

Gender and Women's Studies Research Center

Kadir Has University

Activity Report

2016-2017



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 (LGBTI+) 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.¹

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.

Values:

People orientation – The centre puts people first; everybody's complete identity not just that which they carry when engaged with the centre will be acknowledged and will be treated equally.

Communication – The centre implements open communication; communication which is consultative, non-confrontational and which emphasizes an active listening approach.

Respect – The centre is a respectful and a collaborative space; recognizing and valuing individuals and their differences in a non-hierarchical manner.

Democracy – The centre is a democratic environment; making decisions using democratic means, whenever possible.

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 gender-based oppression in society.

By:

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

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

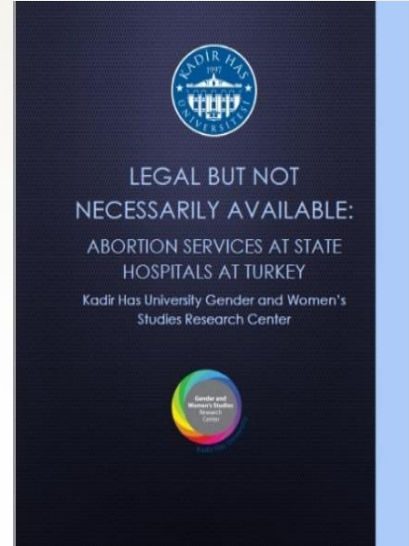
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1. Research

Legal but Not Necessarily Available: Abortion Services at State Hospitals in Turkey

In this research project, the Center investigated the availability of abortion services at state hospitals in Turkey. The research revealed that out of 431 state hospitals with departments of obstetrics and gynecology, 7.8% provide abortion services without restriction as to reason, 78% provide abortion care if there is a medical necessity and 11.8% do not provide the service at all. Of the 58 education and research hospitals with departments of obstetrics and gynecology, 17.3% provide abortion services without restriction as to reason, 71.1% if there is a medical necessity and 11.4% do not provide the service at all.



KADIR HAS UNIVERSITY

THE PERCEPTION OF GENDER AND WOMEN IN TURKEY QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH SUMMARY 2016

KADIR HAS UNIVERSITY GENDER AND WOMEN STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER



Survey: The Perception of Gender & Women in Turkey 2016-2017

This annual survey is one of the hallmark 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 includes seven different parts: women, family and society; women in working life; equal opportunities in business; social roles and working relationships; approach on women and LGBTI rights; women in the media; women and politics.

Media Research

The media research focuses on the gender depictions in printed Turkish media. For this purpose, 8th of March and 1st of May, two significant day were chosen to reveal how different newspapers with different political stances approach the issue. Newspapers studied in this research includes Sabah, Hürriyet, Cumhuriyet, Sözcü, Evrensel and Yeni Akit, newspapers that have the most circulation rate in Turkey. The research revealed that newspapers with different political stances cover news related to woman and gender. (This report is only available in Turkish).

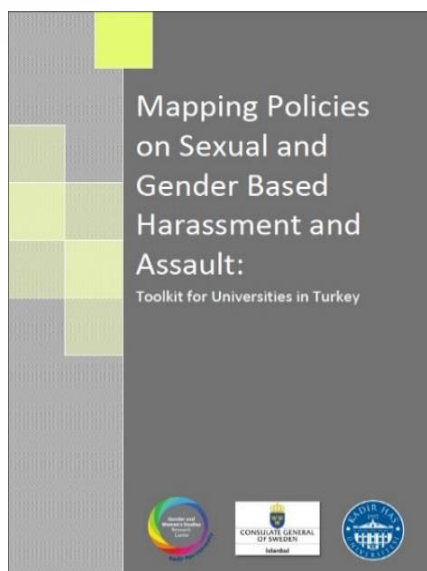
2. Projects

Ongoing Projects

Systemic Action for gender Equality (SAGE)

SAGE (Systemic Action for Gender Equality) is an EU-Horizon 2020 funded project designed to seek stronger action on gender equality in higher education and research producing organizations.

The SAGE consortium (Trinity College Dublin, Queen's University Belfast, Science Po Bordeaux, University of Brescia, Instituto Universitario de Lisbon, International University of Sarjevo and KHAS) are designing and implementing gender equality action plans in their respective. At the same time the project will provide a model for others to develop their own plans. The project started in September 2016 and will continue through 2019



Completed Projects

Mapping SGHA Toolkit for Universities in Turkey

Sexual and gender-based harassment and assault (SGHA) is a pervasive worldwide problem. It interferes with the rights of individuals to enjoy a humane society, workplace and educational environment. To address this problem as well as to provide a practical guide to combat it, the Center produced the SGHA Toolkit which consists of three different sections. In the first section, the toolkit looks at various practices of the universities in Turkey to deal with this problem. The toolkit in the second section provides a self-assessment checklist for universities to create, revise, and improve their SGHA policies. At the end of the toolkit there is a practical guide on important concepts about SGHA.

Mentorship 360

Mentorship 360 was a program supported by various sponsors in which young and professional women members engaged in interactive mentoring in a closed roundtable platform. This platform created a 360 mentorship dynamic along with unique networking opportunities.



“Sevgi Dilde Başlar (Love Begins with Language)”-
Borusan Holding

For the “Sevgi Dilde Başlar” project, we served as consultants to the Borusan Equality Platform for the development of the “[Guide to Avoiding Discriminative Words and Behaviors in Business Life](#)”. Based on the guide, Borusan started an awareness campaign called “Sevgi Dilde Başlar” with the launch of [this video](#).

We are proud to say that the Borusan Equality Platform was awarded with the "Bronze Award" at the 14th Stevie Awards for the "Guide to Avoiding Discriminative Words and Behaviors in Business Life".



3. Events

Presentation of the center for the orientation day + street harassment guide

During new student orientation, the Center presented its activities, research projects, and campaigns. Part of the presentation was dedicated to raising awareness on sexual and gender based harassment. The presentation was followed by the distribution of the street harassment guide, a guide that aims to help students feel and be safe in the street. It includes definitions and examples of sexual street harassment, information about public transportation and taxis, some helpful words and phrases in Turkish.



International Day for the Elimination of
Violence against Women

One of the most vibrant activities of the Center last year was the 25th of November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The day was celebrated with various activities including white ribbon distribution to emphasize prevalence of violence against women, a kravmaga workshop designed for women to improve their self-defence skills, and a movie

screening.

Check out the video of the workshop on Center’s YouTube channel: [GenderKhas University](#)

International Women's Day—March 8th.

EnGendering Foreign Policy Conference

Another exciting day for the Center was International Women's Day. The Gender Center partnered with Center for International and European Studies organized an event about gender and foreign policy. The event included Ambassadors from Bulgaria, Finland and Mexico as well as the Consul Generals of Romania and Sweden in addition to academics and members of civil society.



4. Educational Materials

Gender Matters Videos

The Center has been pleased to launch a series of videos called *Gender Matters*.

The first video produced was on the Self-Defense course run by Krav Maga Academy on the 25th November.

As part of the Gender Matters series, the Centre talked to Sweden's Consul General Therese Hyden on feminist foreign policy, and the Dutch Consul General Robert Schuddeboom on the Netherland's contributions to gender equality in Turkey.



Check out the videos on Centre's YouTube channel: [GenderKhas University](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqKhasUniversity)

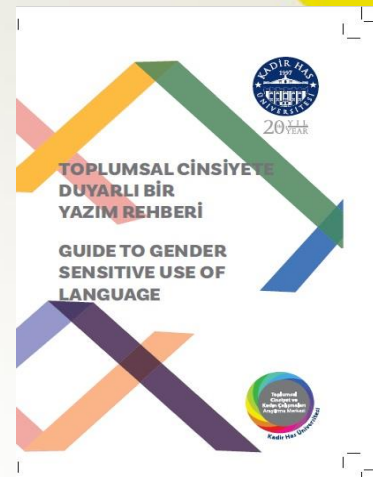
Feminist Library

During the week of International Women's Day, the Center initiated an activity in cooperation with the Kadir Has University Information Center to exhibit books related to women and gender related issues. The initiative was well received by the KHAS community, especially students, and the majority of books chosen were checked out by interested individuals.



Gender Sensitive Language

Gender inequality manifests itself in every aspect of life. Language and word choices often reveal underlying assumptions about gender. This guide is designed to help raise awareness at the level of language about gender patterns related to daily life or individual, social and professional practices. This guide is an attempt to help ensure that in our word choice in both speech and writing, we are not silencing, constraining or stereotyping individuals. This year, the Center edited the previous guide by adding a section that specifically focuses on the linguistic issues related to LGBTI+ individuals.



Violence against women is a daily reality for many women in Turkey and across the globe. It is rooted in power inequalities between women and men.

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN TURKEY?



48% of women believe that physical violence against a wife is permissible in cases of woman's infidelity or disobedience.



To imagine the real extent of violence against women in Turkey: **13,853 women** were treated for injuries caused by reported domestic violence in 2013.



SUSPECTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? KEY ACTIONS**

- 1. Trust your instincts and feelings. The warning signs of domestic violence are subtle and often go unnoticed.
- 2. Take the situation seriously and do not ignore it.
- 3. Take the situation seriously and do not ignore it.
- 4. Do not minimize the situation and do not blame the victim.
- 5. Do not believe the perpetrator's excuses and apologies.
- 6. Do not believe the perpetrator's promises to change.
- 7. Do not believe the perpetrator's threats to stop the violence.
- 8. Do not believe the perpetrator's promises to stop the violence.

ISTANBUL CONTACTS	REFERENCES
Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi Vatancağı 10/50500000000 istanbul@kocni.gov.tr	1. Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi (2015). Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi. İstanbul: Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi.
İstanbul Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi Nispetiye, 33. kat, Çarşıbaşı, İstanbul 0212 383 10 30 40 0000000000	2. Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi (2015). Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi. İstanbul: Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi.
İstanbul Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi Nispetiye, 33. kat, Çarşıbaşı, İstanbul 0212 383 10 30 40 0000000000	3. Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi (2015). Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi. İstanbul: Kadınların Sorunlarına Çözüm Psikolojik ve Hukukî Yardım Merkezi.



Infographic Poster on Violence against Women in Turkey
As part of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Center prepared an info graphic which outlines the most pressing problems related to violence that women in Turkey encounter in daily life.

Ongoing

Poster on Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The Center is currently preparing a poster on sexual and reproductive rights to be hanged all around the campus to increase awareness especially for students on this issue.

5. Publications resulting from Center Research

O'Neil, Mary Lou. "Abortion services at hospitals in Istanbul." *The European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care*. Vol. 22/2, 2017: 88-93. (SSCI)

MacFarlane, Katrina A., Mary Lou O'Neil, Deniz Tekdemir, Angel M. Foster. "It was as if society didn't want a woman to get an abortion": a qualitative study in Istanbul, Turkey". *Contraception*. Vol. 95/2, 2017: 154-160. (SSCI)

O'Neil, Mary Lou. "The availability of abortion at state hospitals in Turkey: A national study." *Contraception*. 95(2), 2017: 148-153. (SSCI)

MacFarlane, Katrina A., Mary Lou O'Neil, Deniz Tekdemir, Elvin Çetin, Barış Bilgen, Angel M. Foster. "Politics, policies, pronatalism, and practice: availability and accessibility of abortion and reproductive health services in Turkey." *Reproductive Health Matters*. 24(48):2016: 62-70. (SSCI)

6. Courses

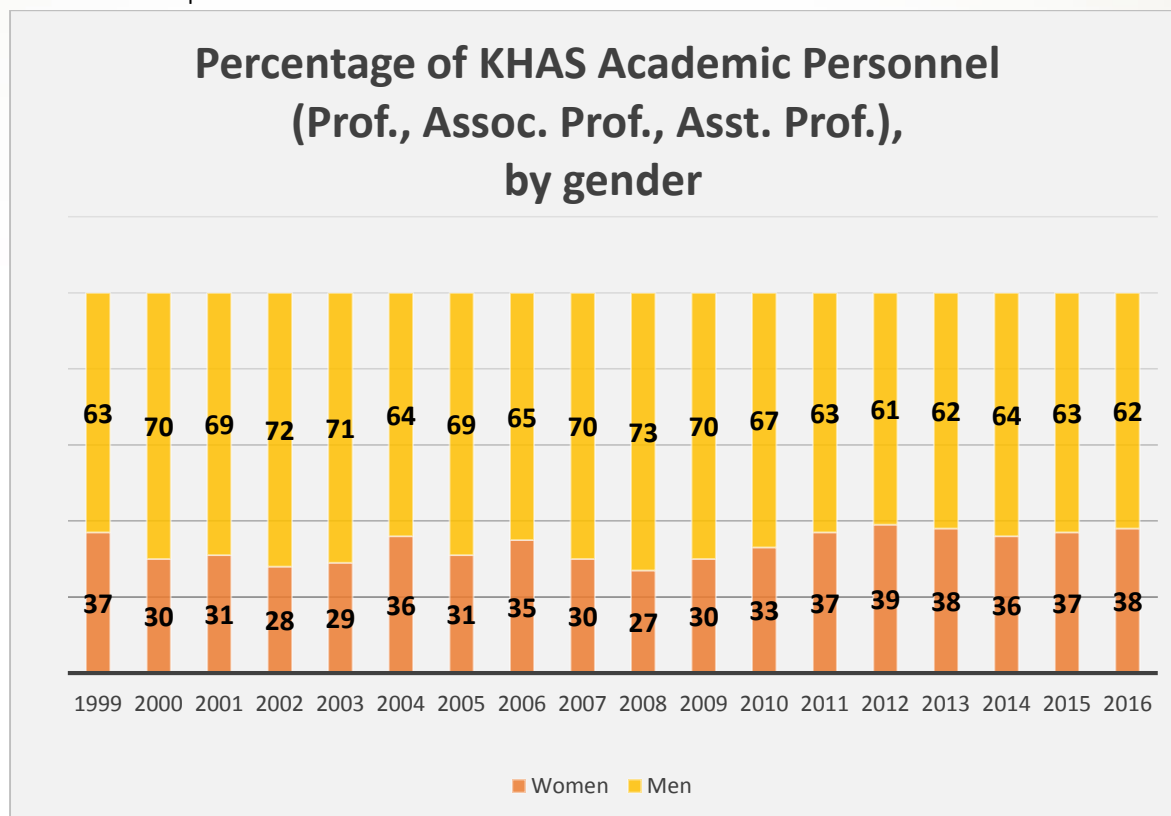
- CS 538 Body, Space and Performance
- CF 311 Gender and Media
- LW 352 Gender and Law
- PS 353 Gender and Politics
- PS 356 Women and Gender Studies
- PSY 321 Close Relationships and Families
- PSY 339 Human Sexuality

7. Gender@KHAS: The Path to Equality

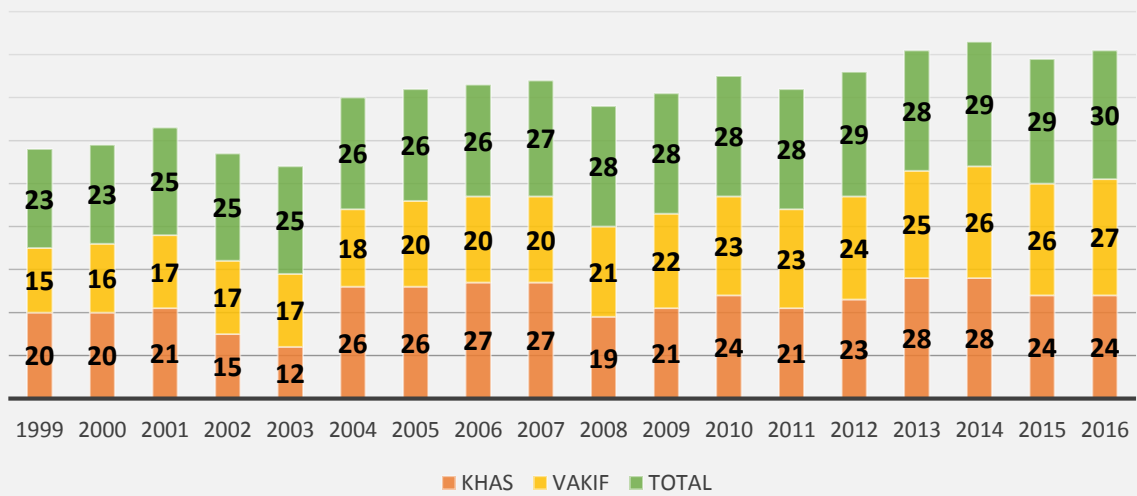
In 2017 Kadir Has University celebrates twenty years of education and research. Following in the tradition of the university's founder Kadir Has, whose personal philosophy was "I will strive to do and be the best for my country", the University has maintained a strong commitment to not only offer education at the highest levels but to also actively engage in social responsibility.

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Kadir Has University, the Gender Center has produced a booklet which evaluates the University's progress on issues related to gender equality as well as map a course for our future path to equality. The booklet is organized around five themes: creating a culture of change; decision making; career progress; work-life balance and research. Each section contains an analysis of progress at KHAS as well as a set of recommendations for further advancement in each area. Here we have some of the results.

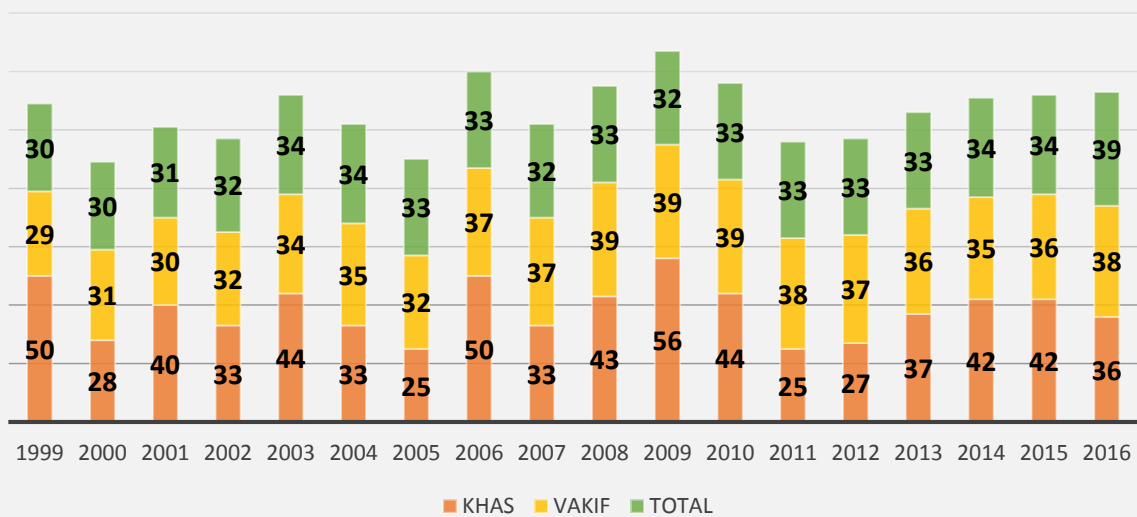
Selected Graphs



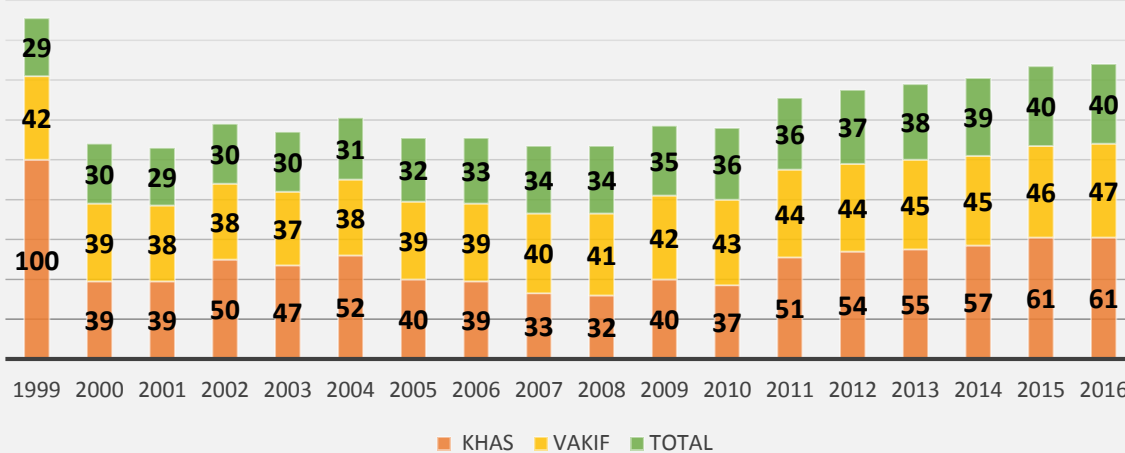
Percentage of women at the rank of Full Professor



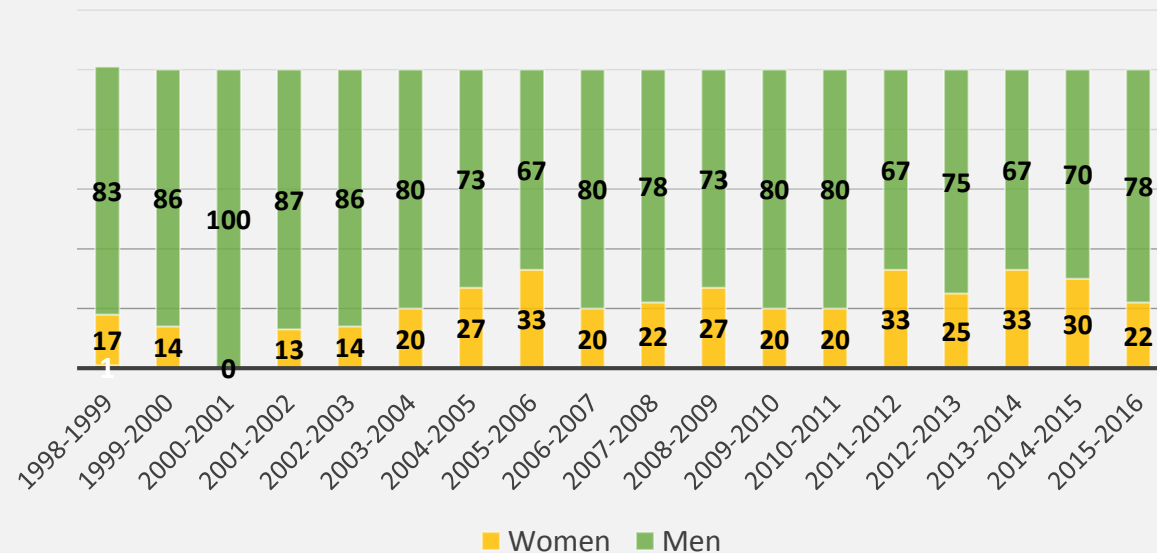
Percentage of Women at the rank of Associate Professor



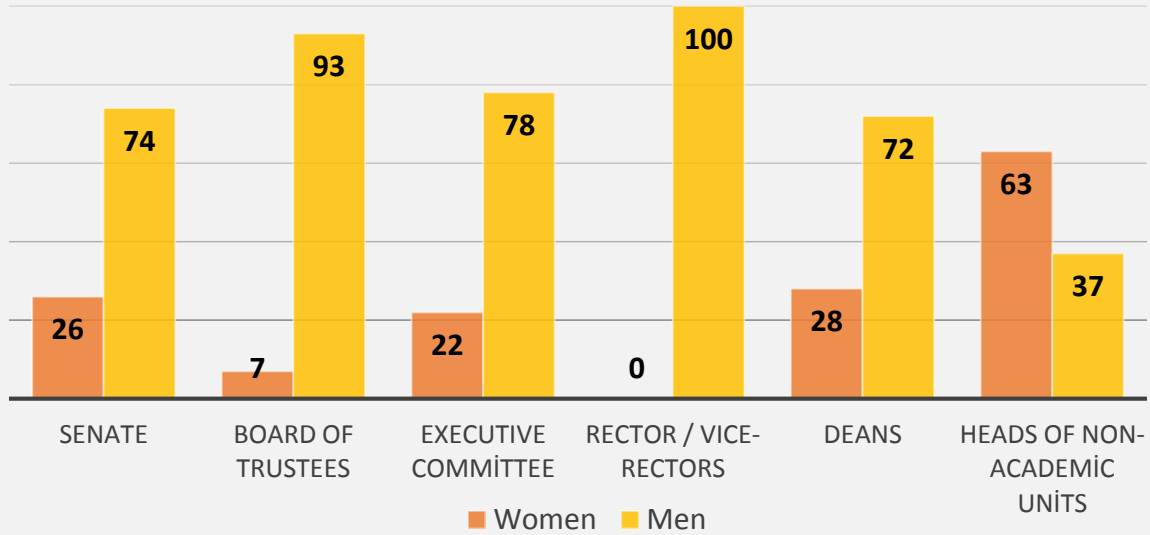
Percentage of Women at the rank of Assistant Professor



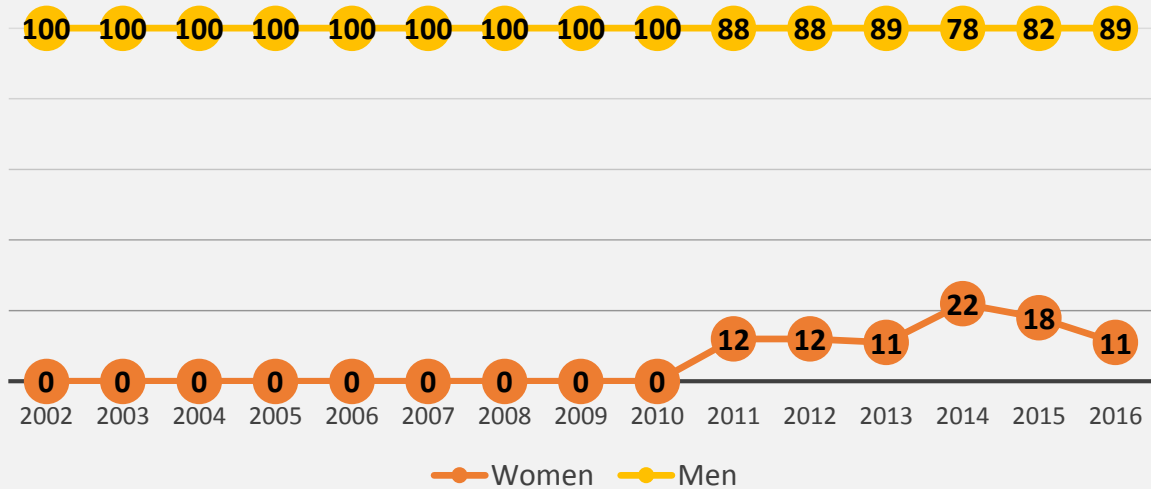
Executive Committee, by gender (%)



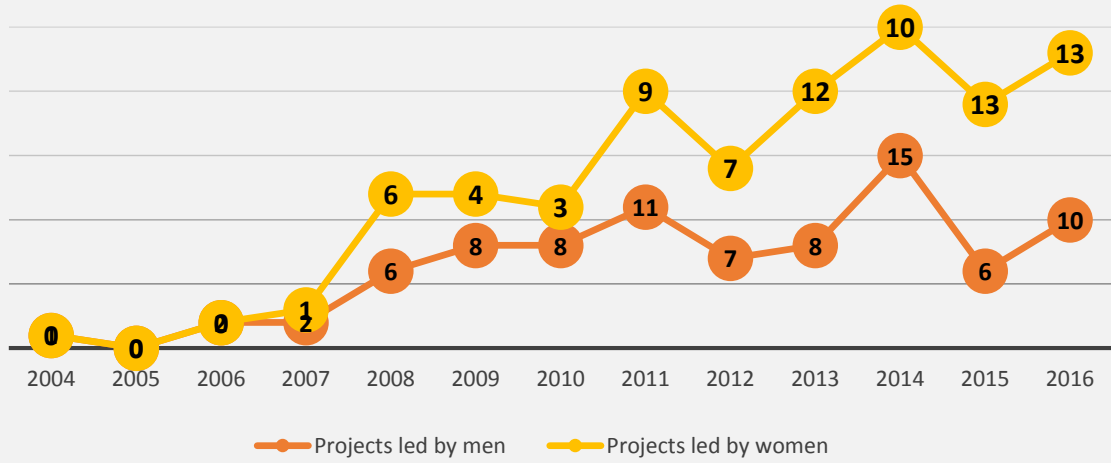
Governing bodies and senior management committees, by gender, 2015-2016 (%)



Research Center Directors (%)



Research Projects



8. Interns 2016-2017

Fatih Kılıç received his BA degree in International Relations from Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey in 2012 where he worked as a department researcher for a year. During his undergraduate studies, he spent one academic year at Kingston University, London, studying genocide and Foco theory. He moved to China to study his MA in Political Science at Tsinghua University, Beijing where he wrote a thesis on the impact of domestic politics on the allocation of development aid. After his graduation, he briefly worked with the Turkish Embassy in Beijing as a researcher on the selection procedure of the Chief Executive of Hongkong. To gain more expertise in research, he worked as an intern at International Strategic Research Organization (USAK) at the Center of Asia Pacific in 2014. He then acquired another MA degree in 2015 in Interdisciplinary Humanities at Brock University, Canada during which he worked as teaching assistant for the courses Introduction to International Relations, International Political Economy and Political Science. He joined the Gender and Women Studies Research Center in 2016 as a research assistant and provides supports on various projects related to politics and gender. He also edits and writes online features on current global affairs.



Rebecca Verwijs received her B.A in Global Change & Project Management in 2017 from the Windesheim Honours College in Zwolle, the Netherlands. During this four-year bachelor program she has worked on several projects concerning public health, HR and education in the Netherlands, Uganda. She finished it in Turkey, where she successfully completed her final thesis on sexual harassment while working at the Gender Center. Her last publications have been on the topics of career path development among young PM professionals and PM team talent optimization in collaboration with Finext and PMED Netherlands. During her bachelor Rebecca has also been an active board member of IPMA Young Crew Netherlands, organizing several PM related activities for young professionals, such as the IPMA Global Young Crew Workshops in Rotterdam, the Netherlands during 2014. Rebecca's main passion lies with Global Issues and International Development; therefore she is currently enrolled in the M.A. International Relations program at Kadir Has University while remaining active within the Gender Center

Esra Büyük, was born on 25th of July in Erzurum. After high school, she started to study at Anadolu University at ELT department in Eskisehir. During her study in Eskisehir, Esra did some voluntary jobs like working in women and children shelters, she worked at Odun pazarı Mor Catı voluntarily. After graduation, Esra worked on a project run by Kadıkoy Municipality especially for illiterate Kurdish women and which tried to teach them how to write and read. At the same time, she worked at a language school as an English teacher and worked there for about four years. After going to Vienna, Esra applied for a master degree at the University of Vienna in Gender Studies. Last year she did some voluntary jobs in Vienna, which got her involved in a project for Syrian refugees (especially women and children). In Austria learning the language is one of the first thing to integrate so they tried to teach German to the refugees, found schools for children and collected some personnel goods for them.





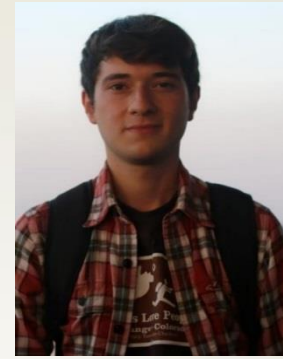
Lenka Barbora Olejníková has a bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations from Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic, and a master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from Uppsala University, Sweden. She has also work experiences in project and operation management from the non-profit as well as the private sector and has participated in various non-profit projects on gender equality, social inclusion and minority protection. Her research interests focus on gendered dynamics of armed conflict and quantitative methods for human rights research, particularly on the relationship between gender equality and conflict-related sexual violence. In the Center, Lenka was carrying out research on sexual and gender-based harassment policies and working on gender equality index for Turkish universities.

Hilal Tekmen has recently completed her master's degree at the London School of Economics in Development Studies. Her research focused on tackling the issue of street harassment in Turkey through the use of social media activism. She has a keen interest in cyber feminism and how social media offers an outlet for women's empowerment. Hilal received her bachelor's degree from Bilkent University in Ankara from the department of International Relations. She studied at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands for one semester of Erasmus exchange programme. During her studies, she wrote for the online newspaper of the university, Gazete Bilkent, and she participated in the organization of the Model United Nations Conference at Bilkent University. Hilal has interned at the IMF Resident Representative Office in Turkey, the US Commercial Service in Ankara, and Istanbul Policy Center. She aspires to pursue a career in the non-profit sector, focusing on international development, gender equality, and women's empowerment.



Kirila Atanasova received her B.A. in Past and Present of South-eastern Europe from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2014, followed by a 6 months long internship at Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies Research Center in Istanbul, Turkey. Kirila is an Alumna of the Balkans Let's Get Up Programme (2015) and has participated in several Erasmus+ Projects on gender related topics. In 2015 she did an internship at the Protocol Department of the Presidency of Republic of Bulgaria. In 2016 Kirila received her M.A. in Balkan Studies from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". After receiving her M.A, Kirila joined the center for one more semester before starting her PhD back in Sofia. Kirila is interested in the historical and social development of the Balkan countries with a focus on the Ottoman Empire and Turkey.

Doğancan Erkengel is from Gaziantep and he is an undergraduate student at Kadir Has University. He was the project assistant of the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth Office-supported program Mentorship 360°. He is interested in Economics, Project Management and Migration studies. He previously worked at OxGAPS (The Oxford Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Forum) as a Research Assistant. He is currently supporting the intra-project communication and management of SAGE (Systemic Action for Gender Equality) project funded by a European Union Research and Innovation program, Horizon 2020.



Insa Kühl is a psychology student from Bremen in Germany. She did her Erasmus at Kadir Has University during the winter semester 2016/2017 and decided to postpone her return to Germany in order to do an internship at the Gender and Women's Studies Center and another one at the NGO "Maya Vakfi". At the Center she was involved in the development of a Peer-to-Peer Education Program



about dating violence and healthy relationships. Inspired by the examination with this topic she decided to focus on the issue of dating violence in her Bachelor thesis. She has been interested in gender related issues and the topic of intercultural challenges for a long time and gained experience in this field during her various voluntary works, e.g. as a project contributor of a psychological discussion group for refugees or mentor of a socially disadvantaged girl, in Germany. As well she focused on these topics during her psychology studies and conducted a research about women who refuse to have children and stereotypes of people from Europe towards the Arabic area. In Turkey, she became a part of Women without Borders, a group for solidarity with migrant women.

Hale Günay is a Modern Turkish History Master's student at Bogaziçi University in Turkey. She graduated from the Fatih University Law Faculty with a full scholarship in 2015. Hale's main research interests are gender-based violence, masculinity, gender, women's history and post-colonialism.

Hale's feminist awareness began at an early age growing up in a traditional, conservative Turkish family and has become more conceptualized due to her academic career. She sees feminism as an aid to interpret social, political and economic relations and to become more independent. She is particularly interested in Muslim feminism and feminist movements in the Middle East because they face a struggle against the government's antidemocratic policies, patriarchal enforcement of conservative Islamic society, as well as Islamophobia. Hale has done her internship at the Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies Research Center by starting from February 2017 until June 2017. After the end of her internship period, she attends seminars as a fellow of Open Society Right and Governance program. Following the clinical seminar, she will intern with the Collective for Research and Training on Development Action in Beirut, Lebanon. In the future, she would like to pursue a Ph.D. as well as work in a feminist organization.



Pinar Ugus has recently obtained her Bachelor's degree in Law at Kadir Has University. She has affinity with international and human rights law from an academic as well as from a practical perspective. As an undergraduate student, she has followed several courses and attended conferences concerning subjects of human rights in order to further develop her knowledge of human rights from an international point of view. She has participated in the Erasmus Exchange Programme and studied in Leiden, Netherlands, for one semester. During her time in Leiden she gained experience in the field of European Law and participated in several projects with students from all over Europe. She was primarily concerned with research on education of Roma children, discrimination and legal status of Syrian refugees in Turkey. In 2016, she attended Summer School of Human Rights Law at Bilgi University that focused on the context and fundamentals of human rights, after being accepted to the programme due to her passion, motivation and previously academic achievements. Recently, Pinar has been occupied doing research on sexual and reproductive rights of women, at the Center. Pinar is planning on proceeding her education within the subject of human rights to further develop, deepen and broaden her knowledge.



Contact Us

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