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Research Article

Studies in Turkiye within the context of Gender: An Overview of Postgraduate Dissertations

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ABSTRACT

The gender issue is a relatively new topic in migration studies. However, with increasing awareness, it has gained growing popularity among research topics dealing with human mobility. As a research interest, it also naturally stands out in Turkiye, a destination country for large-scale immigration movements. Considering all this, one can see the importance and necessity of examining studies that address gender and migration in tandem. Such an academic endeavor could bring about key results in terms of identifying more and less focused themes by gender and migration studies, thus helping formulate functional recommendations for further research. The main purpose of this study is to evaluate the postgraduate dissertations directly focusing on gender in the context of migration in Turkiye. To this end, 57 postgraduate dissertations were examined by the years they were completed, the universities in which they were made, the gender of authors, the methods of the dissertations in general, and the sample or study groups. The findings evaluated were based on the relevant literature. The findings show that there is a growing interest in the migration issue as part of the academic studies in Turkiye. However, the studies in the context of gender and migration are still limited. There is very little research on this subject at the doctoral level. The findings highlight the need for the diversification and enrichment of gender and migration studies in certain aspects.

Keywords: Gender, Migration, Dissertations, Turkiye

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Introduction

Migration is a phenomenon with a global impact and significant consequences. According to the current data of the United Nations (IOM, 2020), the number of international migrants worldwide has reached 272 million and migrants make up 3.5% of the world's population. While the refugee population is 25.9 million, the number of people internally displaced due to violence and conflict is 41.3 million. While the migration movements, which are a numerically growing phenomenon on a global scale, have vital consequences for receiving countries of destination, sending countries of origin and the migrants themselves, many problems arise concerning migrants.

It requires the cooperation of actors such as states, NGOs and international organizations to solve many problems such as adaptation problems in the receiving country of destination, interaction with local people, changes in the economic structure, especially the security of immigrants in case of forced migration and meeting their basic needs at their destination. It is important to develop policies in such multidimensional areas as the psychological, social, economic and political difficulties experienced by migrants, asylum seekers or refugees, and also access to services like health and education and to implement practices in line with these policies. This situation primarily requires scientific research and collection of robust data regarding all these processes. Within this context, the scientific studies that deal with migration, which is a multidimensional and complex phenomenon, with its different aspects, are increasingly on the agenda. While the migration trends and dynamics are constantly changing, migration research is expanding rapidly (Carling, 2015; Van Walsum, 2012). Thus, as indicated by Zapata-Barrero and Yalaz (2019), migration not only transforms the sending, transit and receiving countries but also the social scientific studies. Significant demographic transformations experienced with an increase in human mobility have ultimately led to substantial theoretical and empirical attention to the phenomenon of migration. The indicators on migration and mobility point out that migration is largely related to the broader global economic, social, political and technological transformations that affect a wide range of high-priority policy issues (IOM, 2020). While global migration movements are shaped in interaction with current political, economic and social processes in the world, scientific research on migration has also reflected the mentioned interaction. Migration patterns have changed considerably since the 1970s when the development of migration studies intensified in most of the major migration countries. Factors such as the existence of restrictive entry policies in European Union countries since the mid-1970s and the globalization of international migration flows have led to a reorientation of the research agenda (Audebert and Doraï, 2011). While researches on the economic aspects of migrations come to the fore in certain periods, the issue of adaptation has gained importance in some periods. The gender issue has also taken its place in migration studies as a relatively new topic in this context. With increasing awareness of gender, it has gradually become important in migration research.

As for Turkiye, the concept of migration indicates a wide range of areas covering emigration, migration into the country, return migration, transit migration, as well as asylum seekers and refugees. This has led to an increased interest in migration issues in Turkiye (Sirkeci and Yüceşahin, 2014). Although research into the migration experience of Turkiye as a country of migration has gradually intensified, the involvement of gender in migration research is quite new for Turkiye. While the number of studies in this context is increasing gradually, it can be said that they are yet to be at a sufficient level (Biehl & Danış, 2020). Nevertheless, analyses of the general characteristics of research that examine gender and migration are also important in revealing the general characteristics of research and in terms of the direction of future research. However, it could be said that there is a limited number of researches which are in the form of a bibliography and which

aim to offer an overview and determine the direction of issues studied with regards to the issue of migration in Turkiye and also the work and studies concerning migration and in the context of the relation between gender and migration (Yerli 2018; Alkar and Atasoy, 2019). Thus, the aspects focused on and the themes less focused on by the gender and migration research can be identified and functional recommendations can be developed for future research. Accordingly, this study has aimed to make a general assessment based on the analysis of postgraduate dissertations directly focusing on gender within the context of migration in Turkiye.

Migration and Gender: Theoretical Background

While sex is primarily a biological categorization based on reproductive potential, gender emerges by making biological sex meaningful (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2013). Gender is one of the main factors that organize social life (Mahler and Pessar, 2006). Gender is so deeply embedded in our institutions, actions, beliefs and desires that it seems completely natural to us (Eckert and McConnell-Ginet, 2013). What makes gender meaningful and significant culturally in social life is all of the characteristics attributed by society to men or women. These characteristics, defined in the context of gender, point to the social construction of being a woman or a man (Bayhan, 2013). Gender is a social and cultural structure that expresses the roles and responsibilities of men and women by making a distinction between the characteristics of men and women, girls or boys. Therefore, gender differs from culture to culture (UNICEF, 2017; Giuliano, 2017). Accordingly, "gender is not something we are born with and not something we have, but something we do" (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2013 as cited in West & Zimmerman 1987).

In the process of migration, men and women go through different experiences in the context of their socially and culturally constructed gender. Nevertheless, men have been the main actors in the focus of migration studies for many years (Biehl and Danış, 2020). However, women increasingly migrate on their own, and the rate of female migration is growing faster than that of male migrants in many countries with high levels of immigration. This is often referred to as the feminization of migration. While women make up half of the global migrant population, it is estimated that this rate reaches 70-80% in some countries (Fleury, 2016). Both men and women migrate for common reasons (Buz, 2007). However, conflicts, disasters and migrations affect men and women differently because the migration process is gender-sensitive (El Bushra, 2000; Şeker and Uçan, 2016; Choi, 2018). Although Ravenstein, who conducted the first systematic analysis of migration as early as 1884 pointed out that women were more migrant than men (Reeder, 2017; Buz, 2007) and despite the apparent presence of women in migration flows, quite ironically, women's role in migration has been totally neglected until recently (Pedraza, 1991; Göktuna Yaylacı and Çarpar, 2019). As a result, despite their central position in migration processes, both women and gender remained invisible for a long time (Dedeoğlu and Ekiz Gökmen, 2020). While migration studies with a rich history focus on the nation-state as the primary category of analysis, the gender phenomenon of those crossing the borders has often been ignored (Oxford, 2013). While the positions of women in the migration process are not specifically or directly addressed in migration studies, women are mostly considered as dependent persons in the position of a spouse, a mother and a young girl (Buz, 2007). During the labor migration towards Europe after World War II, the higher number of single men caused migration to be regarded as a masculine phenomenon by researchers and policymakers (Biehl and Danış, 2020). At the same time, ignoring the women in the analysis of migration processes can be read as the general reflection of the invisible and secondary nature of women in every aspect of life (Buz, 2007).

As indicated by Şeker and Uçan (2016), women were considered as passive figurants of migration, which is considered as an act of men, in migration studies until the 1970s. In the initial studies applying a gender-specific perspective to social research, there was an attempt to correct the "male bias" characteristic of most classical disciplines in sociology and anthropology, and thus the main category of research was "women" instead of "gender" in the early stages of theorization and experimental research (Schulz, 2016). Developments in gender studies and feminist theories have roughly manifested in some important paradigm shifts since the 1960s (Schulz, 2016). As discovered by Glazer (1981), with the women's movement that emerged around the world in the mid-1960s, especially feminist academics began to bring up women's invisibility, distorted representation, and their marginal position in the field of economy. There is a long and complex historical relationship between feminism and gender studies (Silke and Dashper, 2016). Feminist theorists have attempted to analyze this construction process, claiming that gender is a cultural interpretation of sex or that it is culturally constructed (Butler, 2014). Throughout the 1970s, sociologists, historians, and anthropologists investigated how women – mothers, wives, and workers – migrated and analyzed women's contributions in shaping ethnic identities or communities (Reeder, 2017). From the early 1970s, academics shifted the focus from women to gender, drawing attention to how they were integrated into gender relations and patriarchal power systems and settled in the founding structures (Schulz, 2016).

In the mid-1980s, which was a new stage in terms of gender-related research, there was a shift away from a scientific preoccupation to explain the "nationality of women" towards exploring culturally specific "gender" structures (Schulz, 2016). In the 1980s and 1990s, the theoretical landscape changed with the influence of globalization theories, postcolonial theory, gender studies and post-structuralist thinkers (Sontag, 2018). In the 1980s, new topics such as the social role and position of women and gender were gradually mentioned with the effect of the new forms being adopted by the world, and the new debates were brought to the agenda (Bulut, 2015). Feminism ensured the critical analysis of policies concerning women's status, their visibility in the political and public sphere, and gender discrimination (Yanık, 2006). For example, the relations between class and gender started to be further emphasized with the influence of the social, economic and political context of the 1980s in Britain (Silke and Dashper, 2016). Another development in terms of gender-related research in the 1990s was that the problematization of the assumption that "woman" is the uniform category of actors that share certain basic characteristics (Schulz, 2016). Within the scope of sexuality research, which is a relatively new field of research, the ideas about sex and gender have been applied to migration since the 1990s. This transformation in academic studies on migration can be partly explained by two important changes: the growth of sexuality studies as a lens for understanding social phenomena, and the increasing legitimacy of queer issues (Oxford, 2013). Issues such as the similar experiences of migrant women or their functions in the labor market of target countries have come to the fore in the literature since the 1980s. As of the 1990s, the position of women as the actor in which they are seen as the perpetrator of change has become evident, rather than their passive position in which they are considered as the victim of the migration process, (Şeker and Uçan, 2016). While sociologists touched upon relatively micro issues in Turkiye in the 1980s, the studies dealing with issues such as women, family, and gender role attitudes along with some other issues accelerated (Çelebi, 2015). The studies on women's problems and gender in countries like Turkiye, Iran and Egypt have also developed as an element of the modernization process (Schulz, 2016). The women's movement, which has become an independent political movement in Turkiye since the 1980s, has been accompanied by the development of academic literature that focuses on women's

place and role within the modernization process (Gençoğlu Corporal, 2013). As in the case of Poland, while gender and women's studies were characterized by a strong pro-Western orientation, rather enthusiastic acceptance of the Western feminist traditions could cause the cultural context to be neglected (Filipowicz, 2014). The feminist approach ensured that the social and political debates were developed and women's problems were addressed in their social and political context on a theoretical ground especially by female academics in Turkiye as well (Yanık, 2006). Concerning migration, the framework introduced by feminist theory has been accepted as a highly functional ground. Feminist theory has contributed to the understanding of the social context behind these effects by examining the impacts of gender differences on migration (Buz, 2007). Despite these developments, there are aspects that are ignored even in terms of women in the studies developed especially with the influence of feminism. . As indicated by Glazer (1981), feminist academics in the women's movement were largely concerned with the situation of women like themselves, and issues related to different women were neglected. Therefore, it can be also said that ignoring the migrant or refugee women in studies is related to general tendencies of the women's movement and studies, as well as to an understanding of migration as a male phenomenon.

Feminization, making its impact felt in all areas, has also caused women to take a central place in migration research. Thus, there was a transformation from research and policies that ignored women to studies focusing on women as an analysis unit, and then to gender-based research (Dedeoğlu and Ekiz Gökmen, 2020). The notion that a person's sex and gender shape every stage of the migration experience has gained higher general acceptance (IOM, 2019).

Method

This study was designed as a qualitative research in order to make a general evaluation on the dissertations focused on migration and gender. Dissertations were analyzed through purposeful sampling and postgraduate dissertations directly focusing on gender within the context of migration in Turkiye were identified. Accordingly, the Higher Education Council's YÖKTEZ database was searched for the keywords "migration, refugee, asylum seeker, Syrian and gender, women, men" as of July 31, 2020, and the dissertations that were considered to consist of such keywords especially in dissertation titles and indexes, and directly focus on gender and migration were taken into the scope of analysis. The dissertations that constitute the study group were grouped and examined by the years they were completed, universities in which they were made, the gender of authors, methods of the dissertations in general, sample or study groups, the extent to which gender and concept of migration were studied or themes examined, and the findings obtained were discussed based on the literature. After briefly touching on the interaction between gender and migration in line with this general framework, the findings on the dissertations examined and other researches in the literature were discussed comparatively to construct a general picture of postgraduate dissertations focusing on issues of migration and gender in Turkiye.

Migration and Gender: Findings on Postgraduate Dissertations and Discussion

In this section, the findings revealed by an analysis of the general characteristics of 57 postgraduate dissertations, identified through purposeful sampling, to make a general assessment of postgraduate dissertations directly focusing on gender within the context of migration in Turkiye were addressed based on the literature. In this context, the prominent features were indicated and compared with findings from different studies, and interpreted in terms of key trends in the migration and gender literature.

Postgraduate Dissertations on Migration; Increasing Attention

Before considering the general features of the postgraduate dissertations focusing on migration and gender, it will be useful to look at the numbers regarding the migration-related dissertations and gender-related studies in general. According to the findings of Zapata-Barrero and Yalaz (2019), scientific interest in migration studies has increased unprecedentedly in the last 16 years, in terms of the number of journals and articles in the field. The number of studies on migration has been increasing in recent years (Yerli, 2018). Turkiye is an important part of the worldwide migration geography and the migration system. As a result, migration research has become one of the focuses of interest for the general public recently in academia in Turkiye (Sirkeci and Yüceşahin, 2014). According to the findings of this study, the number of postgraduate dissertations with the keyword "migration" in their title is 833, and 137 of them are doctoral dissertations. It is seen that the number of these dissertations have increased significantly since 2010. According to the findings of Altunkaynak Vodina (2020), when a search is made using the term 'migration,' 1,619 dissertations were accessed as of September 2019 and most of them were written after 2011. According to data in a research conducted by Alkar and Atasoy (2019), doctoral dissertations with more than 300 headings consisting of the words such as migration, migrant and nomadism were found from 1967 to 2019, and the number of dissertations has increased significantly in the last decade. Again, according to the findings of Yerli (2018), who drew attention to the increase in the number of dissertations after 2010, almost all of the postgraduate dissertations investigating migration focus on the concept of migration, whereas a few of them focus on the concepts of politics, family, education, health, women and children. There is an increasing interest in the migration issue in the context of postgraduate knowledge generation in Turkiye. While Turkiye's external migration process has had impacts on the research for a long time, especially the flow of Syrian refugees has led to a significant increase in the number of migration researches in Turkiye since 2011.

Dissertations on Gender: A Current and New Interest

Studies on women emerged and developed in the period after the 1970s (Arat, 1996). In the 1980s, the changes occurring in the world had impacts on the social and political structure in Turkiye, and thus new social movements such as environmentalism and feminism and such issues as postmodernism and popular culture were raised particularly in dissertations in the field of sociology (Yanık, 2006). In the 1990s, topics such as gender, woman and family came to the fore in sociology researches (Kaçmazoğlu, 2015). It can be said that this situation means a fairly late reflection in terms of the inclusion of the concept of gender in postgraduate dissertations. In the context of postgraduate dissertation studies, gender is a relatively new and increasingly popular topic. While a significant increase was observed in the number of dissertation studies on women between 1987 and 2009, dissertation studies reached their highest level in 2006 (Şahin et al., 2011). According to the findings of the present research, the number of postgraduate dissertations with the concept of "gender" in its heading is 717. Of them, 107 are doctoral dissertations. While there were a few studies in this context before 2000, the number of dissertations started to increase in the 2000s. More studies have been carried out since 2018. About half of the mentioned dissertations were conducted in or after 2018.

Dissertations Focusing on Migration and Gender: Quantitative Development

According to the findings of this study, the number of dissertations focusing on migration and gender and forming the study group is 57. Considering their distribution by the years they were

completed, almost half of the dissertations (23 dissertations) were conducted between 2019 and 2020. About 60% of them were conducted in or after 2018. In the period from 2005 to 2017, 1 to 3 dissertations were completed almost every year. The women's studies units started to be encouraged in the academy in 1995 in line with the Beijing Declaration and supported in Turkiye in the 2000s (Savaş, Ertan and Yol, 2018). It can be said that one of the reasons why the volume of dissertations has become more intense in recent years is related to this development. According to the findings of Coşkun, Sarıalioğlu and Dinçer (2020), there were only eight dissertations consisting of the word gender in the heading and summary of 388 doctoral dissertations on migration and refugees after 2011. A similar situation exists in terms of studies in Europe. One-tenth of the articles of two important international journals in the field of migration focused on the gender category in the course of studying the migrants (Zapata-Barrero and Yalaz, 2019).

The feminization of migration has become a long-term used concept (Castles & Miller, 2008). Since the 1980s, while the institutionalization of women's research has increased in many Western societies and international institutions, academic interest in migrant women has also increased (Lutz, 2010). Furthermore, as the ratio of women in international migrants increases, the expectation that gender will become a leading category in migration studies has become stronger (Lee et al.2014 as cited in Zapata-Barrero and Yalaz, 2019). Nevertheless, it is quite new to see gender-focused studies in the field of migration in terms of subject, as well as analysis and perspective (Biehl & Danış, 2020). The fact that gender is a new element in the context of migration still maintains its validity to a large extent concerning postgraduate dissertations included in the study group of this study. Gender is a new and less studied issue in the context of migration. When the findings regarding the depiction of gender in the dissertations in different contexts are examined, it is seen that the situation is similar. For example, according to the findings of Efilti Atay (2018), the number of postgraduate dissertations in the field of media and women in the decade covering the years from 2007 to 2017 is 95 and the increase in recent years is remarkable. Similarly, there is an increase in the number of dissertations covering the themes of gender and religion in Turkiye in recent years (Kenevir and Koçak Kurt, 2016).

Types of Postgraduate Dissertations: Insufficient Work at the Doctoral Level

In the study group of this research, only 4, in other words, 7% of 57 dissertations focusing on migration and gender are doctoral dissertations, while 53 are postgraduate dissertations. According to the findings from a similar study, approximately 14% of dissertations conducted in the field of media and women in the 2007-2017 period (Efilti Atay, 2018), and 18% of dissertations with the themes of gender and religion are doctoral dissertations (Kenevir and Koçak Kurt, 2016). Essentially, most of the postgraduate dissertations investigating migration are postgraduate dissertations (Yerli, 2018).

There are various reasons for this situation, which are mentioned by Şahin et al. (2011) in the context of their findings regarding a large number of postgraduate dissertations in women's studies. Accordingly, it can be said that there are a higher number of postgraduate dissertations due to the high number of students at the postgraduate level, the need for a longer and more intensive study of doctoral studies and the preference of more technical subjects specific to the fields. At the same time, the lower number of doctoral dissertations can be considered as a natural result of the availability of doctoral programs in a lower number of universities. Nevertheless, it is quite striking that the number of doctoral dissertations in MA postgraduate dissertations focusing on gender and migration is relatively low compared to other fields. According to statistics in the

YÖKTEZ database, considering all postgraduate dissertations in Turkiye, about 17% of 623,581 postgraduate dissertations are the doctoral dissertations. A total of 11,348 postgraduate dissertations, including 9,205 master's and 2,128 doctoral dissertations, were produced in the field of sociology, which is more closely related to migration and gender. Accordingly, approximately 19% of the dissertations are doctoral dissertations. Therefore, the proportion of doctoral dissertations focusing on gender and migration is far from reflecting the general situation. Despite the expectation that the number of postgraduate and doctoral studies on women will increase with a rise in the number of universities, the number of academics dealing with the field and an increase in postgraduate programs (Şahin et al., 2011), it can be said that the mentioned expectation is not realized at a sufficient level, and there is significant deficiency in terms of producing scientific knowledge, especially at the doctoral level.

Method in Postgraduate Dissertations; In-depth Analysis of Women's Migration Experiences

Despite the development of counter-qualitative paradigms such as social interactionism and the feminist approach particularly in social sciences, positivism is a strong approach that is widely used in almost all scientific fields (Barkçin, 2019). Although positivism maintains its existence as the perspective of the history of sociology in Turkiye, the interpretivist approach is becoming more efficient (Kaçmazoğlu, 2015). Therefore, despite the ongoing effect of the positivist approach, it can be said that this is not a limiting framework in terms of method. Considering the methods of dissertations within the scope of the study group, it is seen that 46 studies were carried out with qualitative research methods, and 5 were based on quantitative research methods. Besides, while 2 dissertations are mixed research, 4 dissertations are theoretical studies. In general, when compared with the findings regarding the existence of structural problems such as the lack of information about the method in most of the postgraduate dissertations (Karagöl, 2018; Eser Ülker, 2012; Coşkun, Sarıalioğlu, and Dinçer, 2020), it can be said that there are such deficiencies in terms of the methods of dissertations focusing on migration and gender.

In the context of researches in Turkiye, particularly in the field of social sciences, the majority of research conducted on migration is qualitative research (Altunkaynak Vodina, 2020). It is striking that the qualitative researches dominate the dissertations in the study group of this research. As found out by Mahler and Pessar (2006), researchers from different disciplines used various qualitative methods to explore and explain gender. This situation can be considered to be a field-specific feature. For example, the findings that there is a higher number of quantitative studies in different fields such as education (Kara Aydemir, 2017). The relationship between the field and subject and the qualitative paradigm is decisive at this point. As underlined by King (2019), while some elements of the context such as demographic and socioeconomic variables, citizenship rights and legal status in migration studies could be measured quantitatively, the complex nature and interaction of potential factors that motivate migration will be able to be evaluated only with a more qualitative approach caused by socioeconomic, political, cultural and spatial formations.

In dissertations, the interview method is used especially for an in-depth analysis of women's migration experiences. As found out by Zapata-Barrero and Yalaz (2019), who underline that interviews are the basic instruments of qualitative research, the qualitative interview technique was used in three of the four articles in two international journals on migration in Europe. There is a similar situation in the methods of the dissertations conducted in the field of media and women in 2007-2017, and the qualitative research approach has been adopted in almost all of the disserta-

tions. Discourse analysis and content analysis have been used extensively in dissertations that prefer the qualitative research method (Efilti Atay, 2018). Although the mixed-method studies using more than one method have the potential to overcome the limitations of the qualitative and quantitative divide, they have been preferred in very few European migration studies (Zapata-Barrero and Yalaz, 2019). The mixed-method was rarely used in the dissertations in the study group of this research.

Another remarkable element in terms of methodology in dissertations is the influence created by the feminist approach. The feminist approach has been influential in gender studies, as it focuses on the production of knowledge on women and the effort to understand other women (Altunkaynak Vodina, 2020). The feminist methodology has contributed to making the experiences of migrants and especially women visible, and has also paved the way for questioning the hierarchy between the researcher and the researched (Coşkun, Sarıalioğlu, and Dinçer, 2020). The establishment of a relationship based on mutual trust and empathy between the researcher and the researched reveals the reason why one of the dissertations examined within this framework prefers the feminist approach (Erol Tamur, 2010). In another dissertation, besides the involvement of women as the main subject of the study, the contribution made by the feminist approach to understanding the different dilemmas in the field and the integration of new concepts and perspectives with the thesis study was emphasized (Atatimur, 2008).

Gender and Migration; Field of Women Researchers

King, Money, and Murawska (2011 as cited in Carling, 2015) found that most of the authors of articles in an international journal on migration are women. Considering the researchers of postgraduate dissertations studying migration in general in Turkiye by gender, it is seen that a large proportion of them are women (Yerli, 2018). These findings also apply to dissertations focusing on gender and migration. The authors of only four of the dissertations within the scope of the study group are male, and 53 dissertations were conducted by female researchers. This situation reflects the general trend in dissertations on women. According to the findings of Şahin et al. (2011), 85% of dissertations on women were prepared by female researchers in Turkiye. Approximately 77% of the authors of dissertations in the field of media and women conducted in 2007-2017 are female (Efilti Atay, 2018). As defined by Carling (2015), a significant process of feminization occurred in terms of the authors dealing with migration in parallel with the feminization process of migration. At the same time, it can be said that as the feminist approach became evident in migration studies, female researchers became more visible in field studies (Altunkaynak Vodina, 2020).

Gender and Migration; A Sociological Issue

Migration research requires interdisciplinary knowledge, as it is inevitably associated with a wide range of factors such as citizenship, diversity, mobility, and gender (Zapata-Barrero and Yalaz, 2019). While researchers from anthropology, sociology, and other disciplines have been at the forefront of efforts to provide migration with a prominent place in academic studies (Mahler and Pessar, 2006), the popularity of interdisciplinary migration studies programs and an increase in the number of journals on migration studies also encouraged partnerships across disciplines (Carling, 2015). In Turkiye, postgraduate dissertations have been conducted on migration and refugees in various disciplines and departments as well. This is important, as it shows that the issue of migration and refugees is a field that requires multidisciplinary research (Yerli, 2018). Migration studies are also intrinsically multidisciplinary (Pedraza, 1991). As a result of the mul-

tidimensional nature of migration and its consequences that concern all segments of social life, it is within the scope of many disciplines. As the migration issue was further brought forward in Turkiye, it can be said that the fields of academics which have contributed both to the issue and the relevant literature in the last 10 years further diversified (Sirkeci and Yüceşahin, 2014). In line with the multidisciplinary nature of gender studies (Glazer, 1981), women studies have also been multidisciplinary from the very beginning, and gender sociologists have benefited from a high number of disciplines, including anthropology, history, and philosophy, to develop an understanding of the social structure of gender (Silke and Dashper, 2016). Considering the fields of dissertations in the study group of this research, it is seen that the highest number of dissertations conducted are in the field of sociology (23 dissertations). Sociology is followed by political sciences with six dissertations and anthropology and language and literature with 4 dissertations each. Three dissertations were conducted in the fields of social work, public health and psychology. Two dissertations were conducted in the fields of radio, television, newspaper and economy. One dissertation was prepared in the fields of international relations, fine arts, religion, urbanism and regional planning, law, agriculture and labor economics and industrial relations. These findings are also in line with the findings of Yerli (2018) regarding migration studies. While 25% of the postgraduate dissertations on immigration were conducted in the sociology department, 12% were conducted in the international relations department, and 8% in the public administration and political sciences departments. A similar situation also applies to gender and religion-themed dissertations in Turkiye. These dissertations were mostly conducted in the fields of sociology, sociology of religion, philosophy and religious sciences (Kenevir and Koçak Kurt, 2016).

Universities in which Gender and Migration are Studied

When the dissertations in the study group were examined, it was seen that the dissertations were conducted in 32 different universities. Eight of these universities are foundation universities and 24 are state universities. Nineteen universities, where the dissertations were conducted, are located in three metropolitans. The highest number of dissertations were conducted at Istanbul Bilgi University (5 dissertations). This university is followed by Istanbul University and Hacettepe University with 4 dissertations each. Three dissertations were conducted at Marmara University, Ankara University, Dokuz Eylül University and Middle East Technical University. Nearly half of the dissertations were prepared in these 7 universities.

The well-known universities in Europe make migration research visible through their publication series, postgraduate programs, research groups, centers and institutes (Zapata-Barrero and Yalaz, 2019). The findings indicate that certain universities stand out in terms of the dissertations focusing on migration and gender in Turkiye. This situation overlaps with the findings from different studies. The findings of Yerli (2018) also point to the fact that certain universities further focused on certain issues in terms of the postgraduate academic activities carried out concerning migration and refugees in Turkiye. According to the findings of Alkar and Atasoy (2019), the highest number of doctoral dissertations on migration were conducted in large and well-established universities such as Istanbul University, Marmara University, Middle East Technical University, Ankara University, Hacettepe University and Gazi University. A similar situation also applies to the dissertations on Syrians; a higher number of dissertations have been prepared at universities in Istanbul than at universities in provinces in the region (Tatlıcıoğlu and Apak, 2018). The fact that certain universities stand out in terms of the dissertations is also valid for the dissertations on gender. Ankara, Istanbul and Hacettepe Universities are the ones with the highest number of dissertations on women (Şahin

et al., 2011). Nearly half of the gender and religion-themed dissertations in Turkiye were conducted at Istanbul, Marmara, Selcuk and the Middle East Technical Universities (Kenevir and Kurt Kocak, 2016). The dissertations dealing with the newspaper articles in Turkiye are mostly located in Ankara, Gazi, Marmara, Ege, Anadolu and Istanbul Universities (Pehlivan, 2018).

Which Migrations are Depicted within the context of Gender?

When the dissertations focusing on gender and migration are analyzed in terms of the types of migration they depict (33 dissertations), it was found that more than half of the dissertations are related to migrations towards Turkiye. In the context of migration towards Turkiye, 20 dissertations deal mostly with the Syrian women. While most of the other dissertations deal with refugees from countries such as Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Iraq or irregular immigrants, 2 dissertations touch upon the migrants from Balkan countries and Russia through marriage. Concerning the sampling or study group (clarified, focus), 8 dissertations deal with external migration from Turkiye to abroad. While 4 of these dissertations deal with German Turks, one dissertation focuses on Dutch Turks, Japan and Britain. 7 dissertations are related to internal migration. It can be said that the external migration from Turkiye to Europe has lost its status as a frequently studied subject in the context of gender. The prominence of Germany in these studies is naturally related to the highest number of Turkish migrants living in that country. Considering the gender-focused dissertations related to internal migration, Diyarbakir, which is the subject of 4 dissertations, draws attention. In other dissertations related to internal migration, gender and migration were analyzed in the examples of Adana, Denizli, Trabzon, Izmir, Fatsa and Kilis. In Turkiye, where the ratio of the urban population to rural population changed in favor of the urban population, in other words, where the rate of urban population rapidly increased due to intensive migration in the 1980s, new social problems occurred (Bulut, 2015). Research has focused on problems related to internal migration. Besides, the issues related to internal migrations caused by terrorism and security, especially in the 1990s, started to come to the fore more. The migrations towards Europe from Turkiye, which have prevailed in the history of migration in Turkiye for a long time, seem to have lost their dominance in terms of gender and migration-oriented dissertations. In this regard, migrations from Syria, which are currently experienced by Turkiye, have come forward.

According to a research conducted by the Association for Migration Research (GAR 2017) covering 2016 and 2017, nearly half of over 130 postgraduate and doctoral dissertations from various disciplines focused on the migration to Turkiye from abroad, and the other half is directly related to Syrians (Coşkun, Sarıalioğlu and Dinçer, 2020). As found out by Yerli (2018), the fields focused on by the postgraduate dissertations regarding migration and refugees in Turkiye vary by year. Thus, the higher number of researches regarding the external migration process of Turkiye in the period before 2010, the prominence of studies regarding internal migration during certain periods, and especially the increase in the number of studies regarding Syrians in the last 10-year period could be considered in this context. According to the findings of Coşkun, Sarıalioğlu and Dinçer (2020), the topics of doctoral dissertations in the period of 2012-2019 focused on the experiences and integration of Syrians and their social and economic effects, but the international migration policies such as border security and human trafficking, problems of different migrant groups, migrant labor, migration management, relations with the EU and legal legislation have also come to the fore as other research topics. On the other hand, although the general tendency is reflected in terms of the migration type depicted in the migration studies in the dissertations within the study group of this study, the limitation regarding the migration types examined is also observed.

While the researches on migration have usually tended to increase in Turkiye (Yerli, 2018), the studies published on Syrians are also increasing steadily. An increase in the number of academic studies could be clarified with the extension of the duration of Syrians' stay in Turkiye due to the ongoing conflicts in Syria (Tatlıcıoğlu and Apak, 2018). The migration flow caused by the Syrian Civil War is a very complex set of processes, and it is critical to examine the problems that arise in terms of gender in all stages of migration as one of the important layers of this concept that requires benefiting from different disciplines and perspectives (Özdemir and Özdemir, 2018). Syrian women are exposed to sexual and gender-based violence during the forced migration process (Özdemir and Özdemir, 2018). Ignoring gender when analyzing conflict and post-conflict environments or migration processes causes Syrian women's lives to remain invisible. In this context, emphasizing the different effects of forced migration or displacement on women and girls is a priority issue to reveal gender-based power relations (Canefe, 2018). Within this framework, the higher number of dissertations on Syrian women can be explained by the consequences of Syrian migration flows. In fact, the number of studies focusing especially on the problems encountered by Syrian women (Barın, 2015) have started to increase in recent years. Some of the studies were carried out to draw a general framework of the living conditions, needs analysis and social problems of Syrian women living inside and outside the camps (Özüdoğru, 2018).

Gender in Dissertations; Women and Others

Almost all of the dissertations focusing on migration and gender (55 dissertations) depict women, whereas one of them deals with male refugees and the other one directly touches upon the LGBT migrants. The concept of gender was understood as being mostly related to women in terms of the dissertations focusing on migration and gender, and the aspects of gender associated with masculinity or different sexual orientations remain invisible. Categories such as gender, class, and ethnicity constantly intersect, but not all classifications are equally important in every context or all of the time (Schrover and Moloney, 2013). For a long time, studies on the disadvantageous position of women with historical and cultural roots have been at the forefront. Considering the inequality, violence and discrimination suffered by women, this situation should be considered quite natural. However, the relationship between migration and masculinities started to further come to the fore as the field of critical studies on men and masculinities has also included migrant men in recent years (Bozok, 2019).

As women are more vulnerable to abuse during migration processes (Grabska, 2011 as cited in Göktuna Yaylacı and Çarpar, 2019), the problems of women were mainly the subject of migration studies. Migrant women's labor, human trafficking, race and ethnicity differences, discrimination against migrant women, women's expectations and adaptation processes, and the relationships between different (local and migrant) women groups, which have been ignored for a long time due to male prejudices and gender blindness in migration studies, were the prominent topics (Bozok, 2019). For example, it also applies to the research in which forced migration is associated with gender. Since they are exposed to more problems, the studies mostly focused on women (Göktuna Yaylacı and Çarpar, 2019). However, the field that has developed by focusing on the experiences of female migrants also started to include issues such as changing masculinity roles and the experiences of LGBTI+ in recent years (Biehl and Danış, 2020). This trend seems to have no reflection on postgraduate dissertations focusing on migration and gender in Turkiye. However, as underlined by Schrover and Moloney (2013), it is important to look at men and women at the same time, both femininity and masculinity. Although not yet covered by the postgraduate disser-

tations in Turkiye, the research on gender and masculinity has been on the agenda since the late 1990s. With the increase in studies on masculinities as a new field in gender studies, the studies on the experiences of migrant men and masculinities have been conducted since the late 1990s (Bozok, 2019). The development of the focus from women to gender in gender studies has contributed to the fact that masculinity studies have come to the fore more (Lutz, 2010).

Although they are in the dominant position of patriarchal relations, men and masculinities may experience crises that can shake their positions (Bozok, 2019). Studies indicate that men, like women, are also subjected to violence and discrimination in different forms or levels during the migration process (Göktuna Yaylacı and Çarpar, 2019). The migration process also causes changes in masculinity as a gender category (Choi, 2018). Migration is one of the dynamics that lead to masculinity crises. In this context, the studies on migration and masculinities have started to address the tensions that migrant men experience in different cultures in recent years (Bozok, 2019).

There are more academic studies based on the assumption that every migrant is heterosexual with the influence of the hetero-normative approach dominating the field of migration (Koçak, 2020). It could be considered that the women-oriented gender understandings and feminist approaches affected this situation. The feminist approaches are likely to create exclusionary gender norms and often lead to homophobic results (Butler, 2014). However, in addition to a small number of studies on masculinity, research has begun on migrants with different sexual orientations. The mentioned gender categories consist of people with non-normative sexual identities, gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, trans and intersex people (Eckert and McConnell-Ginet, 2013). The low number of studies on migrants with different sexual orientations can be regarded to be related to social and political conditions. According to a report by ILGA World on homophobia, 178 countries around the world still accuse people of their sexual orientation, and five of them apply the death penalty in such cases (Erdoğan and Köten, 2014). Moreover, there is no adequate official statistics on the number of asylum claims based on sexual orientation or sexual identity (FRA, 2017). The experiences of migrants with different sexual orientations are similar to the problems faced by women. Gay migrants such as lesbians, bisexual women and men, and transgender men, suffer problems in the face of normative ideas of masculinity (Oxford, 2013). Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) asylum seekers are likely to face multiple forms of discrimination and the asylum authorities and procedures are often not equipped to deal with their particular situation (FRA, 2017).

Subjects about Migration and Gender in Postgraduate Dissertations

Gender affects the causes of migration, the location and method of migration, the networks used, opportunities and resources in the destination country and relations with the country of origin. Risks, vulnerabilities and needs are also largely shaped depending on the gender of the person, and they often vary greatly in different groups (IOM, 2019). Gender plays a central role in all stages of the migration process, and the experience of migration also deeply affects their public and private lives within the context of gender in terms of such aspects as women's labor force participation, occupational concentration, issues regarding religious life, marital roles, autonomy and self-esteem (Pedraza, 1991). This situation points to the multidimensional structure of examining migration in the context of gender. While the postgraduate dissertations conducted on migration in Turkiye mainly examine issues such as social policy, health and education, a great many studies have been conducted in different disciplines/departments such as social work, sociology, psychology, medicine, economics, law, public administration, educational sciences, geography,

language, literature, radio, television and cinema (Yerli, 2018). When the main subject or themes dealt within the context of migration and gender in the dissertations that constitute the study group of this research are examined, the existence of a wide range of different and various aspects draws attention. However, it is seen that two themes stand out. Accordingly, the most discussed topics and themes can be mentioned under the heading of *migration and women*. Fourteen dissertations focused on the concept of migration and women and the migration experience of women, and one dissertation examined the migration experience of men. As pointed out by Pedraza (1991), women's role in migration has been completely neglected until recently, despite their significant presence in migration flows. Although this outdated finding is still relatively valid regarding Turkiye, it is seen that the studies focusing on migration and gender are largely related to women. The second theme, which has been covered the most, could be mentioned in the heading of *migration and women's labor*. In this context, women migrants are discussed in the context of the economy, working life and women's labor in 8 dissertations. As for the most frequently depicted themes, the dissertations to be mentioned in the heading of *migration and women's representation* take the third place. In 7 dissertations that can be considered under this heading, the representation of migrant or refugee women in media organizations and cinema were depicted. Likewise, health services and social services were covered in 7 dissertations within the scope of the theme, which can be described as *health and social services*. The 5 dissertations that examine the themes of family, marriage, fertility and motherhood can be described under the heading of *family and marriage*. In 2 dissertations, the issue of ethnicity and identity, as part of internal migration, have been examined in the context of gender. The adaptation of female immigrants was examined in 3 dissertations. Exclusion was discussed in 2 dissertations, legal problems and protection in 2 dissertations, social interaction and participation in social activities in 3 dissertations. Other themes covered by dissertations can be listed as follows: citizenship, the female body, the liberation process, the feminization of migration, migration policies, urbanization, women in migration theories, marginalization, crime, male violence, religious life, equality. Considering the categories regarding the main subject or theme discussed within the context of migration and gender in the study group of dissertations, it is seen that the themes of migration and women's experience, women's labor, representation of women, health and social services and family and marriage designate the main framework of dissertations focusing on gender and migration.

The high number of dissertations considered under the category of migration and women in the dissertations evaluated under the heading of migration and women's labor is in line with the general trends in the literature. The migration and working life issues are the fields that are mostly studied in the academic literature (Kesici, 2015). As underlined by Biehl and Danış (2020), the studies focusing on the experiences of women migrants initially emerged in migration studies in Turkiye in terms of gender in compliance with the international literature. The main factor of this situation is that the gender group affected by the negative consequences of migration is women (Uçan Çubukçu, 2013). Women are becoming more vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse in the international migration process, and women are the main victims of increased human trafficking; while they are forced to work, they are also enslaved by the entertainment and sex industry (Şeker and Uçan, 2016). However, the roles, expectations, relationships and power dynamics associated with being a man, woman, boy or girl significantly affect all aspects of the migration process and they may be affected by migration in different ways (IOM, 2019). Therefore, it is important to conduct a higher number of and more varied academic research in terms of different gender contexts.

In the dissertations evaluated under the heading of migration and women's labor, the migration experiences of women were discussed in terms of the economic aspects and working life. The analyses based on economic aspects have a long history in migration studies. These studies examine gender in terms of workers' mottos, the welfare of migrants' families and communities, and other economic aspects of women's migration experiences (Fleury, 2016). The feminization of international labor migration is a global trend. The percentage of women in the migrant population (both permanent and temporary migrants) has been increasing in the post-war period, and women now make up the majority of international migrants (Oishi, 2002). Women no longer only follow their fathers or husbands but migrate themselves as workers. However, as the number of migrant women increases, so does economic abuse and exploitation. The majority of migrant women are highly vulnerable as they work at the bottom of the occupational hierarchy (Oishi, 2002).

As the media often intervenes in individual and corporate communication processes, it provides frameworks for the production and consumption of representations of these categories. These representations should be analyzed in different aspects without being accepted as pre-existing socio-political realities (Georgiou, 2012). In this context, the dissertations that examine the themes in the category of migration and representation of women in the study group of the research aim to analyze the representation of women in the media in the context of their gender understanding. The mediated representations of gender, ethnicity, and migration play an increasingly important role in the way these categories are understood in the public and private sphere (Georgiou, 2012).

Stating that the applied research cannot be conducted in real terms under the influence of a misunderstanding of the applied research in the field of sociology in Turkiye, Çelebi (2015) indicates that this is why sociologists have kept away from carrying out policy-oriented research for a solution of macro, mezzo or micro-scaled problems (Çelebi, 2015). When the general characteristics of dissertations focusing on gender and migration are analyzed in terms of the problems examined, methodology, etc., it can be said based on the afore-mentioned finding that there is still need for research aimed at solving the problems that are encountered in association with gender in the context of migration.

Conclusion

In this study, which aimed at making an overall assessment based on an analysis of the postgraduate dissertations directly focusing on gender in the context of migration in Turkiye, 57 postgraduate dissertations focusing on migration and gender were examined in terms of specific criteria and evaluated based on the literature.

Firstly, there is a growing interest in the migration issue as part of the academic studies in Turkiye. Turkiye's position as a typical country of migration, a receiving country, a sending country and a transit country with many refugees and migrants are the source of such interest. Besides, the intense migration flows of Syrians and their quality as a relatively permanent element of Turkiye's population have had a substantial impact on migration research. The issue of gender is also becoming evident as a current and new area of interest. Turkiye's modernization process made a critical analysis of inequality between women and men a current issue, and the social, political and economic transformations that occurred especially in and after the 1980s caused an increase in the awareness of gender.

The most prominent feature regarding the postgraduate dissertations conducted with a focus on migration and gender in Turkiye could be considered as the ongoing insufficient interest in the

gender issue within the context of migration, despite the quantitative development in recent years. Migration and gender are the subjects of postgraduate dissertations. There is very little research on this subject at the doctoral level. The most distinctive feature of the dissertations in terms of the method is that they are qualitative research. The qualitative research methods are used especially in studies on in-depth analysis of women's migration experiences. However, there is a need to enrich diversity in terms of data collection and analysis techniques within the scope of qualitative research. The dissertations were generally conducted in the field of sociology. Although the concept of migration and gender are among the important topics of sociology, preparing dissertations in different fields also in line with the multidisciplinary nature of the issues related to these concepts can contribute to a better understanding of the multidimensional nature of migration and gender. The dissertations focusing on migration and gender have been written largely by women researchers, and again they depict women to a great extent. More research should be done on men and LGBT individuals in the context of gender.

Considering the migration types, the majority of dissertations is related to the migration towards Turkiye. In terms of the themes examined, dissertations focus more on women's migration experiences, while women's labor, the representation of women, health and social services, and family and marriage are the sub-headings that are examined relatively more. It is a remarkable limitation that there is a limited number of researches conducted in different themes and a wide variety of aspects. Diversity in research issues should be enriched to better understand migration in the context of gender and to develop solutions to problems.

The findings suggest that the gender-related aspects of Turkiye's specific experience of migration should be studied in more detail with the research in which they are used. At the same time, studies to be carried out with theoretical approaches are needed. The studies that theoretically analyze the migration and gender that are specific to Turkiye's experience of migration has the potential to create a fertile ground for further research.

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