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SU Gender Activity Bulletin

January-June 2023

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

In early 2023, devastating earthquakes struck Turkey, causing many casualties and deepening the existing inequalities. Approaching such disasters from a gender perspective has taken on a new relevance in this period, so SU Gender tries to integrate a gender perspective into our research and practical activities about the earthquake. In the first half of the year, we continued our gender focused research in various fields such as migration, cities, politics, ecology, literature, healthcare, arts etc., launched new national and international research, and carried out dissemination activities. Our training and awareness activities at different levels continue in cooperation with our stakeholders inside and outside the university. This bulletin presents a summary of our research, training and awareness activities in the first six months of 2023.

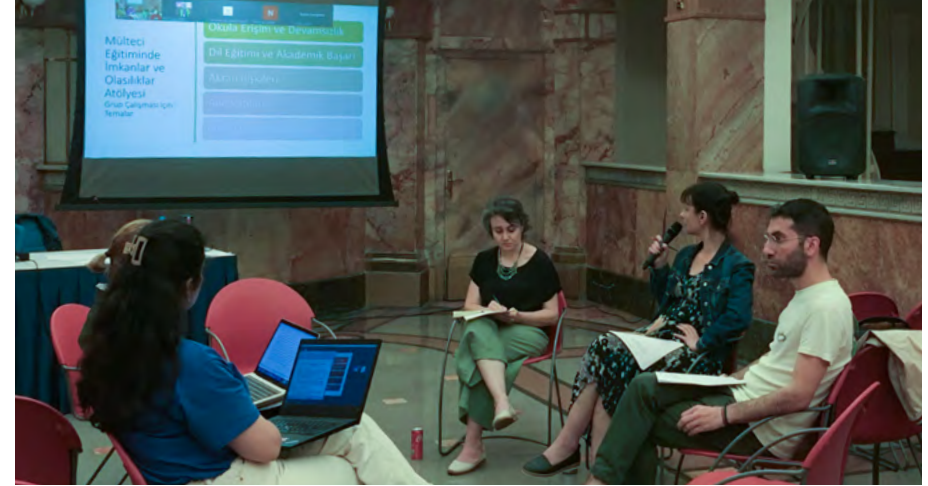
Research

- SU Gender has been involved in the EU Horizon 2020 project RESISTIRÉ (**RES**ponding to outbreak**S** through co-crea**T**ive inclusive equality st**R**at**E**gies) and the project consortium gathered for the second time in person in Strasbourg in January. The project partners focused on the outputs of the third research cycle during the meeting and held workshops to discuss the following open studios, content of the final conference, and advocacy activities.
- As of February 2023, Çağla Aydın joined the team of the Tübitak 1001 project titled “**Toplumsal Cinsiyetin ve Ebeveynlerin Cinsiyet İdeolojilerinin Etkileri: Anne, Baba ve Çocukların Birlikte Oyunları ve Geçmişle İlgili Konuşmaları**” (The Effects of Gender and Parents’ Gender Ideologies: Mother, Father and Children Playing Together and Talking About the Past) led by Başak Şahin-Acar from METU.
- A workshop was held on April 28th to discuss the results of the research “**Türkiye’de Akıllı Kent Uygulamaları ve Gençlik: Kurumlar, Söylemler ve Deneyimler**” (Smart City Practices and Youth in Turkey: Institutions, Discourses and Experiences) conducted by Zeynep Gülru Göker and Cenk Özbay with TÜBİTAK’s support. The workshop was participated by representatives of municipalities, civil society organizations as well as academics working in the fields of youth and urban studies.



Research

- We started the WenDo Psychological Self-Defence workshops, which were planned as part of the solidarity cooperation between SU Gender and the Body Vulnerability Movement (BoMoVu). The WenDo workshop series is organized as part of the EU Horizon 2020 research project **“ReROOT: Arrival infrastructures as sites of integration for recent newcomers”**. The first workshop was held on April 7th with migrant women and the series will continue in September with employees of migration institutions.
- On June 9th & 10th, we held meetings with teachers as part of the Purple Certificate Program and the project **“Learning the Language of Belonging: Barriers to Inclusion in Refugee Education”** led by Aslı İkizoğlu Erensü. Sarah Dryden-Peterson from Harvard University took part in our webinar on June 9th and gave her speech “Refugee Education: Past, Present and Future.” Linda Morrice from the University of Sussex and Mohammad Hammoud from the Centre for Lebanese Studies attended our meeting on June 10th to talk about regional examples and work in refugee education. A number of teachers with a Purple Certificate contributed by sharing their experiences. Then, the workshop “Mülteci Eğitiminde İmkanlar ve Olasılıklar” (Means and Possibilities in Refugee Education) with Purple Certificate teachers was moderated by Ayşe Beyazova.



- Esra Durceylan Kaygusuz, Alpay Filiztekin and Zeynep Gülrü Göker, from Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, presented on June 8th the results of their report titled **“Türkiye’de Kadınların İşgücüne Katılımı: Genel Eğilimler, Bölgesel ve Demografik Farklar, Tutumlar”** (Women’s Labour Force Participation in Turkey: General Trends, Regional and Demographic Differences, Attitudes), prepared in cooperation with the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey (KAGIDER). The report focuses on the current state of women in the Turkish labour force, the regional differences, and the observed changes over time and effective variables.

Training

- We continued to work with a wide range of institutions in the first half of 2023, providing trainings for the private sector and conducting awareness activities focused on diversity and inclusion. On January 19th, we presented a seminar for the employees of Esin Attorney Partnership. On January 25th, we organized a Diversity Management training and workshop as part of the Industry Leaders Program, organized by the Sabancı University Executive Development Unit (EDU). Çimsa and Akçansa organized a Gender Equality Workshop on May 10th in Istanbul, where the representatives of both institutions presented their work in the field and we held a seminar and workshop titled “**Çalışma Hayatında Toplumsal Cinsiyet Eşitliği: Sorunlar ve Uygulamalar**” (Gender Equality in Working Life: Problems and Practices). On June 3rd and 11th, we organized an event called Gender Awareness in Science and Education at Robert College and held seminars with teachers and faculty members on the contribution of gender perspective to science and education.
- Having completed its previous project period in April, the **Purple Certificate Program** continues its activities in the educational sphere at full speed in the current project period. After the February 6 earthquakes, the Purple Certificate team contacted more than 1000 teachers with a Purple Certificate in various provinces of Turkey and created a



communication network to identify the needs of and support the teachers in the affected region. The Program's scope in the current project period has been planned by considering the needs of teachers after the disaster. The certification process under the program also continues. We conducted the **Online Winter School of Purple Certificate Program** on February 1st-4th with 65 teachers and candidate teachers across Turkey. We have accelerated our preparations for the Summer School, which will take place in July.

Training

- In addition to the certification, we also organized awareness sessions and workshops through various channels where teachers meet. On January 19th, we held a webinar titled **“Cinsiyetçi Dil ve Edebiyatta Erkeklik”** (Sexist Language and Masculinity in Literature) with Çimen Günay-Erkol from Özyeğin University. We held a stakeholder meeting with the Teacher Network on January 25th, and had discussions on the project **“Çocuk Yaşta, Erken ve Zorla Evlilikleri Önlemek için Öğretmen Güçlenmesi Projesi”** (Empowering Teachers to Prevent Child, Early and Forced Marriages) initiated by the Teacher Network. On April 24th, the Purple Certificate team met with the students from the Scouts for Equality. The Purple Certificate Program also held the first two meetings of the **“Feminist Yazın Atölyeleri”** (Feminist Literature Workshops), to be held throughout the year, on May 18th and June 19th. This series of monthly workshops aims to use the techniques of creative writing, especially biography writing, in a classroom environment in a feminist and inclusive framework. One of the workshop objectives is to create a guide with teachers to improve the language skills of students.



Events

- Continuing his PhD studies in the field of Gender Studies at Sabancı University, with Ayşecan Terzioğlu as his supervisor, Oğuz Can Ok presented a part of his doctoral thesis at the joint event of **SU Gender and Cultural Studies Speaker Series** held online on April 12th.
- The Cultural Studies and Gender Studies programs of Sabancı University held their first graduate student conference on May 6th with the main title **“Cultures of Hope, Despair and Resilience”**.
- Deniz Gündoğan İbrişim gave a speech titled **“Ecofeminist and Animist Constellations of Humanist Inquiry: ‘Emplaced Humanities’”** at the joint event of **SU Gender and Cultural Studies Speaker Series** that was held online on May 24th.
- We hosted Maja Bekan as the first guest of the **Conversations on Gender and Arts**, which we started in collaboration with the international creative residency program Gate 27. The facilitator of the event called **“Let’s Get Together with Maja Bekan- On Art, Women and Collectivity”**, which took place on June 8th, was Ahu Antmen, a member of the Gate 27 Advisory Board and Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. After the conversation session, the event continued with questions and comments from the participants.



- In cooperation with the Corporate Governance Forum Turkey and with the support of the Gender Club and the SU Oyuncuları, we hosted **“Othello! Seyircili İntikam Provası”** (Othello: Audience Revenge Rehearsal), produced by YUSTUDIO, at the Sabancı University Performing Arts Center on June 7th. The play draws parallels between Shakespeare’s play “Othello” and a modern-day story, with a discussion of violence and representations of masculinity from various perspectives. After the performance, we had a conversation with the theatre company and audience on gender-based violence. The audience contributed to this conversation with their questions and comments.

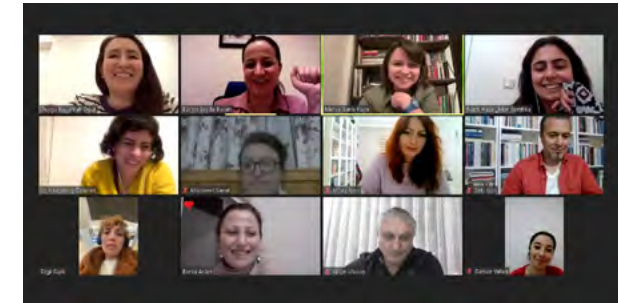
Collaborations and Cooperations

- A Standing Working Group of the *European Group for Organizational Studies* “**EGOS SWG: Pushing the boundaries of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Theorizing transformative change in organizations**”, with Zeynep Gülru Göker as one of the co-convenors, was established in January as a four-year working group.
- As part of the *SU International Staff Week 2023* organized by the International Office, we had a presentation on May 24th on gender equality in Turkey and the studies carried out in this field at Sabancı University. The participants from different countries shared their relevant experiences from their own countries and institutions.
- In the first 6 months of 2023, SU Gender members contributed to a number of events organized by the units or clubs of many Turkish and international universities, including being a moderator or speaker in panels and conferences. They also participated in various NGO events.



Disasters and Gender

- We are very sad to witness there are still many problems, including with the very basics, such as shelter, healthcare, access to clean water and food, employment and education, although it has been 5 months since the February 6 earthquakes. On the other hand, the solidarity networks that were created right after the earthquakes for search and rescue and post-disaster aid are still widely active with a focus on the civil society. In these difficult times, it is more importantly necessary to discuss the issue of disasters through the lens of gender. We have created a [webpage](#) to share earthquake-related announcements and to create an archive of publications and events. The Purple Certificate Program has also provided on its [website](#) a list of useful resources, which will be updated as necessary, to facilitate teachers' access to such resources.
- After the earthquakes, the Purple Certificate Program held a meeting with teachers on March 10th. At this meeting, we discussed new ideas on how to integrate the topic of disaster into the Purple Certificate training by taking into account the needs of teachers. On March 30th, we participated in the event **“Depremden Etkilenen Çocuklarda Erken Ergenlik”** (Early Adolescence in Children Affected by the Earthquake) organized in cooperation with the Teacher Network. The fourth seminar of the series “Toplum ve Afet Risk Yönetimi” (Society and Disaster Risk Management) initiated by Sabancı University took place on April 25th. Zeynep Gülrü Göker, Nevgül Bilsel Safkan and Gökçe Ayata spoke in the seminar titled **“Afet, Kırılgan Gruplar ve Sivil Toplum”** (Disaster, Fragile Groups and Civil Society) about how a disaster affects vulnerable groups and what roles the civil society should assume in such periods. At SU Gender, our current approach is to also consider the gender-related dimension of disasters while planning our research, training and awareness activities.



Publications & Talks

- Çağatay, S., Göker, Z. G., Hünler, O. S, and A. Polatdemir (2023). "Collective Resilience and Resistance in Hybrid Times: Gender Struggles in Germany, Turkey and Sweden", Gender, Place & Culture. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09663669X.2023.2226362>
- Özbay, C. & A. Bartu Candan (2023). "Intersectionality and Feminist/Queer Student Activism in Authoritarian Turkey", International Feminist Journal of Politics - Online First.
- Özbay, C. (2023), "Transforming Buildings, Reorienting Lives: The Desire for Gentrification in Istanbul", Urban Geography - Online First.
- Özbay C., Erol M., Bağcı Ç., & N. Özkaplan (2023), "Secular but Conservative? Youth, Gender, and Intimacy in Turkey", Turkish Studies 24(1): 29- 50.
- Purple Certificate Newsletter, Issue 13, [Special Newsletter for Awards](#).
- Webinar- "[Sahne ve Gösteri Sanatlarında Cinsel Taciz ve Saldırı](#)" (Sexual Harassment and Assault in Performing Arts), November 22, 2022. Speakers: Özlem Belkıs & Özlem Özhabeş.
- Webinar - "[Cinsiyetçi Dil ve Edebiyatta Erkeklik](#)" (Sexist Language and Masculinity in Literature), January 19, 2023. Speaker: Çimen Günay-Erkol
- "[Ecofeminist and Animist Constellations of Humanist Inquiry: 'Emplaced Humanities'](#)", Speaker: Deniz Gündoğan İbrişim.



Upcoming Events



- Dicle Koğacioğlu Article Award application deadline October 2, 2023.



- Şirin Tekeli Research Award application deadline October 6, 2023.



- International Gender Studies in Turkey Conference on December 9-10, 2023, Istanbul. For further information please visit the [web site](https://genderconference.sabanciuniv.edu).

Upcoming Events

Publications & Talks Upcoming

Disasters and Gender

Collaborations and Cooperations

Events

Training

Research



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GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES