## Gender and Women's Studies Research Center Kadir Has University Activity Report 2019-2020







## **ABOUT THE CENTER**

The Gender and Women's Studies Research Center at Kadir Has University aims to create an intellectual locus for interdisciplinary research, teaching and institutional change related to gender equality. As one of our goals, we seek to critically re-examine discussions of equality and gender as they pertain to the status of women, while bearing in mind that the field is not limited to male and female prototypes but also includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTIQ+) individuals. We are specifically interested in creating change that is systemic and sustainable. Ours is a feminist organization. We define feminism as a social movement that seeks to end sexist and gender-based oppression. As such, simply adding more women to existing systems is not enough, rather our goal is a transformation of systems of power so that they value a diversity of peoples and create conditions of equality. To this end, men have a role to play in advancing gender equality and we believe that an interrogation of cultural ideas of masculinity is vital.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> This is heavily inspired by the work of bell hooks. "Feminism Theory: From Margin to Center". New York: South End Press, 2000.

#### **Mission:**

Our mission is to educate and produce research for academic communities and the public, primarily but not exclusively in Turkey, with the hope of ending sexism and dismantling gender-based oppression.

#### Vision:

Our vision is to be a significant change agent in transforming Kadir Has University into a leading institution in gender equality and to end genderbased oppression in society by:

- Producing high quality, scientifically driven research
- Organizing gender equality plans & activities
- Initiating active collaboration with the university (campaigns & workshops)
- Networking with other institutions
- Organizing and attending seminars
- Creating awareness campaigns
- Improving reputation management (communication skills, branding)
- Reaching out to men & work on masculinity issues
- Contributing to diversity.

Times Higher Education published THE University Impact Ranking 2020, which lists 768 universities from 85 countries around the world in terms of their social impacts. Click here to access the full ranking. Kadir Has University ranked #3 for "Reduced Inequalities" and #5 for "Gender Equality" in Turkey. <u>Click here</u> to access the full ranking.



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## **1. RESEARCH**

## Survey: The Perception of Gender and Women in Turkey 2020



This annual survey is one of the hallmarks of the Center. Each year, the Center conducts this survey to monitor the general trends among people in Turkey regarding women and gender issues. The survey focuses on questions related to women, family and society; women and work life; equal opportunities in business; social roles and working relationships; approach on women and LGBTI rights; abortion; women and politics. The study was conducted with 1216 people 18 years old and older representing the urban population of Turkey. The 2020 survey results show that in general, there is progression in perceptions of gender equality between women and men. However, women report a more egalitarian orientation than men. Please <u>click here</u> to reach the Perception of Gender and Women in Turkey 2020 survey results.

## Situation of LGBTI Employees in the Public and Private Sector in Turkey – 2019



This research has been conducted by the Kaos GL Association for the private sector since 2015 and for the public sector since 2017. The focus of the research is the hiring processes, general working conditions and personal experiences of discrimination of the LGBTI+ employees of different sectors. Since 2018, Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies Research Center has also been part of the team. In 2019, there were 228 public sector and 772 private sector participants. In line with the findings of previous years, very few employees completely disclose their gender identity, sexual orientation or intersex situation in their workplaces.

Please <u>click here</u> for the 2019 research for the public sector.

Please <u>click here</u> for the 2019 research for the private sector.

#### Access to Emergency Contraception in Istanbul

Access to EC in Turkey - specifically in Istanbul - is expensive and not always guaranteed. EC is widely available at pharmacies although price is an issue and accessibility is marginal at best at government supported Family Health Centers (Aile Sağlığı Merkezleri). Accessibility to EC is crucial for women's reproductive health and rights. The project aims to determine whether access to EC varies depending on the district within Istanbul, and between pharmacies and Family Health Centers.

## Nursery / Daycare services provided by universities for academic and administrative staff

This research includes 127 public universities and 73 private universities. It investigates whether the universities provide academic and administrative staff with access to nursery or day care support for their children. Employer supported access to childcare facilities is vital for work life balance for all employees, both women and men, as well as supporting women's return to work after childbirth.

## Units on Gender Equality, Sexual Violence, Mobbing and Student Clubs at Universities

This research investigated whether universities in Turkey (127 public universities and 73 private universities) have regulations, directives, units and/or student clubs regarding discrimination, gender equality and gender-based violence.

Research on individual, familial and social factors that protect subjective well-being during the pandemic of COVID-19 (TÜBİTAK)



Research on individual, familial and social factors that protect subjective well-being during the pandemic of COVID-19, has been funded by TÜBİTAK. The project manager of this research is Member of the Executive Board of

our Center, Assoc. Dr. Aslı Çarkoğlu. Also Manager of the Center Prof. Dr. Mary Lou O'Neil is in the research project team. The primary aim of the study is to examine the impact on subjective well-being of adults in Turkey during the pandemic of COVID-19 in terms of health psychology, family and women's studies and to develop solutions at various levels (individual, family, policy making).

## **2. PROJECTS**

## GenderEX: Gender for Excellence in Research (H2020-Widespread Project)

The Widespread (Twinning) titled "GenderEX: Gender for Excellence in Research" has been funded by the European Commission for three years from 2021-2023. The project will be coordinated by the KHAS Gender and Women's Studies Research Center, The project team consists of: Prof. Mary Lou O'Neil (coordinator) and Assoc. Professor Salih Bıçakçı (researcher) and Asst. Prof. Şebnem Eşsiz (researcher). KHAS is partnering with Technical University of Dublin, University of Genoa, and Lund University for the project.

## **3. ACTIVITIES**

#### a. Conferences/Events

#### International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

e GenderKhas							
	ŞİDDETİ GÖRÜYORUZ						
25 Kasım Kadına Yö Şiddete Karşı Ulusla	ararası						
Dayanışma ve Mücadele							
Günü							
E-sertifika verilecektir.	14:00 - 16:30 Galata Salonu						
• Çiçek Tahaoğlu (Feminist Gazeteci)							
• Av. Şebnem Ahi (İstanbul Barosu Bilişim Hukuk Komisyonu Başkanı)							
• Doç. Dr. Aslı Çarkoğlu (Kadir Has Üniversite							
• Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Esin Paça Cengiz (Kad							
<ul> <li>Deniz Altuntaş (Toplumsal Cinsiyet ve Kadın Çalışmaları Araştırma Merkezi/ Moderatör)</li> </ul>							
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To commemorate November 25th, as the Gender and Women's Studies Research Center, we organized a panel with the main theme of "Media" the slogan and Was #WeSeeViolence. In addition to the panel, we worked with a number of students clubs (KHAS Law Club. KHAS Psychology Club, KHAS+ --Student Club of Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Club, KHAS Cinema Club, KHAS Theatre Company and KHAS Music Club) to put on a week's

worth of activities to raise awareness about gender based violence.



#### **Talking About Safer Sex**



The Center and KHAS+ (Student Club of Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Club) organized a panel on December 11, 2019

on the topic of safer sex. Obstetrician and Gynecologist Dr.Irmak Saraç and Sexual Health and Reproductive Health Educator Berat Can Erdoğan talked about safer sex and answered the questions asked by audience.



#### Press Release: The Perception of Gender and Women in Turkey 2020 - Year 6

The Perception of Gender and Women in Turkey Research, conducted each year by the Center, were presented to the press on March 10, 2020. Center Director Prof. Dr. Mary Lou O'Neil and Psychology



Department Chair Assoc. Prof. Aslı Çarkoğlu presented the results.

#### Press Release: Situation of LGBTI Employees in the Public and Private Sector in Turkey 2019 - Year 5



KaosGL and the Gender and Women's **Studies** Research Center partner to conduct "Situation the of LGBTI Employees in the Public and Private Sector in Turkey" research. The results were shared

with the press on December 10, 2019 in honor of human rights day. Those presenting included Prof. Dr. Melek Goregenli, Prof. Dr. Mary Lou O'Neil, Dr. Reyda Ergun, Dr. Selma Degirmenci and Doğancan Erkengel. The editor of the reports is Murat Koylu who is the Human Rights Program Coordinator for KaosGL.

### b. Workshop/Trainings

#### **KHAS Orientation Day**



As part of orientation week, the Center's intern Alara Şevval Keskin talked about the KHAS Unit for the Preventation of Gender Vased Harassment, Sexual Harrasment and Sexual Assault (CITOB) and the goal of creating a safe academic environment without sexual

harassment and assault.

#### Presentation on Gender of Life in Turkey for Lead Network

Prof. Dr. Mary Lou O'Neil was a guest of the LEAD Network (Leading Executive Advancing Diversity) monthly meeting. The network supports women leaders working in the retail and consumer products sectors and aims to increase the number of senior female managers and contribute to their development. The February meeting was hosted by Coca-Cola İçecek. In the presentation, O'Neil discussed the issue of gendered language, the division of labor in the home and issues that face working women. O'Neil emphasized that we should avoid language that includes sexism and discrimination for an inclusive and egalitarian work environment.





#### Presentation on Gender Equality and Struggle Practices for Yemeksepeti



celebrations As part of surrounding International Women's Day (March 8) Deniz Altuntas from the Center made a presentation about Gender Equality and Practices for the employees of Yemeksepeti on Monday, March 9. During the seminar Deniz and the participants discussed what can be done both as an NGO

and as an institution in the struggle for gender equality. Deniz also discussed with the participants what can be done both in the company and in their daily lives to advance gender equality.



#### Seminar on the Importance of Gender During Covid-19 Days

As part of Corona virus quarantine activities, the Center's director Prof. Dr. Mary Lou O'Neil delivered a talk on the importance of a gender perspective when discussing COVID-19. The talk was part of the Center for LifeLong Learning activities.

#### c. Other Activites

#### **Guide for Safer Sex**



In order to develop the information and advocacy capacities of young people about sexual health and safer sexual practices, we as Kadir Has University Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Club (KHAS +) and Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies

Research Center, prepared a Guide for Safer Sex. This guide was prepared with the support of Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation (TAPAV).. The responsibility for the content of this publication belongs to KHAS+ and KHAS Gender and Women's Studies Research Center, it does not reflect the views of the Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation. Please <u>click here</u> for the Safe Sexuality Guide.

#### Erasmus + Staff Mobility Program

As part of the Erasmus + Staff Mobility program, Hilal Tekmen from the Center visited Fundación Isonomia and Instituto Feminista (IF) Centers within the Universitat Jaume I in Spain to further international collaborations and exchange ideas about ways to advance equality.





## **4. SOME NEWS ABOUT THE CENTER**



## 5. INTERNS 2019-2020



Alara Şevval Keskin received their BA degree in Department of Psychology in 2019 from Kadir Has University. And Alara prefers they/their as pronoun. While their studentship, they were founding president of KHAS+ (Student Club of LGBTIQ+ Studies) and volunteer at Gender and Women's Studies Research Center as a project coordinator for the Center's activities. Since studentship, they are volunteer their assistant at CITOB (Unit for the Prevention of

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault of Kadir Has University). They also are volunteer at non-governmental organizations and associations like Erktolia, TPD (Turkish Psychologists Association-LGBTIQ+ Unit). Alara was an intern at Gender and Women's Studies Research Center between September and January in 2019-20. Since January 2020, they have been working at the Center as a research assistant. Alara define themself as a passionate human rights activist and feels hopeful about the future.



Mary Sarsam was an intern at the Gender and Women's Studies Research Center from October 2019 to January 2020. She completed her undergraduate studies in Sociology at the University of Vienna and her BA thesis was about gender inequalities in access to healthcare for migrants in Austria. Mary is passionate about developing creative methods for data visualization to aid comprehension of scientific and technical knowledge. Over the course of her

education she has specialized both in gender as well as urban studies, in the hopes of working on creative solutions for social and environmental issues in the future. **Tuğçe Kılıç** was an intern at the Gender and Women's Studies Research Center from September 2019 to January 2020. She contributed to the fieldwork research on emergency contraception in Turkey and assisted in the organization of the media and violence panel on 25 November. In 2018, she did an internship in India at SIDART NGO, a local NGO working on rural development and gender equality. Tuğçe graduated from Boğaziçi University in 2020 with a BA in



Economics and a minor degree in Political Science and International Relations. She studied at Ghent University in Belgium as an Erasmus student. She is particularly interested in critical development theories and gender studies.

Chiara Perin was an Erasmus intern at the GWSRC from February to May 2020. She is originally from Verona (Italy) where she completed her undergraduate studies in Communication. During her BA she managed to get a minor in Gender studies at the University of Helsinki, where the for intersectional passion research ballooned into a real need and source of inspiration. Chiara is now a postgraduate student in Public and Social Science at the



Ca' Foscari University of Venice, focusing on gender and immigration. Before coming to the center, she got the opportunity to attend a summer school on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights at the University of Ghent. During her stay in Istanbul she mainly took care of the social media, the development of the books' collection of our queer and feminist library and she participated in the collection of materials for the LGBTQI+ inclusive guide for universities. She is now conducting her thesis project on the public management of sex working in Italy. Chiara stated that this experience definitely convinced her to ask for a PhD in gender studies.



**ipek Özgen** born in Istanbul in 1994. She graduated from Saint-Joseph Private French High School Istanbul in 2013 and started to study at Galatasaray University Communication Faculty. In her BA thesis, the beauty discourse in media was researched in terms of its structure and function within the definitions of Foucault's power and biopower. The article form of her thesis was published in global media Turkish edition in 2017 fall. She completed her master's degree

at Lancaster University in the MA Sociology program. Her MA thesis focused on social control functions of horizontal surveillance during identity formation by consumption in consumer society and argues the position of shopping malls as one of the physical spaces where horizontal surveillance processes as a self-discipline mechanism. The article form of MA Thesis is published in Global Media Journal Turkish Edition Spring 2020 issue. She started her internship at Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies Research Center in February 2020. Her research interests include consumer society, postmodernism, body, identity, gender, social media, post-feminism, surveillance, and media.



# BENI KIM DINLER KI? Biz dinleriz.

Cinsel tacize maruz kalma durumunda;

Cinsel Taciz ve Cinsel Saldırıyı Önleme Birimi (CİTÖB) citob@khas.edu.tr



## **"ABARTMA" DIYORLAR Rahatsızsan** abartı yoktur.

Cinsel tacize maruz kalma durumunda;

Cinsel Taciz ve Cinsel Saldırıyı Önleme Birimi (CİTÖB) citob@khas.edu.tr



# PAYLAŞSAM NE DEĞİŞECEK?

## Çok şey değişecek.

Cinsel tacize maruz kalma durumunda;

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KHAS+'I BİLİYORUM VE TAKİP EDİYORUM	25 KASIM - Şiddeti Görüyoruz PANELİNE GELDİM	TOPLUMSAL CINSIYET EŞİTLİĞİNE İNANIYORUM	KHAS'IN TACİZİ VE AYRIMCILIĞI ÖNLEME POLİTİKASINI BİLİYORUM	CAT TALKS* ETKINLIKLERINE KATILDIM
FEMINISTIM	GENDER CENTER'IN ETKINLIKLERINE KATILIYORUM	Toplumsal Cinstyet ve Kadın Çalışmaları Araştırma Merkezi Kadir Has Üniverse Kadir Has Üniverse	SAGE DAY PANELİNE KATILDIM	TOPLUMSAL CİNSİYET ALGISI ARAŞTIRMASINI İNCELEDİM
SAGE PROJESINI BILIYORUM	SAFE ZONE NEREDE BILIYORUM	ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ BAHÇESİNDE GÜNEŞLENDİM	GENDER CENTER ETKINLIKLERINDE GÖNÜLLÜ OLARAK GÖREV ALDIM	MARY LOU VE CROCS'LARINA BAYILIYORUM
GENDER CENTER ARAŞTIRMALARI İÇİN GÖREV ALDIM	6284 VE İSTANBUL SÖZLEŞMESİNİ BILİYORUM	GÜVENLİ CİNSELLİĞİ KONUŞUYORUZ PANELİNE KATILDIM	TOPLUMSAL CINSIYET KAPSAYICI BİR DİL KULLANIYORUM	LGBTIQ+ FOBİK DEĞİLİM





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