ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

OCTOBER 2012

Discussion with the Women’s Museum Istanbul curator Meral Akkent: "World Women’s Museums: A Strategy for Opposition"

Sabancı University’s Tuzla Campus hosted the Women’s Museum Istanbul (IKM) curator, Meral Akkent. In her speech, Akkent talked about the urban museum of Women’s Museum Istanbul which is housing the voices of women from all periods and cultural circles, honouring each contribution to women’s history without distinction, and carefully and equally remembering the past efforts of women due to their present repercussions.

DECEMBER 2012

III. Dicle Koğacıoğlu Article Award and Student Conference

Organized by Sabancı University’s “Gender and Women’s Studies Forum,” the third “Dicle Koğacıoğlu Article Award” has found its winners in a ceremony that took place after the student conference held at the Karaköy Minerva Palas building on December 15th, Saturday.

The winning prize of the article award which commemorates the academician and activist Dicle Koğacıoğlu went to Beril Türkoğlu’s Fay Hattındaki Erkeklikler: Çalışma ve İşsizlik Ekseninde Erkekliğe Bakış. The second prize was granted to Seher Kırbaş Canikoğlu’s article entitled Feminist Bir Perspektifle Türk Ceza Kanunu’nda Cinsel Saldırı Suçu. Nacide Berber, with her Özel Sektörde Yönetici Kadınların Cinsiyet Kimliği ve Feminizm Algısı received the third prize. Sabancı University rector Prof. Dr. Nihat Berker and the dean of Sabancı University Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Mehmet Baş handed the awards to the winners.

During the award ceremony, a panel moderated by Sabancı University Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Member Ayşe Gül Altınay was launched. Beril Türkoğlu from Middle East Technical University, Seher Kırbaş Canikoğlu from Ankara University and Nacide Berber from Istanbul University presented in this panel their award-winning articles.

The family, friends, and students of Dicle Koğacıoğlu as well as the rector Prof. Dr. Nihat Berker attended the Dicle Koğacıoğlu Article Award Ceremony.

MARCH 2013

International Women’s Day Activities

Anne Fausto-Sterling’s Academic Seminar: “How Newborns Become Boys or Girls: A Focus on Development”

Invited as part of the March 8th International Women’s Day activities, Anne Fausto-Sterling from Stanford University gave a speech on the Sabancı University campus. In her talk entitled “How Newborns Become Boys or Girls,” Fausto-Sterling addressed how newborns “discover” their sex and recounted the ways in which environment and social stereotypes about gender inform the experiences of becoming a “boy” or “girl.”
SU Reading Club Event: Richa Nagar “Playing with Fire,” Nebahat Akkoç (KAMER), Ayşe Gül Altınay (Sabancı University)

Organized as part of the March 8th International Women’s Day activities, the third “SU Reading Club” took within its scope the book, Playing with Fire: Feminist Thought and Activism through Seven Lives in India, which includes collective thoughts, memory works and experiences of seven women activists in rural India who have taken issue with a rigid hierarchical structure, while making a call for the building of trans-border alliances, and suggesting to worldwide feminist projects a way to achieve solidarity and a unique collective transformation to boot.

The event started with the opening remarks of Sabancı University rector Nihat Berker, Nebahat Akkoç from KAMER Foundation, Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Member Ayşe Gül Altınay, and an author of the book Richa Nagar. This was then followed by a rich discussion thanks to the intense questions raised by attendants under the moderation of Nihat Berker.

Anne Fausto-Sterling: "Nature vs. Nurture: How Feminists Think about Gender Differences"

Discussant: Hale Bolak (Bilgi University)

On the 8 March International Women’s Day, Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum had at the Karaköy Minerva Palas building one of the most famous feminists in the world, Anne Fausto-Sterling from Brown University, for a talk entitled “Nature vs. Nurture: How Feminists Think About Gender Differences”. Hale Bolak participated as a discussant in the panel which was moderated by Sabancı University Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Member Ayşe Gül Altınay.

Anne Fausto-Sterling started her speech by addressing the second wave feminism of the 1970s. She said that her decision to study hormonal effects was taken under the influence of the second wave feminism. Fausto-Sterling underscored the roles and meanings attached socially to being born as a male or female. She described gender as the diversity of roles ascribed by society to individuals on the basis of their sex. Anne Fausto-Sterling emphasized that homosexuals and trans-individuals are also born into structures as such.

APRIL 2013

Joan Scott: "The Uses and Abuses of Gender"

Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum welcomed the faculty member of Princeton University, the author of the book Feminist Tarihin Peşinde [The Pursuit of Feminist History], and feminist historian Joan Wallach Scott on April 20th, 2013.

Scott came to Turkey for her book Feminist Tarihin Peşinde which is edited by the journal Feminist Approaches in Culture and Politics and published by bgst Publishing, and at the Karaköy Minerva Palas building she gave a public lecture entitled “The Uses and Abuses of
Gender.” While discussing the concept of gender, Scott questioned as to whether gender can and will remain a site of feminist struggle in the 21st century.

**MAY 2013**


Carried out by Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum, this talk addressed how the demands of gay and heterosexual couples for the legalization of international commercial surrogacy induced a contradiction concerning the rights of sexual citizenship. While handling the problems of transnational commercial surrogacy by employing a postcolonial feminist perspective, this talk discussed sexual citizenship and the possibilities and limits of an egalitarian approach in a social context when it comes to the issue of reproductive rights. Begüm Başdaş from Bilgi University was the discussant of the talk, while Doğu Durgun from Sabancı University undertook the task of moderation.

**NOVEMBER 2013**

Semiha Es Women Photographers International Symposium

Partners: Women’s Museum Istanbul (IKM), Koç University Research and Application Center for Gender and Women’s Studies (KOÇ-KAM), Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum

As part of the “Women’s Cultural Heritage” events of Women’s Museum Istanbul (IKM), “Semiha Es Women Photographers International Symposium” took place between November 28-30, in the memory of the first woman travel and war photographer of Turkey, Semiha Es, who covered the Korean War as a photojournalist and recently passed away in 2012.

Women photographers’ place in and contributions to the 21st century’s world of photography, and the interrogations of dominant views in photography through a gender perspective were among the topics examined in the symposium’s panel and roundtable discussions which focused on various issues such as war, the female body, violence, memory, documentary and art photography.

Running in parallel to the symposium, photography exhibitions were opened on November 29th in Sismanoglo Megaro, the exhibition venue of the Greek Consulate on the İstiklal Street. Whereas the photography exhibition “Semiha Es” paid homage to the first travel and war photographer of the Turkish press and highlighted Semiha Es’ contributions to the history of photography in Turkey; the exhibition entitled “Second Eye: Women Photographers from Turkey” aimed at shedding light on the significant intellectual and artistic accomplishments of 26 Turkish women photographers since the 1980s, foregrounding women photographers who have fervently produced artistic works and women artists who have embraced photography as a way of artistic expression, and presenting their contributions to the processes by which
photographic expression becomes subjective. The works of the exhibition curated by Ahu Antmen were then brought together in the form of a book.

DECEMBER 2013

IV. Dicle Koğacıoğlu Article Award and Student Conference

Organized by Sabancı University’s “Gender and Women’s Studies Forum,” “Dicle Koğacıoğlu Article Award” has found its winners in a ceremony that took place after the student conference held at the Karaköy Minerva Palas building on December 28th, Saturday. The conference took a start with the opening remarks of Boğaziçi University Sociology Faculty Member Ferhunde Özbay. Özbay mentioned the works and academic contributions of Dicle Koçakoglu in her speech.

In the first panel moderated by Ayşe Öncü (Sabancı University), Pınar Ensari (Sabancı University) as the author of the first prize article entitled “Kurtarılmış Bir Kürt Gibi Hani”: Doğu ve Güneydoğu Anadolu’ddaki Kürt Kadımlarının Eğitimle İlişkisini Yeniden Düşünmek, Nihan Bozok (METU) as the author of the second prize article entitled Hikayeler Anlatılırken Özneler Kurmak: Anne, Yurt, Jilet, and Ayşe Üstübici (Koç University) as the author of the third prize article entitled Düzensiz Göçün Cinsiyet Halleri: Riskler, Entegrasyon (?), Yasal Statü ve Korumaya Erişim took the stage respectively and spoke of their works.

In the second panel, Mehtap Tosun (METU) presented her study, Emeğin Fiziksel ve Toplumsal Görünmezlikinden Bir Kesit: Kadın Emeğinin Dersim’de Enformel Konumlanışı, which was awarded with honourable mention for the first time in the history of the contest. Dilara Çalışkan (Sabancı University) and Ozan Soybaş (EHESS- Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) also presented their articles, entitled respectively: Trans* Seksi İşçisi Anneler ve Kızları: İstanbul’daki Trans* Cemaatinin Sistematik Polis Şiddetine Karşı Mücadelerinde Hafıza Geçişinin Rolü and Kamusal Alanda Bir Saklambaç Oyunu: Toplumsal Cinsiyet поможет Muzdarip « Bir Başka » Erkekler. Begüm Başdaş (Bilgi University) moderated the second panel.

The jury of the 5th Dicle Koçakoglu Article Award consisted of Ferhunde Özbay (Boğaziçi University), Füsun Üstel (Galatasaray University), Hülya Canbakal (Sabancı University), Sevgi Ucan Çubukçu (Istanbul University) and Süha Oğuzerten (Bilgi University).

MART 2014

8 March International Women’s Day Activities

Evim! Güzel Evim! Performance

The first activity organized by Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum within the framework of 8 March International Women’s Day was the performance, Evim! Güzel Evim!. The play for which the Sabancı university academician and the founding member of the Forum Ayşe Gül Altınav worked as a dramaturge, interrogates the notion of “family” which is generally deemed to be the building block of society, and it highlights the
ways in which this structure may lend itself to mechanisms reproducing systematic violence to the detriment of women.

A discussion session was held after the play, with the participations of the playwright and director Ebru Nilan Celkan, dramaturges Ayşe Gül Altnay and Özlem Karadağ, assistant directors Pınar Hamzaoğlu and Saniye Samra and performers Füsun Demirel, Burcu Çelik, Özge Ertem and Fatih Özkan.

**Women from the Past to the Present**

Nebahat Akkoç

In this talk organized as part of 8 March International Women’s Day activities on the university campus, and given by the founder of KAMER foundation which operates in 23 cities and districts of the Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia regions to fight violence against women since 1997, Nebahat Akkoç did not only narrate the story of KAMER’s establishment, but also told her story of becoming a feminist and the overall trajectory of women’s movements via personal anecdotes.

**Middle East, Women and Peace**

*Moderator: Ayşe Kadıoğlu (Sabancı University)*

Nadje Al-Ali (SOAS, University of London), Nebahat Akkoç (KAMER), Hilal Alkan (Women’s Initiative for Peace), Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

In this panel moderated by the dean of the Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Ayşe Kadıoğlu, the Iraqi women’s movement in the initial and later periods of the post-invasion Iraq was treated in a comparative fashion by Nadje Al-Ali.

Nadera Shalboub-Kevorkian delivered the talk entitled, “Criminalities while Processing Peace,” where she discussed the implications of the Israel-Palestinian peace process for women and Palestinian women’s movements.

Hilal Alkan from Women’s Initiative for Peace addressed the peace process in Turkey. She remarked that women are ignored as the process unfolds. Nebahat Akkoç from KAMER asserted that the concepts of peace and democracy are so closely intertwined that achieving peace without democracy is not possible.

**Gendering (Counter) Revolutions: Reflecting on Egypt While Thinking About Iraq**

Nadje Al-Ali (Soas, University of London)

This public lecture given by Nadje Al-Ali from University of London, SOAS marked the last event of International Women’s Day. In her talk entitled “Gendering (Counter) Revolutions: Reflecting on Egypt While Thinking About Iraq,” Al-Ali appealed to the examples of Egypt and Iraq in order to examine how extraordinary events such as war and revolution impinge upon the lives of women.
APRIL 2014

Gendered Memories of War and Political Violence Young Researchers Conference

Partners: Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum, Istanbul Policy Center, Central European University, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Organized by Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum with the collaboration of Central European University, this conference that took place on April 25-27th 2014 intended to analyze the ways in which the experiences of war and political violence are remembered through the prism of gender, while evaluating and unveiling the contributions made by feminist researches in war and memory studies. On a related note, it was the first conference ever organized solely by graduate and doctoral students of Sabancı University.

The panels “Gendering War and Genocide,” “Masculinities and Femininities in War,” “Whose Justice, Whose Peace?” “Gendering Resistance,” “Narratives of Migration,” were realized within the scope of this conference. Whereas the panels “Memories of Loss, Melancholia and Mourning,” “Gender and Nationalism,” “Shades of the Military,” and “Gendered Representations in Literature and Cinema” were held in the final day of the conference. The closing panel featured Eren Keskin from the project Legal Aid to the Victims of Sexual Assault and Rape in Custody, Merve Arkun from the Conscientious Objection Association and Rela Mazali, the author of Home Archeology.

MAY 2014

Jack Halberstam (University of Southern California)

Charming for the Revolution: A Gaga Manifesto

With the collaborations of the Arts and Social Sciences Faculty and Gender Studies Club, Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum hosted one of the most prominent queer theoreticians, Jack Halberstam. Halberstam delivered a public lecture on his book, Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender and the End of Normal,” at the Karaköy Minerva Palas building on the 21st of May, 2014.

Halberstam, in his speech, addressed the contemporary interactions between capitalism and feminism, and alternative modes of critique deriving from feminism. While underlining that the clusters of critical responses to capitalism that have circulated in the twentieth century have transformed themselves from identitarian pursuits grounded in the histories of exploitation and oppression, to new understandings of solidarity, commonality and political purpose, Halberstam stated that feminism has also undergone a transformation through its interactions with innovative models of activism.

Gender Talks on Campus

The goal of the Gender Talks on Campus is to provide a venue where academicians from different faculties and programs of Sabancı University can share their studies concerning gender with other university members.
Ersin Kalaycıoğlu from the Arts and Social Sciences Faculty launched the first speech of this talk series initiated at the spring 2014. Kalaycıoğlu shared the findings of his study, “Family, Work and Gender in Turkey” that he carried out with a faculty member of Koç University, Ali Çarkoğlu.

Alev Topuzoğlu from the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences delivered the second talk of the series, “Gender-Fair Science (+Technology+Engineering+Medicine...): How?”. Topuzoğlu expressed how women are excluded from a variety of fields such as technology, engineering, medicine, etc. at all levels (recruitment, promotion...) and then discussed the proposed solutions.

**PROJECT 102 Courses 2013/2014**

**Fall 2013:**
- Representation of Gender Balance in the Media During the Gezi Park Protests (Supervisor: Olcay Özer)
- Dating Violence (Supervisor: Ayşe Yüksel)

**Spring 2014:**
- Statistical Research on Gender Equality in the Academia in Turkey (Supervisor: Ayşe Yüksel)
- Statistical Research on Women Academicians in Basic Sciences in Turkey (Supervisors: Alev Topuzoğlu, Olcay Özer)
- Homophobia and Transphobia on Campus (Supervisors: Armanc Yıldız, Olcay Özer)

**Movie Screenings and Discussions, Gender Awareness Events**

- 7 November 2012, Wednesday:  
  “Can” Movie Screening and Discussion with the Director Raşit Çelikezer
- 27 December 2012, Thursday:  
  “Yuva” Movie Screening and Discussion with the Director Ebubekir Çetinkaya
- 17 April 2013, Wednesday:  
  “Benim Çocuğum” Documentary Screening and Discussion

Gender and Women’s Studies Forum and Civic Involvement Projects Office operate in tandem to organize movie screenings with a focus on gender, and invite film crews for discussion.

**Continuing Education**

Gender and Women’s Studies Forum initiated a series of workshops in October 2011. Akin to “lifelong learning programs” implemented in various universities, these workshops conceive to provide a setting whereby to share our knowledge on the fields of gender and feminism. In that regard, these workshops are designed for people who are considering the lifelong learning
programs of other institutions, but unable to find programs offered on the gender/feminism field. We hope these workshops to continue in the forthcoming academic year.

**Continuing Education**

- November-December 2012: “Male Artists on Masculinity and Femininity”
- January 2013 Discussion with Selim İleri: “Masculinity and Femininity in Literature”
- February-March 2013: Workshops on Creative Writing and States of Sex

**Forthcoming Educations**

- October 2014 Gender in Literature
- November 2014 Female Authors
- December 2014 Queer in Literature

**PROJECTS**


**Project Partners:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Women, Sabancı Foundation, Sabancı University

**Cooperators:** Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Local Authorities, Ministry of National Education, General Directorate of Teacher Training and Development, Ministry of Family and Social Policy, General Directorate of Women’s Status, The Union of Municipalities of Turkey

Carried out by Sabancı University in line with the United Nations Joint Programme, the Purple Certificate Program is a project that seeks to raise gender sensitivity among and through high school teachers in 11 cities (Aydın, Çanakkale, Edirne, Erzincan, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Kastamonu, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Ordu). The ultimate goal of the Purple Certificate Program is to tackle gender inequality prevailing in our society, and particularly in high school education, by fostering a gender sensitive culture among high school teachers and students.

For the project, many events were held with the participation of high school teachers in Istanbul, and in their own cities.
Local Gender Awareness Workshops

Sabancı University academics and the project crew of the Purple Certificate Program organize local gender sensitivity trainings and workshops for high school teachers across different cities. These workshops aim to make a call for the Purple Certificate Program that is to take place in Istanbul and conduct modules indicative of the Program.

The Purple Certificate Program

Through the one-week heavy training program to be executed on the Sabancı University campus, at least 40 high school teachers will earn the Purple Certificates each year. The modules which are periodically restructured in accordance with the necessities of high school teachers and cities are as follows:

- Gender and Women’s Movements
- Gender and Media
- Let’s Talk About Violence: Workshop on Violence, Sexual Violence and the Effect of Violence on Mental Health
- Violence Against Women and Law
- Sexual Harassment Workshop
- Gender and Taboo Roles
- Gender in Mathematics and Natural Sciences
- Gender in Literature
- Gender and Mental Health of Adolescents
- Gender in School Textbooks
- Creative Writing Workshop
- Gender and Psychology
- Facilitation Workshop
- Good Examples in Gender Equality Education

47 teachers from Aydın, Eskişehir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri and Kocaeli have received their certificates in 2013; whereas, in 2014 the number dropped to 38 teachers from Çanakkale, Edirne, Erzincan, Kastamonu and Ordu.

Follow-up Meetings and Supervision Meetings

These meetings as well are conducted by Sabancı University academics and the project crew. Teachers participating in the Program are expected to convey gender sensitivity into their (extra-)curricular activities and students after their return. In that context, the Program crew pays visits to some cities around October or November to remind the contents of the Program as well as to have brainstorming sessions to foment new ideas for the project.

Also “Supervision” meetings are held in cities at the year’s end. Teachers are encouraged to present the activities/projects they developed on gender with their colleagues and the Purple
Certificate Project crew. Contemplating, building and improving projects are the end goal of such meetings.

The Purple Certificate Program will take place in Sabancı University again, in June 2015. Teachers who have developed projects for 3 years are going to be invited to Istanbul in October 2015, for the conference “Good Examples” where they will present their projects.

“Do You Have the Right?: Capacity Development Program for Human Rights in Business”

Project Partners: Mikado Consulting and Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum

Supported by the Netherlands Embassy’s Human Rights Fund, “Do You Have the Right?: Capacity Development Program for Human Rights in Business” ended in October 2013 with the conference, Human Rights in Business, Best Practices. The project aimed to raise awareness about human rights in private sector, thereby driving change by promoting good examples.

The project consisted of three stages:

1) Trainings: Two-days “Human Rights and Business” trainings with the participation of 29 attendants from 16 companies.
2) Implementation Guidance: Free 6-months implementation guidance given to companies which attended the trainings and are willing to set good practices in their operations.
3) Human Rights in Business Best Practices Conference: For the last step of the project, the conference Human Rights in Business, Best Practices was held on September 25th 2013. Additionally, the Best Practices Booklet which involves the details of the whole process as well as best practices implemented by attending companies was prepared and made publicly available.

Empowerment Workshops for Volunteers

Project Partners: Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey, Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum, Umut Foundation, Bilgi University Sociology and Education Studies Division, Bilgi University Child Studies Unit

This project which was administered by the Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV) and realized in concert with the European Union Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Grant Scheme, sought to help raise children and youth in Turkey as modern individuals and citizens who are aware of their rights, able to think critically on social – and more general – issues, and refraining from stereotypes, prejudices, discrimination and violence; while extending trainings given on such fields. In that respect, Sabancı University
Gender and Women’s Studies Forum organized gender sensitivity workshops for TEGV volunteers.

“The Purple Pigeon”

**Project Partners:** Youth Re-Autonomy Foundation of Turkey, Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum, KAMER Foundation

As extension of the European Union Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Grant Scheme, this project aims at forging relations between local civil society organizations working on women’s rights and penal institutions for women, highlighting imprisoned women’s victimhood regarding the issue of violence against women by rendering their visibility, equipping incarcerated women with a feminist perspective, and providing them with information about women shelters. Accordingly, Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum will offer “Gender Sensitivity and Violence Against Women” trainings to women prisoners.

"Business Against Domestic Violence" Project

Project Partners: Sabancı University Corporate Governance Forum, Matra Fund of the Consulate General of the Netherlands, Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum, UNFPA

Business Against Domestic Violence Project which is launched by Sabancı University Corporate Governance Forum, and supported by Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum, is designed to implement support mechanisms in the workplace and promote best practices, tools and methods to reduce domestic violence through the use of businesses’ managerial and organizational capabilities. The project which is realized with the funding support of the Consulate General of the Netherlands, seeks to raise awareness about women’s rights and improve the working conditions of women so as to enable them to take more active positions in business life.

“Independent Women Directors” Project (2012-2013 August)

Project Partners: Gender Forum, General Consulate of Sweden, Egon Zehnder International Turkey, Sabancı University Corporate Governance Forum

“Independent Women Directors” which is initiated by Sabancı University Corporate Governance Forum, with the financial endorsement of General Consulate of Sweden, and in strategic partnership with Egon Zehnder International Turkey is a project supported by Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Forum that helps companies to give priority to women when nominating independent directors. This project intends to form the ‘Board Ready’ Women inventory of Turkey, and in doing so meets women candidates whom the companies seek for with those companies.