## TED UNIVERSITY Center for Gender Studies

# 2021-2022 Academic Year Annual Report

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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 implementation of approaches to prevent sexual harassment and mobbing.

#### Components of the Center

#### **Administrative Board**

Prof. Zuhal Yeşilyurt Gündüz

Prof. Kezban Çelik

Prof. Aylin Özman

Asst. Prof. Aylin Çakıroğlu Çevik

Asst. Prof. Gülşen Seven

#### **Advisory Board**

Prof. Şebnem Akipek Öcal

Asst Prof. Yağmur Ar Karcı

Asst. Prof. Selin Akyüz Tursu

Asst. Prof. Gülçin Con Wright

Instructor Kerem Selçuk

#### **Members**

Asst. Prof. Beril Türkoğlu Demirel

Assoc. Prof. Bezen Coşkun

Assoc. Prof. Zehra Yılmaz

Dr. Burcu Asena-Salman

Dr. Burcu Sarı Karademir

Asst. Prof. Canay Doğulu

Asst. Prof. Duygu Onay Çöker

Asst. Prof. Melike Ünal Gezer

Dr. Özlem Boztas

Asst. Prof. Şule Akdoğan

Instructor A. Furkan Palabıyık

Research Assistant Sevi Gizem Zeybek

Research Assistant Ezgi Alp

#### **Assistant Specialist**

Assistant Specialist Tuğçe Çetinkaya

#### Partial Scholarship Students

Berkay Kaya

Büşra Başar

Büşra Seray Düzyol

Cenay Gürhan

Neslihan Alakabak

Zekiye Gürün

#### Partial Scholarship Students of the Center



#### Berkay Kaya

Berkay Kaya is a fourth-grade student in the Department of Psychology at TED University. At the same time, he continues his education as a third-grade Sociology student at Anadolu University. In 2021, he did an internship at the Madalyon Psychiatric Center during the summer months. Since 2020, he has worked as a parttime scholarship student at TED University Center for Gender Studies. At the Center for Gender Studies, he mainly focuses on Critical, Fragile, and Hegemonic Masculinities. An example of his studies is the interview he conducted with the Critical Masculinity Datça Initiative. His interests include gender, gender-based discrimination, stereotypes, and prejudice.



#### Büşra Başar

Büşra Başar is a 4th-grade student of the Department of Psychological Counseling and Guidance at TED University. The projects "The Effect of a Sexual Awareness-Based Sex Education Program on Beliefs in Sexual Myths, Sexual Attitudes, and Sexual Knowledge" she took part in 2021, and "Exploring The Hegemonic Masculinity Hierarchy's Reconstruction and Deconstruction in Traditional Tales and Anti-Tales" in 2022 are both funded within the scope of Undergraduate Students Research Support (LAD), by TED University Directorate of Research, Technology and Innovation. As a member of TED University Logos Society, she carries out activities on raising awareness about social problems and combating discrimination. At the same time, she works as a scholarship student at TED University Center for Gender Studies. Her interests include gender equality, sexual health education, and LGBTIQ+ studies.



#### Büşra Seray Düzyol

Büşra Seray Düzyol was born in 1997 in Kadıköy. She completed her undergraduate education at Cankaya University, Department of Political Science and International Relations in 2020. She did her internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. In addition, she continued her education in Spain for 6 months as an Erasmus+ exchange student in 2019. She started her education at TED University Migration Studies Master Program in September 2020. She also works as a scholarship student at TED University Center for Gender Studies. She is also an education volunteer at the Research Centre on Asylum and Migration. Some of her areas of interest are gender, women's studies, regular and irregular migration, and institutional structures of the European Union.



#### Cenay Gürhan

Cenay Gürhan is a fourth-year student of the Department of Political Science and International Relations and a minor in the Department of Psychology. Throughout her educational life, she has taken part in and interned at many institutions and organizations that work and strive to achieve gender equality, such as TED University Center for Gender Studies, Women's Platform for Equality (EŞİK), Sosyal Ben Foundation. In addition, she has gained project experience in the field of gender by doing an internship at the SEREDA Project. In 2021, she currently leads the project in the field of gender and refugees, "Examining the Education Rates of Refugees from the Perspective of Gender Inequality: The Case of Ankara," which is the first TEDU LAD project of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences. Her fields of study are refugees, gender studies, and women's studies.





Neslihan Alakabak is a fourth-year student of the Department of Guidance and Psychological Counseling at TED University. Throughout her education life, she voluntarily worked, participated in advocacy activities, and did internships in the projects and activities of various non-governmental organizations working on human rights, women's rights, social responsibility, education, and sexual health rights. In addition to her internships at private and state-affiliated educational institutions, Alakabak has completed a summer internship at psychological counseling and family therapy centers that provide free counseling services to disadvantaged groups. Along with her interest in migration and migrant rights, she completed her internships at a non-governmental organization working in the field of migrant rights and at the General Directorate of Migration Management. During two broadcasting periods, she conducted radio programs with the themes of vulnerable groups, psychology, and human rights. Alakabak, who has been working actively in student activities throughout her undergraduate life by undertaking the duties such as the President of TED University EduAction Society, social media and broadcast coordinator of Radio TEDU, and the member of TED University Student Council, works as a scholarship student at Center for Gender Studies.

#### Zekiye Gürün



Zekiye Gürün is a fourth-class student in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, TED University. She studied Sociology Minor and Law Secondary Field at the same university. In the Fall Semester of 2021-2022, she was an Erasmus+ exchange student at the Department of Global and European Studies at Universität Leipzig, Germany. Gürün has continued her studies at TED University Center for Gender Studies for two academic semesters as a scholarship student. Continuing her studies on gender, migration, and relations of the European Union since the beginning of her academic education, Zekiye Gürün has long-term internship and volunteering experience in many institutions and research centers such as Bilkent University HMPI Research Laboratory, Flying Broom Foundation, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Foreign Policy Institute. Zekiye Gürün will continue her academic education as a German Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung scholar at the Faculty of Government and Law Studies, Public Economics, Law and Politics Master's Program at Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany. She has written her undergraduate thesis under the title of "Being a Woman in the COVID-19 Era: An Analysis of the Negative Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Domestic Labor and Violence against Women."

### **Events**

#### a. Equal Care

1 On March 1, 2022, as part of the celebration of Equal Care Day, an event titled "A Proposal for Equal Care from Turkey: Purple Economy" was organized with İpek İlkkaracan. The event started with an informative speech by Almut Schnerring from the Equal Care Day Initiative on how Equal Care Day started and progressed. Afterwards, the scholarship students of TED University Center for Gender Studies, Büşra Seray Düzyol and Hayriye Çukurlu, illustrated the Center's works on Equal Care. After the general framework, İpek İlkkaracan, Professor of Economics at Istanbul Technical University (ITU), gave her speech entitled "A Proposal for Equal Care from Turkey: Purple Economy." The event, which was organized via Zoom, was broadcast live on YouTube. Click here to access the record of the speech on YouTube.



"Purple Economy imagines a sustainable economic system based on gender equality that puts care at the center. While Green Economy includes proposals to harmonize production and consumption patterns with nature's regeneration processes, Purple Economy focuses on the question of how to sustain the reproduction of care within a social solidarity that is not based on inequalities. The Purple Economy proposal, developed by İpek İlkkaracan in the 2010s as part of an initiative on care and the green economy supported by the German Ministry of Environment, is a growing and developing concept within the women's movement. It is used in advocacy efforts by women's organizations in Turkey, as well as international organizations such as the European Women's Lobby (EWL) in Brussels and the International Women's Rights Watch Asia-Pacific (CEDAW Asia-Pacific) in Kuala Lumpur."

Prof. Zuhal Yeşilyurt Gündüz's article titled "Equal Care Day: Time to Think and Value Invisible Care" was published in Birgün Newspaper on February 28, 2022, to make care work visible and to inform about the studies of our Center on equal care.

#### b. "Establishing Feminist Bridges in Academy" Seminar Series

The "Establishing Feminist Bridges in Academy" Seminar Series, which was initiated to create a dialogue between feminist academics in the center and peripheral universities, continued. The aim of these seminars is both to ensure the flow of information from the periphery to the center and to create a platform for women academics who are at the beginning of their careers to announce their work, thus sowing the seeds of future projects among feminist academics working in the center and the periphery. The first four seminars, which are planned to be held four times in each academic term, were held in the Spring Semester of the 2021-2022 Academic Year, as listed below.

On November 3, 2021, a seminar titled "The Relationship Between Unions and Women and Gender (In)equality" was held with Asst. Prof. Dilek Keleş from Kırşehir Ahi Evran University, Department of Sociology.

"Unions, as one of the main actors in working life, play an important role in the emergence of a more equal and democratic working life and thus society. As the largest organization of civil society, unions have the power to influence governments easily and when they can establish direct relations with the parties, they function as an important pressure group in the realization of pluralist democracies. The social objective of unions, which derive their power from the collective action of the masses, is to prevent poverty, ensure equality and promote political and industrial de-



mocracy as well as civil and democratic rights. However, since the emergence of the unions, it has been seen that they do not have very egalitarian and democratic structures within themselves due to their maledominated characteristics and organizational limitations. It is possible to say that especially gender-based discrimination segregates male and female members sharply, and that women do not have equal opportunities and conditions with men in terms of membership in unions, participation in union activities, and representation in the management bodies of unions. The unequal and sexist structure of the unions affects women who are already hesitant about union membership and turns into a factor that feeds this existing inequality. In this context, the seminar will focus on the relationship between women and unions and the linguistic and actional practices through which they exist within the masculine structure of unions, and their relationship with awareness of gender discrimination, and for this purpose, interviews with women unionists will be presented as examples."

On December 2, 2021, a seminar titled "The Ones Who Are Left Out of the Canon" was held with Asst. Prof. Seda Coşar Çelik from Bolu Abant Izzet Baysal University, Department of Foreign Language Education.

"Considering the impossibility of discussing all the sub-headings that can be gathered under the main heading of 'Women and Literature' together, I have chosen to limit the scope of this talk to three subheadings: 1. Woman as a writer 2. Woman as an image 3. Woman as a reader. Likewise, due to the multidimensionality of each subheading, I will discuss these three headings in the context of three women writers in Victorian English Literature who, despite being among the bestsellers of their time, have been forgotten and left out of the canon since the beginning of the 20th century: Mary Elizabeth Braddon, Ellen Wood, and Margaret Oliphant. Even though all three novelists were novelists whose names were known by



everyone and so prolific enough to push the limits of the mind, they could not find a place for themselves in the 19th-century literary canon. Although it is difficult to talk about the exact reasons for this neglect, I will try to address the possible reasons in the context of the sensational female characters created by these writers, the impact of these characters on the female readers of the period, their occasionally hurtful interactions with the critics of the period and with each other, and the high literature-low literature debate."

On January 7, 2022, a seminar titled "A Profile of a Woman from the Tanzimat Period: Fatma Aliye within the Framework of Ottoman Women's Movement" was held with Lecturer Dr. Merve Aydoğdu Çelik from Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University.

"Although the visibility of women in the Anatolian geography is mainly associated with the Republic, it is seen that the social status of women was also taken into consideration in the last century of the Ottoman Empire. The Westernization and modernization movement, which began to spread to every field in the Tanzimat Period, was also effective in the woman question. One of the first women to write on this issue was Fatma Aliye Hanım. Fatma Aliye Hanım presented pioneering ideas in the context of her period by



addressing women's problems in areas such as marriage, divorce, working life, and education in both her articles and novels. Fatma Aliye Hanım is also an important figure in Turkish literature as she is the first female novelist. Within this scope, the speech will first discuss the women's movement in the Tanzimat Period in general terms, then focus on Fatma Aliye Hanım's personal life, and finally, the author's novel Refet will be evaluated within the framework of the social status of women and the perspective of women in the culture of the Tanzimat Period. Through the character of Refet, the teacher who gives the novel its name, the theme of women's independence due to having a profession will be discussed. The point that is wanted to be emphasized in this speech is that the efforts to make women visible in the public sphere got off the ground in the last century of the Ottoman Empire."

On February 17, 2022, a seminar titled "Looking at Sexism Through the New Racism: The Articulation of Racism with Sexism" was held with Assoc. Prof. Hatice Çoban Keneş from Munzur University.

"Concerning the discussions on racism and sexism, racism and sexism are considered as ideologies that arise from the same structural conditions and feed each other. In this context, the seminar will focus on new racism, which is mostly based on language, circulated through discourses, and produced indirectly and implicitly by articulating many discriminatory ideologies, and on sexism as one of the main components of new racist discourses. In the light of existing knowledge on the relationship between new racism and sexism, new racist discourses established by articulating different discriminatory ideologies over gender will be tried to be explained through current examples."



On April 7, 2022, a seminar titled "The Patriarchal Circle Between Language, Gender and Violence" was held with Asst. Prof. Muzaffer Derya Nazlıpınar Subaşı from Kütahya Dumlupınar University. The language of the seminar was English.

"Recent studies on women and gender have challenged the longestablished definition of language proposed by linguists, who describe it as a kind of structured system to create, communicate and store information. On the contrary, as new directions and dimensions in feminist criticism have justified, language is the main force behind the construction and continuation of any ideology. Established by the privileged groups to constitute their own value system, language shapes and limits people's interpretation of the world through reprodu-



ced ideologies, and eventually, it creates repressive and suffocating situations for the disadvantaged groups in societies. In this case, women are generally the primary victims of that oppression since they are defined and judged by the patriarchal language that imprisons them into no-choice situations. That is, no matter what ways a woman chooses to think or to do, she is condemned to lose, even in situations where she has been exposed to violence. Men's violence against women is tolerated and even supported in many societies and cultures using misogynistic language that objectifies women's bodies and glamorizes sexual/violence. If women resist those humiliating identifications, they are blamed and silenced as 'they asked for it'. However, the same language that defines men as dominant and sexually/aggressive works in a different way for them, because 'boys will be boys'. Thus, through that phallocentric way of thinking and its man-made language, more and more women are disbelieved, shamed and consequently they all fall prey to violence, physically and/or psychologically. Nonetheless, it is also possible to combat, and then stop violence by using a different language, an all-encompassing one, which offers an egalitarian basis for all sexes and genders. Considering the issues regarding the entangled relationship between language and violence and grounding its argument in post-structuralist feminist studies, in this study, I have aimed to validate that the shaping power of language can also be used to provide a source of inner grounding to eradicate men's violence against women by implementing and internalizing gender-sensitive alternatives both in Turkish and English."

On May 12, 2022, a seminar titled "Building Bridges through Women's Language in Emine Sevgi Özdamar's Novel *Life is a Caravanseral'* was held with Dr. Şermin Sezer-Toraman from Sinop University, School of Foreign Languages.

"I will discuss the issue of women and literature in Emine Sevgi Özdamar's novel Life is a Caravanserai, which transcends the boundaries of patriarchal language and creates forms of expression with a language that is nourished by the female body. It is seen that the fact that Özdamar is a writer who immigrated from Turkey to Germany and started to write her works in German opens up a field for reading in areas such as migration, women, transnationalism, translocalism, and diaspora. In this speech, in Rosi Braidotti's words, I



will focus on the female experience by considering the context in which the main character is embedded and her bodily experience. Life is a Caravanserai is not only a novel written by a woman about women, but it also embraces different ways of being and presents various experiences together with a non-hierarchical approach by creating space in the center of the novel for those pushed to the margins by the dominant (patriarchal) language through the way it deals with events and characters. Although we tend to to evaluate the novel separately from the author's biography, I will start my speech by talking about Özdamar's personal life and how the author is positioned in the literary world. After outlining the background, I will touch upon the multiple intersections in the novel and explain how women from different generations, classes, and nations play a role in the child narrator's process of becoming a subject, and I will examine how the novel opens up space for discussions on the creation of a female language and nomadic feminism within the framework of feminist debates. In conclusion, I will try to explain how the narrative that breaks down hierarchies builds bridges between different generations, social classes, and countries."

#### c. Critical Masculinity Studies Seminar Series

On October 27, 2021, a seminar titled "Masculinities, Feminism, and Queer in Theory and Practice" was held with Dr. Atilla Barutçu.

"In this presentation, I will focus on the relationship between the field of critical masculinity studies and feminism and queer studies, which I think has been overlooked at some points. I will emphasize that these three fields should not be considered independent of each other both in the theoretical debates in the academic community and in the impact of these debates on the struggle for gender equality, and I will touch upon the visible and/or implicit commonalities between them. For this purpose, first of all, I will draw your attention to the theoretical and methodological association of critical masculinity studies with feminism in its process of evolving as a separate field and gaining its



identity, and then I will discuss the aspects of this unity that I think should receive support from queer today. In doing so, as an academic working in the field of critical masculinity studies, I will also present a critical approach to the field from within the field and reflect on how these three fields intersect in today's debates."

On November 17, 2021, a seminar titled "Phantom Masculinity" was held with Asst. Prof. Cimen Günay-Erkol.

"In this speech, I will discuss the theoretical blockage in the field of critical masculinity studies around the concept of 'hegemonic masculinity' and why the concept of 'contained masculinity' has failed to overcome this blockage. Through the concept of 'phantom masculinity', I propose to highlight men not for what they have gained, but for what they have lost. I propose the concept of 'phantom masculinity' to describe the anxiety caused by the loss of masculine power, like the phenomenon of 'phantom pain,' which describes the pain of lost limbs. French surgeon Ambroise Paré, considered the 'father' of forensic medicine, observed the phenomenon of phantom



pain after amputation operations. Paré first used phantom pain (phantomschmerz) in his article 'Harquebusses and other guns' (dated 1552 or 1554). It is a pain felt in the lost limb; soldiers coming out of surgery claim that their severed limbs 'ache' as if they were still there. Just as the pain of a limb that is no longer there can be felt, the pain of a 'male power' that is worn out, lost, and mourned can be traced through this conceptualization. By giving examples from literature, I also want to show how literary works offer valid ways to illuminate intimate issues of masculinities."

On December 8, 2021, a seminar titled "Changing Masculinities and Masculinity Crisis" was held with Prof. Dr. Serpil Sancar as part of the Critical Masculinity Studies Seminar Series.

"In male-dominated societies, where the founding values are strength, rationality, and aptitude for science, masculinity is defined as being fearless, taking risks, and enduring physical pain. Men are charged with the responsibility of ensuring the security of society. Within the framework of heterosexist culture, men's sexual freedom is considered inviolable, while the purchase of women's bodies with money is seen as natural. The opposite is true for femininity and women who cooperate with male domination are rewarded. However, important changes have occurred in the process. The modern family model, in which men were the head of the family and the breadwinners, was transformed when men began to share the responsibility



of earning a living with women. The norm of 'dominant fatherhood' has changed, and the father figure who earns money but does not spend time with his children has been replaced by a new father figure who attaches importance to establishing an emotional relationship with his children. Practices based on compulsory military service and the mass education system in barracks have weakened. Middle and upper-class men started to refrain from military service. The legitimacy of heterosexual masculinity and heterosexuality as the only type of sexuality disappeared and the LGBTI+ movement gained strength. Men who are in favor of equality between the sexes, who reject homophobic masculinity and heterosexist perspective by considering the criticisms of the LGBTI+ movement, and who want to change the dominant masculine values and norms have started to speak out. Thus, the hope for an egalitarian social transformation whose subject and object are men has emerged. On the other hand, all these changes frighten masculinities and make men's authority as the head of the family unsustainable. Having lost authority in the family, men try to maintain their position and subjugate women by using violence. In parallel to this situation, an anti-women (misogynist) men's movement has emerged and started to argue that women's rights and women's emancipation are not suitable for the structure of society and family, that the legal rules protecting masculinity (early marriage, restriction of the right to alimony, etc.) should be maintained and that LGBTI+ rights would disrupt public order. Therefore, alongside an egalitarian social transformation, we are confronted with a development that puts social peace and democracy at risk."

On April 28, 2022, a seminar titled "Potential Masculinity Crisis during the COVID-19 Pandemic" was held with Research Assistant Dr. Canan Dural Tasouji.

"Pandemics create various changes in the social, economic, political, and psychological structure of the societies in which they are born. As an important component of the social dimension of the Covid-19 Pandemic, gender has greatly shaped the social impact of the crisis. It is determined by the results of this effect, from the incidence of diseases and deaths to the gender of health care workers and other frontline workers, from the distribution of work in the home to the rates of domestic violence. Examining the gender dimension of the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects on gender is an important area of research for social scientists. This study aims to understand the change created by the experience of being at home and working from home during the epidemic as a crisis and an opportunity for change in masculinity roles. In the study, which



was designed as qualitative research, in-depth interviews were conducted with male participants living in different cities, with different educational, age, and socio-economic statuses, selected through snowball sampling, and who experienced being at home/working from home for different periods during the pandemic, and the data were analyzed using descriptive analysis. The men interviewed stated that they participated more in housework and childcare during this period and that they experienced changes in the sexual division of labor and role distribution within the household. Even if it is too early to characterize the extent of this change as a transformation in dominant masculinity values, it is thought that it is important to understand that working from home and flexible working after the Covid-19 Pandemic will be permanent for both men and women, the new position of the home as a working space and the rupture this situation will create in states of masculinity as a 'crisis' and an opportunity for change."

On March 31, 2022, a seminar titled "A Passionate Mood of Masculinity: 'Modified Tofaş' Youth" was held with Prof. Şahinde Yavuz.

"Assumptions about masculinity have changed since the second half of the twentieth century. While the privileges of masculinity persisted in economic and social terms, with the increasing inclusion of women in the labor force, work, family, and gender identities also changed, and the distinctions between the private and public spheres, where identities were shaped, began to lose their former certainty. Economic change has also transformed the cultural sphere. The field of consumption has also changed in parallel with this change, and consumption has become an indispensable part of the sense of identity, especially among young men. The relative constancy that modern capitalist society provided in class, gender, and personality



roles threatens displacing codes that have been eroded and established in the postmodern period. Like all post-identities, 'masculinity' has a very changeable, unstable, and fragmented structure. Subcultures react differently to the domesticating, commercializing wave of capitalism. Subcultures are the cultures that conform to the norms of the culture within the social structure but exist by creating their norms. This research considers young men who drive Tofaş brand modified cars as members of a subculture and aims to find out how men belonging to this group live their masculinity, how they experience their masculinity, and how they construct their identities outside of what is accepted/legitimate within the urban fabric. The paradox created by the necessity of establishing a coherent structure in an environment where what is fixed, and tradition is constantly undermined also encompasses masculinity. In this sense, owning Tofas modified cars appears as a form of individuality. The masculinities experienced by young people depending on the maneuver they have because of their cars to experience individuality and differentiation will help to understand modern masculinity. The research aims to find out who these young people are, the language they use among themselves, the style of clothing and hairstyles, music, and the way they spend their leisure time."

On May 26, 2022, a seminar titled "KEKRE: A Discussion on the Trans Men's Masculinity Constructions in the Framework of Critical Masculinity" with Umut Derin Eroğlan.

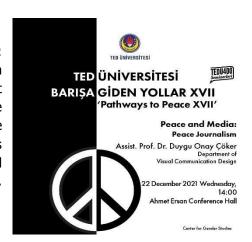
"KEKRE Documentary focuses on the experiences of masculinity performances positioned as 'other' against the hegemonic understanding of masculinity and aims to reveal the construction of the dominant masculinity performance in society. In the documentary, different experiences of the social construction of the representation of masculinity are shown through seven 'other' performances, which point to various forms of masculinity whose performance is not limited to single masculinity, and the hierarchy and vulnerabilities within different experiences of the social construction of the representation



of masculinity are shown through seven 'other' performances, which point to various forms of masculinity whose performance is not limited to single masculinity, and the hierarchy and vulnerabilities within different performances of masculinity. The documentary deals with the assigned/constructed masculine identity of people who have experienced and/or experienced masculinity and its effects on other identities of masculinity. Ultimately, the documentary seeks to answer the question 'Which masculinity?' KEKRE reveals that every experience of masculinity is unique. We invite you to create a transgender view of masculinity from a place that is also the subject of the documentary and to discuss the constructions of masculinity of other men - especially transgender men - within the framework of critical masculinity."

#### d. TEDU400 Seminars

On December 22, 2021, a TEDU 400 Seminar titled "Peace and Media: Peace Journalism" was held with Asst. Prof. Duygu Onay Çöker from TED University, Department of Visual Communication Design, as part of the Pathways to Peace Conference Series. Emphasizing that peace journalism is 'rights-based journalism' and that it does not refer to the absence of a ceasefire or war/conflict, but to a situation that is always enriched by a focus on peace, Asst. Prof. Duygu Onay Çöker defined the concept as reporting tension or conflict without promoting violence. The language of the seminar was English.



On February 24, 2022, a TEDU 400 Seminar titled "The Importance of Intersectionality in Gender Equality" was held with Asst. Prof. Gülçin Con Wright from TED University, Department of Sociology. Gülçin Con Wright started the seminar by explaining what intersectionality means and how it has its roots in African-American feminist writing. After a very brief overview of the theoretical debates on which it is based, she explained the main matrices of intersectionality, such as gender, class, race and ethnicity, sexuality, disability, and age, and how privilege and oppression in these matrices shape human lives. She closed the seminar by emphasizing that an intersectional approach is also an issue of social justice, using examples from the contexts of gender-based violence and global health to illustrate how intersectionality is essential for gender equality. The language of the seminar was English.



#### e. Other Events

On November 19, 2021, The Digital Violence Workshop was held with the contributions of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and Çankaya Municipality.

The workshop, which was organized for female students studying at TED University and facilitated by Nurcihan Temur and Pinar İlkiz, started with a discussion on the concept of 'gender.' Temur explained the subject as "Life is a theater stage and we are asked to play the roles attributed to us on the stage, and when we refuse, we are kicked out of the sta-



ge." She then talked about the types of gender-based violence. It was added that digital violence, which is one of the types of gender-based violence and which has become more visible with the increase in the use of technology and social media, is relatively common and intense. At this point, Temur stated that not everyone is equal in the cyber world and that some social groups, especially women, girls, LGBTI+ individuals, and refugees, are more likely to be exposed to digital violence. Temur added that to see the reflections of gender inequality in the cyber world, the comments made to female MPs and male MPs on Twitter can be compared. Temur also emphasized that digital violence can occur independently of the relationships established and the place one is in; for example, violent behavior can be directed from someone living in another country and this situation increases the risk of exposure to violence. Digital violence was classified as cyberstalking (following people with a negative intention), cyber harassment (interacting in a way that creates a feeling of discomfort and insecurity in the person, sharing sexual content, sending hate speech and discriminatory messages), using images taken with or without consent for threatening purposes within the scope of visual sexual harassment (in a relationship) and breach of privacy (seizing e-mail addresses and passwords and using them against the other party). Temur stated that the negative effects of digital violence on people are quite large and can cause a heavy feeling of insecurity, self-blame, depression, and suicide, due to the possibility of personal information and visuals being attributed to the world by exceeding the boundaries of established relationships and the place they are in. Temur stated that after being exposed to digital violence, it is important to accept that it is violence, to avoid self-blame, to share the situation with someone close to us, to search for application mechanisms, to seek psychological support if necessary, and to seek counseling from the relevant authorities. At the same time, it was added that disclosure can also be an effective method. İlkiz, at this point, underlined that it is very important to be prepared for the risk of counter-litigation and to seek counseling from a feminist lawyer if the disclosure is to be made. Expressing that some individual measures can be taken against digital violence, İlkiz listed these measures as follows: Being aware of the fact that solving personality tests on the Internet means transmitting a lot of information about ourselves to the other party, not using information about ourselves when determining passwords, not connecting different digital platforms and applications, checking the device's permission status of third-party platforms and applications, asking "Is there a need for this sharing" before making a post that has the potential to reveal the location or a special situation that can be used against us, adjusting its settings, being aware of the fact that platforms and applications that offer free services request relatively much personal information in return, showing the paper on which the number is written instead of verbally transmitting the phone number to the cashier, enabling two-step verification feature in e-mail accounts, creating a detailed complaint request instead of 'spam' digital violent behavior on social media, logging out of personal accounts after using a foreign computer, and clearing the search history. Stating that digital violence can be prevented with such small barriers, İlkiz underlined that the solution can only be realized beyond individual steps.



On November 26, 2021, an awareness event was held with Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Çankaya Municipality, and Yenimahalle Municipality within the scope of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

On March 10, 2022, as part of 8 March International Women's Day, a seminar titled "40 Years of Gender and Women's Studies in Turkey" was held with Prof. Yıldız Ecevit. It was also possible to participate in the seminar, which was held face-to-face at the Ahmet Ersan Conference Hall, via Zoom.

"Gender and women's studies in and outside of academia in Turkey have a 40-year history. As a discipline, these studies initiated an inquiry that could change the nature of knowledge, and it did so by showing that women have different thoughts, experiences, needs, and interests, and shifting the focus from androcentrism. An evaluation of the development of this discipline by focusing on original research and education programs offered at universities should include our shortcomings as well as our achievements



and give clues for the future of the discipline. One point that can be emphasized today is that we are going through a period in which we need to be careful, alert, and critical in the field of gender and women's studies. Conservative policies remove women from power, prevent their access to resources and strengthen their role as housewives/mothers, while not supporting their participation in the economy/production; moreover, these policies are doing all this in the name of 'being female friendly.' Revealing the effects of these policies and practices that increase gender discrimination and inequalities through feminist critical studies is an important responsibility of those who work on gender and women's studies in Turkey."



It is a human right to talk about sexuality, to be able to receive lifelong comprehensive education, and to have easy access to 'correct' information about it. In this direction, an event titled "Sexuality for All: Sexual Health Conference" was held on April 2, 2022, with the Logos Society and Turkish Psychologists Association Student Unit LGBTIQ+ Studies Unit Student Commission. In the event, which consisted of six sessions, Prof. Dr. Ayşe Akın, Research Assistant Yusuf Barburoğlu, Melis Arslan, Specialist Doctor Filiz Ak, Prof. Veli Duyan and Nedime Erdoğan, and Atilla Dirim gave speeches titled "Sexual Health and Youth," "What is Sexuality," "Safe Sex and Sexual Health Protection," "HPV and HIV Awareness," "Psychosocial Intervention in Transmitted Infections," and "The Effects of Health Services, Stigma and Discrimination Around the LGBTI+ Parent Experience."

On April 1, 2022, "21. A seminar titled "A Woman's Identity in 21st Century Istanbul: Tango Dancing Body as a Symbol" was held with Dr. Melin Levent Yuna.

"The Istanbul Convention was the first binding international convention on violence against women. It was approved on March 14, 2012. AKP gave up this convention in March 2021. And the issue of women, which has been fluctuating for centuries, has become sensitive again. Especially in many societies like Turkey which experienced the Westernization process in their history, gender roles and identity, especially women's identity, are important areas in which the value system, change, and develop-



21. Yüzyıl İstanbul'unda Bir Kadınlık Kimliği: Bir Sembol Olarak Tango Dans **Eden Beden** 

21 Nisan 2022, Perşembe 15:00 https://bit.ly/3NV0x3z

ment of those societies are reflected and represented. For this reason, in my speech, I would like to talk about the identity and state of femininity in the 21st-century Istanbul, and how that identity of femininity is reflected and reproduced performatively through bodies: How do women dancing the Argentine tango in Istanbul, especially in the 21st century produce their own female identities through their bodies and bodily existence? What kind of self and identity do these dancing women, who belong to a certain social class, create during this performance existing physically in certain places, in certain ways, and by performing the dance? What kind of womanhood do they represent? What womanhood and classiness are they separating themselves from during and through this act?"

On May 16, 2022, a seminar titled "A Netnographic Analysis of Ayşe Arman's News Series on Berfin Özek, A Victim of Acid Attack" was held with Dr. Burcu Asena-Salman.

"Netnography, a new method, works on ethnographic analysis using the inactive data accumulated on the digital platform. Dr. Burcu Asena-Salman, who is the author of one of the first doctoral dissertations using Netnography in Turkey, also analyzes news about Berfin Özek and follower comments, which Ayşe Arman has been posting in her Instagram column since 2019, with this method. When more than 3000 comments made under each post are considered one by one, society's perspective on violence against women becomes noticeable."





Ayşe Arman'ın, Kezzap Saldırısı Mağduru Berfin Özek Haber Dizisi Üzerine **Netnografik Bir Analiz** 

Dr. Burcu Asena-Salman TED Üniversitesi Temel Bilimler Birimi

16 Mayıs 2022, Pazartesi 13:00 https://bit.ly/38irEFF

#### f. Podcasts

The first episode of TEDU Gender Podcast, the Podcast channel of our center, was broadcasted on November 22, 2021. Our broadcasts have been turned into text by Berkay Kaya, Büşra Başar, and Cenay Gürhan, who work as partial scholarship students at our center and have been published on our website. Thus, our podcasts have been made more inclusive and accessible. <u>Click here</u> to access our podcasts.

#### Interview with Nedime Erdoğan from **GALADER:** "LGBTI+s Are Neither Wrong Nor Alone"

In the first episode of TEDU Gender Podcast, the interview between Asst. Prof. Gülçin Con Wright and Nedime Erdoğan from Ankara Rainbow Families Association takes place; starting with a conversation about how the founding idea of the association came about, what it aims to do, what kind of activities it organizes and what it means for LGBTI+s. Afterwards, Erdoğan presents her views on the threats against LGBTI+s in today's Turkey and the solidarity that has developed in response to them, and what kind of responsibilities families and universities have in creating an environment where young LGBTI+s can realize themselves in a safer environment.



#### **Fairy Tales and Gender**

In the second episode of the TEDU Gender Podcast, Melek Özlem Sezer, author of "Tales and Gender," analyzes tales by making connections with social conventions, ideology, masculine structure, interests of political power, genetic memory, and subconscious codes. She questions how we can find the kissing of a dead person romantic, or why we are not surprised that two young children are abandoned in the woods by their parents. On the one hand, she warns the listener of classical tales, on the other hand, she draws attention to the elegance of the tales that she describes as noble.



#### The Struggle against Sexual Violence and the Gelincik Center

In the third episode of TEDU Gender Podcast, Prof. Sebnem Akipek Öcal's interview with the Head of Ankara Bar Association Gelincik Center Lawyer Aslı Koçak Arıhan begins with a conversation about the purpose and activities of the Center. After drawing a general framework on violence against women, harassment, stalking, dating violence, and digital violence, important information on the legal steps that can be taken when exposed to violence or harassment is presented.



#### **Deep Poverty as a Human Rights Violation:** Women's Poverty and Child Poverty

In the fourth episode of TEDU Gender Podcast, a volunteer member of our Center Dr. Burcu Sarı Karademir is talking with esteemed Hacer Foggo, Founder of Deep Poverty Network. She begins by reminding the meaning and importance of defining the concept of deep poverty as a violation of human rights. Afterwards, it is underlined that poverty is a symptom of a multidimensional structural problem and it is reminded that the solution should be structural and rights-based. Topics such as women's poverty, child poverty, poverty, and gender roles, the necessity of understanding the existence of different insecurities arising from poverty in the family, food security, and basic nutrition in schools are discussed. Finally, Hacer Foggo's journey of solidarity and hope, which will begin with our opening up to each other, ends with messages of hope.



Dr. Burcu Sarı wrote an article about this Podcast titled "Deep Poverty as a Human Rights Violation: Women's Poverty and Child Poverty," published in <u>Birqun Newspaper</u> on 3 August 2022.

#### Feminist NGOs in Vienna: Challenges and Opportunities. A conversation with Esra Böyük from Orient Express

In the fifth episode of the TEDU Gender Podcast, which is the first one in English, we will take a look outside of the academic field: What feminist practices are realized in civil society and nongovernmental organizations? Olga Zipplies, an Erasmus+ intern at our Center, speaks with Esra Böyük, who works at a feminist NGO called "Orient Express" in Vienna, the capital of Austria. They are discussing the issues that women with a migration background in Austria's face and how the work of Orient Express and other NGOs is supporting them.



#### g. Other Activities

#### **Gender Equality Plan**

TED University's work on the Gender Equality Plan has been initiated. First of all, we participated in the trainings offered by GE Academy. Then, data that could be an indicator of gender equality were requested from different departments and units to understand the current situation of the university. After the examinations, it has been determined that the gender-based, that is, gender-related data collected so far is limited and the said deficiencies and needs were included in the Gender Equality Plan. An online questionnaire was administered to all administrative and academic staff in order to obtain data to ensure that the Gender Equality Plan is inclusive. The questionnaire includes open-ended questions about the opinions of the personnel about the positive and negative situations of the 5 thematic areas, the problems they encounter, and their solution suggestions. In addition, the staff was asked about any other ideas they would like to share regarding each theme. Before proceeding to the next process, the data obtained through the survey were analyzed and the needs that were considered important for the personnel in line with the Gender Equality Plan of the institution and the issues brought up by the participants were revealed. After the survey, focus group interviews were conducted with academic staff, administrative staff, and students. In this framework, 6 focus groups were formed: academic staff (women and mixed), administrative staff (women and mixed), academic and administrative (mixed), and students (mixed). Participants were determined by considering criteria such as gender, seniority, experience, and household type to hear different voices and identify their needs and expectations. Focus group discussions, which were held online and based on the confidentiality of their identities with the volunteer participants, were conducted by independent researchers who had experience in the Gender Equality Plan and were not members of TED University.

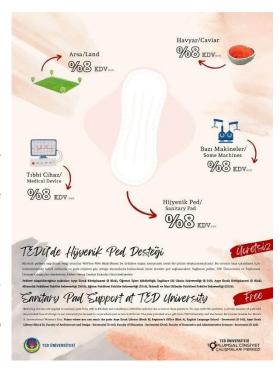
#### **Dating Violence Studies**

A press release has been prepared for the Measurement Study of Awareness on Dating Violence, which was held in the 2020-2021 Academic Year. The press release, which was served on 19 October 2021 by TED University Corporate Communications Directorate, reached 132 press reflections within a week. Figen Atalay from Cumhuriyet Newspaper conducted an interview with Research Assistant Tuğçe Çetinkaya about the study. The interview was published in the Sunday Supplement of Cumhuriyet Newspaper, dated October 31, 2021. Another interview was conducted with Irmak Yaşar from Formsante Magazine. The interview, titled, "Don't Be Exposed to Violence!" appeared in the February 2022 issue of the magazine.



#### Sanitary Pad Support at TED University

An 18 percent tax was applied to menstrual products under the name of the Luxury Consumption Tax in Turkey. The said tax rate was reduced from 18% to 8% in 2022. However, considering the increased prices caused by the economic crisis, it did not provide a definitive solution in terms of access to these products, and women, the poor, and university students began to raise the issue of their "menstrual poverty" and to demand zero tax for menstrual products. It is clear that menstrual products should be considered under the category of basic needs and that menstrual poverty is a social problem of equality. To cope with this problem, free pads have been started to be provided at our university to be used in certain quantities and in cases where pad access is difficult. The provided pads were given by the members of TED University and the Gender Studies Center as a gift to the members of our university on March 8, International Working Women's Day. Studies are carried out to ensure that the sanitary pad support is sustainable.



#### **Archive of Current News and Columns on** Gender

The compilation of current news and columns on gender is being continued. Click here to access the daily updated compilation study.



## Internship Program

#### a. Erasmus+ Internship Program

Olga Sophie Zipplies from the University of Vienna took part in various projects of the center as an Erasmus+ intern under the consultancy of the faculty members at the Center between March 15 and July 15, 2022.

#### b. Winter Term Internship Program

In the winter internship program carried out between January 17 - February 11, 2022, strengthening gender equality and male participation in the fight against gender-based violence, netnographic data collection over the internet, archive work on gender, feminist theory and women writers, data collection study in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), visualization of scientific data produced in the field of Critical Masculinity Psychology, safe space study in universities and translation of previous internship program outputs into English were carried out. Within the scope of these studies, 24 interns participated in our Center.

Begüm Güngenci	Büşra Serdar	Damla Ayvaz	Melis Kayhan
Begüm Özfidan	Ceren Kalınbacak	Feyza Alpaslan	Merve Reyhan Fındık
Berru Ayşe Yılmaz	Ece Polat	Gizem Derebek	Rabia Bilgin
Betül Çapar	Eda Sönmez	Gizem Ünal	Sema Nur Koçaker
Bircan Karasu	Emre Gözüküçük	Hilal Sönmez	Sümeyye Balcı
Burcu Akın	Erkin Başar	Koray Ateşsönmez	Şeyma Orhan

#### c. Summer Term Internship Program

In the summer internship program carried out between July 8 – August 12, 2022, content research on the courses on gender equality, study on women's movements in Turkey, study on education and gender studies, Turkish political setting, and gender studies, family and gender studies, period poverty study, design study in law and translation of previous internship program outputs into English were carried out. Within the scope of these studies, 19 interns participated in our Center.

Asena Damla Şahin	Ezgi Sernur Kırcı	Mertcan Okul	1
Ayberk Yağız Gül	Feyza Süer	Meryemgül Şahin	Tuğçe Kaban
Beril Yıldız	Hasan Yalçın	Meziyet Yıldız	Zeynep İnal
Buket Akcan	Hatice Özde Özen	Reyhan Cemre Karaçalık	Zeynep Şahin
Ebru Ezik	Melisa Feride Çelik	Rozerin Asmin Sarıpınar	
Ekin Dönmez	ı	1	į

#### d. Compilation Study of Internship Study Outputs

In addition to the internship studies, the internship studies that have been carried out so far and which are suitable to be presented as outputs have been started to be compiled to make the effort behind visible and to share them with everyone concerned. <u>Click here</u> to access the compiled studies.

## Next Semester

The seminar series "Establishing Feminist Bridges in Academy" and "Critical Masculinity Studies" and the podcasts will be continued in the 2022-2023 Academic Year. Winter and summer internship programs will be repeated. You can follow our website and social media accounts to be informed about all the events.

#### Website:

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

#### Social media accounts:

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

#### **Podcast accounts:**

https://genderstudies.tedu.edu.tr/en/podcast-accounts