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SU Gender Activity Bulletin

July–December 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



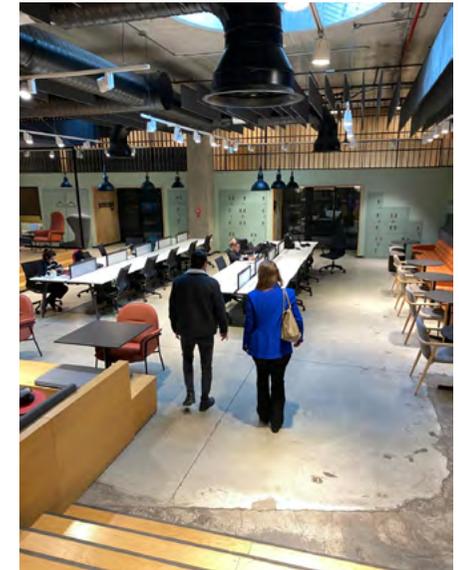
With this bulletin, we share an overview of the research, training, and awareness-raising activities we carried out in the second half of 2025. It features updates on our research conducted at different scales under themes such as gender inequality, gender and migration, urban studies, ecology, and politics; news from the international projects we are involved in and our dissemination efforts; the public talks and events we organized; developments regarding the 3rd International Gender Studies in Turkey Conference; and the training and awareness-raising activities we carried out in collaboration with our stakeholders within and beyond the university. We would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in and contributed to our work.

Research

- Within the scope of the **EU Horizon Europe project EXPRESS2 (Specify and Protect the EU Social Contract)**, we organized an online Co-Creation Workshop on September 23. During the workshop, Zeynep Gülrü Göker and Meriç Çağlar presented the preliminary findings of the gender-focused research conducted within the project, and discussions were held with academics, legal experts, and civil society representatives from different countries on anti-gender movements, feminist advocacy strategies, and the EU social contract.

On December 7, within the framework of the 3rd International Gender Studies in Turkey Conference, we conducted a workshop titled **“Let’s Talk Equality: Youth Imagining a Social Contract on Gender in Turkey and Europe - Coffee Forum Activity within the scope of the EU EXPRESS2 Project”** organized by Meriç Çağlar and Zeynep Gülrü Göker. In this workshop, we carried out a collective exercise encouraging participants to think together about the social contract from a gender perspective.

- Data collection in the scope of the COST–TÜBİTAK research project titled **“The Social and Political Construction and Deliberation of Entrepreneurial Subjectivity in Turkey: An Analysis at Different Urban Scales,”** led by Zeynep Gülrü Göker as principal investigator and Cenk Özbay as researcher began with interviews conducted in Ankara and Antalya and a survey study carried out in Istanbul.



Research

- In the second half of 2025, we also presented the outputs of our research at various international events and conferences. Zeynep Gülru Göker was among the co-conveners of the sub-theme titled, “EDI in Difficult Times: Organizing Solidarity beyond Opposition and Resistance” at the 41st EGOS Colloquium held in Athens on July 2–5. Within the same conference, Ayşe Betül Çelik and Cenk Özbay delivered a presentation on forms of student solidarity on campuses in Turkey.

On November 14, Zeynep Gülru Göker spoke on a panel on gender-based violence at the final conference of the **EUWONDER** (European Women’s Law and Gender) Jean Monnet Module, hosted by the University of Pisa.

Cenk Özbay visited the University of Turin between August 24–31 and gave a talk titled “Reconceptualizing Sexual Politics in Turkey”.



Research



Ayşecan Terzioğlu taught a course titled **“How Do Health Inequalities Reflect on Illness Experiences?”** at the summer school held at Şirince Arkhé Campus between August 11–16. Within the framework of the 3rd International Gender Studies in Turkey Conference, Begüm Acar, together with Rümeysa Çamdereli, conducted a workshop focusing on **lullabies and care labor**.

- **Ayşe Betül Çelik** was awarded the **Societal Impact Award of the Sabancı University Awards in Arts and Sciences**, organized for the first time this year by Sabancı University, in recognition of her work on gender, forced migration, and peace processes, which provides effective and lasting contributions to societal needs.

Purple Certificate Program



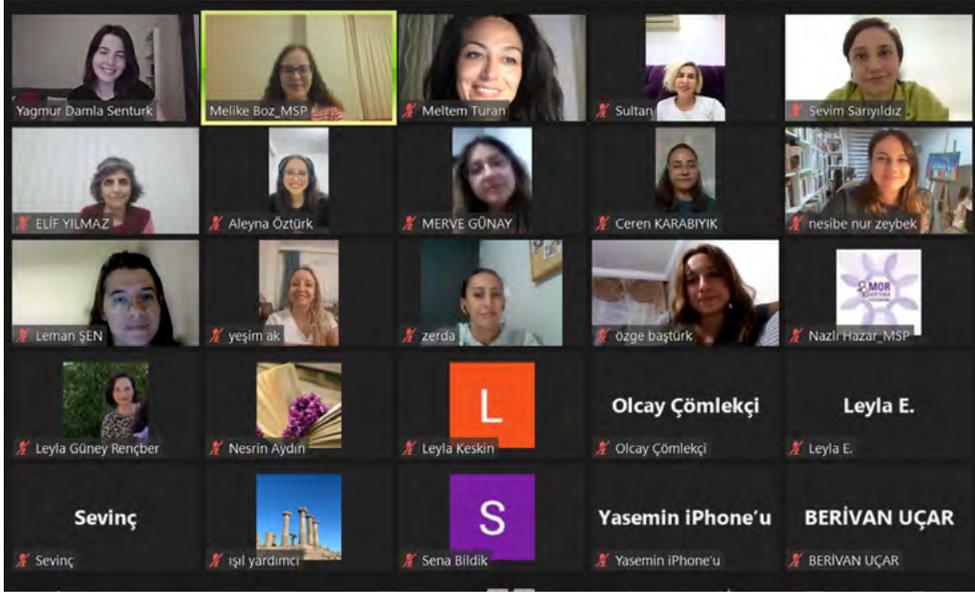
- We held the **Purple Certificate Program Summer School** this year between August 25–28 at Sabancı University Tuzla Campus. During the summer school, we conducted training sessions, workshops, and experience-sharing meetings focusing on issues at the intersection of gender and education with 45 teachers and pre-service teachers from 20 cities, representing different branches and educational levels.



- On October 18, we participated in the **Good Practices in Education Conference** organized by the Education Reform Initiative (Eğitim Reformu Girişimi/ERG). Within the scope of the conference, we addressed teachers' experiences of schools as gendered spaces in the workshop titled **"Whose Space Is This?"**.



Purple Certificate Program



- As part of the **Purple Certificate Program's Gender Equality in Education Awards**, we organized the first workshop on November 4 with **Yağmur Damla Şentürk** under the title **"Making Project Impact Visible."** In the workshop, we discussed methods for evaluating the social impact of projects developed by Purple Certificate teachers and pre-service teachers.



- On December 13, together with Purple Certificate teachers, we visited **Suzanne Lacy's exhibition "Together/Togæther"** at Sakıp Sabancı Museum, guided by Sabancı University faculty member and museum director **Ahu Antmen**. Following the exhibition visit, we discussed the social and empowering impacts of feminist art in the "Art and Gender" workshop.



Training and Awareness Activities

- As SU Gender, we aim to raise awareness and inform participants on gender equality, diversity, and inclusion through our training programs developed on long-standing experience. Within the scope of adult training programs for the private sector, designed within an academic framework and with contributions from experts from different disciplines, we continue to collaborate with various institutions. In this context, **Meriç Çağlar** and **Gökçesu Özgül** delivered workshops titled **“Diversity and Inclusion in Working Life,” “Introduction to Gender Equality,” “Gender-Based Violence,”** and **“Leading Transformation for an Egalitarian Institution”** for different companies.
- Within the scope of Sabancı University **2025–2026 Academic Year Orientation Days**, we met with newly admitted students. We engaged with students visiting our stand to talk about the research and activities we carry out in the field of gender. In this context, we conducted a workshop titled **“Talking about Equality”** for students, facilitated by Gökçesu Özgül.



Events



- As part of the **Saturday Conversations** (Cumartesi Söyleşileri) series, we continued to organize talks and discussions on various topics within the framework of gender studies on the first Saturday of each month at Minerva Han in Karaköy. On October 4, moderated by Çağla Aydın, we listened to **Yağmur Nuhrat**'s talk titled **“Gender and Sports: Binarism, Inclusion, and Fairness”**; and on November 1, moderated by Aslı İkizoğlu Erensü, we hosted **Saniye Dedeoğlu**'s talk titled **“Migration, Labor, and Gender in Turkey”** We will continue the Saturday Conversations in 2026 with new topics and guests.

- We held our annual SU Gender **Advisory Board** meeting on Friday, December 12, at Minerva Han in Karaköy. We shared SU Gender's activities over the past year, discussed our projects, events, and plans, listened to the [Advisory Board's](#) recommendations, and talked about potential future collaborations.

Conferences



- We organized the **3rd International Gender Studies in Turkey Conference** on December 6–7 at Sabancı Center. The conference brought together numerous academics, researchers, and civil society representatives from Turkey and abroad. A total of 52 papers were presented within the scope of 16 sessions and 6 workshops, with more than 300 participants attending the conference. The keynote was delivered by Banu Gökarkırsel from the *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*, titled “**Intimate Care at the Boundary: Feminist Geographies of Refugee Resettlement and Humanitarian Contradiction**”.



Conferences



Throughout the parallel sessions, we listened to current research conducted from a gender perspective in fields such as politics, migration, space, psychology, health, body, family, labor, violence, masculinities, literature, and art; and discussed resilience and labor in difficult times, relations of gender, power, and transformation, and the possibilities of solidarity and resistance. This year, we also had the opportunity to attend a roundtable session titled “**Masculinities and Politics,**” featuring **Cenk Özbay, Feyda Sayan Cengiz, Çimen Günay Erkol, and Selin Akyüz.** The detailed [conference program](#) and the [abstract booklet](#) including the presentations are available on our website.



Awards

- The awards organized by SU Gender were once again presented during special sessions held within the scope of the 3rd International Gender Studies in Turkey Conference. The 16th **Dicle Koğacioğlu Article Award Panel** and Award Ceremony took place on the first day of the conference. The award was granted to **Sıla Türköne**, a PhD student at Ibn Haldun University, while the Academic Incentive Support was awarded to **Tanya Aktaş**, a PhD student at Istanbul University, and **Tuna Kuzucan**, a lecturer at Sinop University. The award recipients presented their work in the panel moderated by Yağmur Nuhurat.
- The **Şirin Tekeli Research Award Panel** and Award Ceremony was held on the second day of the conference. The 9th Şirin Tekeli Research Award was granted to **Duygu Altınoluk**, a faculty member at Kilis 7 Aralık University, while the Research Incentive Support was awarded to **Özde Nalan Köseoğlu**. Sinem Bal and Yağmur Çağatay, who had received the award and incentive support in the previous year, presented their research outputs in the panel moderated by Cenk Özbay.



Collaborations and Joint Activities

- Within the scope of the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility Program, we hosted **Giulia Daniele** from the *University Institute of Lisbon/Iscte, (Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)* on July 22–23. In addition to meeting with the SU Gender team, Daniele held meetings with different units at the university working on diversity and inclusion and shared the work carried out at their home institution.
- Within the scope of the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** (November 25), SU Gender, together with the **Civic Involvement Projects (CIP)** and the **Feminist Thought and Solidarity Club**, organized an event focusing on **dating violence**. At the meeting held on November 26 at Sabancı University Tuzla Campus, Gökçesu Özgül from SU Gender participated as a speaker. We discussed the forms of dating violence and the early warning signs. The talk was followed by an interactive discussion with students on experiences, questions, and practices that can help strengthen ourselves in relation to dating violence. Gökçesu Özgül also conducted a workshop on dating violence for CIP students on December 8. Through these two activities, we reached a total of 77 students.



Publications

- Biehl, Kristen Sarah, and Didem Daniş. “Constrained Paths: Legal Status and Mobility Governance of Syrian Refugees after the 2023 Earthquakes.” *Journal of Refugee Studies* (2025).
- Göker, Zeynep Gülru, and Ayşe Betül Çelik. (2025). “Between Coping, Co-optation, and Resistance: Strategies of (En) Countering Anti-gender Challenges in Local Governance in the Context of Democratic Backsliding,” *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sp/jxafo55>
- Göker, Zeynep Gülru, Oya Yeğen, and Meriç Çağlar. (2025). *EXPRESS Deliverable 6.1: Gender Equality and the EU Social Contract: Challenges, Divergences and Prospects*. https://express2project.eu/sites/default/files/content/file/2025/10/21/3/d6.1_gender_equality_and_eu_sc.pdf



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

C o l l a b o r a t i o n s a n d J o i n t A c t i v i t i e s

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C o n f e r e n c e s

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P u r p l e C e r t i f i c a t e P r o g r a m

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SU|GENDER

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GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES