representatives this year as well. We came together with 44 NGO representatives at the Purple Certificate Program Gender Awareness Training for Non-Governmental Organizations, which we organized twice in 2019. Brand new topics ranging from sociology to psychology, from literature to design, from law to natural sciences were added to the Purple Certificate. This year we organized the program in our Tuzla campus after a 3-year interval, with the participation of 47 high school teachers from 27 different cities. Working in provinces such as Van, Hatay, Edirne, Mardin, Ankara, and Eskişehir, the Purple Certificate Team expanded its Purple Certificate teacher network by giving workshops and trainings on gender equality. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, we stepped into the third year of the Purple Folder work. The work was designed to produce educational materials that teachers can use on literature, STEAM, social sciences, physical education, English as a second language, and psychological counseling. We will continue working on developing new materials and adding new topics in the upcoming years.

**Hülya Adak**

# RESEARCH

In 2019, we added new items to our research agenda, disseminated the results of completed research, initiated many research-oriented national and international collaborations, and continued our work by strengthening our existing partnerships. We participated in research cooperation activities and meetings organized in the fields of humanities and social sciences within the framework of the EU Horizon 2020 Programme. Together with Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Women's Studies Application and Research Center, we formed a reading group where we conducted discussions on feminist methodology. Cenk Özbay and Ayşecan Terzioğlu compiled a selection of the articles that won the Dicle Koğacıoğlu Article Award in *Gender Cultures in Turkey: Dicle Koğacıoğlu Book*, published by İletişim in the first half of 2019. You can read detailed information about the book in the Awards section. In addition, this year, the Gender Studies Graduate Working Group meetings, organized with the initiatives of our assistants Aslı Aygüneş and Oğuz Can Ok, aimed to bring together graduate students engaged in gender studies. One of the most important international collaborations of this year was the joint research we planned for 2020 as a result of our meetings and discussions with the Freie University of Berlin Margherita von Brentano Center for Gender and Women's Studies. In this section, you can find information about the research we have done along the axis of gender, research collaborations we have developed, and some of the academic publications and reports in our main fields of study.

## Literature, art, performance

Rüstem Ertuğ Altınay joined SU Gender in May 2019 as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie scholar to work under the supervision of Hülya Adak, with his project entitled **Queers of the Empire, Subjects of the Republic: Queer Historiography Policies in Turkey.**

The panel of the Ottoman and Turkey Special Issue prepared by R. Ertuğ Altınay and SU Gender Director Hülya Adak for *Comparative Drama*, a leading journal in the field of comparative drama, was held at Freie University on July 9<sup>th</sup> with the participation of all authors. According to Elizabeth Bradburn, the editor of the journal, this work is



considered as one of the most important English sources on Ottoman and Turkish theater and is promoted as one of the most original issues of *Comparative Drama*, which often focuses on European theatre. The special issue of *Performing Turkishness: Theater and Politics in Turkey and its Diasporas* also includes important articles on the gender critique of Ottoman and Turkish theatre.

During this period, Rüstem Ertuğ Altınay gave invited seminars and workshops at prestigious institutions such as the Freie University of Berlin, John Jay College, New York University, Williams College, and Sabancı University. He attended conferences and made presentations in Germany, the United States, the Czech Republic, and Turkey. His research has been awarded the David Keller Travel Grant from the American Society for Theater Research and the John Jay College visiting scholar fellowship, which he will use in the summer of 2020. Altınay's project, **Staging National Abjection: Theatre and Politics in Turkey and Its Diasporas**, was awarded a grant of approximately 1.5 million Euros by the European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant, one of the world's most respected grant programs for young researchers. Focusing on the role that theater plays in processes of national abjection, this research will explore how ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities use theater in Turkey and its diaspora when negotiating their politics of belonging. Starting in Spring 2020, this project will be carried out at Kadir Has University for a period of five years by a team of five people led by Altınay, and aims to be one of the most comprehensive studies on Turkish theater.

Hülya Adak organized many talks and conferences with SU Gender during her 2-year professorship at the Freie University of Berlin. One of the most significant of these was the conference **Legacies of World War I** held on July 4<sup>th</sup> at the Freie University of Berlin with the participation of many international speakers. Prof. Oliver Janz and Prof. Melanie Tanielian, who are experts on WWI, were also among the organizers. Papers presented at the conference were presented to Duke University Press.

## Education

We organized a workshop called **Gender and Education in a Local and Global Context – Turkish and Swedish Perspectives and Beyond** on April 25-27 with the collaboration of the University of Gothenburg and the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul and with the support of the Swedish Foundation for Humanitarian and Social Sciences. Shahrzad Mojab from the University of Toronto and Christopher Stroud from the University of Stockholm and the University of the Western Cape gave keynote speeches. In the workshop, we discussed the issue of gender and education in theoretical and applied contexts, and we had the opportunity to present the Purple Folder program to an international audience. Also in 2019, Zeynep Gülrü Göker was selected as one of the co-organizers for the European Educational Research Association's gender and education network.



## Ecology and climate

In 2019, we tried to gain knowledge about the ongoing research at the intersection of issues such as gender, ecology, and the climate emergency, and started collaborations with other research centers of Sabancı University working in these areas. As we decided in October to make this the main theme of **the March 8<sup>th</sup> events of 2020**, Kristen Biehl started to research academics and non-governmental organizations working at this intersection both in the international context and in Turkey. She also communicated with the Istanbul Policy Center to plan a joint event.

## Migration

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, together with GAR, we organized a workshop titled **Migration Studies in Turkey from a Gender Perspective**. Nearly 50 applications and 150 registered participants in response to the workshop call demonstrated that the interest in the subject was much higher than expected.

## TOPLUMSAL CİNSİYET, EKOLOJİ VE İKLİM ACİL DURUMU

### GENDER, ECOLOGY AND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY



Throughout 2019, Kristen Biehl has produced various publications about her research on migration in Turkey (please see the end of this section) and presented papers at many different conferences and events. She gave a presentation on migration, diversity, and the city in Istanbul at the panel titled **Urban Encounters: Everyday Experience of Diversity in the City**, organized by the Netherlands Research Institute on April 26<sup>th</sup>. She explained both Turkey's current migration policies and the executions of different community centers as a social policy at the conference named **"Je t'aime, ... moi non plus": Reframing migration and integration challenges in Greece and Europe** organized by the SYMBIOSIS - EC Jean Monnet Program in Thessaloniki on May 10-11. She gave two presentations analyzing the relationship between migration and housing from both social and spatial aspects, first in the workshop titled **"Lost and gained on the way: Placing 'transit' migration in Europe, Africa, and Asia"** organized by Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin on May 13-14, then at the IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion) Annual Conference held at Malmö

University on June 26-29. Finally, Biehl presented the paper titled "Turkey's 'Social Cohesion' Agenda: Governing Living Together in Contexts of Displacement" at the conference **Exploring the Dimensions of Refugee Inclusion: Social Structures, Institutions and Strategies** organized by the Istanbul Policy Center and the Dutch Embassy on November 28-29.

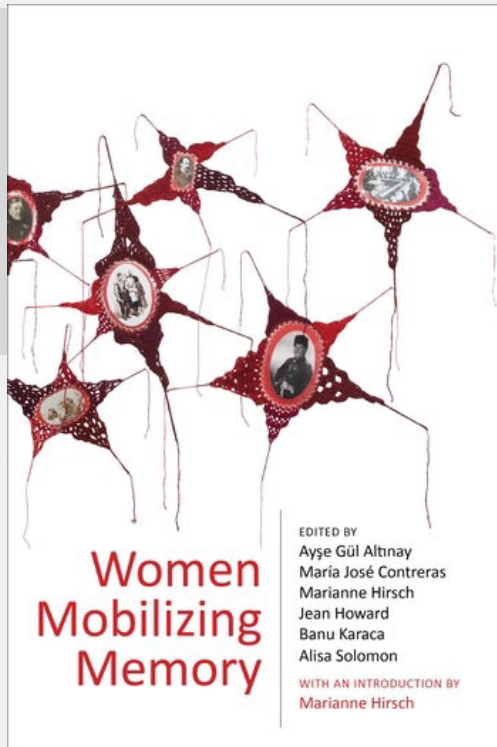
In 2019, SU Gender Members Aslı İkizoğlu and Ayşecan Terzioğlu also prepared publications. İkizoğlu examined the intersections of immigration and refugee status, and Terzioğlu analyzed the intersections of refugee status, health services, and gender.

### Memory

The edited book *Women Mobilizing Memory* (eds. Ayşe Gül Altınay, Maria Jose Contreras, Marianne Hirsch, Jean Howard, Banu Karaca, and Alisa Solomon) was published by Columbia University Press as part of the Columbia University-based working group Women Mobilizing Memory, of which we have been a part since 2013. In the article titled "Curious Steps: Mobilizing Memory Through Collective Walking and Storytelling," SU Gender member Ayşe Gül Altınay, together with Bürge Abiral, Dilara Çalışkan, and Armanç Yıldız, former staff and assistants of the center, discussed Curious Steps in the context of feminist memory studies and feminist knowledge production. An article by Hülya Adak on motherhood, women, and memory in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey was also published in the same book.

In 2019, we completed the oral history research we have been carrying out to strengthen the academic foundation of our project **Curious Steps: Gender and Memory Walks**. As part of the project, we conducted oral history interviews with 10 people and representatives of institutions in total. Our goal was to listen to and archive firsthand stories of living witnesses. These stories could not find a place in mainstream historical narratives and written sources, but are significant for an archive of urban history created from a gender perspective. These oral history interviews will be digitally stored at the Sabancı University Information Center's archive, open to the access of researchers and enthusiasts. At the same time, these interviews will be used to add new stories to the Curious Steps walks and to strengthen the content of existing stories.





Kristen Biehl and Curious Steps Coordinator Sema Semih put together a panel called **Re-Writing the City through Engaged Walking**, in which walking was discussed as a research practice, at the conference **We, the City: Plurality and Resistance in Berlin and Istanbul** organized between May 23-25 by Humboldt University, Blickwechsel Contemporary Turkey Studies Program.

The SU Gender team participated in the **Memory Sites, Memory Paths Towards Another Future Conference** organized by the Hrant Dink Foundation between March 22-23. Participants from many countries working with different methods in the field of memorialization gave talks at this event. While the first day of the conference finished with the panel titled "Life and Hope in Memory Sites" chaired by Ayşe Gül Altınay, the second day started with the panel "New Dimensions and Challenges in Memorialization" chaired by Hülya Adak. The conference created an opportunity for all participants to discuss the field extensively.

In addition, at the Summer School organized by Mnemonics: Network for Memory Studies at Utrecht University between September 18-20, Ayşe Gül Altınay gave a seminar with Prof. Dr. Marianne Hirsch and talked about the journey of the book *Women Mobilizing Memory*, published by Columbia University Press. She discussed the importance of the gender perspective for memory studies with examples from Curious Steps.

## Politics

Ayşe Gül Altınay gave a talk titled "Feminism as Transformative Politics" on February 26<sup>th</sup>, as part of the Swedish Research Institute's Spring Talks themed **Women's Voices**.

Zeynep Gülrü Göker presented her article titled "Memoir, Story, Negotiation: Memory Studies and Sisterhood in Digital Media" on November 8<sup>th</sup> as part of the Friday Gatherings in Feminist Space event series and on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the panel titled **In Memory of Duygu Asena: Women's Life Stories, Feminist Pedagogy, and Politics** moderated by Meral Özbek at the Women's Library and Information Center.

## Gender Equality Mechanisms

In 2018, we had combined our ongoing and newly launched work on gender equality mechanisms under the name of the **Gender Equality Program (GEP)**. Our work on gender equality in higher education continued under this program this year. The report *Gender Equality Mechanisms in Higher Education Institutions in Turkey: A Primary Evaluation Study* that we completed with the cooperation of SU Gender and Research Worldwide Istanbul and with the support of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute was published in April as the first publication of GEP. The report, in which Zeynep Gülrü Göker and Aslı Polatdemir analyzed the efforts to achieve gender equality in eight universities within the framework of expert opinions, also includes an evaluation of Sabancı University written by Ayşe Gül Altınay. Zeynep Gülrü Göker presented the results of the research together with Aslı Polatdemir on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Turcology Department of the Freie University of Berlin. As part of this trip, she also met with representatives of the North Westphalia Gender and Women's Studies Network (Netzwerk Frauen- und



## 2019 Publications of SU Gender members and researchers

### Aslı İkizoğlu

"Bir Geçiş Şehrinde Gitmeyi Beklemek: Zamanla Yönetilmek, Zamana Direnmek." [Waiting to Leave in a Transition Town: Being Governed through Time, Resisting Time] *Beklerken: Zamanın Bilgisi ve Öznenin Dönüşümü*, Ö. Biner and Z.Ö. Biner (Eds.), İletişim Yayınları, 2019.

*Beyond.Istanbul, Mekanda Adalet ve Mültecilik* (Spatial Justice and Refugees) Special Issue, Aslı İkizoğlu Erensu and Yunus Doğan Telli (Eds.). Center for Spatial Justice, December 2019.

### Ayşecan Terzioğlu

*Türkiye'de Cinsiyet Kültürleri: Dicle Koçacıoğlu Kitabı*. Cenk Özbay, Ayşecan Terzioğlu (Eds.), İstanbul: İletişim Yayınları, 2019.

"Hastalıkta ve Sağlıkta Mülteci Olmak: Türkiye'deki Suriyelilerin Sağlık Erişiminde Yaşadığı Sorunlar." [Being a Refugee in Health and Illness: Problems Syrians in Turkey Face in Access to Health Care] *Beyond.Istanbul: Mekanda Adalet ve Mültecilik*, Aslı İkizoğlu Erensu and Yunus Doğan Telli (Eds.). Center for Spatial Justice, Aralık 2019.

Book Review, [Healing from Hate: How Young Men Get into-and Get out of Violent Extremism by Michael], *Masculinities Journal*, Fall 2019, 12, 155-160.

### Ayşe Gül Altınay

*Women Mobilizing Memory*. Ayşe Gül Altınay, Maria Jose Contreras, Jean Howard, Marianne Hirsch, Banu Karaca and Alisa Solomon (Der.). New York: Columbia University Press.

"Curious Steps: Mobilizing Memory through Collective Walking and Storytelling in Istanbul" (with Bürge Abiral, Dilara Çalışkan and Armanç Yıldız), In *Women Mobilizing Memory*. Ayşe Gül Altınay, Maria Jose Contreras, Jean Howard, Marianne Hirsch, Banu Karaca ve Alisa Solomon (Eds.). New York: Columbia University Press, 84-104. 2019.

"Undoing Academic Cultures of Militarism: Turkey and Beyond" *Current Anthropology*, 60 (S.19): 15-25.

Geschlechterforschung NRW) and the Freie University of Berlin (FU) Margherita-von-Brentano Center for Gender Studies.

The **Gender Equality Actions in Research Institutions to transform Gender Roles** - GEARING-Roles started in the first month of 2019 with its project team consisting of Ayşe Gül Altınay, Zeynep Gülrü Göker, and İlayda Ece Ova. Within the scope of the project, the current situation and the needs regarding gender equality at Sabancı University were investigated. You can find detailed information about the project in the Gender Equality Program section.

SU Gender coordinator Begüm Acar visited the University of Groningen in the Netherlands between September 2-8 as part of the Erasmus+ Programme. She organized a workshop with the participation of doctoral students and researchers working under the SCOOP Program, which aims at interdisciplinary research in social sciences. She talked about the struggle for gender equality in Turkey and the efforts of SU Gender to build a bridge between academia and civil society. After the discussion, deliberations were held on possible future collaborations.



### Hülya Adak

"Müfide Ferit Tek's Aydemir meets Neşide K. Demir or how women in mourning impede gendered memories of a genocidal past." Ayşe Gül Altınay, Marianne Hirsch, Jean Howard, Banu Karaca et al. (Eds.) in *Women Mobilizing Memory*. Columbia University Press, 2019.

"Performing Turkishness: Theater and Politics in Turkey and its Diasporas." (co-authored with R. E. Altınay). Special Issue of *Comparative Drama*. 2018.

"Unsettling the Canon of the Theater of the Absurd." In *Comparative Drama: Performing Turkishness Special Issue*. 52(3), 275-299, 2018.

### Kristen Biehl

*Urban Community Centers in Turkey: Understanding the Diversity of Community Centers*. Istanbul: Istanbul Policy Center.

*Türkiye'de Toplum Merkezleri: Güncel Uygulamaların Çeşitliliğini Anlamak* [Community Centers in Turkey: Understanding the Diversity of Contemporary Practices]. Istanbul: Istanbul Policy Center.

"Kent Mülteciliği, Topluma-Dayalı Koruma ve Toplum Merkezleri." [Urban Refugees, Community-Based Protection

and Community Centers] *Beyond Istanbul: Mekanda Adalet ve Mültecilik*, Aslı İkizoğlu Erensu and Yunus Doğan Telliel (Eds.). Mekanda Adalet Derneği, December 2019.

*Changing Parameters of Migration Cooperation: Beyond the EU-Turkey Deal?* (Co-authored with Senem Aydın-Düzgüt and Fuat Keyman) Istanbul: Istanbul Policy Center.

### Zeynep Gülru Göker

"Memories, Stories and Deliberation: Digital Sisterhood on Feminist Websites in Turkey". *European Journal of Women's Studies* 26(3), 313-328, 2019.

"Akademide Kadınlar ve Toplumsal Cinsiyet Eşitliği" (Women in Academia and Gender Equality), TESEV, 2019. [http://teseiv.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Gulru.Goker\\_ENG\\_.pdf](http://teseiv.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Gulru.Goker_ENG_.pdf)

Goker, Z.G. ve A. Polatdemir (2019) "Türkiye'de Yükseköğretimde Toplumsal Cinsiyet Eşitliği Mekanizmaları: Bir Temel Değerlendirme Çalışması" (Gender Equality Mechanisms in Turkey's Higher Education: A Baseline Assessment), SU Gender and Research Worldwide Istanbul, Istanbul 2019:

[https://sugender.sabanciuniv.edu/sites/sugender.sabanciuniv.edu/files/2021-09/univ\\_toplumsal\\_cinsiyet\\_raporu\\_30nisan\\_0.pdf](https://sugender.sabanciuniv.edu/sites/sugender.sabanciuniv.edu/files/2021-09/univ_toplumsal_cinsiyet_raporu_30nisan_0.pdf)

# AWARDS

## Dicle Koğacioğlu Article Award and Conference

We have left behind the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the article award that we organize every year with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in memory of sociologist Dicle Koğacioğlu. Seda Kalem, scholar and a colleague of Dicle Koğacioğlu, gave the opening speech of the conference we held at Minerva Palace on December 21<sup>st</sup>. She said: "I first became a student of Dicle. Then I became her colleague and friend, but I always remained her student. I continued to learn from her." In the rest of the program, Nurcan Özkaplan facilitated the session where the authors of awarded articles presented their papers. In the second session, after the video "About Dicle" was screened, the participants shared their feelings and thoughts with each other. In the last session, where Hülya Adak gave the closing speech, the 2019 awards were presented to the recipients where two articles shared the third prize this year.

**Gender Cultures in Turkey: Dicle Koğacioğlu Book**, edited by Sabancı University FASS faculty members and SU Gender members Ayşecan Terzioğlu and Cenk Özbay, published in June by İletişim, contains the selected works of researchers who participated in the Dicle Koğacioğlu Article Award since 2010 or of those who contributed by making presentations at the conference. The book tackles concepts such as sociology of law, gender studies, inequality, and discrimination that were prominent in Dicle Koğacioğlu's works. It is divided into three sections: cities and spaces, languages and subjectivities, masculinities and sexualities. The book makes us very happy and shows the importance of the solidarity fostered around this article award. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the publication as well as to Dicle's family, colleagues, friends, and students.



## X. Dicle Koğacioğlu Article Awards (2019)

1. **Rabia Demirci**, "Spatial Experience of Young Women Between Possibility and Limitation: The Case of Kağıthane"
  2. **Deniz Nihan Aktan**, "Politics of Sexuality in the Soccer Field"
  3. **Güley Bor ve İpek Bozkurt**, "Defending Ethics: A Feminist Critique of Defense Practices of Defendants in Cases of Violence Against Women"
- Gizem Sivri**, "Being a Woman in Prison: Women's Culpability and Imprisonment in the Ottoman Empire (1840-1919)"







## Şirin Tekeli Research Award and Conference

The Şirin Tekeli Research Award was initiated by SU Gender in memory of Şirin Tekeli, whom we lost in 2017, with the support of the Consulate General of Sweden in Istanbul. The award was given for the third time this year. At the conference we held at the Minerva Palace on December 7<sup>th</sup>, the researchers who received the award last year presented the outputs of the studies they have been carrying out for a year, and this year's award-winning researchers were announced. The selection committee this year consisted of Ayşe Öncü, Deniz Kandiyoti, Sibel Irzık, Yeşim Arat, and Fatmagül Berktaş. Within the scope of the 2019 Şirin Tekeli Research Award, two studies received research awards and five studies were deemed worthy of encouragement awards. The researchers were presented with their awards at the ceremony following the conference.

### III. Şirin Tekeli Research Award Results (2019)

#### Research Award

**Sezen Bayhan ve Canan Aratemur Çimen**, "Evolution of Gendered-Militarized National Identity Construction in Curriculum and Textbooks"

**Zeynep Selen Artan-Bayhan**, "The 'Other' Women of *Darülbeydi*: Theater and Social Memory from the Ottoman Empire to the Republic"

#### Research Encouragement Award

**Burcu Nur Binbuğa-Kınık**, "Women's Anti-Mining Struggle from an Ecofeminist Perspective"

**Derya Acuner**, "Memory Recorded with a Needle and Thread: Looking at the History of Turkey from the Fabric Works of Turkish Women Artists (1980-2019)"

**Pınar Karababa**, "Intersecting and Transforming Forms of Women's Labor: Examples of Weaving Silk Carpet and *Kutnu*"

**Merve Koç**, "Experiences of Masculinity in the Normative Body: Hegemonic Masculinity Discourse and Dwarf Men"

**Özlem Ezer**, "Living Religions and Beliefs' in Syrian Women Refugee Narratives as Renewed Bridges"



# CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND PANELS

## Gender, Education, and Migration

The two international workshops we organized this year focused on education and migration, which are among our core areas of study. We co-hosted the workshop **Gender and Education in the Local and Global Context**, held in April, within the scope of a program enriched by our work in the field of education nourished by the experience of the Purple Certificate Program for 13 years and the collaborations we have established in the international arena. At the conference titled **Migration Studies in Turkey from Gender Perspective**, organized in May, many researchers from different provinces in Turkey working on the subject had the opportunity to come together and hold fruitful discussions. We also aim to turn this discussion platform into a publication to reach a wider audience.

We organized the workshop **Gender and Education in a Local and Global Context – Turkish and Swedish Perspectives and Beyond** in Istanbul between April 25-27 with the cooperation of Gothenburg University and Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul and with the support of the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences. Nearly 40 speakers from South Africa,



Croatia, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Turkey, and many other countries presented their research in the field of gender and education. The first two days were closed sessions. In the panel open to everyone on the last day of the workshop, Shahrzad Mojab from the University of Toronto presented the keynote speech titled "Disrupted Lives and Interrupted Learning as Women/Girls Migrate," and Christopher Stroud from Stockholm University and Western Cape University presented the keynote speech titled "Language and Pluralities: Building New Futures." Also in this panel, Ceyda Karadaş and Emirhan Deniz Çelebi introduced the Purple Folder to the audience.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we hosted the **Migration Studies in Turkey from Gender Perspective** workshop in cooperation with GAR in order to listen to and relate to each other different kinds of



research conducted in the field of migration and gender in Turkey, to provide a platform to discuss the needs and priorities of this field as a research agenda, and to improve its impact on public awareness. Following the opening speeches by Kristen Biehl from SU Gender and Didem Daniş from GAR, the panels continued with presentations under the headings of "Reception and Experiences" and "Institutions and Discourses." A total of twelve papers were presented under the headings of one report and four sessions. The workshop attracted great attention from researchers working both in different cities of Turkey and abroad. Presentations focused on topics such as gender, migration and working life, satellite cities, relations between refugee women and local women, marriage migration, deportation, interaction, and socialization processes, LGBTI+ refugees, international protection, empowerment studies, media, and women's labor. Over a hundred participants who followed the workshop contributed to the discussions following the presentations. There are plans to publish the works presented in the workshop in the coming days in partnership with GAR and SU Gender. You can follow our website to reach the broadcast.



## Status of Gender Studies in Turkey and the World

Issues such as research and discussion agendas in the field of gender studies, approaches in research institutions and developments in the world, and equality mechanisms in higher education institutions are among the topics we have focused on within the scope of the programs we have carried out recently. In this context, we hosted Andrea Pető from Central European University on the Tuzla campus on March 11th. In her talk titled **The Future of Gender Research in the EU**, Pető talked about the anti-gender discourse recently rising in Europe and its reflections, and the funding opportunities that can be applied for gender-focused studies in research institutions in Europe.





We had the opportunity to discuss gender studies in Turkey and the relationship between academia and activism, at the events organized for **Gender Cultures in Turkey: Dicle Koğacioğlu Book** edited by Ayşecan Terzioğlu and Cenk Özbay. The book consists of selected works from researchers who participated in the Dicle Koğacioğlu Article Award. As Hülya Adak shared opening remarks at the event we held at Minerva Palace on October 5<sup>th</sup>, Ayşecan Terzioğlu gave information about the book and facilitated the discussion. In this event, where the contributors of the award came together, authors Leyla Bektaş Ata, Pınar Karababa, Mehtap Tosun, Pınar Ensari, Özlem Ezer, Fethiye Beşir, and Adalet Budak took the floor

and shared their own articles and stories that intersect with Dicle Koğacioğlu in the context of gender studies. Another meeting on the occasion of the book was held on December 12<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the METU Sociology Department. Book editors Cenk Özbay and Ayşecan Terzioğlu spoke at the event, facilitated by Ayşe Saktanber, Department Chair. Özbay mentioned the general trends in gender-oriented activism and academic studies from the last period of the Ottoman Empire to the present and related the articles in the book to these trends. Terzioğlu pointed out the parallels between the articles in the book and these common features by emphasizing the common academic features of Dicle Koğacioğlu's work. After talking about the articles of Leyla Bektaş-Ata and Dilara Çalışkan, who are among the authors of the book, we had the opportunity to discuss the book in-depth in the question-answer session.



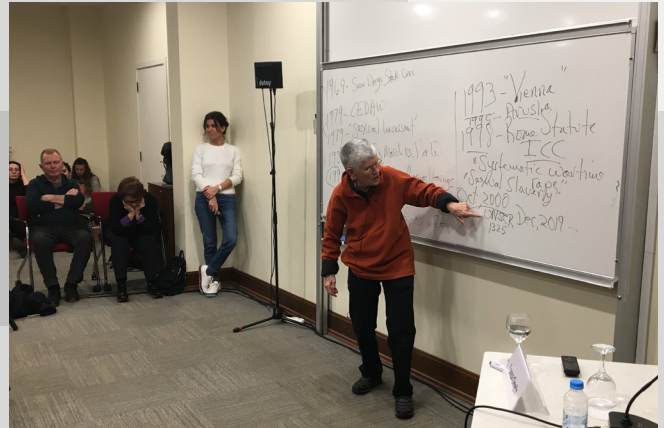
In another event organized in December in Istanbul, we hosted our International Advisory Board member Cynthia Enloe, a feminist writer, theorist, and professor from Clark University. We organized a talk, which took place on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Tuzla campus, with FASS as part of the **Cultural Studies and Gender Studies Speaker Series**. The seminar titled "**A Feminist Journey into Academia: Keeping Your Job While Keeping Your Soul**" was attended

by nearly 50 people. In her talk, Enloe discussed the differences between having a career in gender studies and careerism. After stating that careerism leads to results such as self-censorship, decrease in solidarity, competition, and isolation, Enloe facilitated a discussion in which we talked about the sexist obstacles and problems we encounter in work life, and possible areas of resistance that could be created in the context of feminist approaches. Enloe also touched upon the importance of overcoming the difficulties that may stand in the way of maintaining one's coherence and integrity in a gender studies career.

## Memory, Storytelling and Feminist Solidarity

As you can see in the March 8<sup>th</sup> Events and Research sections, feminist storytelling and memory studies have once again had a significant place in our work this year. In the event titled **Walking the City Together: Feminist Pedagogies** organized on March 9<sup>th</sup>, we discussed feminist memory studies and walking as a method, by hearing the practitioners of feminist walks in cities such as Lisbon, Budapest, and Bochum in Europe. In the panel titled **Women Carrying Memory: Stateless Figures** organized in partnership with Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, Hrant Dink Foundation, and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Istanbul on March 21<sup>st</sup>, we hosted Marianne Hirsch, who is the Director of the Center for the Study of Social Difference at Columbia University. Commenting on the changes and fragility of exile and statelessness in the works of feminist diaspora artists Mirta Kupferminc and Wangechi Muthu, Hirsch touched upon the issues of memory, art, identity, and the body. Following her talk, the discussion session was facilitated by Ayşe Gül Altınay. Aylin Vartanyan from Boğaziçi University talked about gender and memory studies based on walking together in the city and digital storytelling, where she uses expressionist art methods. In the question-and-answer session, we discussed the topics of gender, memory, art, body, identity, and borders with the contribution of the participants.

Cynthia Enloe, whom we hosted in Istanbul in December, gave her second seminar on December 13<sup>th</sup>, reminding us of the memory of the international feminist movement. Yonca Cingöz, from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, facilitated the talk titled **"Is #Metoo a National Security Issue?"**

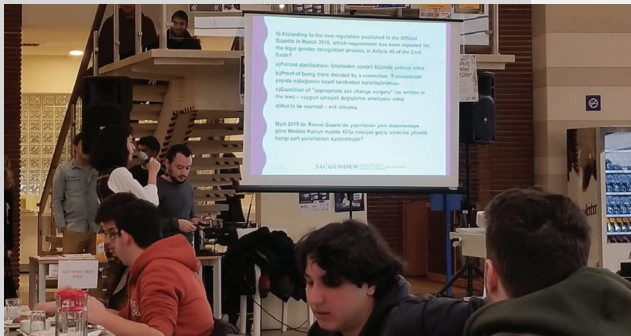


**Feminist Clues**", which we organized with Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Women's Studies Application and Research Center at Minerva Palace. In her talk, Enloe summarized the nearly 50-year process leading up to the #MeToo movement in the history of the international feminist movement's struggle to achieve women's current rights, and discussed how women reached the current legal regulations regarding sexual harassment by focusing on different periods and significant achievements. She reminded the audience of important milestones such as the establishment of the first women's studies program in the USA, the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the conceptualization of sexual harassment, the struggle of African American women in the Senate, the intervention of feminists from different countries in the World Conference on Human Rights, and the recognition of rape as a war crime. Enloe also referred to the protest organized by feminists in Istanbul in Yoğurtçu Park in 1987 as part of the Campaign Against Battering. With more than two hundred participants, the talk continued with a discussion in the question-answer session. You can reach the live broadcast on our Facebook page.

# MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> EVENTS



We organize around a different theme every year on the occasion of March 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day. This year's theme was **Gender, City, Space**. Within the scope of this program, we organized events such as panels, film screenings, workshops, and city walks. In addition, we spread the March 8<sup>th</sup> messages on campus and on social media, which were shared with us by Sabancı University faculty, staff, and students. Our joint March 8<sup>th</sup> message has been determined to be "Unique.Equal.Free." this year, and we visualized this message by translating it into over 30 different languages.



## Safe Spaces on Campus

Our first event was held on March 6<sup>th</sup> under the name Safe Spaces on Campus. As is the case every year, we organized a **Feminist Trivia** at the Sabancı University campus this year as well. Both employees and students participated in the contest, which included information on the history of the struggle of women and LGBTI+s in 10 questions. The event lasted about an hour; answers were evaluated, and the correct answers were discussed together. The contest was broadcast on poltio.com on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Then, we discussed safe spaces on campus by organizing the screening of the documentary "Age of Outrage," by National Geographic, in memory of Çankaya University Law Faculty Research Assistant Ceren Damar, who was killed by her student on campus.



## Walking the City Together: Feminist Pedagogies

On the morning of March 9<sup>th</sup>, we set off on foot in Kadıköy with the practitioners and other volunteer participants of feminist walks in Europe, the sister walks that inspired the Curious Steps. Then, we held our panel titled **Walking the City Together: Feminist Pedagogies**. The first session was facilitated by Ayşe Gül Altınay. Andrea Petö from Budapest, Margarida Queiros and Alexandra Luis from Lisbon, and Linda Unger from Bochum, all of whom



organized feminist walks in their cities, talked about what it means to use the method of walking together in the city as they practice it. The second session, facilitated by Sema Semih, focused on the walks in Istanbul. Aylin Vartanyan, Nazlı Tümerdem, Hazal Özkalkan, and Serkan Taycan made presentations on how they used the method of walking the city together in their work. In the last session facilitated by Kristen Biehl, participants evaluated the day together.



## Gender and the City

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with Başka Bir Atölye (Another Workshop), we organized the event **Gender of Space: A Workshop in Minerva**, addressing the current spatial arrangement of Minerva Palace, the campus where Sabancı University initiated its activities in 1998, from a gender perspective. In the workshop, we examined the relationship between gender and space through Minerva Palace, accompanied by Gül Köksal, Burak Acıl, Emre Özyetiş, and Pelin Kaydan. The same afternoon, Aslı İkizoğlu facilitated the panel **Gender and the City** where Ceren Lordoğlu, Selda Tuncer, İclal Ayşe Küçükırcı, and Burcu Hatiboğlu shared their research on gender and the city. We then discussed the subject with the contribution of the participants.



## Marianne Hirsch: "Women Carrying Memory: Stateless Figures"

The last event of March took place on the evening of March 21<sup>st</sup> at Studio-X. In the panel titled **Women Carrying Memory: Stateless Figures** organized by the partnership of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, Hrant Dink Foundation, and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Marianne Hirsch talked about the spaces of statelessness, borders, and emancipation through her own story. After the talk, a discussion session was held with the participation of Aylin Vartanyan and Ayşe Gül Altınay, and with the contribution of the participants, around the topics of gender, memory, art, body, identity, and borders.

# CAMPUS EVENTS



## SU Gender Advisory Board convened

This year in May, we held the annual meeting of the 21-person SU Gender Advisory Board, which includes academics, businesspeople, civil society representatives, and artists from universities in Turkey and beyond. In addition to sharing the work carried out by the center last year and the project and research agenda for next year, the members of the Advisory Board shared their comments and suggestions for cooperation.

## Sabancı University Undergraduate Orientation Days

As SU Gender, we organized workshops to raise gender awareness within the scope of Sabancı University Undergraduate Orientation Days held between September 11-13. The program aims to introduce new students to the university and the studies carried out by SU Gender. We had the opportunity to discuss the concepts of gender with



approximately 50 students in the workshops we organized in Turkish and English. Additionally, we shared our programs with the students we met at the SU Gender booth and engaged in conversations regarding the projects they could be involved in.

## CAT Talks talk series has begun

In 2019, we launched the **CAT Talks Series**, a set of events focused on gender identity, in collaboration with Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies Research Center. We held seminars, film screenings, and conversations in which we approached sexual orientation and gender identity from different angles in four events we organized on the campuses of Sabancı University and Kadir Has University. The activities, in which the students showed great interest, were enriched by the discussions in the question-answer sessions. We reached more than 250 students with the five speeches and three film screening events we organized in total.





## Project Courses

As SU Gender, we provided consultancy for two courses within the scope of Project 201 courses that ran in 2018-2019 Spring and 2019-2020 Fall semesters. In the project titled "Gender Equality Podcasts on Campus," students recorded podcasts aimed at peer sharing to raise awareness on gender equality on campus. Podcast recordings prepared with the support of RadyoSU will be available on the radio's Spotify channel. In the second project on inclusive restrooms, a study was conducted on the opinions of 100 participants at Sabancı University about genderless restrooms, while evaluating the current debates in the context of gender identity from Turkey and around the world.

## Inclusive Education Seminar with Gender Focus

SU Gender Education Coordinator Emirhan Deniz Çelebi gave an inclusive education seminar with gender focus to student assistants between December 18-19 as part of the US Consulate project carried out by the Sabancı University Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences. In the seminar, fundamental concepts around gender were discussed. The definition of the inclusive classroom was discussed from a gender perspective, and suggestions were shared concerning what the assistants could do in their classrooms. The works of SU Gender were also mentioned in this seminar, which was conducted for Sabancı University Tuzla Campus to become a safer space.

# GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAM

In 2019, we continued to organize research, training, and implementation events within the scope of the **Gender Equality Program (GEP)**, which we started in 2018 in order to mainstream gender equality and develop gender equality mechanisms per the needs of institutions. Within the scope of this program, we carry out studies for the adoption, establishment, and implementation of institutional equality mechanisms in various institutions, ranging from universities to research institutions, from non-governmental organizations to companies. These studies aim to transform our own institution together with other institutions through the trainings and workshops we organize.

Within the scope of this program, we continue to cooperate with other universities and research institutions. We have been a part of the Working Group on Cooperation, Support, and Communication Against Sexual Harassment and Assault since it was established. The Group meets twice a year and provides experience sharing and communication for the establishment of mechanisms for the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual attacks in universities. This year, we attended the workshops hosted by Boğaziçi University on May 24<sup>th</sup> and Atılım University on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and met with representatives from different universities. After the murder of scholar Ceren Damar by a student at Çankaya University, the creation of safe spaces on campuses and the question of what can be done to struggle against gender-based discrimination and violence have been substantial parts of our agenda. We participated in the closing events of the SAGE project organized by Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies Center, which implements an important model to enable gender equality in universities. In addition, the report "Gender Equality Mechanisms in Higher Education Institutions in Turkey: A Primary Evaluation Study" was published in April. We completed the report in collaboration with Research Worldwide Istanbul and with the support of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. The report is also the first publication of the SU Gender Equality Program. You can find detailed information about the research in the Research section, and you can access the report on [our website](#).



At Sabancı University, we started to work on raising awareness on gender issues with the center assistants and volunteer students through the commission we formed within the scope of the Gender Equality Program. As a result of these efforts, from next year onwards, we will start organizing open campus forums that aim to vary gender discussions and involve more students in our work. Our activities for the university staff continue as well. In the seminar **How Many Colors Are There in the Rainbow?**, organized in cooperation with the Human Resources Unit, we discussed how our perceptions of gender are shaped and why these studies have an important role within the university.

## Institutional equality mechanisms at the university

As of this year, we have added a new one to the efforts of Sabancı University to establish gender equality mechanisms at the university. As of January 2019, we launched the project **GEARING-Gender Equality Actions in Research Institutions to TraNsform Gender Roles**, which is placed under the title of Science with and for Society of the European Union Horizon 2020 Program. This multinational project will last for four years. Held between 17-18 January in Bilbao, Spain, the introductory meeting was hosted by DEUSTO University as the project coordinator. The official opening of the project was open to the public; Ayşe Gül Altınay and Zeynep Gülrü Göker, the executives of the project at Sabancı University, attended the meeting.



We held the publicity and kick-off meeting of the GEARING-Roles project at Sabancı University on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Speakers and participants from various departments of the university took part in this meeting. We brought up the issue of the support of women in the fields of STEAM, which is one of the main goals of the project. Sabancı University Rector Yusuf Leblebici and Former Vice President and Vice President Zehra Sayers, winner of the 2018 AAAS Award for Science Diplomacy and 2017 Rammal Award, delivered the opening speeches. Leblebici talked about the importance of believing in women working in STEAM fields and opening their way in this field and shared what role his mother, who is also a scientist, played in his career. Sayers talked about her work in Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East, which we are more familiar with after her win of the Rammal Award in 2017 and the AAAS Award for Science Diplomacy in 2018. The following roundtable discussion was moderated by the Academic Support Program Coordinator Emine Süphan Bakkal. Berrin Yanıkoğlu (Director of the Data Analytics Research and Application Center), Canan Atılğan (Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Faculty Member), Fazilet Vardar Sukan (Director of the Nanotechnology Research and Application Center), and Şirin Tekinay (Chair of Global Engineering Deans Council and Former Vice President of Sabancı University) shared their experiences of working and holding managerial positions in STEAM fields.

The meetings of the GEARING-Roles project hosted by other project partners continued throughout the year. As partner institutions, Deusto University, Trilateral Research, Yellow Window, Estonian Research Council, Lisbon University IGOT, University of Ljubljana, Radboud University Nijmegen, FECYT, and Sabancı University gathered at Oxford Brookes University between June 20-22. During this two-day training and networking, attended by Zeynep Gülrü Göker, Ayşe Gül Altınay, and İlayda Ece Ova, we used



participatory methods to discuss the practices for the development and implementation of the corporate Gender Equality Action Plan, which will be created within the framework of the project. We had the opportunity to apply the participatory methods we experienced there to the Participatory Gender Workshops we organized in our own institution on October 30<sup>th</sup>. In these workshops, we discussed the gender-based problems at Sabancı University and the institutional mechanisms that can be developed to solve them.

As of the end of October, we completed the institutional analysis research that we carried out with the support of all units of the university throughout 2019. We presented the report from this research at the first annual conference of the project, hosted by the University of Lisbon between November 27-30.

# PURPLE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Purple Certificate Program that has opened a space in classrooms to talk about gender equality, with the support of Sabancı Foundation since 2007, continues this year as well with the goal of "developing through focus." In addition to meeting with teachers via the **Purple Certificate Gender Equality Program for Teachers**, which we organized once again three years later, and with teacher candidates from all over the country via **Young Purple Certificate Mardin**, we resume raising our voice on gender with educators through awareness trainings, **Purple Folder**, and the **Gender Equality Training for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**.

## Gender awareness training for NGOs

As SU Gender, we hosted the Purple Certificate Program Gender Awareness Training for Non-Governmental Organizations on January 10-13. 24 NGOs participated in the program, which was held with 25 participants from Ankara, Antalya, Bursa, Denizli, Eskişehir, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kayseri, Konya, Mardin, Mersin, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon, and Zonguldak provinces. The program aimed at introducing civil society representatives to fundamental concepts around gender, bringing together scholars and experts in the field, and providing information on gender-based studies. We held presentations and workshops under the titles of "Discrimination," "How We Organize," "Introduction to Gender," "Women's Movement," "LGBTI+ Movement," "Politics and Representation," "Gender-Based Discrimination," "Local Authorities," "Violence Against Women," "Awareness of What?," "Gender and Migration," "International Practices". Within the scope of the program, we also organized the Curious Steps Balat Walk, which focused on the hidden and forgotten stories of the city from the eyes of the youth and explored the gendered layers of Istanbul.

Our second NGO training took place in October 2019. 20 NGO representatives from Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Istanbul, Izmir, Mardin, Mersin, Tunceli, Zonguldak, and Adana participated in the four-day program. Presentations and workshops were conducted under the headings of "Discrimination," "Politics and Representation," "Fundamental Concepts of Gender," "Politics," "Law," "Women's Movement," "LGBTI+ Movement," "Gender-Based Discrimination," "Gender and Migration," and "Violence." Additionally, we organized the Curious Steps Kadıköy Walk, which aimed at delineating the gender route of Istanbul through walking.







## Purple Certificate Program City Meetings

We were in Edirne on March 4<sup>th</sup> and in Van on March 20<sup>th</sup> as part of the **Purple Certificate Program Graduate Teachers Meetings**. Besides sharing information about the Purple Certificate Program in Edirne, we screened the documentary *The Story of a Decade* and listened to the presentations of the participants of the Purple Certificate Gender Equality Program for Non-Governmental Organizations, Teacher Training, and Young Purple Certificate Program. Together with 25 participants, we introduced the Purple Folder to the students of Trakya University Education Faculty and Trakya University Gender and Women's Studies Department.

On May 12-13, we held the first follow-up meeting of the *Gender Equality Certificate Program for Non-Governmental Organizations* in Hatay. We met with the Hatay Association of Business and Professional Women. We visited the Hatay Ali Ismail Korkmaz Foundation, introduced the Purple Certificate Program, and delivered the Purple Folder to their library. After our visit to the Hatay Purple Association for Women's Solidarity, the members of the association contacted us requesting the Purple Folder. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we organized a workshop in Mersin in cooperation with the Muamma LGBTI+ Association to bring together non-governmental organizations in the region. We held two sessions in the workshop with the participation of a total of 50 people including non-governmental organization employees, volunteers, and teachers. We both introduced

the Purple Folder and talked about what participating NGOs could do together.

In September, we organized a workshop for 20 people at the Sakıp Sabancı Mardin City Museum, bringing together teachers with the employees and volunteers of non-governmental organizations in the region. We introduced the Purple Folders, talked about the problems encountered in the field of gender in Mardin, and contemplated on ways to solve them. On September 28-29, we met with teachers from the fields of Physical Education, English, and Literature, who will work on the new Purple Folders in Ankara in the coming term. After the sessions on the fundamental concepts of gender and discrimination, we held a workshop with 15 teachers on developing gender-sensitive material.

We completed our city visits with the sessions we held on October 18<sup>th</sup> at the summit organized as part of the Sisters and Brothers of Turkey Project, upon the invitation of the AFS Volunteers Association. We held two workshops in Eskişehir, with 20 teachers from different branches and ranks coming from various parts of Turkey, on the fundamental concepts of gender and material production within the scope of the Purple Certificate Program. In this meeting, we first worked together on and discussed the fundamental concepts of gender. Then we put what we learned into practice with the workshop on gender-sensitive material production.



## The Purple Certificate Summer School was in Istanbul after 3 years

We organized the **Purple Certificate Gender Equality Program for Teachers**, which forms the basis of the program, between July 29<sup>th</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sabancı University Tuzla campus and Minerva Palace, after a 3-year hiatus. At the end of the six-day training, in which scholars and experts from different fields ranging from sociology to psychology, from law to natural sciences, from literature to design contributed with presentations, discussions, and workshops, 47 high school teachers from 27 different cities received their certificates. Teachers who participated in the program had the opportunity to hold discussions and work together. Participants of the Purple Certificate Summer School Program continue to come together via webinars throughout the year and share their ideas.

The Purple Certificate Program started its webinar series with a meeting named **Purple Folder Teams and Purple Folder Users Meet** held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Webinars will continue in 2020 with the following titles: The Purple Certificate from Summer to Winter, We Talk about Best Practices in Our Classrooms, What Best Practices Do We Know in the Field of Education?, Best Practices from Institutions, Chat Sessions with Institution Representatives.



## Purple Folder Studies and Awareness Trainings

We continue our Purple Folder events with our teachers, teacher candidates, and experts in 2019 as well. This year, unlike previous years, we held awareness trainings on the fundamental concepts of gender and discrimination with our teachers before we started the new term of our Purple Folder studies, where we developed materials that are sensitive to gender equality in line with the high school curriculum. We came together in Istanbul with the STEAM and Literature team teachers on August 31-September 1,

and with the teachers of the Psychological Counseling and Guidance and Social Sciences team on September 14-15, and in Ankara with the teachers of the Physical Education and English team on September 28-29. After the sessions on the fundamental concepts of gender and discrimination, we talked about material development processes and held a workshop on gender-sensitive material development.

Thanks to these trainings, the teachers who were in the team in previous periods had the opportunity to refresh their knowledge and work with novel creative methods in material development. Teachers who have just joined the teams have gained new ideas about material development processes after fundamental gender awareness training. Along with the trainings, we had the chance to listen to the experiences of the teachers and talk about what kind of problems exist in schools regarding gender equality and what kind of solutions we could generate.

The third year of the Purple Folder studies, which brings together middle school and high school teachers and experts from all fields, started with the **Purple Folder Opening Meeting** at Cezayir, Istanbul, on October 19<sup>th</sup>. We met with 20 experts and teachers from the fields of Literature, English, Psychological Counseling and Guidance, Social Sciences, and STEAM. After all the groups met each other, we examined the Purple Folder materials prepared in the past, drew inspiration from them, and discussed what we could improve. After reviewing the previous Purple Folders, we worked for the new term on course material that is sensitive to gender equality and that will support high school teachers in making mainstream the issue of gender.

## Which Events Did We Attend?

### Gender and Education in Local and Global Context Conference

The conference, open to public, took place on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at Karaköy Minerva Palace. First, Purple Certificate Program Coordinator Ceyda Karadaş and SU Gender Education Coordinator Emirhan Deniz Çelebi presented "The Purple Folder: Gender Awareness Toolkits for High School Teachers in Turkey." We stated that the Purple Certificate Program started as a training program for teachers, shaped by the needs of a small group in the field and by feedback from teachers; that it developed over time and became a model



for the development of gender-sensitive education toolkits. We introduced the Purple Folder toolkit as well. Noting that the Purple Certificate Program has completed its twelfth year and has reached 3500 teachers and 120 students at the Faculty of Education through its training seminars, we reported that work on gender equality continues at different levels of the education system.

### Purple Certificate at the Teacher Network Summer Meeting

We attended the Teacher Network Summer Meeting held at Özyeğin University's Çekmeköy campus on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event was organized with the motto "Change starts with the teacher." On the second day of the Summer Meeting, we met with 15 teachers from various cities and fields and introduced 21 different materials that we have produced since 2017 as part of the Purple Folder project. After our presentation, we talked to the teachers in the Teacher Network about the process of developing gender-sensitive course materials and the joint projects we could do together.

### Purple Certificate Program at the 10th Philanthropy Seminar

As the Purple Certificate Program team, we attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Philanthropy Seminar organized by the Sabancı Foundation on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Sabancı Center in order to bring forward new approaches in the field of civil society. The seminar titled "New Approaches in Education: Wonder, Dream, Discover," featured speakers such as Anastasia Somoza, Duygu Kayaman, Cem Barutçu, Yetnebersh Nigussie, and Robert Cem Osborn. Cases of barrier-free living technologies in the foyer area inspired the participants.



# CURIOUS STEPS PROGRAM

people from different parts of the city, different periods, and different socioeconomic backgrounds narrated their own stories. We ensured that these oral history sources are kept in Sabancı University's digital archives so that they can be studied by researchers and enthusiasts and used as primary sources in historical research.

Additionally, we started to run a new project called **Digital Story Map of Migrant Solidarity** as an extension of the work we have carried out within the scope of the program. As part of this project, we held meetings with immigrants who settled in Istanbul, who contributed to the city life and who turned their places into spaces of solidarity, as well as with activists from Turkey who supported them. We will publish our interviews in the coming days on a website that we will prepare in an online documentary format.

It has always been a dream of ours to get together with practitioners of feminist walks in Europe, as these sister walks inspired the Curious Steps. We came together with participants from different parts of Europe and those in Istanbul who use the walking method in our panel titled **Walking the City Together: Feminist Pedagogies** to question what could be the common points of these walks and what makes a walk feminist. In the first session, speakers who organized feminist walks in Budapest, Lisbon,



The **Curious Steps: Gender and Memory Walks** team continued their work in 2019 with two separate research projects. Supported by the Sabancı University Internal Academic Activity Fund, we conducted an oral history project and an archiving study during the 2018-2019 academic year. We first held meetings with several people and institutions in the districts of Kadıköy, Beyoğlu, and Balat, all venues of our walks, about the work we carried out on the history of these districts. Then, we conducted oral history interviews from a gender perspective with 10 people and representatives of institutions. With this study, we laid the groundwork for our goal of creating a feminist history archive of Istanbul, through which we question what place gender occupies in historiography, who are included and who are excluded in historical narratives, and the stories of which subjects are told and how. The 10 oral history interviews we conducted created an archive where







and Bochum explained what their method of walking together in the city means. In the second session on the walks in Istanbul, the participants made presentations on how they used the method of walking the city together in their own work.

2019 was a year in which Curious Steps was discussed in many different platforms and contexts. As the Curious Steps team, we talked about the origin of the Curious Steps walks, the ideas on which the walks are based, and the impact they have had over the years, on the Açık Mimarlık (Open Architecture) Program on March 28<sup>th</sup> upon the invitation of Açık Radyo (Open Radio). The recordings of this program are available at the virtual archive of the radio for those who are interested. Another venue where Curious Steps made an appearance was the conference **We, the City: Plurality and Resistance in Berlin and Istanbul**, organized by the Blickwechsel: Modern Turkey Studies

program at Humboldt University on May 23-25 in Berlin. Based on our experience with Curious Steps, Kristen Biehl, together with Bard College Berlin faculty member Agata Lisiak, prepared a panel on critical walking practices. In the panel, Kristen Biehl presented pieces from the "Walking the City Together: Feminist Pedagogies" panel organized as part of the SU Gender March events, as Curious Steps Program Coordinator Sema Semih explained Curious Steps in detail.

As we carried out our academic research project, we continued our walks at full speed. During 2019, we walked with a total of 300 participants and volunteer narrators in 10 marches, who joined us from various associations, companies, and other institutions or independently. As we were telling our stories, we also witnessed the transformation of these stories by paying attention to what changed in the spaces we passed by together dozens of times.

# TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIVISM PROGRAM

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## Transformative Activism Program

What are our means of coping with conflicts and problems arising from gender-based violence and discrimination in our daily lives and in the environments to which we belong and feel a sense of belonging? When we say that another world is possible, what kind of future, what kind of world, and what kind of communities do we dream of living in? What are our ways to build this world? What can be new methods that will enable individual and social transformation? How do we overcome the negative impacts of socio-cultural, political, and ecological developments on our bodies, emotions, and relationships? Is it possible for us to consider emotions such as anxiety, fear, and guilt that can harm both ourselves and our social environment, situations that hinder our practices of co-production and creation, such as feeling stuck, fatigued, and burnt out, as driving forces for individual and social transformation? How can we increase our individual and social awareness to render our work on gender awareness sustainable and to create spaces where we can share our sensitivities and vulnerabilities, while coming together peacefully and without violence?

**The Transformative Activism Program**, which started in 2017, continues to bring gender-focused activists and NGO workers together with art, body, and awareness events through a series of workshops shaped around these questions.

In 2019, with the support of the Chrest Foundation, 12 activists who continued the second year of the program resumed working on their stories addressing the transformations in their activism journeys through a training program that focused on storytelling and artistic expression methods. During monthly meetings, 16 activists who have just started the program met with community-oriented self-care tools drawn from different disciplines and started to integrate these methods into their daily lives and their own work.

For 2020, through the support of the Chrest Foundation and the Sigrid Rausing Trust, plans include a book and a performance show inspired by the transformation stories of the Transformative Activism Program activists, in addition to two separate training programs that will be conducted throughout the year. A research project will also be carried out to identify the psycho-social needs of activists in Turkey and the world, and of mapping the best practices that meet these needs.

### Comments from participants:

- I am taking with me two very fundamental things from this work. One of them is great joy. The second is discipline. Because I think that if I let go of everything I've acquired, they could be lost. Maybe they will stay with me somewhere, but I feel like I have to continue this mental practice to make them discernable.
- This work made me feel good about two things. The first is to see that I'm not alone, that I'm experiencing similar things with people I've been with for a while here. On the one hand, this is not good, of course, that others are also dealing with the same stuff, but on the other hand, this gives me strength. We've all experienced more or less similar things. You are not alone, and people are struggling with it too. It's not just your problem. Secondly, the sentence "I don't judge you, but I don't forgive you" left a big impression on me.



• I have had some good realizations; I think I'm glad I have come to realize certain things. How will this affect my life? I'm hopeful right now, I'm positive, but it won't be easy for sure. And accepting every emotion inside us... I mean, we are both strong and weak, good and bad at the same time. I thought knowing this might help me go a little further. I mean, not overlooking this fact.

• The experience of being able to face some traumas and let them scare you and make you cry and still find the strength to face them... I guess I wouldn't have the strength to face traumas if it weren't for the energy that we've all accumulated during this time.

• My view of power has completely changed; my feeling of pity for someone has changed. The way I question what is real about myself has changed. My sincerity with myself has changed as much as possible. I don't only take away good vibes from here. I also take very good methods.

• Here, too, I wished for the chaos in me to end. Although I seem calm on the outside, I actually have anxiety and distress inside. And I wished that the chaos inside me

would cease, and I could focus on what I would do. I realized that there is nothing I haven't done during these ten months. That chaos had somehow ceased without me noticing. This place has been good for me; it has nourished me.

• Besides the adjectives of good and beautiful, this place has truly transformed me. Thanks a lot for this. And everything that we did was beautiful. They exhausted me sometimes. Although I resisted some of them within myself, I tried to understand more, tried to be in them. It means that it is not necessary to understand or to try to understand certain things. Enjoying what I could understand and trying to understand what I couldn't understand, I left with bigger question marks.

• It was a difficult year for me mentally. But I feel so empowered right now. Thanks to all of you. I am really happy. As many of you have said, I strongly believe that this place, this environment is what keeps me standing where I am in many ways. I believe; I trust; I feel love and happiness. So, I really feel happy. It's a very good feeling. It is so good to be happy. I'm happy.

# GENDER AWARENESS TRAININGS AND MEETINGS

As SU Gender, we visited 13 companies in 2019 to introduce the projects and training modules of our center. We also diversified these training modules. After meeting with the Mercedes Benz Financial Services team in order to increase gender awareness, we organized a training on January 14<sup>th</sup> to contribute to the diversity-focused work of the company. We organized a Human Library Event with the Mercedes Benz Financial Services Unit. Activists from the field acted as books people could check out, and answered questions posed by company employees about gender identity. The event attracted great attention. We participated in the strategy meetings of Kadıköy Municipality and Şişli Municipality as well and conveyed our work to the stakeholders of these municipalities.

In addition, we continued to work on raising awareness on campus. In cooperation with Sabancı University School of Languages, we formed a working group with lecturers working in the field of gender in Istanbul, and we reached more than 20 lecturers by organizing six meetings in 2019.



## How Many Colors Are There in the Rainbow?

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, in cooperation with Sabancı University Human Resources Department, we held a seminar titled “How Many Colors Are There in the Rainbow?” that was addressed to Sabancı University administrative staff. Starting with the fundamental concepts of gender, Emirhan Deniz Çelebi discussed how our perceptions of gender are shaped and emphasized why conducting this work within the university is important. Ilayda Ece Ova conveyed the importance of the GEARING Roles project carried out by SU Gender within the scope of Horizon 2020 in the context of gender equality and shared thoughts on how the employees can contribute to this project.



# SU Gender Team

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**Gender Forum / Su Gender Director:** Sibel Irzık (2010-2016), Ayşe Gül Altınay (2016-2019), Hülya Adak (2019-)

**Gender Forum / Su Gender Coordinator:** Ayşe Yüksel (2011-2016), Begüm Acar (2016-)

**Researcher:** Zeynep Gülrü Göker (2017-), Kristen Sarah Biehl (2018-)

**Education Coordinator:** Emirhan Deniz Çelebi (2018-)

## Purple Certificate Program

**Coordinator:** Ayşe Yüksel (2008-2011), Olcay Özer (2012- 2015), Ayşegül Taşıtman (2016-2018), Ceyda Karadaş (2018-)

**Project Specialist:** İlayda Ece Ova (2019-)

**Assistant:** Olcay Özer (2009-2011), Armanç Yıldız (2014-2015), Betül Sarı (2016-2018), Emine Ebru Çitil (2018-2019), Tuğba Yavuz (2019), Nazlı Hazar (2019-)

## Curious Steps Program

**Coordinator:** Dilara Çalışkan (2014-2016), Sema Semih (2016-)

**Project Specialist:** Selen Çatalyürekli (2018-2019), İlayda Ece Ova (2018-2019)

## Transformative Activism Program

**Coordinator:** Sema Semih (2017-)

## Gender Equality Program

**GEARING-Roles, AB Horizon 2020 Project**

**Coordinator:** Ayşe Gül Altınay, Zeynep Gülrü Göker

**Project Specialist:** İlayda Ece Ova

## Executive Board Members (2019)

Ayşecan Terzioğlu, Ayşe Gül Altınay, Cenk Özbay, Hülya Adak, Emine Süphan Bakkal

## SU Gender Assistants (2019)

Aslı Aygüneş, Ayşe Ceren Ulusoy, Ceydanur Demiralp, Ecem Öykü Yıldırım, Fulya Kama, Kayra Ezgi Topkara, Mete Uncu, Nazlı Hazar, Ogün Demirci, Oğuz Can Ok, Tolga Zağlı

## Advisory Board Members (2019)

Andrea Petö, Betül Kacar, Bilge Demirköz, Cynthia Cockburn, Cynthia Enloe, Deniz Kandiyoti, Fatmagül Berktaş, İpek Gürkaynak, Karin Karakaşlı, Kenan Çayır, Meral Akkent, Mert Fırat, Nadjie Al-Ali, Nazlı Ümit Boyner, Nebahat Akkoç, Nihat Berker, Richa Nagar, Sanem Oktar, Serpil Sancar, Yeşim Arat, Zerrin Koyunsağan