



# 2019-2020 Academic Year Annual Report

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**Translated by:**

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# About the Center

## Mission

The goal of the Center for Gender Studies is to realize academic, administrative, theoretical, and practical studies to create a university environment that is based on the principle of gender equality in general and gender equality in representation and that has heightened awareness and sensitivity on the issue of gender. For this, the center conducts and supports national and international scientific studies, reveals an interdisciplinary approach, keeps the issue of gender on the agenda by including all faculties, departments, and administrative units, realizes events, conferences, projects, and activities that would connect society and academy and finally aims to prevent all discrimination and sexual harassment related to sex or sexual orientation..

## Field of Activity

1. Doing scientific research in the field of gender.
2. Organizing national and international conferences, seminars, congresses, and panels.
3. Supporting academic and scientific research activities.
4. Realizing training, projects, and studies to raise the awareness and sensitivity of students, academic and administrative personnel on the subject of gender and gender equality.
5. Cooperating with national and international institutions in the field of gender and conducting national and international projects.
6. Creating an archive on gender, gender equality, women's studies, and similar subjects in the university's library.
7. Providing a must course on gender to be included in the curriculum as foreseen in the Document of Stance on Gender Equality by The Council of Higher Education (YÖK).
8. Encouraging to take all the measures to provide security and to prevent all kinds of harassment on campus.
9. Working to provide gender equality in representation and decision-making processes in every single unit of the university.
10. Supporting and leading all measures to make women's work environment in TED University easier. With the support of the psychological guidance and counseling department, the Center promotes the establishment of units and implementation of approaches to prevent sexual harassment and mobbing.

## Components of the Center

### Administrative Board

Prof. Zuhâl Yeşilyurt Gündüz

Prof. Kezban Çelik

Prof. Aylin Özman

Asst. Prof. Aylin Çakırođlu Çevik

Asst. Prof. Gülşen Seven

### Members

Prof. Şebnem Akipek Öcal

Asst. Prof. Gülçin Con Wright

Assoc. Prof. Bezen Coşkun

Asst. Prof. Yağmur Ar Karcı

Instructor Kerem Selçuk

Research Assistant Sevi Gizem Zeybek

### Assistant

Tuğçe Çetinkaya

### Partial Scholarship Students

Tuğçe Dalmış

Dilara Dođan

## Partial Scholarship Students of the Center

### Tuğçe Dalmış



Tuğçe Dalmış is a 3rd-year student at TED University, Department of Psychology. For as long as she can remember, she has enjoyed reading about gender. To actively practice what she has read in her life, she has taken part in several workshops and events both as a participant and as a staff member. Her participation in the Gender Workshop conducted by Abdullah Furkan Palabıyık, one of our university's valuable lecturers, in 2017 and her participation as a reader and staff in the Living Library event organized by the Logos Society, one of the student groups of our university, are examples of these. Some of her areas of interest are women, LGBTI+ people, HIV/AIDS, sex workers, and masculinity about gender. During the Fall Semester of the 2019-2020 Academic Year, she took part in realizing protective and preventive studies on these issues as a scholarship student at our Center.

### Dilara Doğan



Dilara Doğan is a student at TED University, Department of Psychology. At the same time, she is a student in the Communication and Critical Media Studies Secondary Field. She is conducting studies at TED University Center for Gender Studies as a scholarship student. In addition, she completed an internship at Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Mental Health and Diseases. In addition, she worked as a scholarship student at TED University Corporate Communications Department and worked as a promotional guide for TEDU. Within the scope of her undergraduate courses, she had the opportunity to research narcissism, sexual conservatism, and gender difference.

# Events

On 8 March 2019, an event titled "8 March International Women's Day Opening Panel - In Memory of Ceren Damar Şenel" was held with the participation of Assoc. Prof. Zeynep Alemdar, Assoc. Prof. Bezen Balamir Coşkun and Asst. Prof. Burcu Öztürk Sarıgil. Mustafa Damar, Ceren Damar Şenel's father, attended the event upon our invitation and made an opening speech.



On 26 November 2019, an event titled "Combating Violence Against Women and the İstanbul Convention" was held with Prof. Feride Acar who served as the chair of METU Gender and Women's Studies Department, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and GREVIO, the supervisory mechanism of the İstanbul Convention.



9 On 9-10 December 2019, two events titled "From #MeToo to Nationalism to Voting: Doing a Gender Analysis Can Make Us All Smarter" and "A Conversation" with Prof. Cynthia Enloe from Clark University were held.

Prof. Cynthia Enloe, one of the most important figures in feminist theory, began her speech by pointing out to the importance of focusing on the relationship between voting, nationalism, and sexual harassment to understand the dynamics of women's "silencing." Enloe argued that the assumption that women are given the right to vote as a result of a "top-down" approach ignores women's struggle to obtain this right; that nationalism's association with ideals such as rationality, which is identified with masculinity, limits women's presence in certain spaces; and that the naturalization and normalization of sexual harassment through social assumptions isolate women.

Pointing out to that patriarchy is built on a tripartite pillar that includes positioning the concepts of 'woman' and 'man' in opposition to each other, attributing 'superior' value to masculinity and 'inferior' value to femininity, and establishing control over women's bodies and labor, Enloe emphasized that the silencing of women is one of the most important means of ensuring the continuity of patriarchy.

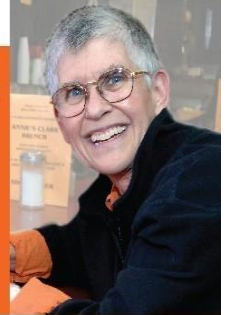
According to Enloe, the feminist opposition, which started with the introduction of the concept of 'sexual violence' in 1979 and has recently gained momentum with women from different countries and different professions disclosing the sexual violence they have been subjected to through the hashtag '#MeToo' on social media, marks a very important step in terms of 'breaking the silence.' Because women, with this opposition, realized that sexual violence stems from power relations based on gender inequality, not from the fact that women were "where they should not be at that moment." Then, they started to come together and fight against all kinds of naturalization and normalization that pave the way for impunity. In response to a participant's question about what to do as a woman in the face of sexual violence, Enloe listed the following suggestions that are invaluable for each of us: 'Share your experience with at least one other person, take notes on the details of the incident, stand in solidarity with other women who have been subjected to violence, and find out what the rules of the organization you belong to are for its employees.' Emphasizing that accepting and dealing with sexual violence is very difficult in a patriarchal society, Enloe said, "Nothing is easy. If it were easy, we would be living in a just world."

To ensure that Prof. Cynthia Enloe's remarks are always accessible to everyone, the two conversations have been transcribed into text. You can visit [our website](#) to listen to the event recordings or read the texts.

## "From #Me Too to Nationalism to Voting: Doing a Gender Analysis can Make Us All Smarter"

Prof. Cynthia Enloe  
Clark University

09 December 2019, Monday / 2 pm  
Ahmet Ersan Conference Hall



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ÇALIŞMALARI MERKEZİ

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## "A Conversation" with Prof. Cynthia Enloe Clark University

10 December 2019, Tuesday / 2 pm  
Multi-Purpose Hall





6 On March 6, 2020, an event titled "Vulnerability of Masculinity, Masculinity of the Vulnerable" was held with Asst. Prof. Beril Türkoğlu.

"Although it has different manifestations in different societies around the world, masculinity has always been a 'condition' that is expected to be socially constructed and gains its social identity and status through performance. In some tribal societies, a man is expected to perform risky behaviors, acts of violence, and courageousness to become a 'real man.' For example, in African

tribes, to 'become a man' and deserve to be married, one must be able to kill a large animal without tools, hunt, or show in various ways that they can withstand pain. Although the self-assertion mechanism of masculinity does not proceed in the same way in modern social structures, it continues more implicitly through different social and cultural institutions. To give an example from Turkish society, a boy takes his first step towards becoming a 'man' through circumcision, which is witnessed by the entire community and is performed at the discretion of that community. The race to become a man continues with military service, finding a job to earn money, and starting a family. While the concept of 'gender' essentially points to gender practices constructed by the sanctions of society, the most fundamental question that points to fragile masculinity is why it is only men, and not women, who are allowed to prove themselves and gain appreciation through social situations and performances. The performative structure of masculinity that changes over time, space, and cultures is an important issue that has been questioned and continues to be questioned in social sciences since the 1970s. In the context of social psychology, this issue is discussed and researched on the axis of the Theory of Fragile Masculinity. The Theory of Fragile Masculinity defines masculinity as a socially acquired status that can be lost as well as gained and is vulnerable to threats. In the face of threat, it argues that it turns to various practices that reconstruct (normative) masculinity. In these social practices, receiving the approval and appreciation of others mediates the restoration of shaken masculinity. Studies conducted in Türkiye show that masculinity is generally perceived as threatened in situations where women are superior; when men's role as 'protector-carer,' head of the family, and decision-maker is questioned. As a result of the perceived threat to different spheres of traditional masculinity, men turn to the forms and behaviors made possible and approved by the ideology of masculinity to reposition their position of power. For example, studies show that men who perceive threats to their masculinity show more violence and anger towards women and LGBTI+ people, engage in more sexist discourses, increase prejudice and discrimination practices against those who do not conform to gender norms, exhibit more risky behaviors and even drive more angrily in traffic. Fragile masculinity has only just begun to be discussed in the context of social psychology in Türkiye. Replication studies were conducted in Türkiye on fragile masculinity research, which was conducted according to American ideals of masculinity and social order, and it was revealed that masculinity in Türkiye is seen as a social position that can be earned/elevated through performance compared to femininity. In contrast, femininity is defined in terms of more physical and hormonal characteristics and is therefore perceived as an essentialist gender identity that cannot be changed and developed through social acts and efforts. In this case, while it is considered reasonable for masculinity to redeem itself in cases where it makes 'mistakes' and to do so by subordinating women and LGBTI+s, it is not seen as possible for women to rebuild themselves through social acts and gain appreciation in cases that society sees as 'mistakes'. In this sense, how people perceive masculinity and femininity shapes their responses to gender-based inequalities, violence, prejudice, and discrimination, and continues to be a serious obstacle to the reduction of these situations."



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## Erkeğin Kırılabilirliği, Kırılanın Erkeği

Dr. Beril Türkoğlu  
Ankara Medipol Üniversitesi  
Psikoloji Bölümü

06 Mart 2020  
13:00  
Çok Amaçlı Salon



“[Violence Against Women Information Leaflet](#)” was prepared with TEDU COPeS, which was established to provide psycho-social support due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An [English translation](#) of the information form was also published on our website on May 7, 2020.

Four articles written by Prof. Cynthia Enloe during the COVID-19 pandemic have been translated into Turkish and published on [our website](#).

# Internship Program

## a. Summer Term Program

Between 22 June 2020 and 2 October 2020, 15 students worked as interns in our center.

Asena Tuğçe Nazlıkaya  
Buse Kaynarkaya  
Büşra Gizem Yakın  
Kübra Ece Özdemir  
Gamze Zenk  
İsmail Atasoy  
Melike Avcı  
Selin Altay

Zülal Dumanlıdağ  
Arzum Dilşad Ölçen  
Bilge Can  
Gözde Koçak  
Havvanur Arslan  
Hayriye Çukurlu  
Tamay Gültepe

## Contact:

**Our website:**

<https://genderstudies.tedu.edu.tr/en>

**Our social media accounts:**

<https://genderstudies.tedu.edu.tr/en/social-media-accounts>