



**Eastern  
Mediterranean  
University**



CENTER FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY  
KADIN ARASTIRMALARI VE EGITIM MERKEZİ  
DOĞU AKDENİZ ÜNİVERSİTESİ

**9<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

# **TRACING GENDER: EXPLORING HISTORY & SHAPING THE FUTURE**



**3-4 April 2025**

[www.tracinggender2025.emu.edu.tr](http://www.tracinggender2025.emu.edu.tr)



Eastern Mediterranean University Press

## **BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

**9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gender Studies “Tracing Gender: Exploring  
History and Shaping Future”  
Famagusta, North Cyprus - April 3-4, 2025**



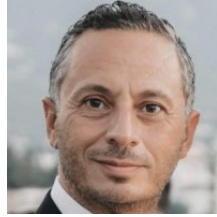


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## BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**Famagusta, North Cyprus - April 3-4, 2025**

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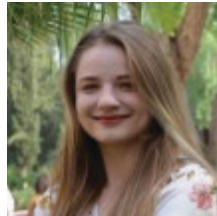
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**EMU - Center for Women's Studies**  
**9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gender Studies “Tracing Gender: Exploring History and Shaping Future”**

**The Published Call for Papers for the Conference**

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gender Studies organized by the Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) at Eastern Mediterranean University will be held in Famagusta, North Cyprus on 3-4 April, 2025.

The conference aims to bring together faculty members, researchers, activists and students to explore trajectories of the concept of gender, gender studies and CWS's own history as an inter-disciplinary research centre with substantive contributions to the field. The conference will create a conducive environment for participants to discuss historical aspects of gender and gender studies but also allow contributions on emerging trends and future challenges.

The Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) at Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) is the first academic research and training centre for women in Northern Cyprus. CWS was established on November 17, 1998, and has worked primarily on encouraging sensitivity towards problems faced by women and raising awareness of women's issues by bringing them to the attention of the public. Studies exploring the history of the centre will add a reflexive dimension to the conference.

The conference will accept studies on the following themes:

1. Historical Perspectives on Gender

- The origins and evolution of gender constructs across time and cultures
- The role of gender in historical movements
- History of psychology of gender
- Tracing the history of trans and gender variant identities

2. Theoretical Frameworks

- Feminist theories: from first-wave feminism to intersectional feminism
- Queer theories in historical and modern contexts
- Masculinity and manhood studies and their relevance for gender equality

3. Gender, Power, and Politics

- Gender and leadership: representation of women and marginalized genders in politics
- Gendered power dynamics in workplaces, communities, and families
- Gender equality in the face of growing authoritarianism post-COVID
- LGBTI+ triumphs and the political backlash
- Legal battles won and lost: Repealing of Roe v Wade inter alia.

4. Gender and Intersectionality

- Intersections of gender with race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, and disability
- Comparative studies of gender constructs across cultures
- Institutional adaptations: gender mainstreaming, gender impact assessment, gender budgeting





5. Representations of Gender in Literature and Art

- Gender in literature, film, and art: historical and contemporary depictions
- Media representations of gender and their societal impact
- Gender in history teaching

6. Gender and the Future

- Policies and practices for a more equitable and inclusive future
- Activism, intersectional advocacy, resistance, and contemporary gender-based movements
- Tackling gender-based policies and laws on gender-based violence, sexual harassment and assault, and human trafficking
- Future zones of resistance

7. Gender & health

- Health disparities in health outcomes & quality of care
- Unique gender based mental health challenges
- Access to healthcare and gender- affirming care for transgender individuals

8. Milestones and Contributions

- 25 years of CWS's Journal: Woman 2000 and other achievements

9. Other Gender Studies

Faculty members, researchers, activists and students in all stages of their careers are invited to submit their paper abstracts by 16th of February, 2025.







## **History of Mirrors in Domestic Interiors with Context of Gender**

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Mirrors, which are ubiquitous but frequently understated, have historically transcended plain functionality to become powerful symbols of vanity, introspection, and societal values in household interiors. Their designs have evolved over time to reflect changes in artistic styles, technical advances, and cultural influences. Notably, mirrors have frequently expressed a feminine aesthetic, with elegant frames, delicate artisanship, and links with beauty rituals supporting gender stereotypes. This study investigates the historical evolution of mirrors, their shifting designs, and their function as both aesthetic, functional and ideological aspects especially in domestic interior spaces. The research uses a mixed-methods approach, qualitative and quantitative, by combining historical analysis, literature studies, and surveys to explore mirrors' role as decorative elements and cultural icons, despite potential biases and cultural differences. It examines mirrors' role/use as silent narrators of cultural values and gender conventions, highlighting how they have shaped and been shaped by society expectations, eventually showing their deeper implications in sustaining or opposing established design ideas.

**Keywords:** Mirrors, furniture history, domestic interiors.





## **Is It Possible to Push Back the Pushback? The Anatomy of the Fall of Roe v. Wade**

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In her *Big Push*, Cynthia Enloe discusses how patriarchy, similar to our smartphones, has received an update in the form of anti-gender mobilization. As contemporary agents of patriarchy, the populist leaders have been intentionally adopting the anti-gender tools to consolidate power over opposition and win their next elections. The 2016 presidential elections between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were the first example of the sort in the US in which gender (in)equality had been one of the main dominant themes in both candidates' campaigns. In what followed, Trump's presidency resulted in a growing backlash against the reproductive rights -specifically abortion-, same-sex marriage and positive affirmation. Now, with Trump's second-time presidency on the horizon, attacks on gender rights and diversity are likely to be renewed. This paper aims to track down the anti-gender discourse and policy designs that would put the gender equality and its proponents in further jeopardy in the hands of the Trumpist politics. In doing that, it will lay a particular emphasis on the overturning of the Roe v. Wade decision by the Supreme Court in 2022. The constitutional right to abortion had been established by the decision known as Roe v. Wade of 1973. This decision was considered among the greatest victories of the second-wave feminism. When it is overthrown, it has become the symbol of the growing tide of anti-gender politics. A closer look at the background of the decision and the process of its revocation would help push back the pushback of the gender-equality norms by the anti-gender mobilization.

**Keywords:** Pushback, anti-gender mobilization, gender-equality norms.





## **Women's Right to Nationality in International Law from 1930 to the Present**

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At its Cambridge meeting in 1895, the Institute of International Law put forward the principle that everyone should have a nationality. Following the adoption of this principle, a number of declarations were issued and conventions were adopted in order to eliminate the problems arising from statelessness. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulated that everyone has the right to a nationality. In this context, it would not be wrong to say that the right to a nationality is a human right. However, although many of the rights enshrined in the Declaration have been secured by international conventions, the same cannot be said for the right to a nationality. The unwillingness of states to compromise their exclusive jurisdiction over nationality has prevented the right to a nationality, which is the key to the full enjoyment of many human rights, from developing like other human rights. Add to this the violation of the prohibition of discrimination in matters of nationality, especially in the context of gender equality, and women are inevitably even more disadvantaged in the enjoyment of the right to a nationality. Of course, it has not been easy to abandon the understanding that “nationality is transmitted from the husband” and “nationality is transmitted from the father” and to put women and men on equal footing in the acquisition, loss and preservation of nationality. Today, there are still national legal systems that embody this understanding. The impact of this situation on children reveals a completely different dimension of the issue. The aim of this study is to examine how women's right to a nationality has been regulated in international law, starting from the 1930 Convention on Certain Questions Relating to the Conflict of Nationality Laws to the present day. The regulations in international documents in order to prevent women from being deprived of the right to a nationality or to prevent the imposition of nationality on women against their will constitute the subject of the study. Regional documents on the subject will also be studied.

**Keywords:** Nationality, right to nationality, women's nationality.





## **Women and Urban Design: The Women's Role Analysis in Valiasr Street in Tehran**

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Women's role and presence in urban spaces significantly influence the design, accessibility, and functionality of cities. In Iran, where sociocultural norms and urban policies interact, these influences become particularly pronounced. This study examines the impact of gender responsive urban design on Valiasr Street, one of Tehran's most iconic streets. The research adopts a comparative lens, drawing on international case studies to highlight best practices in urban design that prioritize women's needs and safety. By analyzing approaches in other countries, this study aims to shed light on potential improvements and adaptations suitable for Iran's unique sociocultural context. The methodology is based on a combination of literature evaluations and field observations. The study outlines essential principles of gender-responsive urban design by examining existing academic and public literature in detail. This article aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the relationship between women's role and urban design in Iran, it also suggests ways to improve city life.

**Keywords:** Urban design, gender studies, women's role.





## Gender and Women Artists in the Mediterranean Basin

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The Mediterranean Basin is a region noted for its cultural diversity and artistic production. Issues of gender and the presence of women artists are deeply rooted in the historical and social context of this area. Although patriarchal structures have traditionally dominated, modernization and feminist movements have begun to transform these frameworks. Various countries, including Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain, and North Africa, continue to struggle for gender equality. Art should be evaluated through individual life experiences; however, women artists have often been overlooked due to social norms throughout history. Figures like Artemisia Gentileschi from the Renaissance and artists such as Berthe Morisot, Suzanne Valadon, and Frida Kahlo in the 19th and 20th centuries have reflected the female perspective in their works. With the rise of feminist art movements, women artists have gained greater visibility and have started producing works from a gender equality perspective. Today, biennials and exhibitions in the Mediterranean offer more space for women artists; international events in regions like Mersin and Northern Cyprus contribute to projects that promote gender equality. These initiatives enhance cultural dynamism and inspire social transformation.

**Keywords:** Mediterranean, gender, women artists.







## **Academic Women in Turkey’s Research Universities: A More Equitable Future or Deepening Divisions?**

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While the presence of women in higher education is a significant achievement, their positioning within academic institutions remains an ongoing issue. Although the proportion of academic women in Turkey appears relatively high, there are pronounced differences in the disciplines they are represented in, academic ranks (research assistant, assistant professor, associate professor, full professor), and administrative positions. Academic women tend to cluster in certain areas, while their representation in STEM fields, top academic titles such as professorship, and leadership roles like rector or dean remains low. The concept of “research universities” in Turkey emerged in 2015 through the collaboration of several institutions, followed by formal initiatives by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) in 2016. In 2017, the first list of research universities was published based on defined criteria. The research university status aims to increase research capacity and offer enhanced funding, project support, and international collaboration opportunities for academics. Currently, Turkey has 23 designated research universities. This study questions how the research-supportive ecosystem of research universities functions from a gender equality perspective. Does working at a research university create a distinctive opportunity space that supports the academic careers of academic women through equal opportunity, or does it reinforce a competitive environment in which male academics are structurally advantaged? To explore this, the academic and administrative positions of academic women in these universities will be examined through descriptive analysis. Based on the results, barriers will be identified and policy recommendations will be developed to strengthen gender equality.

**Keywords:** Gender equality, research university, academic women.





## **The Role of Gendered Experience and Memory in Shaping Residential Spaces “A Study of Mass-housing in Northern Cyprus”**

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Memory plays a decisive role in how individuals understand and associate themselves to their environment, as it draws from past experiences. This study investigates how individual experiences of the gender and memory both individual and collective, form mass-housing environments of Iskele as a new development in Northern Cyprus. To do so, the study has two primary objectives: (1) analyze how experience of gender dynamics influence the formation, perception, emotional attachment, and the way individuals give meaning to the lived realities of mass-housing areas, and (2) how memory contributes to the formation and fostering a sense of belonging in mass housing environments for women in Iskele. The research problem indicates the formation of today's developed mass-housing areas based on the emphasizing the significance of gendered experiences is not reminiscent of memories, and the role of individual and collective memory is less prominent within those built environment. The study employs phenomenological, cognitive research, and comparative methods, supported by in-depth interviews, participant observations, and observational methods. Findings reveal that cultural factors significantly influence how gender experience and memories are formed and linked to the built environment.

**Keywords:** Gender design, memory, culture.





## **Questioning the Place of Critical Masculinity Studies in the Field of Psychology and Participation in Gender Equality**

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Although Critical Masculinity Studies (CMS) have secured a well-established theoretical and historical position within gender studies, their integration into psychology has occurred relatively late and remains methodologically and epistemologically under development. As a discipline concerned with individuals' emotions, thoughts, and behaviors, psychology has traditionally been aligned with quantitative methods and shaped by positivist paradigms. While these methods have been subject to various critiques, it is equally important to explore how psychological research employing quantitative approaches can meaningfully contribute to CMS. This paper critically examines shifting paradigms and methodological trends in psychology since the 1970s, focusing on masculinity as a dynamic and socially constructed phenomenon. It discusses how quantitative methods might indirectly support men's engagement in gender equality efforts and, in contrast, evaluates the potential of qualitative approaches—such as critical discourse analysis—for building interdisciplinary bridges. The discussion will be extended to psychological research conducted in Turkey, addressing how such studies might be rendered more critical and inclusive through interdisciplinary perspectives. By identifying methodological and theoretical limitations in the field, this paper ultimately argues for a more holistic and critical contribution of psychology to gender studies and underscores the need for methodological pluralism to strengthen psychology's role in critical masculinity research.

**Keywords:** Critical Masculinity Studies (CMS), Psychology, Turkey.





## Artificial Intelligence: A Gender Problem

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In the last decade, artificial intelligence (AI) research has gained momentum with the development of attention mechanisms and transformer models. Many people started to see AI as the future's technology, and it has become the center of attention of technology companies; governments and private organizations have started to invest heavily in AI. In this environment, where there are generally only positive expectations for AI, it can be argued that the hoped-for benefits of AI technology overshadow the harm it causes. From a gender perspective, AI impacts women disproportionately negatively. Algorithmic bias disadvantages women in many areas from recruitment to medical applications. One of the reasons why models are biased is that fewer women work in the field of AI. This also means women are deprived of the profits of the sector. On top of that, due to the digital divide, women are much less able to benefit from the AI applications. While women do not benefit from AI, a significant portion of the models are used to exploit women's bodies. AI-generated pornography is a typical example of this situation. This paper aims to examine AI from a gender perspective and to show that this technology can reinforce and deepen the injustices experienced by women. For this purpose, the concept of AI will be defined; algorithmic bias, inadequate representation of women in the field, AI-generated pornography, and the digital divide will be identified as gender problems arising from AI; finally, some solutions will be proposed.

**Keywords:** Artificial intelligence, gender inequality, algorithmic bias.





## **The Transition from Marriage to Divorce: Women's Struggle with Patriarchy**

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From a feminist standpoint, gender inequality lies at the foundation of the challenges women encounter in marital and divorce proceedings. Marxist, socialist, liberal, and radical feminist schools of thought address this inequality experienced by women in different dimensions and emphasize that factors such as the patriarchal structure, gender roles, and economic exploitation lead to women's disempowerment (Atan, 2015; Duyan & Özgür Bayır, 2016; Özsöz, 2008). In this context, addressing the problems of divorced women stemming from gender inequality is important in the light of the conceptual frameworks offered by feminist perspectives. The objective of this study is to elucidate the repercussions of gender inequalities experienced by women during divorce proceedings on their lives. The research was methodologically designed using a qualitative approach and a phenomenological framework. The participants were selected through a snowball sampling method, and the data were collected through a semi-structured interview form developed by the researcher. The data were analyzed with the MAXQDA-2022 program. The study revealed the prevalence of a patriarchal structure within marital relationships, indicating that women often shoulder a disproportionate share of domestic and economic responsibilities. The study found that women experienced various forms of pressure within their families, including stigmatization as "widows," and faced social restrictions during the divorce process. The study found that the majority of the participants experienced psychological and economic violence, while a smaller subset experienced physical and sexual violence. However, the analysis indicates that the receipt of family and institutional support following the divorce process can facilitate the disruption of this cycle of violence. The participants' experiences were marked by profound gender inequality, compounded by social pressures, discriminatory attitudes, and patriarchal expectations across multiple levels. It was also concluded that women engage in patriarchal bargaining, which expresses their efforts to secure themselves by maintaining their economic power while leaving control to men. In light of these findings, it is recommended that women be provided with macro-level services through the development of social policies and legal regulations, as well as micro- and meso-level support for healing, empowerment, and protection.

**Keywords:** Divorce, women, feminism.







## **Combating Domestic Violence in the Legal System of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus: Findings and Recommendations**

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“ ‘Domestic violence’ shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim”. The Istanbul Convention defines the concept of domestic violence with the above sentences. When we look at the wording of the Convention, it is important to realise that it does not include any gender distinction, on the contrary, it consists of a genderless phraseology. Even if this is the case, in a broad sense, the figures show that women are more exposed to physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence than men. In a narrower sense, it is also known that women - whether they share the same household or not - are proportionally more likely to be subjected to violence by family members. Although this situation is tried to be eliminated by the legislators with certain legal regulations, the gravity of the situation is increasing day by day. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has also tried to bring a legal solution to this issue and enacted the Ratification Law in 2011, which fully recognises the Istanbul Convention. Nevertheless, violence against women has become a social problem. For these reasons, it is necessary to prepare a study on the legal problems regarding domestic violence in the TRNC legal system and how these problems can be solved. Accordingly, in this study, firstly, by addressing the concept of violence within the scope of Chapter 154 Criminal Code, it will be investigated whether the issue is sufficiently addressed in the legislation, and then the Ratification Law No. 58/2011, which fully accepts the Istanbul Convention, and the TOCED Law No. 61/2014 will be compared with its counterpart in Turkish legislation, Law No. 6284, and suggestions on how it can be made more functional will be expressed.

**Keywords:** Violence against women, domestic violence, Istanbul Convention.





## Artificial Intelligence, Visual Arts and Gender Representation

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With the advancement of digital technologies, artificial intelligence (AI) has given rise to new debates regarding aesthetics and social representations. The role of AI in artistic production has the potential to either reinforce or transform societal norms, depending on the content of the datasets used. However, these algorithms, which predominantly reflect existing cultural codes, can also reproduce biases related to gender representation. In particular, the idealization of the female body, the reinforcement of traditional gender roles, and the persistence of binary gender categories provide a critical space for discussion in AI-assisted art. As a result, AI-generated art presents both new opportunities and pressing questions concerning gender representation. The ways in which datasets are constructed and which representations are prioritized emerge as key factors determining the relationship between AI-generated artistic production and gender norms. This study examines the relationship between artificial intelligence and gender norms in the context of visual arts, emphasizing the importance of critical literacy. In this regard, the works of artists Stephanie Dinkins, Sofia Crespo, Anna Ridler, and Mario Klingemann—who explore and critique the male gaze through AI—are analyzed using Erwin Panofsky’s iconographic and iconological approach as well as Roland Barthes’ semiotic analysis, focusing on concepts of the male gaze, signification, and meaning.

**Keywords:** Artificial intelligence, critical visual literacy, visual arts.





## **The New Challenge of Digitalization: Algorithmic Discrimination against Women in Employment Relations**

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The increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) in processes related to recruitment, management of employees, and termination of employment contracts has brought examples of algorithmic discrimination that aggravate gender inequality. To give some examples of algorithmic discrimination against women, Facebook’s algorithm showing job listings for low-paying and unskilled jobs mostly to female users, and Amazon’s use of AI-based résumé evaluation systems resulting in filtering out female candidates could be cited. During the continuation of the employment contract, algorithmic management could be problematic; for instance, the use of AI to determine working hours can be disadvantageous for female workers who bear caregiving responsibilities. Algorithmic discrimination can also arise in decisions regarding wages and promotions. Problems arising from algorithmic management particularly affect platform workers. Algorithmic bias and discrimination resulting from the use of AI often do not emerge as a conscious choice but stem from historical gender-based biases present in the datasets used to train the AI algorithms. Detecting algorithmic discrimination is quite challenging, since these algorithms are kept confidential by their creators. To prevent this, transparency and accountability of the algorithms, along with human oversight, are necessary. The European Union’s Regulation No. 2024/1689 strictly regulates the use of AI in high-risk areas and mandates algorithm audits. In Turkey, although the use of AI in employment relations is known, there are no structures in place to ensure the transparency and oversight of algorithms. The current legal framework prohibits discrimination against women but does not provide tools to detect new forms of algorithmic discrimination. For lawyers and advocates fighting for gender equality, algorithmic discrimination opens a new front.

**Keywords:** Gender equality, discrimination in employment, algorithmic discrimination.





## **Anti-Gender Movement and Social Media: An Analysis on X Content**

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New social movements are increasingly organizing on social media platforms, making these platforms a critical area of research. The anti-gender movement is one such movement that has gained traction online. This study will focus on X (formerly Twitter), where a search will be conducted using the hashtag #anti-gender. The first 100 posts related to this hashtag will be analyzed through content analysis to identify the most frequently used terms and concepts in the movement's discourse, with Nvivo software employed for the analysis. The study will be limited to the posts available on X during the time of the search. Significance of the study lies in its potential to enhance our understanding of the discourse opposing gender equality in today's socio-political context.

**Keywords:** Anti-gender movement, new social movements, social media.





## **Heteronormativity's Narrative of Innocence and the Weakening of the Child's Restorative Capacity: A Psychosocial Assessment of Childhood**

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It is argued that the narrative of innocence restricts children's desires, sexuality, and imagination by controlling their bodies, thereby promoting a heterosexual future. The Place of Childhood Experience in the Formation of Identity and Subjectivity: A Psychosocial Research (2024), my master's thesis, analyzes the narrative of childhood innocence as an ideology shaped by heteronormative, patriarchal, racist, and nationalist structures. Using the queer auto-ethnography method, childhood is analyzed from an intersectional perspective, and the diversity of childhoods is revealed in the light of social categories such as race/ethnicity, sexual identity, and class. This study, a part of my thesis, examined how the narrative of innocence affects the processes of subjectification by positioning children within power structures and how it shapes children's recognition of their desires. In this context, Lee Edelman's ‘No Future’ theory and Melanie Klein's psychoanalytic approaches are taken as references. According to Edelman, while the discourse of innocence offers a perspective for social continuity, it makes it difficult for queer children to adapt to this heteronormative vision of the future. According to Klein, it is important to express the child's desire to cope with losses and develop the capacity for psychological repair. However, the fact that innocence is unsuitable for some childhood experiences may affect the internal reparative processes. Furthermore, in this thesis, personal experiences as a queer subject are analyzed from an auto-ethnographic perspective. As a result, it is argued that the narrative of innocence is a tool that directs children's subjectification processes within the framework of social and cultural norms, and it is emphasized that this narrative should be politically re-evaluated. The study offers suggestions for developing a more inclusive and multidimensional perspective on childhood and aims to contribute to the emancipation processes of childhood by critically evaluating the paradigm of innocence.

**Keywords:** Narrative of innocence, heteronormativity, patriarchy.







## Gender Stress, Dysfunctional Coping Mechanisms, and the Justification of the Gender System Among Heterosexual Men: A Qualitative Analysis

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This presentation aims to discuss the findings of my study, which explores the meaning-making and experiences of heterosexual men in emerging adulthood regarding gender-based stress, dysfunctional coping mechanisms, and the justification of the gender system. This study was conducted using a case study design, one of the qualitative research designs used to examine individuals' experiences and interpretations of a specific phenomenon. Qualitative data was collected through semi-structured individual interviews. Participants were selected through criterion sampling, one of the purposive sampling methods. Accordingly, interviews were conducted with 13 individuals in Istanbul who enrolled in a social sciences-related program, aged between 22 and 28, identified as heterosexual, and defined their gender as men. Thematic analysis was used to analyze the qualitative data. As a result of the analysis, in the gender stress category; six themes were reached: *incompetence, feeling intellectually inferior, being subordinated to women, perceiving as feminine, expressing emotions and performance*. In the category of dysfunctional coping styles with stress; five themes were achieved: *not being vulnerable and weak, reliance on power and control, resorting to physical violence, suppressing emotions, and attaching importance to performance and success*. In the category of gender system justification, three themes were reached: *emphasis on equality of opportunity, fixation of the current gender system and approval of traditional roles*. Based on the study's findings and the literature, it can be said that the stress experienced by heterosexual men due to their gender identity should be evaluated in connection with the construction and legitimation of patriarchal ideologies.

**Keywords:** Masculinity, gender, stress.





## **Tracing the Representation of Women from Past to Present: The Case of the Most-Watched Turkish TV Series Abroad**

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Television series play a significant role in entertainment culture and are key components of the culture industry. Their strategic importance arises from their regular broadcasting schedules (whether daily or weekly), multi-season formats, and dedicated audience base. As powerful storytelling tools, these series reflect the values, lifestyles, and relationship dynamics of their respective cultures, thus playing a vital role in shaping cultural influence. In recent years, Turkish TV series have garnered significant interest in various regions, including the Balkans, Central Asia, Europe, Latin America, Africa, Arab countries, Japan, and India. Through their narrative strategies, these series shape perceptions of Turkey and Turkish identity while constructing and representing Turkish women from a gender perspective. This study focuses on how women are represented in Turkish TV series that have gained considerable attention abroad, aiming to reveal the evolution of these representations over time—from the first popular series exported in 1981 to those recently aired in international prime time slots. Research indicates that Turkish TV series, particularly in Muslim-majority countries, serve as role models for women and exert influence in various contexts. Using a comparative feminist close reading method, this study analyzes the representation of women in four of the most acclaimed Turkish TV series internationally, demonstrating how representational politics have transformed over time.

**Keywords:** Gender, representation, TV series.





## **The Right to Alimony in Turkey from a Gender Perspective**

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The legal regulation of alimony serves as a mechanism to safeguard individual rights during the divorce process, aiming to preserve socio-economic living standards in its aftermath. From a feminist perspective, women's access to alimony after divorce, and the obstacles encountered in its implementation, represent a significant gain in the struggle against gender inequalities. In most cases, child support and temporary alimony are granted in favour of women, acknowledging the fact that custody and caregiving responsibilities are predominantly undertaken by women following divorce. According to 2023 data from Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) and the Ministry of Family and Social Services, women's labour force participation rate (35.1%) remains significantly lower than that of men. This disparity is primarily attributable to gender-based discrimination in employment, as well as the unpaid care work and domestic responsibilities women assume during marriage. In this context, poverty alimony functions as a legal safeguard intended to provide financial support to women who are at risk of economic hardship after divorce. Legally, alimony can also be conceptualized as compensation for unpaid domestic labour. Because of entrenched gender roles, the right to alimony is typically awarded to women; however, women also face significant barriers to accessing justice and securing their entitlements during divorce proceedings. A 2019 report by the Women's Solidarity Foundation reveals that Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention has undermined the fight against gender-based violence and highlighted the deep-rooted gender inequalities at the heart of alimony-related challenges. To achieve its gender equality objectives, Turkey must develop legal frameworks grounded in feminist principles that make women's gender-specific needs visible and ensure the protection of their legal and economic rights, including the right to alimony. Equally important is the implementation of comprehensive social policies. These should include effective monitoring of the alimony process, the determination of alimony amounts based on variables such as women's socio-economic status, number of children, and domestic roles, as well as the adoption of active labour market policies aimed at removing employment barriers for women.

**Keywords:** Alimony rights, divorce, gender inequality.





## Historical Development of Women's Right to Inheritance and the Struggle for Equality

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In primitive societies, individuals had no private property rights. Movable and immovable property belonged to clans or tribes. After death, the heirs would only assume religious and social responsibilities. The deceased's personal belongings would be buried with him in the grave. Over time, with the formation of families in society, the idea that there were property values belonging to families developed. The transfer of these property values was first regulated by customary rules and later by laws. In the first legal systems, inheritance law was based on a patriarchal system. Men had an indispensable, superior status in terms of continuing the lineage, maintaining economic power and protecting property. The Law of the Twelve Tables, which came into force in Rome in the 5th century BC, severely restricted women's right to inherit. In Rome, in the 2nd century BC, it was accepted for the first time that women could be appointed heirs. In 529 AD, with the reforms of Emperor Justinian, women's right to inherit was recognized as equal to men. Thus, women had the right to be legal heirs. In ancient Greece, women were prohibited from inheriting with the Draconian and Solonian laws that came into effect in the 6th century BC. The deceased's estate was divided equally among all his sons. If the deceased had no sons, the closest male relative was appointed as the heir by will. For the property to remain within the family, the closest male relative was married to the deceased's daughter. In this way, an indirect connection was established between women and the estate, but the authority to manage the estate still belonged to the male relative. In the Hellenistic period (3rd century BC), women's inheritance rights were regulated more equally. With the influence of Roman law in Greek lands in the 2nd century BC, women's inheritance rights were expanded. In the Byzantine period (330 AD), women had the right to be legal and appointed heirs. Since Ottoman inheritance law was directly based on Islamic (fiqh) law, the rules of Islamic inheritance law were valid in the Ottoman Empire, including the period when the Mecelle was implemented (1869-1876). In Islamic law, women had the right to inherit. However, men's inheritance share was twice that of women. A deceased person could leave a maximum of one-third of his estate in favor of a female heir by making a will. The Turkish Civil Code, which came into force in 1926, brought women's inheritance rights to an equal system, unlike Islamic law. The inequality between the inheritance shares of women and men was eliminated. The spouse's inheritance right was expanded. While the legal property regime between spouses was a property separation regime between 1926 and 2002, the new Turkish Civil Code adopted the regime of participation in acquired property in 2002. In this way, the properties acquired during the marriage were considered the joint property of the spouses. The female spouse received a share of the inheritance after her husband's death and also had rights over the properties acquired during the marriage.

**Keywords:** Inheritance law, women's inheritance share, equality.





## **The Importance of the Rules Introduced to the Marriage Law by the Turkish Civil Code in terms of Turkish and Turkish Cypriot Women's Rights**

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On February 17, 1926, the Turkish Civil Code, the symbol of secular law, was enacted and radical reforms were made in the field of family law. Prior to the enactment of the Turkish Civil Code, marriage in Türkiye was conducted according to the principles of Islamic family law. In addition, divorce was made subject to certain rules and procedures, and the divorce that was finalized by the man's unilateral declaration of "divorce" out of court, in other words, *tâlâk*, was abandoned. In addition, both men and women can file for divorce on the grounds specified in the law, and the principle of divorce by court decision was adopted. Child marriage, especially the marriage of girls, was prohibited by setting the age of marriage. On the other hand, women's rights were guaranteed with the acceptance of civil marriage in the presence of an official marriage officer. The Turkish Civil Code, which was revolutionary in terms of women's rights at the time of its entry into force, was repealed and the Turkish Civil Code, which was written with a more egalitarian approach to spouses, entered into force on January 1, 2002. At the time of the entry into force of the Turkish Civil Code, the British administration was in power in Cyprus and the provisions of the Islamic Family Law were applied to the Turkish Cypriot community. The Turkish Family Code (Chapter 339), which was drafted on the basis of the Turkish Civil Code, did not come into force until 1951. Therefore, the importance of the Turkish Civil Code in terms of the rights of Turkish Cypriot women will also be mentioned. The study aims to present the status of women in marriage law and society before 1926 and to discuss the changes that have been made since the Turkish Civil Code was enacted and the principles adopted in terms of women's rights.

**Keywords:** Turkish Civil Code, marriage law, women's rights.







## **My Music, My Choice, Get Used to It: Music Industry vs Anti Gender Movement**

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The music industry has an enormous effect on culture. It reflects popular cultural forms of the society. For centuries, music genres, musicians, and songs mirror the social changes. It became the site of representation and identity of social groups, youth, nations and individuals. On the other hand, the music industry shapes the cultural zeitgeist. The way singers dress, their way of life, and what they represent affect their followers. The music industry has long been an area of criticism about gender norms in American society and politics with the rise of the anti-gender movement. This movement is a global phenomenon that opposes and criticizes a range of gender-related issues like gender equality, LGBT+ rights, abortion, etc. In the United States, many right-wing and conservative groups form the basic mindset of the movement. The music industry attracted their rage as more and more gender-fluid and feminist artists gained popularity in recent years. The backlash from the movement focuses mainly on the hyper-sexuality of women and gender nonconformity of the artists. They defend that these could lead to a general moral decay in society, and corrupt youth as they challenge the traditional family and gender norms. For example, conservative commentator Candace Owens criticizes Harry Syles' clothes as a “steady feminization of men.” It is an attack against the society. Other right-wing commentators like Ben Shapiro and Tucker Carlson, some songs contain obscene lyrics that degrade women and culture in general and set a bad example for young people. From a critical perspective, music has always been a site of resistance. The contemporary music industry challenges dominant ideologies about gender issues and opposes patriarchy and heteronormative identities. Many women artists support female empowerment, equality, body positivity, and freedom of sexuality in their works or their attitudes. Music is their form of resistance, empowerment, and gender expression. The essay will analyze how theories like gender performativity, queer theory, cultural hegemony, and post-feminism form the basis of the music industry's answer to the anti-gender movement in the United States.

**Keywords:** Anti-gender movement, music industry, postfeminism.





## **Achievement of Gender Equality: Evidence from the Top Ten Countries in 2024**

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According to the *Global Gender Gap Report 2024* disseminated by the World Economic Forum, the countries which are Iceland, Finland, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden, Nicaragua, Germany, Namibia, Ireland and Spain have gained a worldwide reputation for the gender equality. In this regard, the study aims to examine both the history of gender equality in these countries and the gender equality policies adopted by these countries that distinguish them from other countries in the world. While analyzing the policy implications historically and the key dimensions of gender equality such as economic participation and opportunity, obtainment of education and communication, health and survival, political rights, etc. in these countries, the study employs content analysis by focusing on the *Feminist Theory*. Thus, the study is to show not only the top ten countries’ historical events based on gender equality chronologically but also their policies strengthening the well-being of gender equality that can be also used by other countries in order to close the gender gap in the world. Lastly, the study demonstrates the importance of gender equality to promote full human rights and benefit from economic, social, cultural and political development.

**Keywords:** Gender equality, gender equality policies, feminist theory.





## **A Historical Perspective on Women’s Participation in the Labor Market in the Turkish Cypriot Community: What has Changed, What has Remained the Same in the Last 20 Years?**

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Throughout history, technological and economic developments have led to changes in the roles and statuses of both women and men. In the Turkish Cypriot community, the participation of women and men in economic life has undergone significant changes since the 1930s. In the 1930s, women were engaged in limited professions such as weaving and hat-making, with teaching being the only officially recognized occupation available to them. However, women were required to quit this profession upon marriage. With the end of the British Colonial Period in Cyprus and the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus in the 1960s, women who worked in formal employment were no longer required to resign upon marriage, but they experienced salary reductions and worked for lower wages compared to their male counterparts. This situation changed with the laws and practices enacted in 1977, which introduced the principle of equal pay for equal work. As of today, while it is observed that women are engaging in various professions and their participation in the labour market has increased as compared to 1970s, certain disparities persist between women and men in terms of labour market participation and their relative statuses in employment. The aim of this study is to utilize the Labor Force Household Surveys, which have been conducted annually since 2004, to examine the participation of women and men in the labour market, their positions within the labour market, and gender-based occupational segregation, along with the changes that have occurred in these areas over the past 20 years. The results will be analysed, the underlying reasons will be discussed, and policy recommendations will be provided.

**Keywords:** Labour market, gender, occupational segregation.





## **Refugee Women's Experiences of Empowerment As a Site of Resistance from an Intersectional Perspective**

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Feminist understanding is grounded in an intersectional way of thinking, offering explanations of the oppression that individuals face due to their gender. While developing "ecological, ethnic, class-based, cultural, global, critical and historical perspectives" with these explanations, feminist thought emphasizes that different approaches to eliminating oppression are also possible and proposes solutions. Given that no singular approach alone suffices to elucidate the oppression of women, feminist thought seeks its own path with an eclectic perspective and includes in its analysis those that have been historically evaluated before it. In this context, the rights perspective of the first wave and liberal feminism is followed by the class and structure-based discussion of Marxist and socialist feminism, while intersectional feminism discusses the inequalities and discrimination experienced by overlapping identities through the elements of oppression, power, domination, hierarchy and competition. In this study, while addressing the common problems of refugee women with intersectionality, it will be demonstrated that each woman has various experiences of oppression. It will be demonstrated that women's individual and relational empowerment experiences against the inequality they are exposed to due to their gender are a field of resistance in shaping the future. Within the field of migration studies, the issue of the gender-neutral treatment of refugee women's daily life experiences, with a particular focus on vulnerabilities, has been identified as a crucial yet often overlooked aspect. This oversight results in a failure to adequately address the life and identity changes experienced by women in the context of international migration within the patriarchal neo-liberal capitalist system. However, as a process that engenders transformation and restructuring of women's gender identities, norms and relations, the experiences of migrant women regarding empowerment demonstrate a space of resistance that evinces the politicization of the personal. The dialogue that refugee women develop with local communities and with women within their communities is important for revealing a transclass feminist movement. Within this theoretical framework, the individual and relational empowerment experiences of refugee women, which are addressed with an intersectional perspective against "co-oppressors", should be made visible in terms of the practices to be developed for a more egalitarian and inclusive future.

**Keywords:** Intersectionality, migration movement, refugee women.





## **The Right to Abortion in Northern Cyprus: Evaluating Abortion Access in Northern Cyprus Through the Lens of Feminist Legal Theory**

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The theoretical dimension of the abortion discourse is defined by two separate approaches. The initial perspective regards abortion as a right and supports a rights-based framework. Conversely, individuals who reject abortion based on the fetus's right to life represent the opposing perspective. A just resolution is unachievable irrespective of the perspectives incorporated in the legislation. This could result in the onset of a disagreement that is challenging to resolve. This is plainly visible in the divergent perspectives among those who oppose and support abortion, contingent upon the moral value ascribed to the fetus. Both contend that abortion is ethically justified or unjustified based on the fetus's capacity for growth. Furthermore, feminist legal theory examines abortion about its facilitation of men's access to sexuality. MacKinnon, a radical feminist legal theorist, contends that abortion is perceived as a "right" that facilitates men's sexual activity, hence serving as a mechanism to avoid procreation. From this viewpoint, feminist legal theory highlights the injustices associated with abortion. Feminist legal researchers are not against for the prohibition of abortion. Given its necessity about the female body, it has been contended that restrictions should be established to safeguard women's interests. Although abortion is legally permitted in Northern Cyprus, it is constrained by specific limitations, rendering access to the procedure exceedingly challenging for some women. Beyond the inaccessibility of abortion for numerous women, instances of illicit abortions in Northern Cyprus are evident, with men, particularly from privileged backgrounds, overcoming legal obstacles to evade fatherhood through abortion. This circumstance substantiates the argument provided by feminist legal theorists. This study will explore the right to abortion in Northern Cyprus through the lens of feminist legal theory and assess illegal abortion instances appropriately.

**Keywords:** Abortion right, feminist legal theory, TRNC Legal System.





## Visual Discourse in "Vote for Women": A Comparative Analysis of Pre-War, Wartime, and Post-War Cover Illustrations

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This study examines the development of visual discourse in the cover illustrations of *Vote for Women*, a significant historical newspaper at the heart of the British suffrage movement. It seeks to address how the newspaper's visual discourse evolved in response to societal transformations during the pre-war, wartime, and post-war periods. Adopting a qualitative visual discourse analysis, the research analyzes nine cover illustrations—three from each of the specified periods. These visuals were chosen for their representativeness and examined within their historical and social contexts. The analysis delves into the relationship between these images and the women's movement, particularly highlighting connections to wartime mobilization. Recurring themes such as empowerment, duty, and the shifting roles of women were identified alongside changes in stylistic and symbolic elements. This study enhances the understanding of how visual media reflects and shapes historical events. It illustrates the adaptability of the suffrage movement's visual discourse and its dynamic interaction with cultural narratives of the time. By shedding light on the strategic use of imagery in *Vote for Women*, this research underscores the crucial role of visual culture in advancing political movements. Overall, this paper provides valuable insights into the intersection of gender, war, and visual communication, offering a nuanced perspective on the historical trajectory of the suffrage movement.

**Keywords:** Visual discourse, suffrage movement, wartime mobilization.







## **A Critical Review of Family and Gender Dynamics within the Context of Home**

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Gender roles have varied throughout history depending on cultural differences. These roles have been shaped by many factors such as social norms, economic conditions, cultural and social factors, and related religious beliefs and political approaches. From the earliest times to the present, gender roles have been generally based on biological differences and clear role distinctions have been made between women and men. However, these roles have changed and transformed over time depending on changing conditions. With the Industrial Revolution, women's participation in labor and brainpower increased, and thus women's roles, especially at home, began to change. From the mid-20th century onwards, feminist movements and social changes led to important steps being taken in terms of gender equality. During this period, women's educational and career opportunities began to expand, while men's domestic responsibilities increased. Today, gender roles have become more flexible in many societies, and more space has been opened for individuals to freely express their gender identities. Home and family structures have also been affected by these changes. In addition to the traditional family model, various family structures such as nuclear family, single-parent families, families consisting of homosexual couples, families consisting of children adopted by homosexual couples and multi-generational households have begun to be seen. This diversity contributes to the redefinition of social norms and gender roles. As a result, the origins and change - transformation of gender roles have been and are being shaped by social, economic, political, social and cultural dynamics. While this change and transformation is taking place, the concept of home, which is the most basic need of the family, has also had its share of this process. The change and transformation of the home has been shaped by its user and has also turned into spaces that can be expressed more freely according to the sexual identity and roles of its user. In this context, the study has been addressed within the scope of the trio of home, family and gender roles and an in-depth literature review has been conducted. In the light of this literature review, theoretical readings have been made on the mentioned trio. Retrospective readings have been evaluated in terms of the change and transformation in home, family and gender roles in terms of social, economic, political, social and cultural dynamics.

**Keywords:** Home, family, gender roles.





## **The Main Obstacle in Women's Access to Justice from the Perspective of Injustice: Judicial Passivity**

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The perspective of injustice is concerned with identifying the conditions that make a situation unjust. The main obstacle to women accessing justice is gender inequality. The injustice perspective requires us to determine the obstacles that this inequality poses to women's access to justice. These obstacles are primarily related to the existing structure. In other words, gender inequality within this structure leads to relationships based on oppression and domination. Structural barriers prevent women from exercising their right to access justice or make it difficult for them to do so. Structural injustice is also in question due to these obstacles. Structural injustice, i.e. structural barriers to women's access to justice, stems from the attitudes and decisions of those involved in the judicial process. It manifests itself in judicial passivity. In this article, it will be argued that judicial passivity is the main obstacle to women's access to justice, and that it constitutes a form of oppression against women. This type of oppression is based on the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Nahide Opuz. The Opuz judgment is significant in many ways. It contains key points for conceptualising judicial passivity. Within the framework of this article, different forms of oppression will be presented in reference to this judgment. The main purpose of this presentation is to reveal judicial passivity as a key structural obstacle to women's access to justice.

**Keywords:** Women's access to justice, structural barriers, structural injustice.





## **The Impact of Scriptural Interpretations on Ambivalent Sexism**

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This study aims to evaluate how different interpretations of Quranic verses affect the levels of sexism among undergraduate students who identify as Muslim. Participants were presented with literal translations of Quranic verses related to gender norms, interpreted by different commentators, and the impact of these interpretations on their levels of sexism towards women and men was examined. Participants were randomly assigned to one of four groups: control, egalitarian, and two groups consisting of different interpretations of the same verse, one benevolent (containing concepts related to men's protective role over women) and one hostile (containing concepts related to men's dominance and obedience over women). In addition, participants' own religiosity and levels of scriptural literalism of sacred texts were controlled, as well as parental religiosity and education levels, to increase the effectiveness of the manipulations (different verse interpretations). According to the findings, men exhibit higher hostile sexism scores when exposed to a hostile sexist interpretation of a Quranic verse, whereas this effect was not observed for women. These results highlight the risk of using religious texts to perpetuate sexist ideologies and rationalize sexist practices.

**Keywords:** Sexism, interpretation of holy books, religion.





## Experience and Knowledge Sharing on ITU’s Gender Equality Plan

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Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) are strategic tools developed to promote gender equality within institutions. Since 1999, the European Union has encouraged the adoption of such plans, particularly in higher education and research, to ensure equal representation of women. GEPs include components such as equal access, inclusivity, and impact assessment, aiming to reduce gender imbalances. Having a GEP has become a requirement for participation in programs like Horizon Europe. Istanbul Technical University (ITU) prepared its GEP for the 2021–2026 period by a decision of the University Senate. To ensure its implementation and sustainability, a Gender Equality Unit was established within the Center for Women’s Studies in Science, Engineering, and Technology (BMT-KAUM). This unit organizes women-focused events at national and international levels and contributes to relevant initiatives. ITU’s GEP focuses on five key objectives: gender-sensitive employment and career development; combating sexual harassment and discrimination; integrating gender into research and teaching content; fostering institutional culture and work-life balance; and equality-based governance. Concrete and measurable actions are defined under each heading. As a member of the EELISA Consortium, ITU also aims to promote the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion across Europe. For the post-2026 period, new goals are planned, including the development of a digital data infrastructure, capacity building, and enhancing science-society engagement. This paper evaluates ITU’s experience with GEP development and implementation, with a focus on monitoring processes.

**Keywords:** University, GEP Plan, ITU.





## **Gender Inequality and Poverty in Access to Health Services: Access to HPV Vaccines in Turkey**

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Although the right to health is defined as a fundamental human right in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is not possible to say that it is accessible to everyone due to socio-economic inequalities in the world and in Turkey. Poverty limits people's access to health services and creates obstacles in accessing treatment for preventable health problems and necessary preventive tools. From a feminist perspective, inequalities in access to health services are reinforced by patriarchal structures. HPV is a virus that can cause various types of cancer, particularly cervical cancer. The World Health Organisation recommends HPV vaccination for girls and women between the ages of 9 and 26. However, in Turkey, the HPV vaccine is not included in the national immunisation calendar and is not covered by the social security system. The vaccination demands of women, whose sexuality and sexual rights are stigmatized, are ignored by the public, resulting in a lack of preventive services to protect against sexually transmitted infections. However, the failure to establish the right to vaccination for all deepens gender inequalities and violates the right to health. According to UN Women Turkey 2022 data, women are more likely to experience poverty, while the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) Statistics on Women 2023 report shows that the employment rate of women is less than half that of men. This situation leads to women's inability to benefit from health services. The cost of the HPV vaccine, which is not covered by the public health insurance system in Turkey, means that economically disadvantaged women are not vaccinated. To address this issue, some local governments have begun to take action. Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Çanakkale Metropolitan Municipality and Muğla Metropolitan Municipality provide free HPV vaccination services to women based on different criteria. Although these steps are important in combating gender inequalities, the problem should be addressed at the national level and HPV vaccine should be included in the national immunisation calendar in order to protect and improve the right to health, which is a fundamental human right, for every individual.

**Keywords:** HPV Vaccine, gender inequality, poverty.





## **A Refusal to Grow Up or a Whirlpool of Inability to Mature?: The Pains of Becoming (or Failing to Become) a Female Subject in Figen Şakacı’s Trilogy**

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Figen Şakacı began telling the story of a woman’s journey from childhood to old age with *Bitirgen* in 2011, followed by *Pala Hayriye* in 2014, and concluded the trilogy with *Hayriye Hanım’ı Kim Çaldı* in 2017. Throughout the trilogy, Hayriye’s life story—unfolding within the contexts of family, school, work, and social circles—stands at the intersection of the personal and the societal. Born into a traditional family, Hayriye becomes trapped in the molds imposed by patriarchy and normative social order during her university years and professional life. Despite all obstacles, she strives to become the subject of her own life as a woman; however, mirroring the panorama of Turkey’s sociocultural structure, her efforts to grow and mature are fraught with difficulties. She frequently regresses into her childhood, exhibits childish behavior, and fails to escape this vicious cycle. This trilogy, which can also be read as a *bildungsroman*, opens a perspective in which Hayriye’s coming-of-age story parallels society’s inability to grow. The traumas she experienced in both childhood and early youth—such as loss, abuse, and running away from home—and the societal structures that led to these traumas can be considered key dynamics that prevent her from becoming a fully realized subject. Although Hayriye is constantly striving to assert her subjectivity, the oppressive gaze of society remains ever-present. Even if she believes she is questioning all the social norms around her, she ultimately finds herself caught between a stubborn refusal to grow and the whirlpool of being unable to do so. The aim of this study is to examine why Hayriye, who is trapped within the confines of a rigid system, fails to realize her process of becoming a subject—by closely analyzing her story and making visible the intersections between her narrative and the patriarchal, oppressive, and sexist traditional structure.

**Keywords:** Figen Şakacı, bildungsroman, gender.





## **Comparison of Symbolic Violence and Consciousness Raising in the Context of Consent in Law**

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The relationship between lawyers and the concept of consent is ambiguous. It is very difficult to find a definition of consent in any law book. Conversely, cases where consent is absent or withdrawn are described in more detail in legal texts. Due to the structure of criminal law, which aims to impose sanctions on perpetrators of unacceptable acts, this situation may seem normal. However, this is accompanied by an undefined yet perceptible ambiguity surrounding the concept of consent itself. Therefore, one cause of this ambiguous relationship is the ambiguity of consent itself. In legal terms, however, consent must exist despite this ambiguity because human beings can only be held responsible for their actions if they have consciousness, will, and consent. Consequently, legal causality can only be established through the existence of these concepts. However, the main problem with this study is whether this relatively sharp, abstract perspective envisaged by legal rules and legislation on consent, consciousness and will is compatible with everyday life. It is necessary to demonstrate the difference between situations in which people consent and situations in which they involuntarily say 'yes'. To this end, the study will examine how people can consent in the context of Pierre Bourdieu's concept of symbolic violence. The study will focus on situations where symbolic violence combines with masculine domination. Finally, the question will be asked of whether Catherine A. MacKinnon's method of consciousness raising can be used to oppose situations in which masculine domination is exercised, in which both the victims and the perpetrators consent due to the effect of symbolic violence.

**Keywords:** Consent, symbolic violence, consciousness.







## Analyzing Netflix Turkish Productions in the Context of Women's Representations

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The gender roles drawn for men and women around the world are presented to the audience through traditional and digital media as an important teaching tool. Certain characteristics are attributed to women and men, and within a male-dominated order, men are attributed strong roles and women are attributed weak roles in need of protection. Because the media has educational and social functions and its representations have an impact on individuals, the content broadcast on television is criticized in society for uniform representations and cliché stories and roles. Netflix, which offers alternative representations, appears to be a preferable structure. This research aimed at finding out how this platform's productions focusing on "Gender Equality and Women's Issues" approach women's representations and to what extent they can provide different representations. Netflix Turkey stands out as a popular content provider, especially among young viewers, as it features both Turkish and foreign productions, offers content in different genres such as comedy, fantasy, detective, drama, documentary, and has the feature of being watched regardless of time and place. In this context, it is important to examine the gender representations in the media, especially in terms of the media's influence on young people and the media's responsibility to provide educational content. As a popular content provider, Netflix has presented Turkish productions to the audience by identifying gender roles, American consumption habits and social approaches with Turkish culture, especially within the framework of American cultural hegemony. Within the scope of this study, which seeks to answer the question of how Netflix creates Turkish women's representations, the content on Netflix between 2020 and 2025 was scanned and productions focusing on women's issues were identified and examined. These productions have been determined as Mezarlık (Turkish Production) (2022), Gönül (Turkish Production) (2022), Fatma (Unseen / South African Production) (2021), Bir Başkadır (Original Turkish Production) (2020). The descriptive analysis method, one of the qualitative research methods, was used as the method of this study. In this context, "representation of women, education levels of female characters, work and class status, how they are positioned in the spatial context, family structure, independence status of female characters" were examined.

**Keywords:** Gender, women, representation.





## **(Un)packing a Punch: The Role of the Gender Belief System in Barroom Aggression**

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Past studies have shown that many variables predict male to male aggression in public drinking premises. Although there are well established links explaining men’s aggression in barroom contexts such as its relationship with binge drinking, more recent studies have begun to show that there are socially learned factors that are also related. One such factor is the influence of the gender belief system on men’s aggressive tendencies, particularly masculine norms. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to analyze the link between male role norms endorsement, masculine discrepancy stress, ambivalent sexism and barroom aggression among males. A sample of 180 Turkish speaking male, young adult students from various universities in Northern Cyprus completed the Male Role Norms Scale, Masculine Discrepancy Stress Scale, Ambivalent Sexism Inventory and Male Alcohol-Related Aggression Inventory. It was hypothesized that participants who show high adherence of traditional masculine norms and experience masculine discrepancy stress will be more likely to show positive attitudes towards barroom aggression. Additionally, men who are high in ambivalent sexism, particularly benevolent sexism and masculine identification will be more likely to be a part of an aggressive incidents at public drinking places. Findings of the study revealed that men who strictly endorse traditional male role norms are more likely to engage in violence in licensed drinking places. Also, it was found that hostile sexism was a significant predictor of barroom aggression. Benevolent sexism on the other hand, played a mediating role between endorsement of masculine norms and barroom aggression. Lastly, no significant influence of masculine discrepancy stress was found. The implications of the findings and prevention strategies are further discussed.

**Keywords:** Male role norms, masculine discrepancy stress, ambivalent sexism.





## **The Role of Political Power in the Construction, Reproduction and Transformation of Gender in the Context of Turkey's Decision to Withdraw from the Istanbul Convention**

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This study aims to analyze the role of political power in the process of construction, reproduction and transformation of gender in the context of Turkey's decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention. Turkey signed and ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which emerged as a result of the global struggle and cooperation for the prevention of violence against women, one of the gravest consequences of gender inequality, without reservations. Turkey's withdrawal from this critically important convention in 2021, which was a critical step taken to end inequality, discrimination and violence against women, constituted an important breaking point in Turkey's gender policies. This study will examine how the political power reproduces gender through the question of the political and ideological grounds on which it justified its decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention. The study will also seek an answer to the question of how this decision is a breaking point in terms of the transformation of women's rights and gender policies. In this context, within the framework of feminist theory, biopower and discourse analysis, it will be evaluated how the state shapes women's rights and how it shifts from gender equality to “gender justice” discourse. Furthermore, how the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention has affected legal safeguards in the fight against violence against women will be discussed. The study will evaluate the political power's process of reproducing gender in a family-centered and conservative discourse in the context of the cancellation of the Istanbul Convention and discuss the long-term social effects of this transformation. Finally, the current situation regarding women's rights will be discussed with a critical perspective on the future of gender policies. By revealing the determining role of political power and state policies in the political construction of gender, this study will evaluate the impact of the decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention on women's rights in a holistic framework.

**Keywords:** Istanbul Convention, feminism, biopolitics.





## **The "Land Girl" Magazine and the Representation of Women's Labor During World War II in Britain**

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During World War II, the "Land Girl" magazine, which was published to encourage women's labor in Britain, stands out as an important communication tool for understanding the gender roles of the time, the militarization of female labor, and propaganda strategies. This study aims to analyze how the female identity was constructed during the war by examining the visuals of the magazine within the framework of Roland Barthes' semiotic approach. In this study, visuals from the magazine's issues of April 1940, August 1940, April 1942, August 1942, April 1945, August 1945, December 1943, and December 1945 have been examined, and transformations in the representation of women's labor during the war process have been evaluated. During the analysis, the iconography, color preferences, body language, and spatial arrangements used in the visuals were analyzed; the representation of women's integration into agricultural production and the war economy was discussed. The findings show that the "Land Girl" magazine coded female labor as a national duty and integrated the female workforce into the discourse of patriotism. Furthermore, significant changes in the visual language of the magazine during different phases of the war were identified. In the early 1940s, women were depicted as hardworking and determined individuals within agricultural activities, with natural color tones being used. After 1943, emphasis shifted to heroism and resilience, with strong postures and military elements taking prominence. By December 1945, the temporary nature of female labor was implied, and visuals supporting a return to traditional gender roles were used. In this context, it can be concluded that the "Land Girl" magazine functioned as a propaganda tool and reflected the ideological discourses of the period. This study presents significant data on the construction of female labor and gender roles in wartime propaganda materials, highlighting the impact of printed communication tools on societal perceptions.

**Keywords:** World War II, Land Girl magazine, women's labor.





## **'The Power of Discourse: Shaping the Perception of Motherhood Through Surrogacy Metaphors in the Media After the Russia-Ukraine War'**

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Motherhood has been shaped not only as a biological reality but also as a social, cultural, and ideological construct throughout history. While in traditional societies, motherhood has been associated with fertility and caregiving, in the modern era, its definition and boundaries have undergone transformation, being constructed as both a social and emotional process. Feminist theory discusses the relationship between motherhood and gender roles, while linguistic studies explore how motherhood is represented in language and how it gains meaning through metaphors. Traditional discourses emphasize self-sacrifice and biological bonds, whereas modern reproductive technologies have introduced alternative forms of motherhood, such as surrogacy, reshaping the perception of motherhood. In the media, motherhood is often framed as a sacred duty or a natural responsibility, whereas surrogacy is positioned within a discourse that challenges and expands this understanding. In media narratives, surrogacy is frequently described through metaphors and is predominantly addressed within commercial, ethical, or legal contexts. Accordingly, this study aims to examine how surrogacy metaphors have been used in media discourses following the Russia-Ukraine war and how the concept of motherhood has been reconstructed within a historical and cultural framework. Conducted within the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Metaphor Analysis, this research evaluates how media discourse during times of conflict frames surrogacy through metaphors and how these discourses shape social perception. In conclusion, media language is a powerful tool in shaping the concept of motherhood. Metaphors define surrogacy as a service, an ethical issue, or a biological bond, thereby reconstructing the notion of motherhood from social, ethical, and political perspectives.

**Keywords:** Surrogacy, media discourse, metaphor analysis.





### **New Face of the Past in Samanbahçe**

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“Samanbahçe Evleri”, built in the historical Walled City area of Nicosia, is a mass housing project located in Samanbahçe Neighbourhood. Its history dates back to the 19th century. The area was first used as a garden where the people living in the neighbourhood met their vegetable and fruit needs, and then it was used as a cattle market. In the 20th century, due to the rapid increase in the population, it became the first mass housing built for citizens whose financial situation was not very favourable with the project of the Foundations Administration. This study will examine how the socialisation, communication and solidarity patterns of women living in the neighbourhood today have an impact on identity formation. In particular, reference will be made to our previous article “Bir Mahallenin Seyir defterleri:Lefkoşa Samanbahçe Evleri”, in which the lives of the oldest residents of the neighbourhood and the lives of the younger generation will be examined. This study can be considered as a continuation. The research will be a case study in the form of a life story from qualitative research methods. During the study, interviews will be conducted and photographs will be included. Basically, tracing the relationship of women's life with the space in the sampled place, how much they transfer the habits from traditions to their daily lives, and what kind of differences there are between previous generations and today's generations will be discussed.

**Keywords:** Individual, identity, belonging.





## Cultural Practices, Judgment and Transformative Equality

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Transformative equality, as articulated in Article 5 of CEDAW, goes beyond both formal and substantive notions of equality by aiming to transform the structural foundations of gender inequality (Biholar, pp. 4–6). A judicial approach rooted in transformative equality prioritizes legal reasoning that considers the operation of power structures and their intersection with gender and other axes of discrimination (Hodson, p. 927). One critical dimension of transforming gender-biased legal structures is reshaping both legal practice and reasoning itself. This study explores the transformative potential of law through the lens of the law-culture relationship. Some of the most complex debates in the literature emerge around the issue of whether courts should consider cultural knowledge that parties claim is relevant to legal action—particularly in cases involving the rights of women and girls (Özdemir, p. 7). Focusing on the legal and ethical principles that can be associated with cultural practices affecting women and girls, this study aims to interrogate these practices within the broader framework of law’s transformative power. The analysis is based on judicial decisions collected as part of a research project (Project No. 123K882) conducted by the author and supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK).

**Keywords:** Law and culture, transformative equality, cultural defense.







## **Judicial Stereotyping in Women's Access to Justice in the Context of Gender-Based Violence**

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Based on their different physical, biological, sexual and social functions, the social and cultural construction of men and women creates gender-based stereotypes. Gender stereotypes lead to gender prejudices about the characteristics, roles and qualities of femininity and masculinity. Gender stereotypes and gender stereotyping are related to prejudices. Harmful and inaccurate gender stereotypes are one of the biggest obstacles to the protection and realization of women's human rights and, in this context, their access to justice. Although access to justice is understood in its first and narrow sense as access to legal aid, it is also explained more generally as access to justice or the courts. Access to justice is defined in its most general sense as meeting the other requirements of equity and justice, starting with the conditions for ensuring that one's voice is heard in the trial. Gender stereotypes and prejudices are one of the main reasons that prevent the voice from being heard in the trial, thus leading to rights violations, discrimination and therefore injustice. Judicial stereotyping is the conscious or unconscious use of gender stereotypes by members of the judiciary in their decisions. Judicial stereotyping can occur in different forms. For example, questioning the reliability of women who are subjected to violence, normalizing violence (finding mitigating factors for violence), presenting “acceptable-ideal” female behavior patterns, etc. Such judicial decisions, based on gender stereotypes and prejudices, also legally legitimise existing gender inequality. This situation restricts women's access to justice, making it difficult to combat gender-based violence against women. This study will examine the deterrent effects of judicial stereotyping on women's access to justice in the context of gender-based violence. In addition, based on the duties imposed on the party states by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), I will try to present possible actions and solutions in the context of combating this issue.

**Keywords:** Access to justice, domestic violence, gender based violence.





## **Inclusive State: Women Not Being Trapped Between Acceptance and Marginalization**

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Since the state is not an entity but rather a human-made institution, its institutionalization in a manner that systematically violates human rights or, conversely, in a rights-protecting manner depends on people. Therefore, even if states are not initially structured to protect rights, they can transform into rights-protecting entities. However, for a state to undergo such a transformation, it is not sufficient to safeguard only its recognized citizens. Instead, this transformation requires the protection of all individuals living within its borders, including migrants, refugees, stateless persons, and other marginalized groups, who are particularly vulnerable to exclusion. When a state secures the rights of only acceptable citizens—that is, when it limits inclusion to a specific group—it inevitably subjects women to varying degrees of rights deprivation within the spectrum of acceptance and marginalization. In other words, when a state is not sufficiently inclusive, not only do women from marginalized backgrounds—such as immigrants, refugees, stateless individuals, and minorities—suffer from rights violations, but even women in relatively privileged positions are forced to compromise their rights and freedoms to be perceived as "acceptable" in society. However, inclusivity—essential to ensuring that women are not confined within the limits of acceptance and marginalization—does not emerge automatically within a state. Whether a state is inclusive or not does not solely depend on its administrators. Rather, it relies on the collective awareness, responsibility, and commitment of everyone living in that society—including its citizens—to uphold a rights-based approach in their interactions with one another.

**Keywords:** Inclusiveness, marginalized, discrimination.





## **‘Home’ through the Eyes of Ukrainian Immigrants in North Cyprus**

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At the outset of the 21st century, the world has been transforming into a global village and hence immigration has increased immensely. Some of the reasons for immigration are by necessity like war and escaping from the war, some others are due to personal preference. The present study focuses on immigrant Ukrainian women, who migrated to North Cyprus due to the war between Ukraine and Russia, which started with a conflict in 2014 and slowly turned into a war that started in 2022. In order to find calmer, safer, stable places, people started to immigrate to less globally known countries like North Cyprus. War is dangerous and contains violations, death, physical and psychological damage. To avoid the war, people take hard decisions to leave everything behind, in order to find a safe place for their families and avoid being entangled in the political dynamics. Among other things, when one immigrates, leaves the ‘home’ and ‘home country’ behind. When ‘home’ as the domestic sphere is the topic, it is related to women more than men. The present study focuses on the ‘home’ concept of the immigrant Ukrainian women living in North Cyprus. The research for the study is based on qualitative methodology and a phenomenological approach. For the study, 15 Ukrainian immigrant women are chosen as the sample of the study. Data are collected through semi-structured interviews, observation and field notes.

**Keywords:** Woman, migration, Ukraine.





## **Mujeres Libres: A Discourse Analysis of an Anarcho-Feminist Magazine**

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This study examines *Mujeres Libres*, a magazine published during the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939), through the lens of discourse analysis, with the aim of assessing its unique role within the Spanish anarcho-feminist movement. Published across 13 issues during the war years, the magazine centered on women’s social and class emancipation. By encouraging and educating women workers, *Mujeres Libres* developed a discourse that challenged both patriarchal structures and class-based inequalities, firmly positioning itself as a transformative platform. The analysis focuses on how *Mujeres Libres* framed women’s liberation through a class-oriented perspective, presenting gender equality as a revolutionary objective. It also investigates how the magazine’s efforts to educate and integrate women into social and political life were influenced by the gendered contradictions within the broader anarchist movement of the time. The findings indicate that *Mujeres Libres* advocated for women’s emancipation not merely in terms of economic equality but as a holistic struggle encompassing political, social, and cultural dimensions. Through its diverse content, including poetry, essays, and illustrations, the magazine fostered significant awareness and inspired collective action among women. More than just a publication, *Mujeres Libres* served as a critical tool for promoting women’s organizations and contributed meaningfully to the gender discourse of its era. In this context, the study evaluates the strategies employed by *Mujeres Libres* to empower women, their intersection with class struggle and social transformation, and the magazine’s distinct position within contemporary feminist and anarchist movements.

**Keywords:** Anarcho-feminism, discourse analysis, women’s history.





## **Femininities Inside and Outside: Women's Engagement with the Economy in the Case of Dikarpaz, Cyprus**

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The presentation includes some of the findings of a Tübitak Project carried out in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 2023. The information gathered during the fieldwork in the town of Dikarpaz in Iskele District during the research on the gendered dimensions of the economy, the economy of private and public spaces, and the symbolic content of economic change revealed that Dikarpaz exhibits different economic practices in terms of gender, age and belonging. In the town of Dikarpaz, which is home to both Greek Cypriot residents and Turkey originated residents, with a minor number of Turkish Cypriots, Greek Cypriots who receive UN aid receive different aids according to gender, and the young people - as they themselves report it - find this discriminatory and consider Southern Cyprus as an area of opportunity for education and work. Turkish Cypriot young women also saw Southern Cyprus as a place to gain status or work in the formal sector, but staying in Dikarpaz created a new context of formal labor for women. On the other hand, when looking at the young segment of the population of Turkey origin, it was found that women cannot exist in the context of visible labor and their public visibility is limited, and that Southern Cyprus, which does not grant the right of passage, does not exist as an opportunity, but that the invisible labor line opened by the fact that the care of the elderly Greeks is mostly provided by the women of the population migrating from Turkey separates them from the rural economy. In all groups, it was observed that the economies of men and women are sharply divided between the public and private spheres, while the symbolism of economic expenditures and consumption within the households of Turkish Cypriot, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot women is very different from each other. The findings of the research, which stands out with its methodology, are intended to be presented in the context of both the gendered economy debates and the examination of the construction of the relationship of femininities with the economy through different indicators such as ethnicity, religion, belonging, urban and rural.

**Keywords:** Gendered economy, United Nations aid, invisible labor.





## **Reducing Myths About LGBTI+ to Tackle Prejudices Against Gender Diversity and Sexual Orientation**

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This study is the first experimental research to develop a Myth Endorsement Scale regarding LGBT+ individuals and use video manipulation to examine essentialist beliefs. It aims to assess the role of religiosity and essentialist beliefs in reinforcing myths about the LGBT+ community and identifying myths that contribute to discrimination and prejudice. A total of 160 Turkish-speaking cisgender first-year students from Eastern Mediterranean University in Northern Cyprus participated. They were assigned to four groups: two experimental groups (genetic and environmental etiology), a reality group, and a control group. The experimental and reality groups watched videos on homosexuality’s etiology—scientific findings for the reality group, and genetic or environmental explanations for the respective experimental groups. The control group received no information. Pearson correlation analysis found a significant positive relationship between anti-LGBT+ myth beliefs and attitudes. ANOVA tests examined the effects of video manipulation, religiosity, and gender on myth beliefs and attitudes. Findings indicate religiosity and essentialist beliefs significantly influence myth beliefs. The environmental etiology group had the strongest myth beliefs, while the reality group had the lowest and displayed more positive attitudes. The control group showed more myth beliefs and negative attitudes than the reality group. Male participants exhibited stronger myth beliefs and more negative attitudes than females. The results are discussed in relation to existing literature.

**Keywords:** LGB+, etiology, homosexuality.





## **Priestesses of Dionysos, Revolutionary Movement, and Militant Female Citizenship**

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The “individual” of classical liberalism is a construct. Within this fiction, the figure of the abstract “individual” is presented as the embodiment of all humanity based on universality. Much like the political community established by the liberal contract, the “individual” is artificial: nothing more than the “man of reason.” The body, on the other hand, is relegated to the figure of the woman, constructed as the Other. The separation of the male “reason” from the female “body” persists in the placement of the political subject of liberal democratic publicity within the image of the male individual. This subject is composed of male individuals who subordinate their emotions and desires to the rules of rational reason. Conversely, women are “naturally defined” bodies, marked by sexual difference and irrational qualities. As natural subjects, they are perceived as lacking the necessary capacity and competence; they are deemed insufficient as political subjects in the public sphere of free and equal male citizens. All these masculine determinations of revolutionary liberal politics, coupled with the legal and practical barriers of bourgeois governance, led to the exclusion of women from the public sphere by positioning them outside the ideal profile of citizenship. However, despite these exclusions, women waged intense struggles for full participation in the democratic public sphere, grounded in popular sovereignty. In this sense, they carried out militant actions, organizing power-based demonstrations against the official gender ideology and defending their rights in all areas of the public realm. Throughout this period, they challenged the limits imposed by naturalized notions of femininity, attacking the gendered discourse and practices of liberalism. For this reason, they were condemned with the label “priestesses of Dionysos,” stigmatized as “ecstatic goddesses,” and scorned under the name “femmes-hommes.” At this juncture, this study will focus on understanding militant female citizenship by addressing the gender-based paradox of popular sovereignty and republican liberty.

**Keywords:** Rebel daughters, gender, French Revolution.







## **De-constructing Gender and Re-constructing Europe: Populism and Anti-gender Discourse in Germany**

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The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) and the newly founded left-wing populist-conservative Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW) have reshaped Germany's political landscape. The AfD emerged as Germany's second-strongest party in the 2024 European Parliament elections, while BSW secured 6.2% of the vote, challenging Germany's traditional role as a bastion of Europhile mainstream politics. As Germany's political trajectory has profound implications for European integration, the ascent of these parties necessitates a closer examination of their ideological and discursive strategies. This paper synthesizes insights from Critical Studies on Men and Masculinities and Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) to analyze how both parties construct political masculinities and mobilize anti-gender discourse within their broader populist narratives. We examine how the AfD and BSW articulate boundaries of inclusion and exclusion concerning Europe, democracy, and national sovereignty, focusing on the role of gendered tropes in their rhetoric. Politics is inherently contested, and we therefore rely on narrative analysis—engaging with setting, characterization, and employment—to unpack how these parties frame European integration and national identity through masculinist and gendered imaginaries. Drawing on speeches, official documents, and public statements from September 2023 (BSW's establishment) to June 2024 (EP elections), we trace the intersections of populism, masculinity, and anti-gender discourse in Germany's evolving political landscape. By reframing Europe and Germany through gendered lenses, this paper contributes to scholarly debates on radical populism, anti-gender movements, and the gendered dimensions of European politics.

**Keywords:** Masculinities, foreign policy, Germany.





## **Women's Participation in Decision-Making Processes in Medical Intervention: Transforming Informed Consent with the Ethics of Care Approach**

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Informed consent is defined as the doctor's adequate explanation of the interventions to be performed on the patient and the alternatives, if any, together with their advantages and risks, in accordance with the patient's level of knowledge, and the formation of a voluntary consent without any doubt about the intervention in the patient. In addition to its legal aspect, informed consent is of great importance in terms of the relationship between the patient and the doctor. In the classical understanding, the bond between the doctor and the patient is seen as a caregiver and care receiver relationship. The doctor is portrayed as the practitioner who has the knowledge and skills to carry out the intervention and the patient as the person in need of care who accepts the intervention. The role of informed consent is to transform this and create a partnership between the patient and the doctor, ending the roles of caregiver and care receiver. However, studies show that even though informed consent aims to transform this relationship and ensure the patient's participation in the decision of medical intervention at least as much as the doctor, the participation of patients in these processes is not happening at the expected level and the relationship between patient and doctor continues in the traditional form. In addition, legal regulations see only the patient and the doctor in the process, but it is not correct to consider the patient as a decision-maker alone, independent of his/her close relationships. Legal regulations on informed consent and deficiencies in practice cause women patients to be excluded from decision-making processes for various reasons. In addition, it is also observed that women patients make decisions together with their relatives. It is seen that informed consent in its current form ignores the obstacles and practices in front of women's participation in decision-making processes. In this paper, the problems related to informed consent will be discussed in the context of the ethics of care and ways will be sought to increase the participation of women patients in decision-making processes by reconstructing the relationship between the doctor and the patient and the decision-making processes accordingly.

**Keywords:** Informed consent, medical intervention, ethics of care.





## **Evaluation of Turkish Civil Code -In the Light of Constitutional Court Decisions- from a Gender Perspective**

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The Turkish Civil Code, which was adopted from the Swiss Civil Code in 1926, is one of the most fundamental laws that regulates all relations of persons from birth to death. In this context, family law has an important place in the TCC. The changing structure and needs of society necessitates the change of laws. In this context, in order to meet the developments and needs, especially in the field of family law, the Turkish Civil Code was amended on 1 January 2002 and the new Code entered into force. When the old and the new law are compared, it is seen that an attempt has been made to ensure equality between men and women, but no significant progress has been made in terms of gender equality, except for the partial protection of women's rights. Although there are still many steps to be taken with the TCC, which has the principle of equality and generality at its core, there are many provisions under the title of gender in the TCC dated 2002, which reveal the development of women's rights and in some cases the opposite. From the age of marriage to the surname of the married woman, from the change in the civil registry records of the married woman to the provisions introduced for gender change, there are provisions that can be criticized and suggested to be reorganized in line with the requirements of the century, as well as some positive provisions. The abolition of the concept of the head of the family and the imposition of equal rights and obligations on men and women within the marriage union are among the positive changes. In addition to the Civil Code, especially in recent years, the Constitutional Court has been trying to ensure gender equality to some extent in its decisions made because of individual applications in the context of gender equality, and in its cancellations regarding the surname of the woman and the denial of paternity. In this presentation, the issue will be evaluated in the context of positive and negative developments, considering the recent decisions of the Constitutional Court, the provisions that need to be re-regulated will be mentioned, regulation proposals will be developed and the historical development process of the issue will be examined.

**Keywords:** Gender, Turkish Civil Code, family law.





## **Instagram Mothers: A Systematic Review on the Digitalization of Motherhood Culture in Turkey**

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With the impact of the digital age, traditional motherhood roles have transformed, and mothers have started to share their parenting experiences and skills on social media platforms. Among these platforms, Instagram stands out as one of the most prominent. However, it is unclear how mothers reflect their parenting experiences and skills through this platform. When examining family structures in Turkish society, a shift from a collectivist structure toward individualisation is observed. In this context, it can be assumed that the primary responsibility for childcare and parenting practices still largely rests with Turkish women. Nevertheless, how this responsibility is represented on Instagram accounts and how it is reflected by mothers continues to be an important subject of research. This systematic review aims to reveal the parenting experiences and skills of Turkish mothers on Instagram pages through a systematic review method. The study was conducted following PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines, using databases such as Google Scholar, Web of Science, SCOPUS, and ULAKBİM. A screening yielded 17 studies. Findings reveal several key themes: a desire for approval and validation through social engagement metrics; the portrayal of “perfect motherhood” through content focused on children's nutrition and care; the commercialization of motherhood via influencer marketing and brand partnerships; the dual burden of performing as both the “ideal woman” and the “ideal mother”; and a recurring sense of inadequacy stemming from social comparison and perfectionist expectations. The study recommends enhancing digital literacy, promoting critical media awareness, and supporting mothers' mental well-being in online environments.

**Keywords:** Instagram mothers, digital motherhood, Turkish mothers.





## **From a Gender Perspective: The Legal Dimension of Mobbing Against Women in the Workplace**

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Due to the patriarchal family structure, women have historically participated in production but have been unable to work in the labor market for pay. With the Industrial Revolution, women's entry into the paid labor force began. Although the level of women's participation in social and economic development is associated with a country's level of advancement, women still lag behind men in many societies. In the professional sphere, women are marginalized; gender-based discrimination against women manifests in recruitment, working conditions, and termination, often accompanied by mobbing. Mobbing refers to the systematic and unethical communication of one or more individuals with a target over a prolonged period, resulting in hostile behavior that causes the victim to feel helpless and defenseless. It is a form of discrimination. Discrimination involves treating an individual or group differently from others without a justifiable reason. Gender-based discrimination results in women receiving less favorable treatment than men. Today, the roots of gender discrimination lie in entrenched societal, cultural, and political biases. The effects of these discriminatory perspectives are reflected in the workplace. The working world is predominantly established and managed by men, and it is structured around male gender roles, which in turn create obstacles for women's participation in the workforce. For instance, research shows that women are subjected to mobbing more frequently than men. Women's awareness of mobbing in the workplace is proportionate to the extent to which they have internalized societal gender roles and public perceptions. In many cases, mobbing remains subtle and unrecognized, resulting in women being unaware of their legal rights or feeling compelled to overlook the behavior. Although numerous studies have been conducted on mobbing, the continuation of such research does not necessarily indicate increased awareness. This paper aims to examine the legal regulations and judicial decisions related to mobbing, alongside the findings of research on mobbing experienced by women in professional settings.

**Keywords:** Working life, women employees, mobbing in the workplace.





## **The Assumption of Gender/Sex Binary: A Critical Evaluation in the Context of Current Research**

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The assumption of gender/sex binary emerges as a presupposition that is widely accepted without much questioning, both in the realm of scientific inquiry and in everyday life. According to this assumption, “sex” is fundamentally a biological phenomenon based on the triad of *chromosomes, gonads, and genitals*, and is characterized by a *dimorphic* structure. In other words, there are only two forms of sex: Female and male. Consequently, all individuals are presumed to belong to one of these two categories based on their biological sex. It is thus assumed that every person is born either *female* or *male* according to the chromosomal-gonadal-genital triad, and that their hormones, brain structure, psychological traits, and gender identity develop in alignment with this classification. However, for sex to be accepted as a dimorphic system, all components involved—such as chromosomes, gonads, genitals, and hormones—must exhibit a typically dimorphic structure (that is, they must exist solely in either male or female forms), and all these components must be consistently aligned in each individual (i.e., individuals assigned female must have all female-typical components, and those assigned male must have all male-typical ones). Recent feminist-oriented research findings, however, demonstrate that this is far from the case. While the assumption of the gender/sex binary has been subject to philosophical and political critique since the 1970s, empirical and meta-analytical studies over the past two decades have more explicitly revealed its scientific invalidity. These findings indicate that gender/sex cannot be confined to a binary categorization, either biologically or psychologically; on the contrary, it exhibits a wide spectrum of *diversity*. In this presentation, the aforementioned findings will be addressed and discussed.

**Keywords:** Sex, gender, gender binary.





## Representation of Women in Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage Propaganda Posters

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Women, who have existed for many years as silent family members in a male-dominated system in the world, have begun a series of struggles for rights in the changing world order after the Industrial Revolution. One of the most important of these rights is the struggle for the right to vote. During this struggle, propaganda posters were produced in support of the right to vote as well as propaganda posters against the right to vote. This research focuses on the use of the female image in the propaganda posters produced by the opposing camps. Using the cross-case study method, the research examines five posters from each of the opposing camps by looking at how the image of the woman looks, what her attitude and behavior are, and what social role she reflects, as well as other details in the poster. As a result, the research defined prominent female stereotypes in both opposing views. It also identified how women portray themselves and the expectations of social norms. Today, the struggle for women's rights continues in various fields. The focus of the research on the history of graphic design is important in terms of contributing to the analysis of the language used in the representation of women and the production of new representations of women in the context of gender equality.

**Keywords:** History of graphic design, women, women's suffrage.







## Gender on the Trace of the Transformation of Child Custody

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The doctrine on child custody that prevailed at a certain historical moment was replaced by another doctrine when the time came. It can be easily said that the two underlying reasons behind these transformations throughout history are the patriarchal paradigm of womanhood and motherhood and the feminist struggle. Although we can say that the principle of the *best interests of the child*, which is the dominant principle of child custody at both national and international levels, is a gender-blind principle and that the feminist struggle has brought us to the present day, it is also possible to say that the judicial bodies maintain and reproduce the patriarchal paradigm regarding femininity and motherhood by using the opportunity provided to them by the ambiguity of the principle. In particular, the fact that the judicial decisions on the subject are not only about which party should be granted custody makes the issue worthy of scrutiny. In these judgments, it is not difficult to find a breakdown of the general assumptions regarding acceptable motherhood, the patriarchal value attributed to the use of the surname, the participation of a woman with a child in public life and space apart from her child, and the roles of the mother and father in the development and upbringing of the child. Therefore, in my paper, I will try to trace the patriarchal and feminist struggle over child custody and gender assumptions by analyzing the dominant doctrines on child custody, the transformation of these doctrines, the reasons behind these transformations, and judicial decisions on child custody.

**Keywords:** Gender, child, custody.





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