

SU Gender Activity Bulletin

January-June 2025

SU Gender dates back to 2010 and it has been continuing its work with the status of application and research centre within Sabancı University since 2016, contributing to gender and women's studies in Turkey with its research, training and awareness activities.

Greetings

This bulletin presents an overview of our research, training and awareness-raising activities in the first half of 2025. It highlights recent developments across our research in gender inequality, gender and migration, ecology, and politics, spanning multiple scales and contexts. It also provides updates on the international projects we are part of, as well as our ongoing dissemination activities. We are pleased to share highlights from the public events we organized, including a special occasion: hosting Sara Ahmed for the first time in Turkey to deliver a public talk. The bulletin also reflects our continued collaboration with stakeholders both within and beyond the university, through training programs and awareness initiatives. We extend sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to and participated in our work.


Research

- As part of the **EXPRESS2** project (Specify and Protect the EU Social Contract), the Gender Observatory organized a workshop on **Gender-Sensitive Methodology** on February 3. The event was held online and attended by project partners and several researchers. Among the contributors were Cenk Özbay, Ayşe Betül Çelik, and Meriç Çağlar, who shared their insights through presentations. **The EXPRESS Winter School** took place on February 18-20, bringing together students from across the globe. During the program, Zeynep Gülrü Göker delivered a lecture on gender equality within the EU social contract. On March 10, Zeynep Gülrü Göker also participated in a workshop for civil society representatives entitled “**Crafting a New European Social Contract Together,**” held in Brussels, where she gave a talk on the relationship between democracy and gender. Later in the year, we hosted the international conference “**Crafting a New EU Social Contract Together**” at Karaköy Minerva Han on May 28–29. The event brought together academics and civil society actors from various countries and featured presentations showcasing the research conducted within the project. The keynote speech was delivered by **Meltem Müftüler-Baç**, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabancı University.



Research

- As part of the EU Horizon 2020 project **ACCTING** (AdvanCing behavioral Change Through an INclusive Green deal), the “**Better Art Stories**” campaign was launched to highlight the work of artists contributing to environmental justice. Selected artworks were featured on ACCTING's digital platforms and exhibited during the final conference held in Brussels in April. In addition, seven new policy recommendations were published, focusing on the effects of Green Deal policies on vulnerable communities and the need to center social justice. A webinar titled “**Women, Villages, Forests: Local Struggles and Solidarity Experiences from Greece and Turkey**” was held on May 15. The ACCTING project concluded in 2025. For more details about the project and its outputs, please visit the official [website](#).
- On February 28, the workshop “**Migration and Arrival Infrastructures: A ‘Different’ View of Adaptation**” was held at Minerva Han under the **ReROOT** project (Arrival Infrastructures as Sites of Integration for Recent Newcomers). The event brought together academics and civil society professionals working in the field of migration. During the workshop, participants engaged with the *Integration Otherwise Inspiration Kit*, developed through four years of research within the project.



accting

Call for Better Art Stories: Submit your artwork to inspire positive change



GÖÇ VE VARİŞ ALTYAPILARI:
Uyuma 'başka türlü' bir bakış

Proje Hakkında

ReROOT, göçmenlerin yeni geldikleri varış noktalarında karşılaştıkları zorlukları ve imkanları Türkiye dahil sekiz farklı Avrupa ülkesinde etnografik yöntemlerle inceleyen bir araştırma projesidir. Proje, yeni gelenlerin barınma, iş imkanları, sosyal destek vb. ihtiyaçlara erişimini sağlayan ve sonraki süreçleri de şekillendiren çeşitli formel/enformel 'varış altyapılarına' odaklanmaktadır.

Atölye Hakkında

Sizi, **ReROOT** projesi kapsamında dört yıl süren araştırmalar sonucunda geliştirdiğimiz, ve yeni gelen göçmenlerin ev sahibi toplumla uyum süreç ve deneyimlerini yeni ve 'başka türlü' bir bakış açısı ile anlamaya ve teşvik etmeye yönelik tasarlanan bir araç setini keşfetmeye davet ediyoruz. Atölye sırasında bu araçları birlikte inceleyecek ve bazılarını uygulama fırsatı bulacağız. Ayrıca katılımcıların da konuyla ilgili bilgi ve deneyimlerini dinliyor olacağız.

KİMLER KATILABİLİR?

- Göç ve uyum alanında **hizmet sağlayıcı** kurum ve kuruluş temsilcileri
- Göç ve uyum konularında çalışan **araştırmacılar**

NE ZAMAN VE NEREDE?

📅 **28 Şubat 2025** | 09:30 – 16:30
📍 Minerva Han, Karaköy | **İstanbul**



Katılım **ücretsizdir** ancak kontenjan **sınırlıdır**.
15 Şubat 2025 tarihine kadar **BAŞVUR**.

📄 Sorularınız için bizimle **iletişime** geçebilirsiniz:
marhabo.saparova@sabanciuniv.edu

ReROOT
THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE EU HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT NO 101004204

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Research



- In 2025, 3 SU Gender board members / Sabancı University faculty members achieved significant academic recognition and awards. **Ayşe Betül Çelik** received the *20th Kadir Has Outstanding Achievement Award* for her outstanding contributions to scholarship with her research on forced migration, peacebuilding, social polarization, reconciliation, gender, and her valuable contributions to peace processes from a gender perspective. **Kristen S. Biehl** was honored with the *Science Academy's 2025 Young Scientists Award*, and **Cenk Özbay** received one of the three article awards within the *2025 Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards*.



Research

- We presented our academic work at various national and international conferences throughout the year. On April 18, Zeynep Gülru Göker gave a talk titled “A Feminist Rethinking of Republicanism at the Start of the Second Centenary of the Republic of Turkey” at the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies at Columbia University. On June 2-3, Ayşecan Terzioğlu presented her paper, “Annotating Hate Speech in Turkey: Particular Challenges and Opportunities,” at the conference *Future-Making in Times of Conflict, Violence, and Insecurity* held at the University of Edinburgh. On June 17, Cenk Özbay gave a talk titled “Kimlik, Eşitsizlik ve Kesişimsellik” (Identity, Inequality, and Intersectionality) at the panel “Eşit(siz)lik” ((In)equality), organized by ARIT (The American Research Institute in Turkey) and Koç University at ANAMED.



Purple Certificate Program



- As part of the Purple Certificate Program, we organized two online sessions of the **Basic Awareness Training** on January 18 and February 2, bringing together teachers and teacher candidates from various subject areas and grade levels. These sessions focused on gender equality, gender-based discrimination, and inclusive education, and included the development of materials that participants could later use in their classrooms.



- On February 15, in collaboration with the Teachers Network, we held a workshop titled “*Toplumsal Cinsiyet Eşitliğini Birlikte Düşünmek*” (**Thinking About Gender Equality Together**) at the Teacher Solidarity Area in Hatay. During the session, we explored key concepts related to gender, different forms of discrimination, and the impact of sexist language. We concluded with a discussion on actionable steps that can be taken towards a more egalitarian future.

Purple Certificate Program



- On February 26, we hosted Ezgi Toplu Demirtaş from MEF University for an online talk on “*Siber Flört Şiddeti ve Okullarda Koruyucu ve Önleyici Yaklaşımlar*” (**Cyber Dating Violence, and Protective and Preventive Approaches in Schools**). Together, we evaluated the digital dimensions of dating violence and explored possible intervention strategies that could be implemented in school settings.



SABANCI VAKFI

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Training & Awareness Activities

- We continue to run training programs designed through years of expertise, aimed at raising awareness of gender equality, diversity, and inclusion, while also enhancing participants' knowledge in these areas. These adult training programs are delivered within an academic framework and often in collaboration with private sector institutions, with contributions from experts across various disciplines.
- Zeynep Gülru Göker and Gökçesu Özgül led training sessions and workshops focused on establishing internal gender equality mechanisms within companies. Additionally, Gökçesu Özgül gave a talk as part of the Leadership and Management Certification Program at the Executive Development Unit (EDU). On May 25, Zeynep Gülru Göker was invited by the Hrant Dink Foundation to serve as a trainer in the Minority Rights Academy.
- We also contributed to internal training and awareness activities through collaboration with the Civic Involvement Projects (CIP). On February 15, we facilitated a workshop on dating violence as part of the CIPS Academy. Moderated by Gökçesu Özgül, the session addressed issues such as



dating violence, consent, personal boundaries, and safe relationships, and featured case study discussions. On May 8, Meriç Çağlar delivered a presentation on refugee rights as part of CIP's Human Rights Project, offering a historical overview and opening up current issues for discussion.

Events



- In 2025, we continued our event series “*Cumartesi Söyleşileri*” (**Saturday Talks**) at SU Gender. Our first event of the year took place on January 4, where Umut Tümay Arslan delivered a talk titled “Shorelands of Truth: Gender, Fiction and Cinema.” On February 1, we hosted Ezgi Güler and Tuğçe Kaban for a conversation on “Body, Labor and Life: Changing Dimensions of Sex Work,” where they shared their research on gender, labor, and body politics. On March 1, Ayfer Bartu Candan gave a talk entitled “Anthropology and the Zeitgeist: In Search of Culture,” reflecting on shifting



anthropological approaches and gender-related perspectives through the lens of her academic journey. On May 3, we welcomed Demet Lüküslü for her talk on “Gender, Youth, and Politics.”

Events



- We also organized a range of events in celebration of **March 8, International Women's Day**. On February 26, we held an online workshop as part of the Purple Certificate Program, where we discussed cyber dating violence with Ezgi Toplu Demirtaş. On March 12, we invited students to join our **Scavenger Hunt**, during which they explored the campus and responded to questions about dating violence and healthy relationships. As part of our March Saturday Talk, we hosted Ayfer Bartu Candan, who shared her experiences and insights on culture, gender, and anthropology. On March 4, we organized an online book conversation featuring Funda Şenol and Sevgi Uçan Çubukçu, editors of the book *Alışın Her Yerdeyiz!* (**We Are**



Birlikte, dayanışmayla.
Together, in solidarity.

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Here, Get Used to It!), along with several contributing authors. The edited volume consists of articles written by numerous recipients of the Şirin Tekeli Research Award. Later, on March 19, we hosted an event titled **Han Kang's Nobel Journey**, where Damla Çakmak and Cansu Kutlualp offered a feminist reading of Han Kang's literary works.

Events



- A major highlight of the spring was the visit of world-renowned feminist scholar and writer **Sara Ahmed**, who came to Turkey for the first time as our guest. On May 14, she gave a talk entitled **No! The Art and Activism of Complaining** at Salt Galata. The event was moderated by Zeynep Gülru Göker and Cenk Özbay. In her talk, Sara Ahmed reflected on feminist complaint practices and her role as a “feminist ear,” offering insights related to her forthcoming book *“No is Not a Lonely Utterance: The Art and Activism of Complaining.”* Earlier on the same day, we welcomed her at Minerva Han for a



meeting with Sabancı University students and faculty members, where she engaged in discussion around their research interests and questions.

Collaborations and Cooperations

- In March, we welcomed guests from Germany and the United States who visited SU Gender as part of ongoing collaboration efforts. On March 10 and 16, Kim Ronacher and Rena Onat, visiting from Germany through the Erasmus+ program, met with our team and with other university units working on inclusion. On March 17, we hosted a delegation from the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO), who visited as part of the program “We’ll Meet You Where You Are,” supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of State. The delegation explored ways to expand study abroad opportunities for disadvantaged students at UNO and learned about our work at SU Gender.
- On April 16, we co-hosted an event with the *Cultural Studies Speaker Series* featuring Dagmar Nared, a PhD candidate at the University of Ljubljana and an Erasmus+ intern at SU Gender. In her talk, titled “**Can Romantic Love and Catastrophe Co-Exist?: Dating in Post-Earthquake Hatay,**” she shared her ongoing research and reflections.



Collaborations and Cooperations



- On June 19–20, we served as the *Türkiye hub* in Istanbul for the international hybrid conference, **Women in World-Literature: Climate, Crisis, and Contagion** organized by the University of Warwick. The conference took place simultaneously across several countries and focused on pressing global issues - such as the climate crisis, pandemics, and gender inequality - within the framework of world literature. Sabancı University faculty member Damla Çakmak and Cultural Studies graduate student Didem Ozan were among the presenters, contributing their work to this important international discussion.



Programs Open for Application and Announcements

- We have released the call for the **3rd International Gender Studies in Turkey Conference**, which will take place on December 6-7, 2025. If you would like to participate in the conference with a paper, please send your abstract and a short CV to genderconf@sabanciuniv.edu. The deadline for abstract submissions is **August 6, 2025**. A limited number of workshop proposals will also be accepted, provided they align with the conference theme. If you are interested in organizing a workshop for conference participants, you can apply by filling out the designated [form](#). For more detailed information, please visit our website.
- We are also accepting applications for the **Şirin Tekeli Research Award** for the ninth time. Established in memory of Şirin Tekeli to honor her pioneering contributions to democracy, academic freedom, gender equality, and feminism, the award aims to support and encourage research on gender in Turkey. Through this award, we hope to foster a space where scholars working in this field can come together. The application deadline is **September 7, 2025**. For detailed information and application requirements, please click [here](#).



Programs Open for Application and Announcements

- Applications are now open for the **Dicle Koğacioğlu Article Awards**, organized by SU Gender with the support of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabancı University. The awards commemorate the memory of our late colleague and friend, sociologist Dicle Koğacioğlu, who passed away in 2009. Launched in 2010, the awards aim to support gender-focused research on Turkey and to encourage young scholars in the field. The deadline is **September 1, 2025**, and applications are open to master's and PhD students, as well as researchers who have completed their master's degree within the past two years. For detailed application information, please click [here](#).
- We are also pleased to announce that the PhD Academy **“Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women – The Istanbul Convention after EU Accession”**, organized by Venice International University in collaboration with UN.I.RE and OCEAN, will take place in Venice on **January 26–30, 2026**. Zeynep Gülrü Göker is co-organizing the academy alongside Sara de Vido and Marina Calloni. The academy is now accepting applications from doctoral and postdoctoral researchers working in the fields of law, social sciences, and gender. Some of the training sessions in the program will be led by Zeynep Gülrü Göker, Ayşe Betül Çelik, and Cenk Özbay from Sabancı University. For full program details and to apply, please visit the Venice International University [website](#).



Publications

- Çelik, A. B. (2025). Türkiye'nin Kürt meselesi özelinde çatışma ve barış süreçlerinde kadınların rolü. In E. Dilek & C. Dizdaroğlu (Eds.), *Eleştirel Barış Çalışmaları: Kavramlar, Aktörler ve Süreçler* (pp. 249–276). Metis Yayınları.
- Terzioğlu, A., Khattab, H., DeJong, J., Myntti, C., & Zurayk, H. (2025). What is context anyway? Reflections on the experience of the Reproductive Health Working Group in the Arab countries and Turkey. *BMC Reproductive Health*, 22(71). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12978-025-01986-3>
- SU Gender – Sabancı University. (2025, November–March). *Purple Certificate Program newsletter*, issue 20.



P u b l i c a t i o n s

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