

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER

Activity Report 2014-2015

Kadir Has University



About the center

The **Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies Research Center** was founded in 2012 with a commitment to create a dialogue around issues of gender and equality. Ours is an explicitly feminist organization with an understanding that gender is not limited to male and female prototypes, but also includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. More than anything, we try to ensure that all of our work is rooted in the pursuit of equality and dignity for all individuals.

In an effort to create dialogue around issues related to gender, the **KHAS Gender and Women's Studies Center** will sponsor conferences, seminars, and panels as well as develop resources for use in research and classroom teaching. We also aim to foster cooperation and exchange between already established centers, both in Turkey and abroad, which are engaged with topics pertaining to gender. Lastly, we strive to ensure that our own institution is itself an exemplar of gender equity in all regards. In this vein, we support academic staff in the development of academic programs related to gender and women's studies as well as work undertaken with the administration to develop and implement the best institutional practices related to gender equity.

As an organization, the **KHAS Gender and Women's Studies Research Center** is a collaboration of individuals from the University as well as the local community. Our intention is to run the Center in a democratic, collaborative, non-hierarchical manner to create the broadest space possible for a diversity of voices and approaches to the study of women and gender.

Activity Report 2014-2015



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Gender-friendly practices at Kadir Has University

Family-friendly practices

The Kadir Has Gender and Women's Studies Research Center strives to ensure that their own institution is itself an example of gender equality in all regards. In this vein, the center supports academic staff in the development of academic programs related to gender and women's studies as well as work undertaken with the administration to develop and implement the best institutional practices related to gender equality. Therefore the Kadir Has University offers their employees a **100% paid parental leave** from this year on. Besides since 6th March the Campus of Kadir Has University provides its own **nursing room**, which gives his employees as well as his students the opportunity to breast feed their children during their stay on campus.

Sexual harassment policy

As sexual harassment is a pervasive worldwide problem, Turkey and Turkish universities are thus not spared. Knowing what harassment is and how to proceed in such situations is essential. Therefore the Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies Research Center has a **Policy Against Harassment and Discrimination** since 2012. During 2015-2016 the center is working on turning the policy into a regulation as well as creating a guide, which outlines the policies and provides information about the reporting process and means of action for the involved parties. We hope to publish it next year.

Kadir Has University Policy Against Harassment and Discrimination

At Kadir Has University, people work together in harmony regardless of their differences in terms of race, language, gender, sexual orientation, religious practices, skin color, nationality, belief, disability, age and opinion. At this University, any form of discrimination or harassment by a worker, administrator, consultant, guest, student, visitor or goods and service provider, including those coming from outside of the university, will not be tolerated.

During their activities, employees and students have to respect individuals' rights and their differences in accordance with their rights and obligations arising from the law. All kinds of behavior constituting or supporting discrimination either directly or indirectly are prohibited.

Prohibited behavior

- Unwanted verbal, physical or sexual approaches, inappropriate physical contact, propositions or touching ;
- Threats or intimations that a employee or student's employment, advancement, wages, grades or other activities may be negatively affected if they do not submit to sexual advances or harassment ;
- All kinds of degrading comments regarding a person's opinions, body, appearance or life-style related with that person's race, sex, philosophical or political ideas, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, disability or any other protected category of that person ;
- The display of obscene or discriminatory (in terms of race, sex, citizenship, sexual orientation, religion, disability or any other protected category) via graphics, caricatures, paintings or photographs. This does not include those for educational purposes ;
- Comments, obscene stories and suggestive verbal expressions concerning someone's race, sex, citizenship, sexual orientation, religion, disability or any other protected category ;
- Regardless of the department, any relationship of a physical or emotional nature which arises between any faculty member and student or supervisor and employee at this University that could lead to any kind of favoritism and is not open to comment by others,
- Verbal attacks ;
- Mobbing (Mobbing is a particular type of bullying behavior carried out by a group rather than by an individual. Mobbing is the bullying or social isolation of a person through collective unjustified accusations, humiliation, general harassment or emotional abuse).

Retaliation

No employee, applicant for employment, student, or member of the public shall be subject to restraints, interference, coercion or reprisal for action taken in good faith to seek advice concerning a sexual harassment matter, to file a sexual harassment grievance, or to serve as a witness or a panel member in the investigation of a sexual harassment grievance. Acts of retaliation are a violation of this policy and will be investigated and adjudicated accordingly.

Malicious and False Accusations

A grievant whose allegations are found to be both false and brought with malicious intent will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with law number 2547, the Higher Education Disciplinary Regulation concerning Administrators, Instructors and Staff, and the Higher Education Disciplinary Regulation concerning Students.

Guide to Gender Sensitive Use of Language

Gender inequality manifests itself in every aspect of life. Language and word choices often reveal underlying assumptions about gender. The guide to gender sensitive use of language was designed to raise awareness at the level of language about gender patterns related to daily life or individual, social and professional practices. The guide is an attempt to ensure that in our writing and the choices of language we are not silencing constraining or stereotyping individuals.



Conferences and Seminars

In an effort to create dialogue around issues related to gender, **the KHAS Gender and Women's Studies Center** has sponsored several conferences, seminars, and panels.

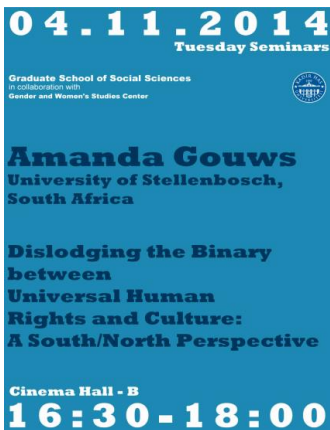


Topic: Gender and Representation on Turkish TV

Location: Kadir Has University

Lecturers: Mary Lou O'Neil, Eylem Yanardağoğlu, Dr. Irem Inceoğlu.

Date:01.10.2014

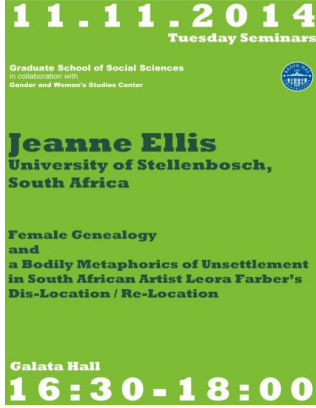


Topic: Dislodging the Binary between Universal Human Rights and Culture: A south/north Perspective.

Location: Kadir Has University

Lecturer: Dr. Amanda Gouws

Date:04.11.2014

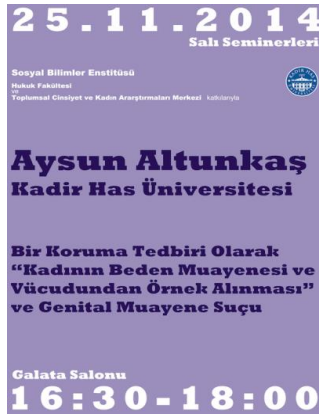


Topic: Female Genealogy and a Bodily Metaphors of Unsettlement in South African Artist Leora Farber's Dis-Location/ Re-Location.

Location: Kadir Has University

Lecturer: Dr. Jeanne Ellis

Date: 11.11.2014



Topic: As a safeguard measure "examination of the woman's body, taking body samples and genital examinations crime"

Location: Kadir Has University

Lecturer: Dr. Aysun Altunkaş

Date: 25.11.2014

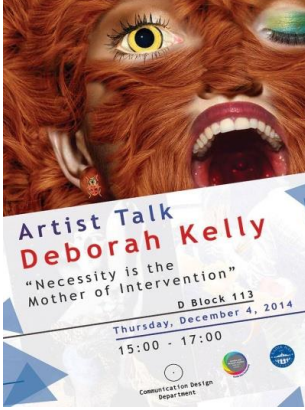


Topic: Women in Civil Law

Location: Kadir Has University

Lecturer: Dr. Şebnem Akipek Öcal

Date: 09.12.2014

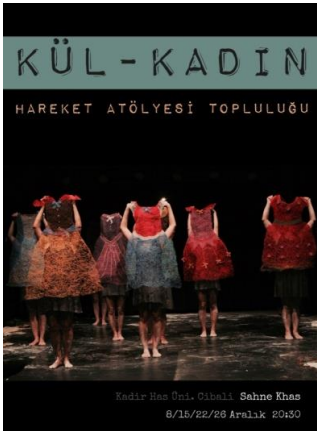


Topic: Necessity is the Mother of Intervention

Location: Kadir Has University

Lecturer: Dr. Deborah Kelly

Date: 04.12.2014



Topic: CIND - women

Location: Kadir Has University

Lecturer: Dr. Zeynep Günsür

Date: 8/15/22/26 December



Topic: Approaches to feminist in law and queer

Location: Kadir Has University

Lecturer: Dr. Reyda Ergün

Date: 23.12.2014



Topic: Law and Gender.

Location: Kadir Has University

Lecturer: Dr. Şebnem Akipek Öcal, Dr. Zeynep Kivılcım, Dr. Seda İrem Çakırca, Dr. Gülşah Kurt.

Date: 09.03.2015



Topic: Gender and Exile - Syrian Women and LGBTI Refugees in the Middle East

Location: Kadir Has University

Lecturers: Dr. Reyda Ergün, Dr. Sevgi Uçan Çubukçu, Dr. Samira Aghacy, Dr. Maysa Ayoub, Dr. Nurcan Özgür Baklacioğlu, Dr. Zeynep Kivılcım, Dr. Aysun Altunkaş, Dr. Jane Freedman, Dr. Sabine Jansen and Dr. Ulrike Krauze

Date: 09.05.2015

Courses

Gender and Politics (PS 353)

This course provided an overview to some key topics regarding politics and gender. The topics were examined as an impact of gender on citizenship, voting behavior and whether political representatives matters are gender balanced. The course gave information about women's rights, human rights, the importance of gender in international development and the role of gender in armed conflict. Women's equality as well as the role of masculinity and men's movements were discussed in the course.

Women and Gender Studies (PS 356)

The Women and Gender Studies course introduced students to a systematic study of gender and women. It was examined the concept of gender and how it impacts the everyday lives of men and women. The explored topics were grouped under the broad headings of media, law, sexuality and politics.

Close relationships and families (PSY 321)

The course introduced students to the scientific study and understanding of family life, while opportunities were provided to examine attitudes and values regarding relationships and families. The class was designed to incorporate various learning styles including lectures, films, small group exercises and class discussions to facilitate the student's active participation in learning. The class provided the students with necessary information for understanding issues regarding dating, marriage and family life.



Gender and Media (CF 311)

The course provided the students with a range of theoretical debates about gender and representation in media studies, while examining the representation of gender. A selection of media, texts, including news, television shows, advertising, magazines, movies, photographs and the internet is analyzed. The course enabled students to understand the role of media in constructing and presenting gender stereotypes within a political, economic, social and cultural context.

Space and Gender (DES 520)

It is well-known that ideas about gender increase our knowledge of the world and everyday life. Gender contributes to our understanding of human behavior, cultural expression and intellectual inquiry. The course provided the students with a comprehensive introduction to issues of gender as they are related to the understanding of space, in order to explore the dialectical relationship between social constructions of gender and the production and use of spaces, together with the relationship between gender ideologies and conceptualizations of space.

Research Projects

Public opinion project on the perception of gender and women in Turkey

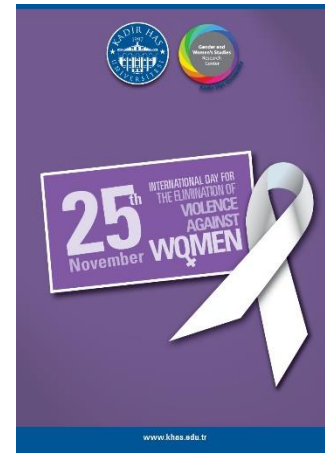
The public opinion project on the perception of gender and women in Turkey aims to create a database for comparison on gender studies and a basis for researchers. Therefore it will be an annual survey on hot topics related to gender and women issues in Turkey. The recent survey includes seven different 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.



Raising-Awareness Activities

White Ribbon 25th November

In honor of the International Day for the Elimination of violence against women the Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies Research Center distributed white ribbons on the Kadir Has University Campus in order to raise awareness for the elimination of violence against women.



8th March. International Women's Day

The Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies Research Center organized a party on 6th of March to gather women working at Kadir Has (faculty members and administrative staff) to commemorate the International Women's Day. Besides we celebrated the opening of the nursing room. And a collage workshop was planned as well in order to create different lollipops to take to the march in Taksim. In addition, a seminar in collaboration with Law Faculty was organized under the title "Law and Gender".



Fighting sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of sexual violence. Sexual harassment is not primarily about sex, but it is about power – the abuse of power. The sexual harassment workshop was organized in collaboration with Hollaback Istanbul. The workshop provided the students with information about the Turkish legal system and laws on street harassment as well as psychological effects.

On-going projects



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Speak-out LGBTI Stories

The LGBT community in Turkey is hidden, discriminated and refused from the public sphere leading to a widespread ignorance and prejudices (WVS Database). Research indicates that 50% of university students and graduates living in Ankara and Istanbul show high level of homophobia and that high levels of homophobia are related with low levels of knowledge of LGBT individuals (Şah 2012). Therefore the Kadir Has Gender and Women's Studies Research Center decided to ask the support of the Dutch Consulate Human Rights Funds to create the project "Speak-Out LGBTI Stories".

With this project we will create a tool to raise LGBT visibility among students, particularly at KHAS. The project aims to create an interactive web platform as a tool for providing a forum for LGBTI individuals to define themselves and share their experience of being an LGBT person in Turkey. The project will be an opportunity for LGBTIs to express and identify themselves. It will also provide the audience with first-hand knowledge and provoke its critical thinking. The stories will be accessible through an interactive internet platform, where video and audio files could be seen, heard, and also uploaded. These stories will work to raise awareness on LGBT rights in Turkey among students from Istanbul based universities by the end of the academic year 2015-2016.