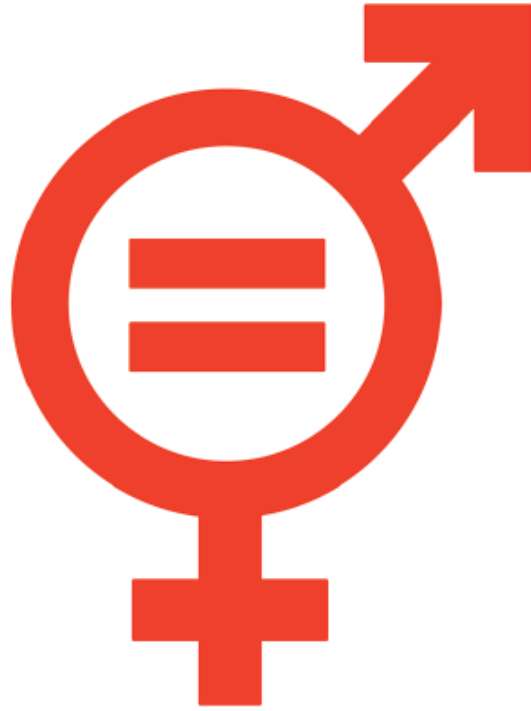




BAU BAHÇEŞEHİR
UNIVERSITY

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY



2023-2024

BAU AT A GLANCE

Since its foundation in 1998, the vision of BAU has been to be a global university known for its contribution to scientific, technological, and cultural knowledge through innovative education models and research approaches that reflect international standards as well as service to society. Currently, BAU Global Network comprises of 6 universities (Istanbul, Washington D.C., Berlin, Cyprus, Batumi, Plymouth), 5 liaison offices (BAU Global Azerbaijan, Jordan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Pakistan) and 5 language schools.

As one of the leading universities in Türkiye, BAU aims primarily to improve the living standards of the local and global society by integrating the sustainable development goals into its corporate processes and culture, educational programs, academic research practices and stakeholder collaborations. BAU with its staff members, students and alumni is a big academic community who are raised as good global citizens committed to each other and the world around them and always act with the utmost sense of ethics and social responsibility.

BAU WITH NUMBERS

- 7 campuses in Istanbul
- 10 faculties, 1 conservatory, 2 vocational schools
- 54 BA programs, 187 MA programs, 30 PhD. programs
- 28 research and application centers
- 149 labs, workshops/studios, incubation centers
- 229 Erasmus partner universities, 96 world exchange partners
- 854 full-time faculty members, 449 administrative staff members
- 19.287 undergraduate students, 3.500 graduate students, 478 doctora degree students
- 81 student clubs
- 238 externally funded projects between 2023-2024
- 410 industry partnerships & projects between 2023-2024

BAU IN THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION

BAU participates in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings since 2019. According to the current rankings, BAU belongs to the 801-1000 band in the World University Rankings, 59th in the Impact Rankings and the 173th in the Young University Rankings 2024. Also, BAU is ranked among the top 5 universities in Türkiye.

The university continuously increases its standing in categories related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As of 2025, BAU holds the following standings in the THE Impact Rankings;

- 7 th in Quality Education
- 50 th in Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 2nd in Gender Equality
- Ranks between 101-200 in Reducing Inequalities
- Ranks between 201-300 in Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Ranks between 401-600 in Sustainable Cities and Communities

The University takes the above-mentioned rankings as evaluation criteria for progress regarding its adherence and contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and will continue to report its advancement in the rankings on a yearly basis.

Advancing Gender Equality at Bahçeşehir University

Bahçeşehir University (BAU) integrates gender equality into its institutional vision and educational philosophy as a core element of social transformation, academic excellence, and sustainable development. The university actively promotes inclusive, feminist, and equality-oriented approaches through academic programs, institutional initiatives, and international collaborations that align with Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality.

Advancing Gender Equality at Bahçeşehir University

Bahçeşehir University (BAU) operates within a comprehensive governance framework designed to promote gender equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination across all academic and administrative levels. Rooted in the university's commitment to fostering a fair, respectful, and inclusive community, these institutional policies ensure that all members—students, faculty, and staff—are provided with equal opportunities and a safe environment free from bias or harassment. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality), BAU's governance policies collectively reinforce the university's mission to eliminate gender-based disparities, support work-life balance, and embed equality into institutional culture, teaching, and leadership practices.

The following policies—adopted and periodically reviewed by the University Senate—are selected examples that guide Bahçeşehir University's approach to equity, protection, and empowerment for all community members:

- Bahçeşehir University Non-Discriminatory Admissions Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Gender Equality and Inclusion Policy
- BAU Maternity and Paternity Policy
- BAU Non-Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Prevention Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Non-Discrimination and Equal Employment Policy

Together, these policies serve as the foundation of BAU's institutional commitment to creating a gender-equal and inclusive academic ecosystem. They ensure that equality is not only a principle but a practice reflected in every aspect of university life—from admissions and employment to professional development and community engagement. Through these frameworks, Bahçeşehir University continues to advance gender-responsive governance, fostering a culture of respect, equity, and empowerment that exemplifies its dedication to SDG 5: achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

CENTERS, LABS, COMMISSIONS, UNITS & PROGRAMS

BAU Equality and Inclusion Studies Commission (BAUEQUAL)



Complementing this academic framework, BAUEQUAL (BAU Equality and Inclusion Studies Commission) was established to institutionalize gender equality, prevent all forms of discrimination, and promote a violence-free campus environment. Announced in December 2019 through a formal declaration of intent, BAUEQUAL began its work in October 2020 with a dedicated team of experts committed to building an equitable and inclusive university culture. The commission's mission focuses on preventing gender-based, workplace, and sexual violence while promoting inclusivity through research-driven strategies, awareness programs, and policy development. To achieve these goals, BAUEQUAL conducted comprehensive internal analyses assessing perceptions of gender equality and inclusion among BAU students and staff. Based on these findings, it has implemented campus-wide initiatives including training programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns developed in cooperation with student clubs and administrative departments.

The BAUEQUAL Unit also serves as a formal reporting and support mechanism for individuals exposed to discrimination, psychological or sexual harassment, and gender-based violence. By ensuring accessibility, confidentiality, and protection, the unit embodies the university's dedication to upholding human dignity and justice. Through its commitment to participatory governance and evidence-based policymaking, BAUEQUAL continuously advances BAU's vision of a safe, inclusive, and gender-equal academic environment.

<https://bau.edu.tr/icerik/16929-bauequal-hakkimizda>

BAUEqual: Gender Equality Action Plan

Bahçeşehir University has launched the BAUEqual Gender Equality Action Plan (2025–2029), a comprehensive institutional strategy designed to strengthen gender equality, inclusivity, and accountability across all levels of university life. The plan aligns with the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and reflects the university's commitment to integrating gender-sensitive approaches into education, research, governance, and community engagement.

The Action Plan includes objectives focused on increasing gender awareness among students and staff, developing inclusive education programs, supporting women's leadership, and preventing gender-based violence. It outlines concrete actions such as gender equality-focused training, awareness-raising campaigns, academic modules, and support mechanisms for victims of discrimination and violence. In addition, it promotes equal representation in decision-making, inclusive recruitment practices, and gender-sensitive research and policy development.

By embedding equality and inclusivity into its institutional culture, Bahçeşehir University aims to ensure a safe, fair, and empowering environment for all members of its community. The BAUEqual framework represents a long-term commitment to structural transformation, ensuring that gender equality becomes a measurable and sustainable component of the university's strategy.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by institutionalizing equality and inclusivity, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its comprehensive approach to inclusive governance, education, and policy development.

<https://bau.edu.tr/icerik/17142-toplumsal-cinsiyet-esitligi-eylem-plani>

Amaç	Eylemler	Sorumluluk ve Yetki	Zaman Aralığı	İzleme ve Değerlendirme
Genel Amaç: Üniversite toplumu içindeki eşitlikçi ve kapsayıcı bir ortamın sağlanması, kadın ve erkeklerin eşit haklara sahip olmaları ve birbirleriyle saygılı ilişkiler kurmaları.	1. Üniversite toplumu içindeki eşitlikçi ve kapsayıcı bir ortamın sağlanması için gerekli önlemlerin alınması. 2. Kadın ve erkeklerin eşit haklara sahip olmaları için gerekli önlemlerin alınması. 3. Kadın ve erkeklerin birbirleriyle saygılı ilişkiler kurmaları için gerekli önlemlerin alınması.	Rektörlük, Dekanlar, Öğretim Üyeleri, Öğrenciler, Personel	2025-2029	Yıllık raporlar, araştırmalar, anketler, odak grupları, derinlemesine görüşmeler
Ölçülebilir Amaçlar: Üniversite toplumu içindeki eşitlikçi ve kapsayıcı bir ortamın sağlanması, kadın ve erkeklerin eşit haklara sahip olmaları ve birbirleriyle saygılı ilişkiler kurmaları.	1. Üniversite toplumu içindeki eşitlikçi ve kapsayıcı bir ortamın sağlanması için gerekli önlemlerin alınması. 2. Kadın ve erkeklerin eşit haklara sahip olmaları için gerekli önlemlerin alınması. 3. Kadın ve erkeklerin birbirleriyle saygılı ilişkiler kurmaları için gerekli önlemlerin alınması.	Rektörlük, Dekanlar, Öğretim Üyeleri, Öğrenciler, Personel	2025-2029	Yıllık raporlar, araştırmalar, anketler, odak grupları, derinlemesine görüşmeler
Ölçülebilir Amaçlar: Üniversite toplumu içindeki eşitlikçi ve kapsayıcı bir ortamın sağlanması, kadın ve erkeklerin eşit haklara sahip olmaları ve birbirleriyle saygılı ilişkiler kurmaları.	1. Üniversite toplumu içindeki eşitlikçi ve kapsayıcı bir ortamın sağlanması için gerekli önlemlerin alınması. 2. Kadın ve erkeklerin eşit haklara sahip olmaları için gerekli önlemlerin alınması. 3. Kadın ve erkeklerin birbirleriyle saygılı ilişkiler kurmaları için gerekli önlemlerin alınması.	Rektörlük, Dekanlar, Öğretim Üyeleri, Öğrenciler, Personel	2025-2029	Yıllık raporlar, araştırmalar, anketler, odak grupları, derinlemesine görüşmeler
Ölçülebilir Amaçlar: Üniversite toplumu içindeki eşitlikçi ve kapsayıcı bir ortamın sağlanması, kadın ve erkeklerin eşit haklara sahip olmaları ve birbirleriyle saygılı ilişkiler kurmaları.	1. Üniversite toplumu içindeki eşitlikçi ve kapsayıcı bir ortamın sağlanması için gerekli önlemlerin alınması. 2. Kadın ve erkeklerin eşit haklara sahip olmaları için gerekli önlemlerin alınması. 3. Kadın ve erkeklerin birbirleriyle saygılı ilişkiler kurmaları için gerekli önlemlerin alınması.	Rektörlük, Dekanlar, Öğretim Üyeleri, Öğrenciler, Personel	2025-2029	Yıllık raporlar, araştırmalar, anketler, odak grupları, derinlemesine görüşmeler

BAU Sexual Harassment and Assault Support Unit

Bahçeşehir University (BAU) is firmly committed to maintaining an equal, safe, democratic, and respectful environment for all members of its community. In line with this commitment, the university upholds a zero-tolerance approach toward all forms of gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence. To strengthen institutional mechanisms of prevention and response, the BAU Sexual Harassment and Assault Support Unit was established in 2022, with its directive and policy statement publicly accessible. This unit serves as the official body responsible for addressing cases where individuals within the university experience or witness incidents defined as gender-based, sexual, or psychological harassment, violence, or discrimination.

The BAU Sexual Harassment and Assault Support Unit undertakes the following responsibilities:

- Preventing sexual harassment and assault in both on-campus and off-campus contexts that may affect the university's educational and professional environments,
- Providing information, guidance, and support to individuals who have been subjected to such actions,
- Overseeing and coordinating follow-up procedures related to administrative (disciplinary) and/or legal processes when such cases are reported.

Through this dedicated unit, Bahçeşehir University reinforces its institutional commitment to protecting human dignity, promoting equality, and ensuring that every member of its community can learn and work in an environment free from violence and discrimination.

BAU Gender Law Clinic (Faculty of Law)

The BAU Gender Law Clinic, the first of its kind in Türkiye, focuses on addressing gender and all forms of gender-based discrimination through education, research, and advocacy. Operating under the Faculty of Law, the Clinic aims to combat gender-based inequality by enhancing students' understanding of both Turkish and international legal frameworks. Its activities include organizing educational panels and conferences, conducting academic research, and developing public awareness materials—all with the active involvement of volunteer law students.

Admission to the Clinic is open to upper-level law students who have successfully completed the Family Law course. Under the supervision of clinical lawyers, participating students gain practical experience by providing legal support and representation to individuals in need. In doing so, the Clinic not only strengthens students' legal competencies but also contributes to improving women's access to justice and dismantling structural barriers to equality before the law. Through this pioneering initiative, Bahçeşehir University reaffirms its dedication to promoting gender-sensitive legal education and advancing justice, equality, and human rights in alignment with SDG 5: Gender Equality.

BAU: “Equal Opportunity Model” Certified University



BAU has been officially recognized as an “Equal Opportunity Model (FEM)” Certified University, a distinction developed and implemented by the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Türkiye (KAGİDER) with the support of the World Bank.

This certification affirms BAU’s strong institutional commitment to promoting gender equality, diversity, and women’s empowerment in education and employment.

The Equal Opportunity Model (FEM) is designed to identify and address inequalities in organizational processes such as recruitment, training, career development, and promotion, ensuring that gender does not influence access to opportunities or professional advancement.

The program—developed under the leadership of KAGİDER, with technical support from the World Bank and in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and Ernst & Young (EY)—sets internationally recognized standards for gender equality and inclusion in the workplace.

Following a rigorous independent evaluation and audit process, Bahçeşehir University achieved certification by demonstrating comprehensive gender-sensitive practices and governance mechanisms across its institutional structure.

This achievement reflects BAU’s sustained efforts to create a fair, inclusive, and equitable working environment for all, reinforcing its leadership in aligning higher education with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

By attaining the FEM certification, Bahçeşehir University stands as a national and international example of how academic institutions can integrate equal opportunity principles into their operational and human resources systems—ensuring that gender equality is not only a value but a lived practice across all levels of the organization.

BAU Activities and Initiatives Supporting SDG 5: Gender Equality

Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST)

Supported by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ Programme, FEJUST represents a pioneering academic endeavor led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm under the Department of Political Science and International Relations. The Chair embraces a feminist agenda in EU politics, seeking to challenge patriarchal norms and epistemic injustices embedded in mainstream political discourse. Through its three core components—undergraduate and graduate teaching, early-career researcher workshops, and gender-focused seminar series—FEJUST creates an intellectually vibrant and inclusive environment that encourages feminist and decolonial approaches to knowledge production. The program employs participatory and art-based pedagogies, offering courses such as Gender and International Development and EU Policies and Gender at the undergraduate level, and Gender and Development and Gender Policies in the EU at the graduate level. These modules foster critical reflection on gendered inequalities, feminist perspectives in policy-making, and social justice across European and global contexts.

FEJUST's academic outreach extends beyond the classroom through the European Politics and Gender Expert Seminar Series and the Early Career Researchers Workshops, which bring together scholars, policymakers, feminist bureaucrats, and civil society representatives. These platforms strengthen the dialogue between academia and society, amplifying feminist voices in EU studies and international relations. Operating in close collaboration with UNITAR's CIFAL Istanbul, FEJUST bridges academic and practical expertise, equipping students and future professionals with feminist analytical skills while fostering gender-sensitive leadership aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://bau.edu.tr/icerik/17399-hakkimizda>

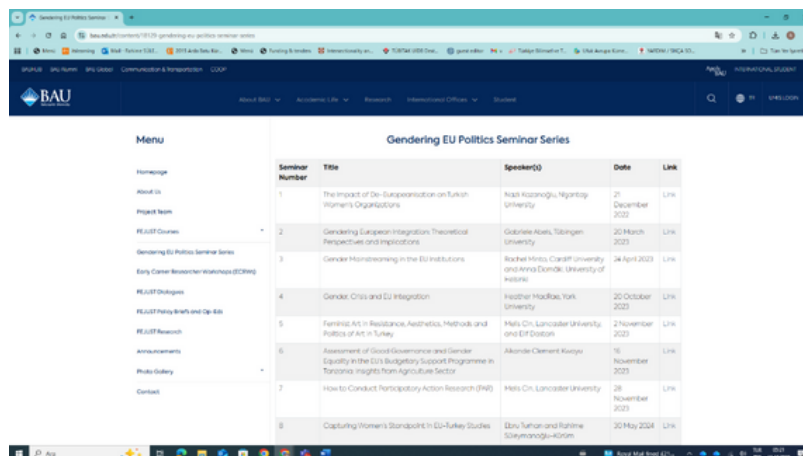
Some examples are listed below:

1- FEJUST Guest Lectures and Open Access Materials (2023-2024)

As part of the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University organized a series of hybrid public lectures and online seminars under the title Gendering EU Politics during the 2023-2024 academic year. The initiative created a platform for critical discussions on gender and European integration, exploring how EU policymaking intersects with issues of equality, representation, and inclusion. The lectures were open to both BAU students and the general public, enabling broad participation through Zoom and YouTube Live. By ensuring free and open access to these academic discussions, Bahçeşehir University has reaffirmed its commitment to SDG 5 by promoting gender-sensitive knowledge production and expanding educational access to diverse audiences.

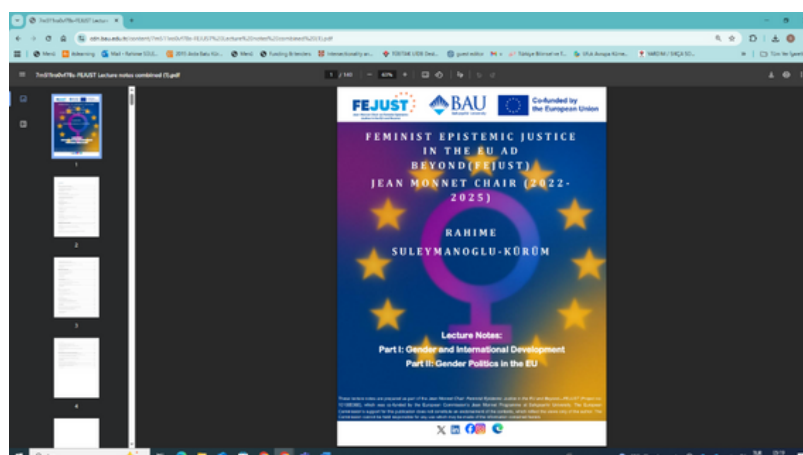
Additionally, lecture notes from the FEJUST undergraduate courses Gender Politics in the EU and Gender in International Development were made publicly available as open-access materials on the FEJUST website. This approach democratized education and empowered individuals outside academia to engage with feminist and equality-focused perspectives in international relations.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by fostering feminist scholarship and ensuring women's and gender perspectives are integrated into academic and policy discourse. It also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by promoting accessible, inclusive, and equitable learning opportunities.



The screenshot shows the FEJUST website with a sidebar menu on the left and a table titled 'Gendering EU Politics Seminar Series' on the right. The table lists 8 seminars with columns for Seminar Number, Title, Speaker(s), Date, and Link.

Seminar Number	Title	Speaker(s)	Date	Link
1	The Impact of De-Separation on Turkish Women's Organizations	Ayşe Kocanoglu, Nigmet University	21 December 2023	Link
2	Gendering European Integration: Theoretical Perspectives and Implications	Gökçe Kaya, Tübingen University	20 March 2023	Link
3	Gender Mainstreaming in the EU Institutions	Rachel Harris, Cardiff University and Anna Dondok, University of Helsinki	24 April 2023	Link
4	Gender, Crisis and EU Integration	Hüseyin Hacıoğlu, Tübingen University	20 October 2023	Link
5	Feminist Art in Resistance, Aesthetics, Methods and Politics of Art in Turkey	Merve Çiçek, Lancaster University and Elif Dönmez	2 November 2023	Link
6	Assessment of Good Governance and Gender Equality in the EU's Budgetary Support Programme in Türkiye: Insights from Agriculture Sector	Akdeniz Cengiz Kaya	16 November 2023	Link
7	How to Conduct Participatory Action Research (PAR)	Merve Çiçek, Lancaster University	28 November 2023	Link
8	Capturing Women's Standpoint in EU-Turkey Studies	Beyza Şahin and Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Körüm	30 May 2024	Link



2- FEJUST Training Programme on Gender, Justice and Policy (2023)



Within the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University launched the FEJUST Training Programme on Gender, Justice and Policy in 2023. The programme included certificate courses such as Gender in International Development, Gender in EU Politics (undergraduate level), Gender and Development, and Gender Politics in the EU Politics (postgraduate level), conducted between October 2022 and July 2025. These free and accessible courses were open to both university students and external participants, providing certificates co-funded by the European Union.

Through this initiative, Bahçeşehir University has strengthened its dedication to SDG 5 by advancing gender equality in education, promoting feminist perspectives in policymaking, and supporting women's participation in academic and policy-oriented fields. The training programme encouraged students to critically analyze gender dynamics within international and European political systems, fostering awareness of social justice and inclusive governance.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by empowering individuals with gender-sensitive knowledge and policy tools. It also supports SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its focus on inclusive education, equity, and institutional accountability.

3- FEJUST Mentorship and Research Support for Emerging Scholars (2023-2024)



Within the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Dr. Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm established mentoring and research-support mechanisms to enhance women's participation in academic publishing and EU studies. Undergraduate students Ceren Çolakoğlu and İbrahim Ekrem Sarı received close guidance in drafting policy papers, one later published in Academicus and another in Panorama Global Academy. This mentoring process enabled students to gain authorship experience and visibility in debates on gender and EU policy.

Female students were further encouraged to pursue master's theses on gender equality and civil-society engagement—such as Ala Khaled's research on EU support for women's NGOs and Sura Salmanlı's study on women's rights in Azerbaijan. Dr. Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm also led trainings within the SDG 5 Türkiye Network, where students collaborated with professionals, strengthening women's access to research, publication, and policymaking arenas.

Through the Feminist Eleştiri Journal special issue, undergraduate contributors—including İbrahim Ekrem Sarı, Ceren Orhan, and Ceren Çolakoğlu—were mentored throughout the writing and review process, marking their first academic publication experience. Collectively, these efforts reflect Bahçeşehir University's sustained commitment to fostering gender-responsive research culture and supporting young scholars in their professional growth.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by advancing women's participation and leadership in academic research, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities through its inclusive approach to mentorship and scholarly collaboration.

Academicus op-ed: <https://tracademicus.wordpress.com/2024/07/17/kadinlara-ve-kiz-cocuklarina-yonelik-siddet-epistemik-adaletsizlik-ve-feminist-tarih-perspektifi/>

Panorama: <https://www.globalpanorama.org/2023/12/rsk/>

FE Dergi article: <https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/federgi/article/1561695>

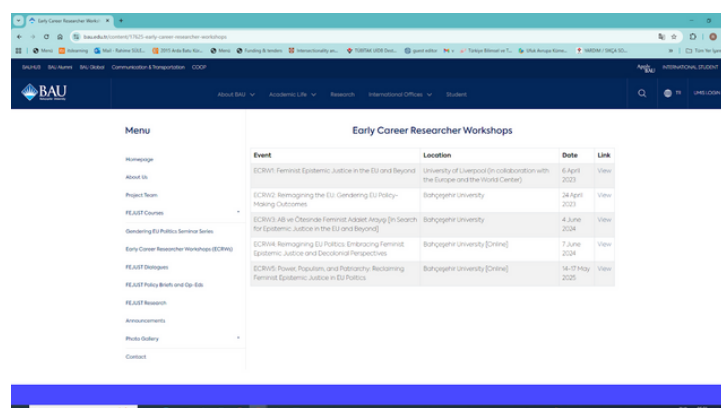
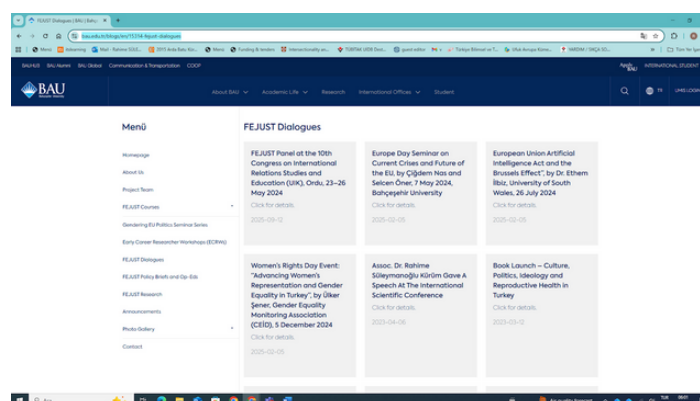
4- FEJUST Early Career Researcher Workshops and Dialogues (2023–2025)

Under the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University launched a series of Early Career Researcher Workshops (ECRWs) and FEJUST Dialogues to strengthen gender equality and epistemic justice within EU studies. Organized in collaboration with the University of Liverpool's Europe and the World Centre, the ECRW series brought together emerging scholars from Turkey, the UK, and across Europe for mentoring, paper presentations, and structured academic feedback.

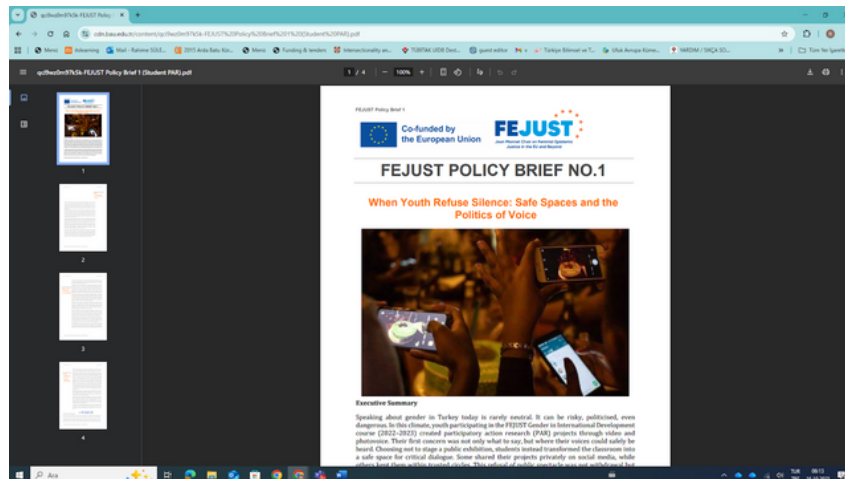
Each workshop served as an international capacity-building forum, where participants—many of them early-career women—received detailed guidance on research design, writing, and presentation. The FEJUST Dialogues extended this engagement to civil society through partnerships with organizations such as the Gender Equality Monitoring Association (CEİD), featuring events that marked Women's Rights Day and Europe Day.

Through these collaborative activities, Bahçeşehir University promoted inclusive knowledge production and cross-sectoral dialogue, helping embed feminist and participatory perspectives in both academic and policy contexts.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by empowering early-career women researchers and promoting inclusive research ecosystems. It also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, through its emphasis on equitable learning, diversity in academia, and international collaboration.



5- Promoting Equality and Inclusion through FEJUST Policy Briefs (2023-2024)



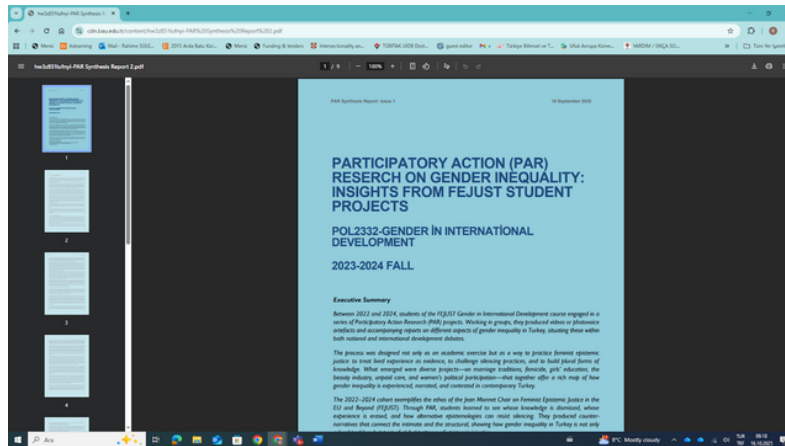
Under the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University integrated equality and anti-discrimination principles into its teaching, research, and outreach activities. Alongside inclusive course design and public events, FEJUST produced a series of EU co-funded policy briefs addressing the politics of gender, diversity, and representation.

The first brief, "When Youth Refuse Silence: Safe Spaces and the Politics of Voice," explored the creation of inclusive environments and the protection of vulnerable groups in academic and civic contexts. The second, "Beyond Brussels So White: Towards an EU of Epistemic Justice and Inclusive Diversity," examined racial and gender inclusivity gaps in EU policymaking. The third, "When 'Protecting Our Women' Harms Them: How Nationalist Masculinity is Remaking Europe," analyzed gender-based exclusion in political discourse. Through these open-access publications, Bahçeşehir University contributed to advancing the EU Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025) and embedding inclusive, gender-aware perspectives into academic and policy discussions.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting feminist knowledge production and combating discrimination, and it also aligns with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its emphasis on inclusivity, justice, and international collaboration.



6- Embedding Equality through Participatory Research and FEJUST Policy Work (2023-2024)

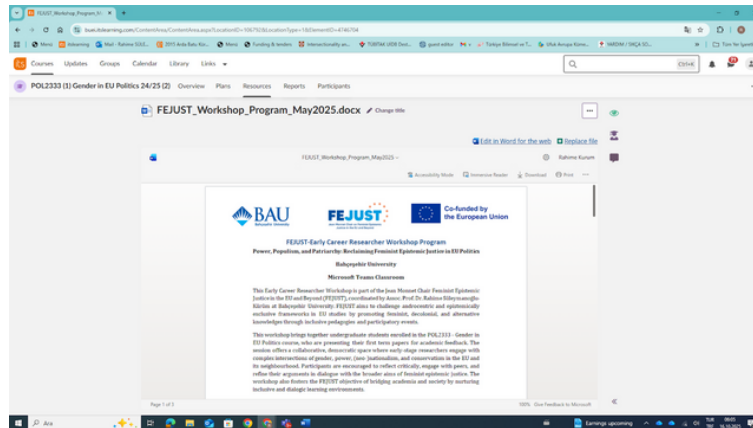


Under the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University integrated the principles of equality and anti-discrimination into both research design and publication processes. Students were trained in Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodologies—such as photovoice and video documentation—to capture lived experiences of gender, inclusion, and social justice.

The PAR Synthesis Reports (2023-2024), co-authored by Dr. Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm and her students, exemplify inclusive and non-hierarchical authorship by representing youth and women's perspectives equitably. Together with the FEJUST Policy Briefs on diversity and epistemic justice, these works demonstrate how Bahçeşehir University transforms equality principles into practice by giving visibility to marginalized voices within academic research and policy dialogue.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality through participatory and inclusive research practices, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by fostering equity, representation, and democratic knowledge production.

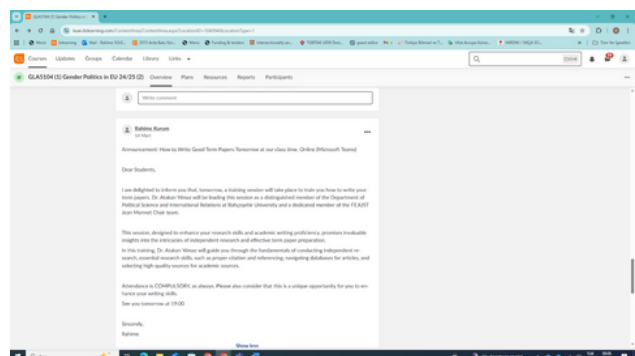
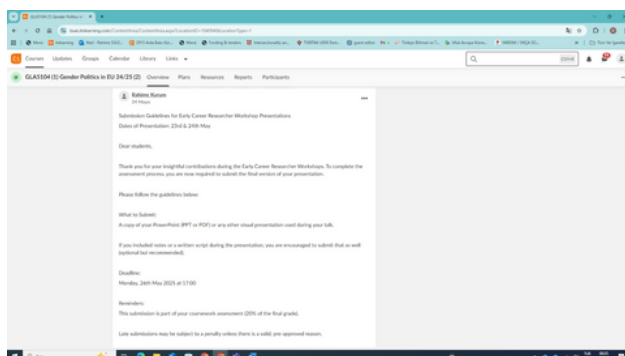
7- Mentoring Through FEJUST Teaching and Integrating Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students into Early Career Researcher Workshops (2023–2025)



Within the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University embedded mentoring into both teaching and research-development activities. In the undergraduate and postgraduate course Gender Politics in the EU, students followed a structured research and writing process resembling professional academic supervision. They developed individualized reading lists and two sequential term papers, receiving detailed feedback at each stage—from reading selection to final submission.

Students also presented their preliminary findings during the Early Career Researcher Workshop series, where they benefited from peer and expert commentary. This mentoring process enhanced research design, critical thinking, and academic writing competencies, while particularly supporting women students in pursuing independent research and postgraduate studies. Several mentees later published or presented their work in academic venues such as Academicus, Panorama Global Academy, and Feminist Eleştiri, illustrating the tangible outcomes of this mentoring model.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by strengthening women's participation and leadership in academic research, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities through its inclusive and supportive approach to higher education mentorship.



8- Fostering Safe Spaces and Voice through FEJUST (2023-2024)



Within the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University has adopted an approach to teaching and public engagement grounded in feminist principles of safety, respect, and voice. Although FEJUST does not operate under a formal code of conduct, its practices ensure that all participants can express their perspectives freely and without fear of discrimination or retaliation.

The first FEJUST Policy Brief, "When Youth Refuse Silence: Safe Spaces and the Politics of Voice," examined how to create inclusive environments where marginalized experiences are acknowledged and valued. This principle is consistently reflected in FEJUST classrooms and workshops, which open with affirmations of mutual respect and equal participation, and where participants may confidentially raise concerns with the Chair coordinator. By embedding these principles into both academic and participatory settings, Bahçeşehir University demonstrates a proactive model of inclusivity and care in higher education.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting safety, empowerment, and equal participation, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its emphasis on respect, inclusion, and accountability in academic environments.

[https://cdn.bau.edu.tr/content/qci9wz0m97k5k-FEJUST%20Policy%20Brief%201%20\(Student%20PA](https://cdn.bau.edu.tr/content/qci9wz0m97k5k-FEJUST%20Policy%20Brief%201%20(Student%20PA)

9- Advancing Gender Equality Through Events with FEJUST

Through its interdisciplinary and collaborative approach, FEJUST actively advances gender equality by organizing seminars, conferences, and policy dialogues with a wide network of international and local partners. These events bring together academics, policymakers, feminist organizations, and civil society actors to foster inclusive discussions on gender, social justice, and equality in policymaking. By creating safe and participatory spaces where diverse voices can engage in dialogue, FEJUST not only strengthens feminist knowledge exchange but also contributes to mainstreaming gender-sensitive perspectives across academic, political, and institutional frameworks. Through this continued collaboration and outreach, the Chair plays a transformative role in promoting gender equality within and beyond the university context.

Some examples are listed below:

9.a- Women's Human Rights and Participatory Democracy (05.12.2024)



Held on the occasion of Women's Rights Day, this webinar titled "Women's Rights and Participatory Democracy" was co-organized by FEJUST, the Gender Equality Monitoring Association (CEİD), Bahçeşehir University's Political Science and International Relations Club, CİFAL Istanbul, UNITAR, and Bahçeşehir University. The event examined the relationship between women's rights and democratic participation, emphasizing the importance of inclusion, representation, and civic engagement in advancing social justice.

Through expert discussions and participant interaction, the webinar fostered awareness of how strengthening women's voices in governance contributes to more equitable, participatory, and transparent decision-making processes.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting women's empowerment and active participation in political life, and it also aligns with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its collaborative approach to inclusive democracy and equality.

9.b- Gendering EU Politics Seminar Series: Capturing Women's Standpoint in EU-Turkey Studies (30.05.2024)



The seminar "Capturing Women's Standpoint in EU-Turkey Studies" examined how gender perspectives influence academic knowledge production and policy interpretation within EU-Turkey relations. Through a gender-focused synthesis and citation analysis, participants explored the visibility of women scholars and feminist approaches in the field, gaining insights into inclusive methodologies and representation in international studies.

By encouraging critical reflection on gender biases in academia and fostering cross-disciplinary dialogue, Bahçeşehir University contributed to advancing inclusive education, equality, and cooperation among researchers and policymakers.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting gender-sensitive scholarship and inclusive participation in research, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its support for collaborative, equitable, and transparent academic engagement.

BAU Activities and Initiatives Supporting SDG 5: Gender Equality

Equal Opportunity in Technology Certification Program



Bahçeşehir University (BAU), in collaboration with CİFAL Istanbul, affiliated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and in partnership with Yapı Kredi Bank, continues to advance its mission of promoting equality and innovation through the “Equal Opportunity in Technology Certification Program.” This initiative is designed to increase women’s participation in the fields of technology and innovation, contributing to the creation of a more inclusive and diverse digital future.

The certification program provides free, high-quality training delivered by Bahçeşehir University’s distinguished academic staff. Participants engage in comprehensive learning modules covering Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Technologies, Cybersecurity, the Internet of Things (IoT), and Industry 5.0. These training contents are developed with a focus on practical applicability and global standards, ensuring participants gain both theoretical knowledge and industry-relevant competencies.

In 2024, the program expanded its scope to reach a broader audience. It is now open to all women aged 15 and above, with no upper age limit, allowing greater inclusivity and ensuring that women of all ages can benefit from technological education and empowerment opportunities.

Participants who successfully complete the certification program and achieve a minimum score of 70 in the final evaluation will receive an E-Government Approved Certificate of Achievement, jointly accredited by UNITAR and Bahçeşehir University. Those who complete at least 75% of the coursework will be awarded a UNITAR-accredited Certificate of Participation.

The Equal Opportunity in Technology Certification Program is entirely free of charge and open to all women who wish to develop their skills and advance their careers in technology. Moreover, individuals of any gender residing in the “Hope Cities” established by Koç Holding after the Kahramanmaraş-centered earthquakes are also eligible to participate, reflecting Bahçeşehir University’s unwavering commitment to social responsibility, inclusivity, and equal access to education.

Launched in 2023, the program has already achieved remarkable impact: by the end of 2024, a total of 22,450 women have successfully completed the training and received certificates. The certification program will continue until the end of 2026, aiming to reach and empower even more women across Türkiye and beyond through education, innovation, and equal opportunity.

<https://baugo.online/certificate-programs/teknolojide-firsat-esitligi>

<https://tto.bau.edu.tr/en/equal-opportunity-project-in-technology-has-started/>



Zero Tolerance for Violence on My Campus: Gender and Dating Violence Training Seminar Series (October 30 & November 25)



In 2024, Bahçeşehir University hosted two sessions of "Gender and Dating Violence Training" organized in collaboration with CIFAL Istanbul, UNITAR, and Yanındayız Association, with the support of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Istanbul. The initiative, part of the broader project "Zero Tolerance for Violence on My Campus," aimed to raise awareness among university students about dating violence and promote gender-sensitive approaches within academic environments. By addressing the psychological and physical impacts of relationship violence and encouraging preventive education, the project contributed to improving mental health, emotional well-being, and safety among young people. Through interactive workshops and problem-solving sessions, participants developed practical solutions and shared their experiences, reinforcing Bahçeşehir University's commitment to fostering inclusive, safe, and healthy learning communities.



Article: "Employment Situation of Trans People in the Context of the Southern European Welfare Regime: The Case of Turkey" (2024)



This study investigates the employment conditions of trans individuals in Turkey within the framework of the Southern European welfare model, highlighting the structural and social barriers that hinder equal participation in the labor market. By analyzing available data and prior research, the article demonstrates the persistent employment gap faced by trans women and men across both public and private sectors, emphasizing the impact of workplace discrimination, limited legal protection, and gendered norms.

The research contributes to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by exposing systemic inequalities based on gender identity and calling for inclusive labor policies. It aligns with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through its focus on promoting fair employment and safe workplaces for all individuals. Furthermore, by addressing socio-economic exclusion and advocating for stronger institutional protections, the article supports SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), advancing equal access to economic opportunities and participation in society.

BAU SDGs and Beyond: Women's Leadership and Sustainable Development (27 March 2024)

4 **BAU Faculty of Law & TOSAM**
with **TÜLIP Sustainability Center**

Panel Series
SDGs and Beyond
Women Leadership & Sustainable Development

Şafak Özsoy
Founder/CEO, TÜLIP Sustainability Center, ESRAO Chairwoman, Eastern Europe- Middle East- Central Asia

Ayça Yaltı
Research and Teaching Assistant, BAU Faculty of Law

İlayda Eskitaşçıoğlu
Co-founder, We Need To Talk/ Konuşmamız Gerek, UN Women Beijing+25 Global Youth Task Force

İtir Küçükütü
President, BAU Women's Rights & Solidarity Club

Duru Taşcı
Vice President, BAU Women's Rights & Solidarity Club

Moderator | Bérénice Kafui Schramm
Opening Remarks | Prof. Nilüfer Narlı

27 March, Wednesday
16.30 - 18.00
Panel Language: English

MS Teams
ID | 348 958 735 672
Code | tfZQ2w
Fazıl Say Conference Hall

TOSAM **TÜLIP** **BAU**

Co-organized by Bahçeşehir University, TÜLIP Sustainability Center, and TOSAM (Center for Health, Society, Behavior, and Prevention Studies), this event marked the fourth installment of the SDGs and Beyond public lecture series. The hybrid panel brought together leading women professionals, policymakers, and academics to explore the role of women's leadership in advancing sustainable development and equality.

Moderated by Bérénice Kafui Schramm and opened by Prof. Nilüfer Narlı, the session featured inspiring speakers who discussed their experiences in leadership, policy, and advocacy. Conversations centered on women's empowerment, youth leadership, health equity, and inclusive governance—highlighting how gender equality accelerates progress across all Sustainable Development Goals.

Through its focus on empowering women and addressing systemic inequalities, the event directly contributed to SDG 5 by promoting women's full participation and leadership in public life, and to SDG 10 by fostering dialogue on reducing structural and social disparities. The panel underscored a shared vision: investing in women is investing in a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Seminar: “Republic and Women With Documents (1929/1939–2007/2017)” – A Historical Perspective on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (7 May 2024)



Organized by Bahçeşehir University TOSAM (Center for Health, Society, Behavior, and Prevention Studies) in collaboration with the BAU Women’s Rights Club, this seminar offered a historical exploration of women’s rights and gender equality in the Republic of Türkiye. Moderated by Prof. Nilüfer Narlı, the event featured Attorney Vildan Yirmibeşoğlu, co-author of *Republic and Women with Documents (1929/1939–2007/2017)*, who provided insights into the legal and social evolution of women’s status through archival research and documented reforms.

The discussion shed light on women’s participation in public life, their contributions to national modernization, and the ongoing challenges in achieving full equality. By connecting the historical trajectory of women’s rights with contemporary gender policies, the event fostered critical awareness and reflection among students and academics.

Through its focus on women’s empowerment and civic participation, the seminar advanced SDG 5 by promoting gender equality and women’s leadership, SDG 10 by addressing social and legal disparities, and SDG 16 by emphasizing the role of inclusive institutions and historical accountability in achieving sustainable and equitable development.

The 104th Commemoration of the First Turkish Women's Rally Against the Occupation of Anatolia (10 December 2023)

10 ARALIK 1919
ANADOLUNUN İŞGALİNE KARŞI
KASTAMONU'DA GERÇEKLEŞEN
İLK TÜRK KADIN MİTİNGİ'NİN
104. ANMA PROGRAMINA
Daevetlisiniz

Moderatör

AY AYDEMİR
KASTAMONU TOSAM

GÜLŞEN FEYMAN
BİLGİ

AY NAZAN
HODİSÖLÜ

PROF. DR. NİLÜFER
NARLI

ARIS YILMAZ
BİLGİ

10 Aralık 2023

13:30 Üsküdar Atatürk Anıtına Çelenk Basmak
14:30 Üsküdar Bağlarbaşı Kongre ve Kültür Merkezi Koltuğu
15:00 Program Başlangıcı

FATMA KIRANOĞLU
KASTAMONU DERNEKLER FEDERASYONU
GENEL BAŞKANI

Üsküdar Bağlarbaşı Kongre ve Kültür Merkezi

www.kasderfedistanbul

Marking the 104th anniversary of the First Turkish Women's Rally Against the Occupation of Anatolia (1919), a commemorative ceremony was held at the Üsküdar Bağlarbaşı Congress and Culture Center. The event brought together scholars, students, and members of the public to honor the women who took a historic stand for independence and equality during the national struggle. Prof. Nilüfer Narlı, Founding Director of TOSAM, represented Bahçeşehir University at the ceremony, emphasizing the enduring legacy of women's civic engagement and leadership.

The commemoration revisited one of the earliest examples of organized women's activism in Turkish history, highlighting its continuing relevance for today's efforts toward gender equality, social justice, and inclusive governance. By celebrating the courage and agency of women who shaped the nation's democratic foundations, the event reinforced SDG 5 through the promotion of women's empowerment, SDG 10 by acknowledging the fight against social exclusion, and SDG 16 by linking women's civic participation to peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Seminar: “A Discussion on Gender in the Turkish Context” (06.12.2023)



As part of Prof. Nilüfer Narlı's Seminar Course, Assistant Professor Elif Gezgin led an interactive session titled "A Discussion on Gender in the Turkish Context." The seminar provided Bahçeşehir University students with a dynamic space to explore gender-related issues in contemporary Turkish society, addressing the cultural, social, and institutional factors that shape gender roles and equality.

Through participatory dialogue and critical engagement, the session encouraged students to reflect on the representation of women, persistent inequalities, and the role of academia in shaping inclusive and equitable communities. By combining theoretical knowledge with experiential learning, Bahçeşehir University promoted awareness, empathy, and civic responsibility among students—essential skills for building fair and inclusive societies.

Through its emphasis on open dialogue and experiential learning, the seminar contributed to the development of students' analytical and civic competencies essential for inclusive social transformation. This initiative directly supports SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting gender sensitivity and empowerment in education. It also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, by fostering inclusive learning environments and encouraging respect for diversity in society.



Panel: “War and Women: Examining Human Rights Violations in The Syrian Civil War” (24.12.2024)



Organized in collaboration with BAU TOSAM and ULMER-HLO, this panel examined the severe consequences of armed conflict on women’s rights, with a particular focus on the Syrian Civil War. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Esra Albayrakoğlu, the event brought together scholars, legal experts, journalists, and policymakers to address multidimensional human rights violations and their social implications.

Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Narlı presented on “Wars and Human Rights Violations of Women During Forced Displacement,” emphasizing the physical, psychological, and systemic hardships women experience in conflict and migration contexts. Hayrunnisa Çiçek contributed with evidence-based insights from field research and interviews, revealing the widespread patterns of sexual abuse, forced displacement, and gender-based violence.

The panel fostered dialogue on how conflict situations deepen gender inequalities and underscored the necessity of international and local actions to protect women, strengthen justice mechanisms, and promote social resilience. Through this academic exchange, Bahçeşehir University provided a vital platform for understanding and addressing gendered dimensions of war and displacement.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by highlighting women’s protection and empowerment in conflict-affected settings, and it also aligns with SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities through its focus on justice, human rights, and inclusive peacebuilding.

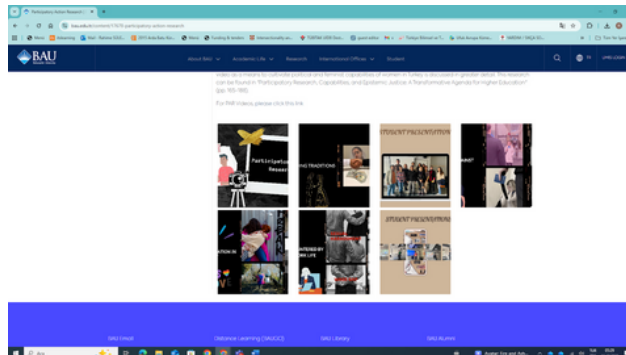
Participatory Action Research and Training with SDG5 Network (2023–2025)



Carried out in partnership with the SDG5 Network, this ongoing initiative focuses on participatory research and training activities addressing gender equality and women's empowerment. The project integrates academic expertise with community engagement, emphasizing collaborative learning and co-created knowledge to tackle gender-based disparities in social, educational, and professional contexts.

Through workshops, training sessions, and joint research studies, participants explore strategies to promote inclusive governance, leadership, and advocacy for gender justice. The initiative also supports capacity-building for young researchers and practitioners, encouraging them to design policies and interventions that advance equal opportunities for all genders. By combining theory, practice, and participation, Bahçeşehir University contributes to building sustainable frameworks for gender-sensitive policy development and social transformation.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting participatory approaches to women's empowerment and gender justice. It also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, through its focus on inclusive education, equitable participation, and collaborative policy innovation.



Public Engagement Activities (October 2023 – December 2024)

Between October 2023 and December 2024, Prof. Dr. Pınar Melis Yelsalı Parmaksız engaged in a series of invited talks, public discussions, and collaborative events with academic institutions and civil society organizations. These activities aimed to raise awareness and foster critical dialogue on gender, family policies, and the evolving roles of women in Turkish modernization. By making academic expertise accessible to broader audiences—including students, NGOs, and the general public—Bahçeşehir University strengthened its role in promoting inclusive and lifelong learning opportunities.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality through its focus on women's empowerment and inclusive participation, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by extending equitable learning beyond formal education.

1- "Family Policies in the Republican Era", Feminist Buluşmalar, Women's Human Rights Association, Istanbul – 28 December 2024. (Invited Talk)



2- "Women in Turkish Modernization", Turkish Women's Union, Kayseri Branch, Kayseri – November 2024. (Invited Talk)



3- "Methods and Methodologies in Women's Studies in Turkey", KADEM Women's Studies Journal, Istanbul – 24 May 2024. (Invited Talk)



4- "Single Mothers in Turkey", Conference on the Art of Existence of Single Mothers, organized by the Single Mothers Association and BAUEQUAL, Bahçeşehir University – 21 March 2024. (Invited Talk)



BAUGO: “Women and Technology: Discover Your Role and Enhance Your Potential”



Conducted by Prof. Dr. Ebru Canan-Sokullu, this training focused on exploring women’s role in the technology field and strengthening their participation in an increasingly digital world. It emphasized that while women today are shaping technology as innovators, leaders, and creators, gender inequality and stereotypes continue to limit equal access and representation.

Based on modules such as historical perspectives on equality in technology, gender and equal opportunity, international approaches, statistical insights, and women’s contribution to science and technology in Türkiye, the training encouraged participants to reflect on challenges and strategies for achieving equality in tech. By promoting awareness and empowering women to take active roles in technological innovation, Bahçeşehir University highlighted its commitment to inclusive and equitable progress in this field.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by addressing gender disparities in technology and supporting women’s empowerment, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure through its focus on inclusive participation and knowledge-based development.

<https://baugo.online/instructor/ebru-canan-sokullu>

Conference: “Women’s Perspective in Social Responsibility” (05.03.2024)



Held at Bahçeşehir University Fazıl Say Hall on March 5, 2024, the “Women’s Perspective in Social Responsibility” conference brought together prominent women who have led impactful social responsibility projects in Türkiye. The event aimed to explore social responsibility through women’s experiences and leadership, inspiring participants to engage in collective action for social good.

Through their discussions, speakers shared valuable insights on empathy, leadership, and community engagement, emphasizing how women’s participation enhances the inclusivity and effectiveness of social initiatives. By creating a platform for dialogue between professionals, students, and the public, Bahçeşehir University fostered awareness and motivation toward building more equitable and compassionate communities.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting women’s leadership and participation in social responsibility, and it also aligns with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its emphasis on collaboration and inclusive social impact.

Conference: “(Migrant) Women’s Labor in the Age of Crises: Middle-Class Transformation and New Dynamics in Domestic Work” (17-18.10.2023)

KRİZLER ÇAĞINDA
(GÖÇMEN) KADIN EMEĞİ
ORTA SINIFIN DÖNÜŞÜMÜ VE
EV HİZMETLERİ SEKTÖRÜNDE
YENİ ARAYIŞLAR KONFERANSI
PROF. DR. RHACEL SALAZAR PARREÑAS’IN AÇILIŞ KONUŞMASI İLE

17-18 Ekim 2023
Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi
Fazıl Say Konferans Salonu

Bu konferans 121K295 nolu Pandemi Sonrası
Göçmenlik Deneyimleri, Ev-İş Dinamikleri ve
Hane İçi İlişkiler: Göçmen Ev İşçileri Örneği
TÜBİTAK1001 projesinin kapanış konferansıdır.



Hosted at Bahçeşehir University Fazıl Say Conference Hall, this event explored the evolving role of migrant women’s labor amid global crises and shifting class structures. With an opening keynote by Prof. Dr. Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, the conference examined how economic transformations and care economies reshape gendered and migrant labor relations, particularly in the domestic work sector.

Organized as the closing conference of the TÜBİTAK 1001 Project “Post-Pandemic Migration Experiences, Home-Work Dynamics, and Intra-Household Relations: The Case of Migrant Domestic Workers”, the event brought together academics, researchers, and policymakers to discuss intersectional dimensions of gender, migration, and labor precarity. Through its focus on social justice and inclusivity, the conference highlighted the importance of recognizing women’s contributions to both paid and unpaid economies.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by addressing the gendered impacts of migration and labor, and it also aligns with SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities through its emphasis on fair labor, equality, and social protection for women workers.

Understanding and Addressing Male Violence: Empowering Women on Campus – in Collaboration with Purple Roof Women’s Shelter Foundation (28.05.2024)



Organized jointly by the Mor Çatı (Purple Roof) Women’s Shelter Foundation, CIFAL Istanbul Youth Platform, and Bahçeşehir University Women’s Rights Club, this event focused on identifying and addressing different forms of violence that young women encounter in social and academic settings. Through discussions and interactive exchanges, participants examined the structural roots of gender-based violence and explored strategies for prevention, empowerment, and solidarity.

By fostering awareness and open dialogue, Bahçeşehir University emphasized the importance of safe, inclusive, and equitable educational environments that empower women to participate fully in campus life. The initiative also reflected CIFAL Istanbul Youth Platform’s dedication to advancing equality, combating discrimination, and engaging youth in gender-sensitive dialogue and action.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by addressing gender-based violence and promoting women’s empowerment, and it also aligns with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities through its focus on inclusion, awareness, and equal opportunities within higher education.



Politics and Society Seminar Series: Bridging Justice and Gender – Analyzing Organizational Dynamics in Istanbul’s Local Governance through Studying Up and Scorecard Analysis (15.11.2024)



Melis Arıksoy
Market Research Specialist at GfK
MSc, University of Edinburgh / BAU Alumni

Moderator: Asst. Prof. Zekeriya Tüzen

**NOV 15**
**15:30**

HYBRID EVENT

**ÇAĞKAN UBAY MEETING ROOM**
**MS TEAMS ID : 331 343 109 444**
PASSCODE : W6LOSK



Delivered by Bahçeşehir University alumna Melis Arıksoy, this seminar examined the intersection of gender justice and organizational structures in local governance. Drawing from practical insights, the discussion highlighted how data-driven approaches such as scorecard analysis can evaluate institutional performance and promote fairness, accountability, and inclusivity in municipal contexts.

By linking gender equality with transparent and participatory governance, Bahçeşehir University underscored the importance of education, dialogue, and research in strengthening institutions and fostering a culture of equality and justice.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting gender-sensitive governance and decision-making, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its emphasis on inclusive learning, equitable structures, and ethical public administration.

"Hear Me" Mosaic Concert (25.12.2024)



Organized by CIFAL Istanbul, UNITAR, and Bahçeşehir University, the "Hear Me" Mosaic Concert brought attention to the physical, psychological, and economic challenges faced by women, particularly in post-crisis contexts. The event aimed to raise awareness on gender equality and social inclusion while encouraging solidarity and community resilience through art and collective expression.

All proceeds from the concert were donated to the Hatay Hayat Cooperative to support women and children affected by the February 6 earthquakes in Hatay, reflecting the university's strong commitment to empathy-driven action and partnership-based social impact.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by supporting women's empowerment and recovery efforts, and it also aligns with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its emphasis on inclusivity, cooperation, and shared responsibility in times of crisis.



Single Mothers Conference (21.03.2024)

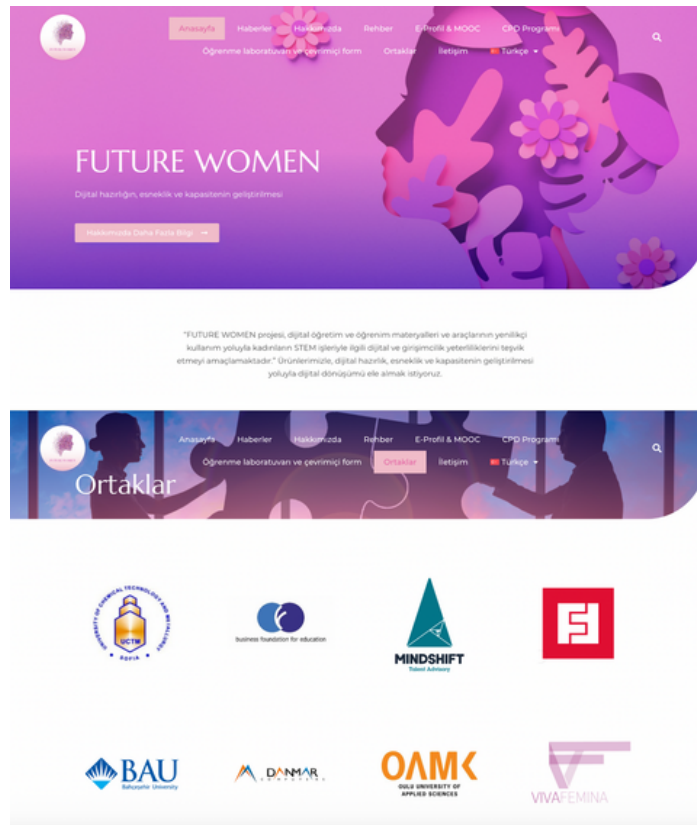


Organized in collaboration with the Single Mothers Association and supported by BAUEqual, this conference was held at Bahçeşehir University to shed light on the rising number of single mothers in Türkiye and across the world. The event explored their multifaceted experiences through discussions on legal rights, social perceptions, economic participation, and access to local government support systems. Experts and speakers from various fields shared insights into both national and global frameworks that shape the realities of single mothers.

By creating a space for dialogue and recognition, Bahçeşehir University emphasized the importance of inclusion, empowerment, and equal opportunities for women in all spheres of life. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by advancing women's social and economic empowerment, and it also aligns with SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its support for equitable participation and rights-based policy dialogue.

<https://www.bekaranneler.org/tr/etkinlikler/etkinlik-1/>

Future Women Project – Erasmus+ (2023–2025)



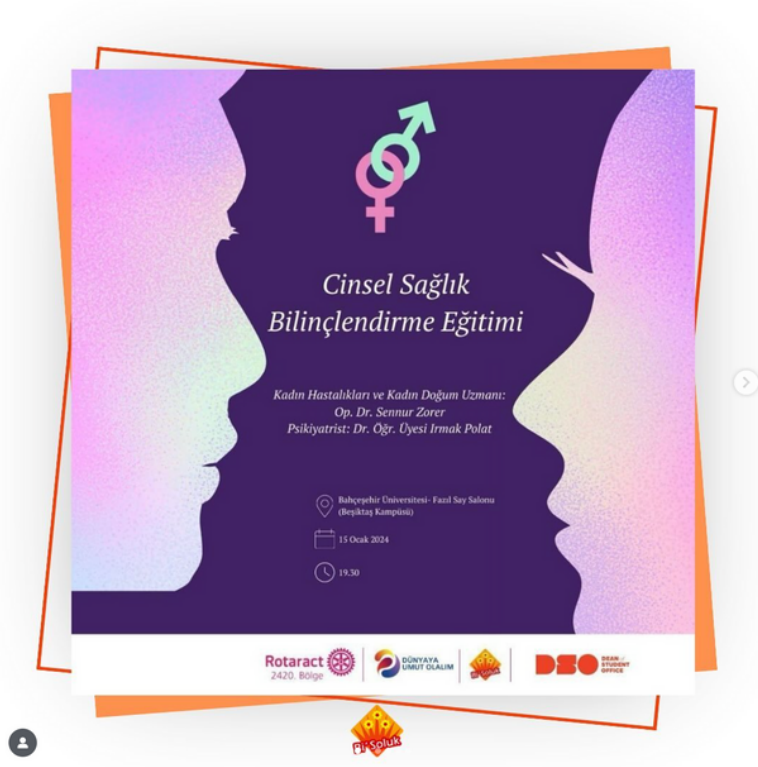
Bahçeşehir University is one of the partners of the Future Women Project, an Erasmus+ initiative funded by the European Union and implemented with eight institutions from six European countries. The project aims to strengthen women's participation in the digital economy by supporting female students and career counselors in developing advanced digital and entrepreneurial skills relevant to STEM careers.

Through the creation of an innovative e-profile and MOOC platform, the project promotes digital literacy and identifies female role models in technology-driven careers. It also introduces a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme designed to equip career counselors with new methods and tools to guide women toward opportunities in the digital economy. Furthermore, the Learning Laboratory and Online Forum foster the exchange of good practices, interactive learning, and collaboration among students, educators, and professionals through multilingual open-access resources.

By combining innovation, inclusion, and education, the Future Women Project bridges the gap between academic goals, labor market needs, and individual aspirations—empowering women to thrive in the evolving digital landscape. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by advancing women's digital empowerment, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its focus on inclusive learning, technological capacity-building, and international collaboration.

<https://future-women.eu/tr/>

Sexual Health Awareness Seminar (15.01.2024)



Organized in collaboration with Rotaract and held at Bahçeşehir University's Fazıl Say Hall, the Sexual Health Awareness Seminar addressed key aspects of reproductive and psychological well-being. Gynecologist and Obstetrician Op. Dr. Sennur Zorer discussed essential elements of sexual health, while Psychiatrist Dr. İrmak Polat explored the psychological dimensions of communication in relationships.

By fostering an open and informative discussion on sexual and mental health, Bahçeşehir University promoted awareness, destigmatization, and holistic understanding of gender-related health issues—contributing to a more informed and inclusive community. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by advancing gender-sensitive health education, and it also aligns with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities through its emphasis on awareness, inclusion, and empowerment.

Istanbul Regional Meeting "Let's Not Overlook HIV/AIDS" (19.01.2024)

KLİNİK MİKROBİYOLOJİ UZMANLIK DERNEĞİ STE/SMG VE BİLİMSEL ETKİNLİKLERİ İSTANBUL BÖLGE TOPLANTISI, 19 Ocak 2024 HIV/AIDS Göz Ardı Etmeyelim		
KAYIT		
AÇILIŞ OTURUMU (12:30-13:00)		
Açılış, kapsam ve amaçlar	Güliden ÇELİK	BAU Tıp Fakültesi Tıbbi Mikrobiyoloji Anabilim Dalı
Tıp Fakültesi Dekanı Konuşması	Türker KILIÇ	Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dekanı
Klümud Yönetim Kurulu Üyesi	Nurver ÜLGER	Marmara Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Tıbbi Mikrobiyoloji Anabilim Dalı
MİKROBİYOLOJİ UZMANLARI OTURUMU Oturma Başkanı: Dilek ARMAN (13:00-14:30)		
HIV/AIDS Tarihçe	Güliden ÇELİK	BAU Tıp Fakültesi Tıbbi Mikrobiyoloji Anabilim Dalı
HIV/AIDS Tanı	Rabia CAN	BAU Tıp Fakültesi Tıbbi Mikrobiyoloji Anabilim Dalı
Yeni antiviraller ve antiviral dirençte güncel durum	Volkan KORTEN	Marmara Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Enfeksiyon Hastalıkları ve Klinik Mikrobiyoloji Anabilim Dalı
Kurumların 2021-2023 yılı verileri	Aysel KARATAŞ Seyhan ÖRDEKÇİ	Prof. Dr. Cemil Tappoğlu Şehir Hastanesi Tıbbi Mikrobiyoloji Lab. İstanbul SBÜ Mehmet Akif Ersoy Göğüs Kalp ve Damar Cerrahisi Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesi
KAHVE MOLASI (14:30-15:30)		
SİVİL TOPLUM ÖRGÜTLERİ OTURUMU Oturma Başkanı: Selma KARABEY (15:30-16:30)		
Sağlık çalışanlarının eğitiminde HIV/AIDS'in sosyal boyutu	Özge KARADAĞ	BAU Tıp Fakültesi Halk Sağlığı Anabilim Dalı
HIV bizi ne kadar ilgilendiriyor??	Çiğdem ŞİMŞEK	Pozitif-iz
Küresel HIV/AIDS cevabında toplumun önemi	Arda KARAPINAR	Kırmızı Kurdele
KLİMUD AİLE MECLİSİ, GENEL DEĞERLENDİRME ve KAPANIŞ		

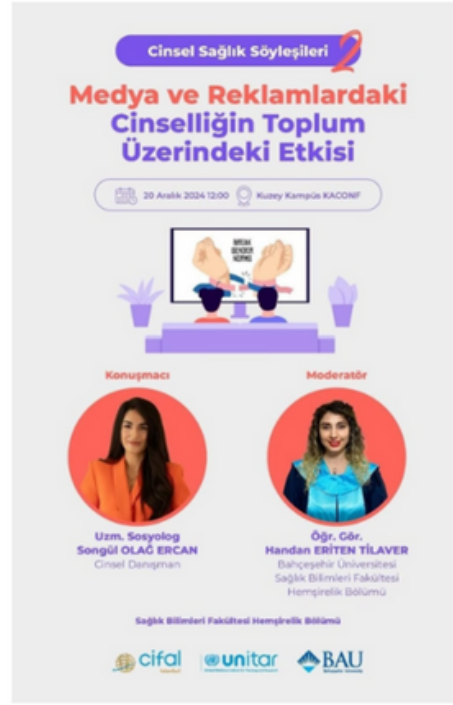
In collaboration with the Clinical Microbiology Specialists Association (KLİMUD), Bahçeşehir University Faculty of Medicine hosted the Istanbul Regional Meeting titled "Let's Not Overlook HIV/AIDS" on January 19, 2024. The event brought together medical experts, academics, and civil society representatives to discuss current approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, as well as the social dimensions of the epidemic. Through fostering dialogue on public awareness, prevention strategies, and the importance of reducing stigma surrounding HIV, this initiative contributed to advancing community health and promoting equitable access to medical care. Bahçeşehir University's Faculty of Medicine remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthening medical education and research aimed at protecting public health and improving the well-being of all individuals.

Talking About Sexual Health (18.10.2024)



Bahçeşehir University's Psychological Counseling and Guidance Center (BAU PDRM) hosted the seminar "Talking About Sexual Health", led by Prof. Dr. Sebahat Dilek Torun from the Faculty of Medicine. The session provided a safe and inclusive space for students to discuss sexual well-being, bodily awareness, and consent—key elements of holistic health and personal empowerment. By normalizing conversations around sexual health and encouraging informed decision-making, the event reflected Bahçeşehir University's dedication to nurturing awareness, empathy, and respect as essential parts of individual and community well-being.

Sexual Health Talk Series (02&20.12.2024)



Bahçeşehir University's Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, organized a two-part seminar series titled "Sexual Health Talks", dedicated to enhancing awareness and education around sexual health, well-being, and social responsibility.

The first session, "Sexually Transmitted Infections and Protection Methods," held on December 2, 2024, featured insightful talks from Dr. Selcen Bahadır (Acıbadem Fulya Hospital) and Lecturer Handan Eriten Tilaver (BAU Faculty of Health Sciences). Participants learned about prevention strategies, the importance of early diagnosis, and the role of health education in reducing infection risks within communities.

The second session, "Sexuality in Media and Its Impact on Society," held on December 20, 2024, focused on the influence of media and advertising on public perceptions of sexuality. Sociologist and Sexual Counselor Songül Olağ Ercan and Lecturer Handan Eriten Tilaver encouraged participants to critically evaluate how social narratives around sexuality are shaped and to explore ways to promote more inclusive, respectful representations.

This seminar series directly supported the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3's Target 3.7: Universal access to sexual and reproductive care, family planning, and education. By creating a space for open dialogue and evidence-based learning, the program highlighted the crucial link between education, sexual health, and equality. Through such initiatives, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its role as an institution committed to advancing health literacy and empowering individuals to make informed choices for their overall well-being.



Violence Awareness Workshop (21.11.2024)



Organized ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, this interactive workshop aimed to raise awareness about gender-based violence and challenge gender stereotypes that perpetuate inequality. The event, open to all participants, featured two main sessions: the first focused on identifying and discussing gender-related biases, while the second used a participatory card game to explore how power dynamics shape societal perceptions and relations.

By combining reflection, dialogue, and experiential learning, Bahçeşehir University encouraged students to critically examine gender norms and promote equality and respect in social interactions. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by addressing gender-based violence and discrimination, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its emphasis on awareness, inclusion, and empowerment.

Seminar: "Healthy Individuals, Healthy Future: HIV Awareness" (04.12.2024)



Hosted by Bahçeşehir University's Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, this seminar titled "Healthy Individuals, Healthy Future: HIV Awareness" was delivered by Lecturer Handan Eriten Tilaver at the South Campus. The event aimed to raise awareness about HIV prevention, testing, and treatment, emphasizing the importance of public health education and the reduction of social stigma surrounding HIV.

By promoting accurate information and inclusive dialogue on health and equality, Bahçeşehir University highlighted the critical link between education, awareness, and well-being. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality through its focus on equitable access to health knowledge and empowerment, and it also aligns with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by fostering awareness, reducing prejudice, and promoting inclusive health education.

BAUGO Course: "Collaboration Between Women and Men in Business Life: Turning Differences into Strengths" (2024-2025)



This online course, taught by Baldan Çolak as part of BAUGO's continuing education series, explores the importance of collaboration between women and men in professional settings and how gender diversity contributes to innovation and organizational success. The training emphasizes transforming differences into advantages rather than inequalities, showcasing real-world examples from both Turkey and abroad to illustrate how inclusive practices enhance productivity and sustainability in workplaces.

By promoting awareness of shared responsibility, respect, and equitable participation in business environments, Bahçeşehir University reinforces its dedication to inclusive professional development and workplace equality. This initiative directly supports SDG 5: Gender Equality by encouraging equal participation in the labor market and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth through its focus on sustainable, diverse, and cooperative work environments.

<https://baugo.online/course/is-hayatinda-kadin-erkek-isbirligi-ve-faydalari>

Eğitim İçeriği

1. Kadın ve Erkek Beyni

2. Türkiye'de Cinsiyet Eşitsizliği

3. Çalışma Hayatında Kadın

4. Şirketlerde Kraliçe Arı

5. Kadın Erkek Eşitliğinde İzlanda Örneği

6. Sürdürülebilirlik ve Cinsiyet Eşitliği

7. İş Hayatında Çeşitlilik ve Kapsayıcılık

Gender-Focused Courses at Bahçeşehir University (2024 Academic Year)

Gender-Focused Courses at Bahçeşehir University (2024 Academic Year)

Course Code	Course Title
SOC3005	Aile ve Sosyal Cinsiyet Sosyolojisi
SOC3057	Cinsiyet Sosyolojisi Okumaları
GEP0644	Kadın Hakları ve Toplumsal Cinsiyete Dayalı Şiddet
ARC4914	Mimarlıkta Cinsiyet Çalışmaları
LAW3405	Toplum, Cinsiyet, Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma ve Hukuk
POL4144	Toplumsal Cinsiyet Politikası
SOC6007	Toplumsal Cinsiyet Çalışmaları (İngilizce, Doktora)
SOS6007	Toplumsal Cinsiyet Çalışmaları (Türkçe, Doktora)
PSY4058	Toplumsal Cinsiyet Psikolojisi
CNG4235	Social Gender Roles and Inequality
FTV5001	Korku, Cinsiyet ve Toplum
KHK5236	Toplumsal Cinsiyet
CMR6007	Sinema ve Cinsiyet
GEP1644	Kadın Hakları ve Toplumsal Cinsiyete Dayalı Şiddet
GEP0644 (multiple departments)	Kadın Hakları ve Toplumsal Cinsiyete Dayalı Şiddet (Çeşitli Fakülteler)

In 2024, Bahçeşehir University demonstrated its strong institutional commitment to promoting gender equality and awareness across disciplines by offering 15 gender-related courses throughout both academic semesters. These courses, ranging from undergraduate to doctoral levels, encompass a wide variety of subjects that explore gender from sociological, legal, psychological, cultural, and professional perspectives.

The curriculum reflects the university's holistic approach to integrating gender equality into education and research, featuring both mandatory and elective courses across fields such as sociology, law, architecture, health sciences, engineering, communication, and the arts. By embedding gender-focused learning in such a broad spectrum of programs, Bahçeşehir University contributes directly to the advancement of SDG 5: Gender Equality and promotes inclusive, interdisciplinary education.

<https://akts.bau.edu.tr/bilgipaketi/index/dersara/ln/tr>

Webinar: “Women’s Leadership and Governance in Sports” (16.11.2024)



Hosted by Bahçeşehir University in collaboration with the Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) during the 2024 Sport Integrity Week, this online event focused on strengthening women’s leadership and participation in sports governance. The webinar explored barriers to gender equality in the sports sector and highlighted strategies for empowering women as decision-makers, executives, and change leaders in sports institutions.

Through its partnership with SIGA, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its commitment to promoting integrity, inclusivity, and equal opportunities in all areas of leadership. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by supporting women’s leadership and representation in governance, and also aligns with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its collaborative and advocacy-based approach.

Visit to Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation (06.12.2024)



As part of the course NMD4901 Media, Diversity and Discrimination, Bahçeşehir University students visited the Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation to deepen their understanding of gender equality and explore the realities of combating violence against women in Türkiye. During the visit, students engaged in discussions on media representation, women's rights, and the importance of advocacy in addressing gender-based violence.

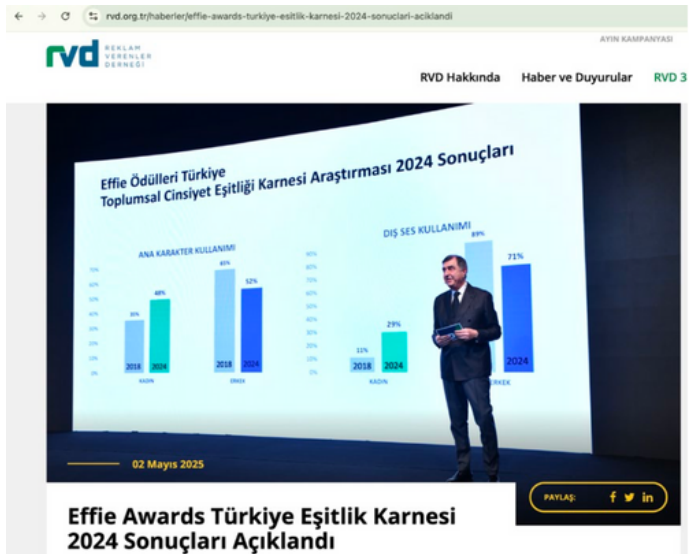
By integrating experiential learning with social awareness, the course encouraged students to reflect on the role of media in promoting equality and social justice. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by supporting education and awareness on the prevention of gender-based violence and by fostering inclusive, gender-sensitive perspectives among future media professionals.

Effie Awards Turkey Gender Equality Report (2018–2025)



The Effie Awards Turkey Gender Equality Report is a long-term collaborative research initiative conducted by the Department of Advertising at Bahçeşehir University in partnership with the Advertisers Association. Since 2018, the study has systematically monitored TV commercials that have won or been shortlisted for the Effie Awards, evaluating them according to gender equality parameters. Encompassing 25 categories and more than 2,000 advertisements, the project provides a data-driven analysis of gender representation in Turkish advertising.

The continuous research, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gül Şener, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eda Öztürk, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Önder Yönet, contributes to advancing equitable and inclusive portrayals in media and communication. The 2023 report and the ongoing 2024 analysis—highlighted during the Effie Awards Turkey 2025 Ceremony—demonstrate the impact of sustained academic-industry collaboration in addressing stereotypes and promoting gender balance in advertising. This project directly supports SDG 5: Gender Equality by offering an evidence-based roadmap to foster fair, non-discriminatory, and empowering media representations of women and men.



Women in the Energy Sector Seminar Series (March–April 2024)



Organized by the BAU Energy Club, the Women in the Energy Sector seminar series provided an inspiring platform to discuss the challenges and opportunities faced by women in one of the most male-dominated industries worldwide. Featuring distinguished speakers such as Ada Tekin (Renewable Energy Business Development and Sales Manager at Sinerji), Sedef Budak (Founder and President of YEYAKAD – Green Collar Women Association), and Başak Çağla Efe (Business Development Specialist at Aksa), the events shed light on the importance of increasing women's participation and leadership in the energy sector. The seminars coincided with International Women's Day and aimed to empower female students and young professionals to pursue careers in science, technology, and renewable energy.

The discussions highlighted key barriers women encounter in professional growth, including gender bias, underrepresentation in leadership positions, and the lack of mentorship opportunities. Speakers emphasized that the inclusion of women in energy and sustainability-related careers is not only a matter of fairness but also a driver of innovation, creativity, and better decision-making. By sharing their own experiences, the guest speakers encouraged participants to challenge stereotypes, advocate for diversity, and create equitable professional environments where both women and men can thrive equally.



By fostering dialogue around gender equality and sustainable leadership, the Women in the Energy Sector seminar series promoted the principle of equal opportunity and the empowerment of women in STEM and energy-focused careers. This initiative contributes to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by supporting women's representation in decision-making roles, breaking systemic barriers in male-dominated sectors, and inspiring the next generation of women leaders to shape a more inclusive and sustainable future for the energy industry.



BAU

BAHÇEŞEHİR
UNIVERSITY