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# SU Gender Activity Bulletin

## January–June 2026

SU Gender's work began in 2010, and it has operated as an application and research center within Sabancı University since 2016, contributing to gender and women's studies in Turkey through its research, training, and awareness-raising activities.

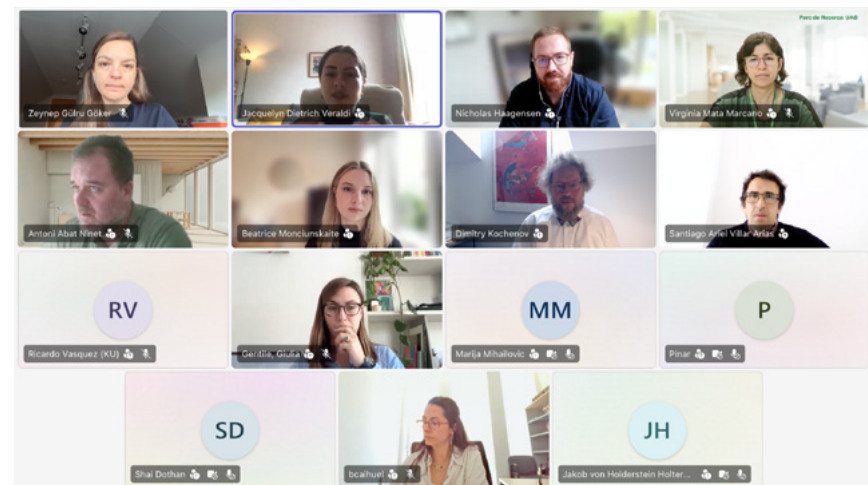
# Greetings



In this bulletin, we share an overview of the research, training, and outreach activities we carried out during the first half of 2026. It features updates on our research conducted under themes such as gender inequality, gender and migration, politics, education, care, and the prevention of violence against women; news from the international projects we are involved in; the public talks and events we organized; and two new initiatives we launched this year: the **Data-Based Approaches in Gender Studies Convening** and the **Purple Certificate Asynchronous Training Program**. It also includes 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

- The **Venice International University Doctoral Academy**, titled **Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women – the Istanbul Convention after EU Accession took place** in Venice between January 26 and 30. Co-organized by **Sara De Vido** (Ca' Foscari University), **Marina Calloni** (University of Milano-Bicocca), and **Zeynep Gülrü Göker** (Sabancı University), the academy brought together participants from different countries to discuss the Istanbul Convention, international legal instruments addressing violence against women, and current political debates. **Ayşe Betül Çelik** and **Cenk Özbay** from Sabancı University contributed to the program as lecturers, while **Damla Çakmak** and **Tuğçe Kaban** took part as participants.
- As part of the **EU Horizon Europe project EXPRESS2 (Specify and Protect the EU Social Contract)**, in which SU Gender is a partner, Zeynep Gülrü Göker, who leads the project at Sabancı University, took part in the online **Intersections Workshop** held on May 21 and presented the team's research findings on gender inequality from the project. Discussions focused on the links between different disruptive elements, including distrust, populism, gender inequality, and climate change.

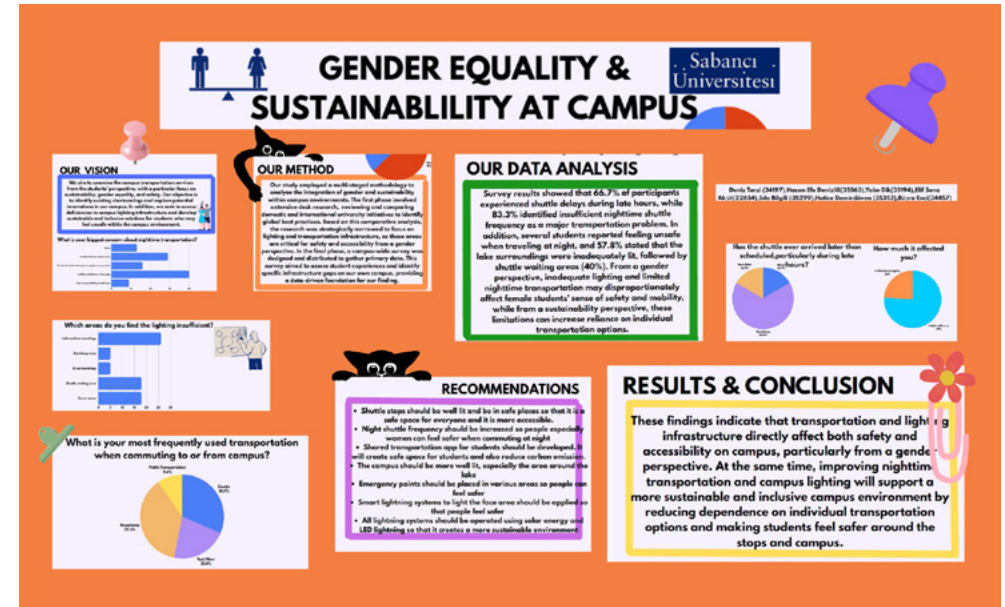




# Research



- **Kristen Biehl's** research project, **In Pursuit of a Better Life: Lifestyle Migration, Urban Families, and Local Transformations**, was awarded funding under the TÜBİTAK 3501 Career Development Program. The project explores lifestyle migration through the experiences of urban families, focusing on how migration processes and everyday practices reshape local life.



- We completed the **Gender & Sustainability at Campus** project, carried out within the scope of the Proj201 course. Over the semester, students supervised by **Begüm Acar** examined the relationship between sustainability and gender on campus through discussions on safe spaces. Drawing on examples from Turkey and abroad, they identified needs around transportation and lighting and developed recommendations for a more accessible campus.

# Research

- Our researchers were also active at international conferences and academic events throughout the period. In January, Ayşe Betül Çelik spoke at the **First WIIS Italy Annual Forum, Women, Peace and Security in a Fragmented World: Reclaiming the Agenda**, held at the Italian Parliament in Rome ahead of the Global Alliance Meeting. In May, she delivered a talk as recipient of the **2025 Societal Impact Award** at the **Frontiers and Impact Talks**, part of the Sabancı University Awards in Arts and Sciences. In June, she co-coordinated the **Negotiation and Mediation Training/Community of Practice Program**, run in partnership with the **Mediterranean Women's Mediators Network (MWMN)** to strengthen the negotiation skills of women mediators working in the context of the Syrian conflict.





# Research



Ayşecan Terzioğlu led the Anthropology Workshop at the **14th TEV İnanc High School Social Sciences Workshop**, held around the theme “**Absurd**,” on April 25. On June 1–2, she presented a paper at **Illness Narratives Retold: Diversity, Temporality and Digitalization**, hosted by Aarhus University in Denmark. On June 19, she delivered the closing remarks at **Street & Field: Hygiene, Disease and Death across Spaces and Ages**, held at Kadir Has University.



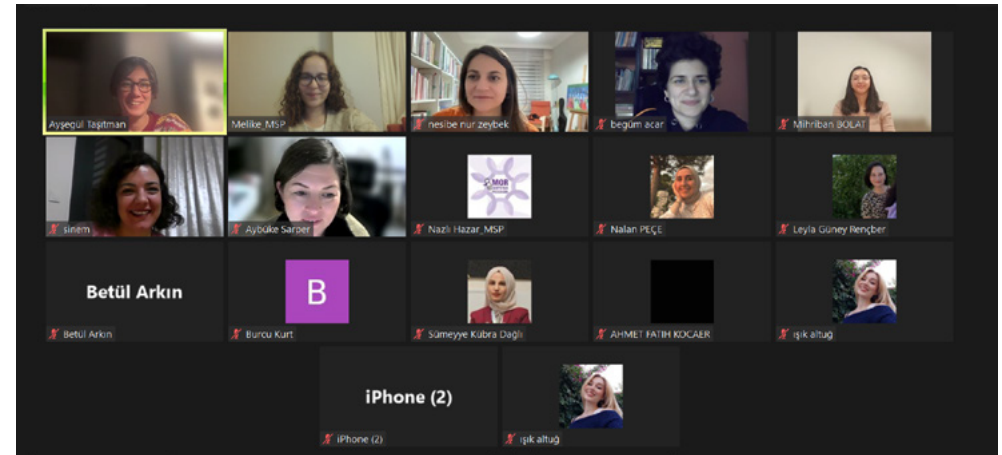
Zeynep Gülrü Göker took part in the **European Conference on Politics and Gender**, held in Newcastle, United Kingdom, on June 15–17, where she presented a paper co-authored with Ayşe Betül Çelik and Meriç Çağlar, based on findings from the EU Horizon Europe EXPRESS2 project, in which SU Gender is a partner.

# Purple Certificate Program

- As the **Purple Certificate Program** enters its nineteenth year, we launched a new initiative: the **Purple Certificate Asynchronous Training Program**. Through the program's online platform, teachers and pre-service teachers can work through training modules at their own pace. The first module aims to build participants' core knowledge and skills on gender equality. Built around interactive content and everyday examples, the training offers a starting point for thinking about gender equality, discrimination, inclusive classrooms, and equitable teaching practices. A promotional video of the training is available on our [website](#).
- On January 15, we held the second workshop in the **Gender Equality in Education Awards** series with Ayşegül Taşıtman. The workshop, **"The Impact of Classroom Practices: What Has Changed and How Can We Track These Changes?"**, looked at how teachers can evaluate the impact of their work in classrooms and schools, including tools for impact-focused data collection and feedback.

SABANCI VAKFI Sabancı Üniversitesi SU|GENDER

## Mor Sertifika Asenkron Eğitim Programı Başlıyor!



# Purple Certificate Program



- Applications are now open for the fourth **Gender Equality in Education Awards**, part of the Purple Certificate Program. The awards recognize and help spread the work of teachers and pre-service teachers who promote gender equality in their classrooms and schools, across three categories: the İpek Gürkaynak Creative Pedagogy Award, the Equitable Practices Award, and the Purple Seed – Equitable Ideas Award. The application deadline is **August 23, 2026**. Details are available on our [website](#).



- **The Purple Certificate Summer School** will take place August 17–20 at Sabancı University's Tuzla Campus, bringing together teachers and pre-service teachers from across Turkey to discuss gender equality across different disciplines and areas of education.



# Training and Awareness Activities

- At SU Gender, our training programs, shaped by years of experience, aim to raise awareness and deepen participants' knowledge on gender equality, diversity, inclusion, gender-based violence, bias, and institutional change. Through our professional training programs for the private sector, designed within an academic framework and drawing on experts across disciplines, we continued to work with a range of institutions over this period. For more on the training and consultancy programs led by SU Gender Training Coordinator Gökçesu Özgöl, please visit our [website](#).



# Events

- As our Saturday Conversations (Cumartesi Söyleşileri) series marked its third year, we continued to host leading researchers on a wide range of topics in gender studies throughout the spring. On January 10, **Burcu Mutlu** and **Yeşim Yasin** joined us for “Medicine, Gender, and Reproductive Rights,” a discussion of gender inequalities in healthcare and reproductive rights. On February 7, **Ceylan Engin** spoke on “Fertility and Gender in Turkey,” addressing fertility policy, family structures, and gender relations. On March 7, **Asuman Suner** gave a talk titled “Narrating an Era: Women and Generations,” on women’s experiences and relationships across generations. On April 4, **Kenan Sharpe** spoke on “Barley Fields and Mechanic Apprentices: Gender in Anatolian Pop.” We closed the spring program on May 2 with **Ayşe Betül Çelik**’s talk, “Women, Conflict, and Peace: Research and Field Experiences.”

# SU GENDER Cumartesi Söyleşileri

2025-2026 dönemi Cumartesi Şöyleşileri'ne katılan değerli konuşmacılara ve tartışmalara katkıda bulunan tüm katılımcılara çok teşekkür ederiz. Kısa bir yaz arası veriyoruz. Ekim ayının ilk cumartesi günü tekrar görüşmek üzere. ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶

## ▶ Yağmur Nuhurat

Cinsiyet ve Spor: İkilik, Kapsayıcılık, Hakkaniyet  
Moderatör: Çağla Aydın

▶ 4 Ekim 2025 ▶ 16.00-18.00 ▶ Minerva Han, Karaköy

## ▶ Asuman Suner

Dönem Anlatısı Oluşturmak: Kadınlar, Kuşaklar  
Moderatör: Sibel Izzık

▶ 7 Mart 2026 ▶ 16.00-18.00 ▶ Minerva Han, Karaköy

## ▶ Saniye Dedeoğlu

Türkiye'de Göç, Emek ve Toplumsal Cinsiyet  
Moderatör: Aşlı İkiçoğlu Erensü

▶ 1 Kasım 2025 ▶ 16.00-18.00 ▶ Minerva Han, Karaköy

## ▶ Kenan Sharpe

Burçak Tarlanlar ve Tahir Çıraklar: Anadolu Pop'ta Toplumsal Cinsiyet  
Moderatör: Cenk Özbay

▶ 4 Nisan 2026 ▶ 16.00-18.00 ▶ Minerva Han, Karaköy

## ▶ Burcu Mutlu, Yeşim Yasin

Tıp, Toplumsal Cinsiyet ve Üreme Hakları  
Moderatör: Ayşecan Terzioğlu

▶ 10 Ocak 2026 ▶ 16.00-18.00 ▶ Minerva Han, Karaköy

## ▶ Ayşe Betül Çelik

Kadınlar, Çalışma ve Barış: Araştırma ve Sahâ Deneyimleri  
Moderatör: Zeynep Güllü Gökçer

▶ 2 Mayıs 2026 ▶ 16.00-18.00 ▶ Minerva Han, Karaköy

## ▶ Ceylan Engin

Türkiye'de Doğurganlık ve Toplumsal Cinsiyet  
Moderatör: Aşlı İkiçoğlu Erensü

▶ 7 Temmuz 2026 ▶ 16.00-18.00 ▶ Minerva Han, Karaköy



# Events

- On March 30, with the support of the Sabancı Foundation, we held the first **Data-Based Approaches in Gender Studies Convening**, under the theme “**A Care-Centered Future.**” **Güler Sabancı**, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Sabancı Foundation, opened the event, which brought together 93 participants from 56 institutions across five cities, spanning academia, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations. Over the course of the day, two plenary panels and seven parallel workshops examined the role of data in making gender inequalities visible and its contribution to policymaking.





# Events

- On March 25, YUSTUDIO staged the play **Olga, Masha, Irina – Three Sisters Again** at the Sabancı Performing Arts Center. Organized with the Theatre Club, the Feminist Thought and Solidarity Club, and Cins Club, the event closed with a discussion moderated by Sevgin Özer, featuring the play's director, writer, and cast alongside social psychologist Duygu Buğa.



# Collaborations and Joint Activities



- On February 28, with the Sabancı Museum, we held a panel and workshop titled **“The Gender of Aging: Desire, Memory, and the Body”** part of **Suzanne Lacy’s** exhibition **Together/Togæther**. Moderated by **Begüm Acar**, the panel featured **Sibel Irzık**, **Çağla Aydın** and **Ayşecan Terzioğlu** to discuss aging in relation to gender, body politics, and social norms. Afterwards, accompanied by **Berrak Güloğlu**, we toured Lacy’s works on aging and the experiences of older women.



- On April 25, we co-organized a talk with art historian **Tayler Ava Friar**, who was in Istanbul as part of Gate 27’s artist residency program. Moderated by **Kenan Sharpe**, the talk explored Friar’s research on James Baldwin’s years in Istanbul and her work combining Black cultural presence, storytelling, oral history, and curatorial practice. The event also included the Istanbul premiere of Friar’s short film, **Footprints**.

# Open Calls and Announcements

- The **Şirin Tekeli Research Award**, established by SU Gender in memory of Şirin Tekeli's pioneering work in democracy, academic freedom, gender equality, and feminism, is now open for its tenth year. The award supports and encourages gender-focused research in Turkey, and aims to build a shared space for researchers working in this area. This year's application deadline is September 13. Detailed information about the application requirements is available on our [website](#).
- The **Dicle Koğacioğlu Article Award** is presented by SU Gender, with support from the Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, in memory of our colleague and friend, sociologist Dicle Koğacioğlu, who passed away in 2009. Awarded since 2010, it supports gender-focused research on Turkey and encourages early-career researchers. The award is open to master's and doctoral students, as well as researchers who received their master's degree within the past two years. This year's application deadline is September 7. Information about the application requirements is available on our [website](#).





# Open Calls and Announcements

- The call for papers is now open for the **4th International Gender Studies in Turkey Conference**, to be held on December 5-6. Those wishing to present a paper at the conference may submit their abstract and short biography to [genderconf@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:genderconf@sabanciuniv.edu) by August 10. A limited number of workshop proposals related to the conference theme will also be accepted; those interested in organizing a workshop can apply via the relevant form. For details and updates, please visit our [website](#).

Türkiye’de  
Cinsiyet Çalışmaları  
4. Uluslararası  
Konferansı

4<sup>th</sup> International  
Gender Studies  
in Turkey  
Conference

5-6 Aralık / December 2026  
İstanbul

Son başvuru tarihi / Deadline for submissions 10 Ağustos / August  
Kabul duyurusu / Notification of acceptance 13 Ekim / October

[genderconference.sabanciuniv.edu](http://genderconference.sabanciuniv.edu)

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# Publications and Talks

- Çelik, A. B. (2026). The role of gender in inclusive peacemaking: Women negotiators' strategies to overcome gender inequality at the table. *Journal of Gender Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21647259.2026.2644692>
- Göker, Z. G., & Çelik, A. B. (2026). 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*, 33(1), 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sp/jxafo55>
- Sabancı University SU Gender. (April 2026). *Purple Certificate Newsletter* (Issue 23).
- Sönmez, A. (2025). Muhalif bir aydın olarak Adalet Ağaoğlu'nun eleştiri ve özeleştiri aracı: “Fatma İnayet.” In *Adalet Ağaoğlu* (pp. 213–228). İstanbul: General Directorate of Libraries and Publications.
- Sınıf İçi Uygulamaların Etkisi: Ne Değişti ve Bu Değişimlerin Takibini Nasıl Yapabiliriz?, 15 Ocak 2026. Konuşmacı: Ayşegül Taşıtman <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qonJCdkqf18>



# Numbers January–June 2026



## EVENTS

- 7 Training Programs  
273 Participants
- 12 Other Events  
464 Participants



## COLLABORATIONS

- 9 Institutions in Turkey
- 13 Institutions Abroad



## PROJECTS

- 2 Applied Projects  
Supported by: Sabancı Foundation
- 3 Research Projects  
Supported by: EU Horizon Europe, TÜBİTAK



## DIGITAL IMPACT



**22.479**  
Followers



**414.520**  
Page Views



**10.162**  
Engagements



## WEBSITE



**17.601**  
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**10.052**  
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