GESTURE

Rereading gender studies and activisms in Greece. Encounters on gender related violence

Work-package 2: Mapping gender studies, constructing an academic repository

Deliverable No. 2.2

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2024











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Abstract (in greek)

Στο πλαίσιο του Ερευνητικού Πακέτου 2, "Κατασκευάζοντας ένα Ακαδημαϊκό Αποθετήριο", πραγματοποιήθηκε αρχειακή έρευνα για την καταγραφή των ακαδημαϊκών δημοσιεύσεων και εκδόσεων με θέμα την έμφυλη βία από το 1974 μέχρι σήμερα, προκειμένου να χαρτογραφηθεί η ανάπτυξη της σχετικής θεματολογίας στο πεδίο του φεμινισμού και των σπουδών φύλου.

Η αρχειακή έρευνα εντόπισε τις σχετικές πηγές, συμπεριλαμβανομένων των Φεμινιστικών Περιοδικών της Μεταπολίτευσης, Επιστημονικών Περιοδικών, Διδακτορικών Διατριβών, Εκδόσεων και Ερευνητικών Εκθέσεων, που αποδελτιώθηκαν, ταξινομήθηκαν και καταλογογραφήθηκαν, με κριτήριο είτε την άμεση είτε την έμμεση συνάφεια της δημοσίευσης με το ζήτημα της έμφυλης βίας. Η ψηφιακή βάση δεδομένων αριθμεί 900 καταχωρήσεις και αποτελεί το Ακαδημαϊκό Αποθετήριο, το οποίο είναι προσβάσιμο στην ιστοσελίδα του ερευνητικού προγράμματος.

Από την ανάλυση του υλικού προκύπτει ότι το ζήτημα της έμφυλης βίας συζητείται για πρώτη φορά στα φεμινιστικά περιοδικά της Μεταπολίτευσης και σε περιορισμένες ανεξάρτητες εκδόσεις, ενώ οι ακαδημαϊκές δημοσιεύσεις ακολουθούν με αργούς ρυθμούς κατά τη δεκαετία του 1980, κυρίως στα επιστημονικά περιοδικά Επιθεώρηση Κοινωνικών Ερευνών και Σύγχρονα Θέματα, συχνά στο πλαίσιο Αφιερωμάτων ή Ειδικών Τευχών, κάτι που χαρακτηρίζει τις επιστημονικές δημοσιεύσεις ευρύτερα. Οι πρώτες διδακτορικές διατριβές εμφανίζονται στα μέσα της δεκαετίας του 1990 και αναπτύσσονται με αργό αλλά σταθερό ρυθμό τις επόμενες δύο δεκαετίες, αν εντοπίζονται σε ελάχιστα Τμήματα. Η εισαγωγή των σπουδών φύλου θα οδηγήσει στη σημαντική αύξηση των διδακτορικών διατριβών μετά το 2020, μια τάση που χαρακτηρίζεται επιπλέον από τη διασπορά σε επίπεδο πανεπιστημιακών Τμημάτων και επιστημονικών πειθαρχιών. Ειδικότερα, από τη δεκαετία του 2000 παρατηρείται αύξηση των ακαδημαϊκών δημοσιεύσεων σε όλες τις κατηγορίες πηγών, η οποία επιταχύνεται τη δεκαετία του 2010, ενώ έχουμε και τις πρώτες ερευνητικές εκθέσεις ανεξάρτητων φορέων. Θεματολογικά, διαγράφεται ένας ισχυρός κόμβος στα συγκοινωνούντα επιστημονικά πεδία της Εγκληματολογίας, της Κοινωνικής Πολιτικής, της Νομικής Επιστήμης και του Δικαίου. Ωστόσο, σταδιακά το ενδιαφέρον μετατοπίζεται πλέον προς Κοινωνιολογικές και Ανθρωπολογικές προσεγγίσεις, ενώ πολλαπλασιάζονται τα ερευνητικά αντικείμενα, τα οποία παρακολουθούν τις κοινωνικοπολιτικές εξελίξεις που σχετίζονται με το φεμινιστικό κίνημα και τις σπουδές φύλου.

I. Introduction

General introduction & state of the art

The development of gender studies in Greece: early pursuits and key milestones

The development of gender studies as a distinct academic field in Greece has been relatively delayed compared to other European and Anglo-Saxon countries, where institutional foundations for women's and later gender studies were laid in the late 1970s and 1980s. Largely absent institutionally, gender studies were introduced into academic curricula from 2003 onwards through EU-funded gender mainstreaming programs (Kantsa, Moutafi & Papataxiarchis, 2010: 16, Petraki & Stratigaki 2023: 13-14)

Early efforts emerged in the 1980s, initially focusing on women's issues and later, in the 1990s, incorporating gender as a framework in research. These efforts were closely aligned with the rise of the feminist movement in the post-dictatorship period, as well as the introduction of theoretical ideas that remained on the periphery of the academic community. Informal initiatives led by feminist women in academia played a pivotal role in advancing the cause of gender studies. For instance, the Group for Women's Studies (GWS) at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTh) sought to "intellectually and theoretically shape within the university the ideas born out of the women's movement" (Lada 2024:15) Similarly, Diotima Center for Women's Studies and Research, a nonprofit organization, contributed significantly to the field by conducting a transnational study on the impact of European integration on Southern European women, funded by the European Community (Petraki & Stratigaki, 2022: 13). These early pursuits paved the way for the creation of the first academic positions and programs specializing in gender studies. They provided crucial groundwork for the acceptance and growth of feminist and gender studies themes within Greek academia.

Gender studies gained momentum with financial support from 3rd Community Support Framework of the EU (2000–2006). Funding through the Operational Program for Education and Initial Vocational Training (EPEAEK II) led to a significant quantitative expansion of gender studies and, in essence, to their formal introduction at the academic level. The actions included the creation of postgraduate and undergraduate programs, as well as strengthening of research and the establishment of the Greek Women's University Professors Association (EL.E.G.Y.P.). Although the EU framework of funding for gender studies programs gave a boost to related research and theoretical production, it posed inherent problems regarding their viability. The development of such programs through externally funded initiatives raised the issue of whether their growth aligned with an endogenous and, therefore, sustainable and enduring demand for gender studies, and, even more to the point, of their financing through university hires, publications, and research.

Nonetheless, significant inroads were made especially regarding the incorporation of a gender studies vocabulary and feminist literature into academic curricula, the support of gender research at postgraduate and PhD levels, the translation of foundational feminist texts into Greek, the organization of women's and gender studies conferences, which contributed to the overall visibility of the field. It also instantiated the emergence of specific departments in different metropolitan and peripheral universities as key sites for advancing gender scholarship.

A second, more recent and structural, milestone for the institutionalisation of gender studies was achieved with the statutory enactment of Gender Equality Committees, established by Law 4589/2019, in all higher education and research institutions, which proceeded with drafting action plans for gender equality, implementing the EU agenda for gender mainstreaming (Petraki & Stratigaki, 2022: 12). Since 2022, Gender Equality Action Plans (GEAPs) have been ratified by university authorities, incorporating gender into teaching and research as one of their five pillars; a positive development which is expected to further boost the progress of gender studies (Petraki & Stratigaki, 2022: 16).

At the same time, considerable further initiatives for the consolidation of the field have been undertaken by feminist academics, including important publications of textbooks, monographs and collected volumes, the organisation of local and international conferences, as well as the establishment of two gender studies journals, which provide valuable space for theoretical debate and presentation of the proliferating gender research of recent years, especially by younger scholars.

<u>Intellectual trajectory and socio-political aspects of gender studies in Greece</u>

The intellectual trajectory of gender studies in Greece has largely followed the course of international feminist debates, starting with the concerns of the 1970s regarding the emancipatory potential of women's studies. Since the 1980s, the focus on women's issues in academic research fostered the emergence of gender as a key analytical category in different scientific disciplines, through the integration of feminist thought with theoretical frameworks such as poststructuralism, psychoanalysis, and Marxism. By the 1990s, the spread of feminist poststructuralist approaches brought attention to the multiplicity, ambiguity, and fragmentation of identities. This shift marked the transition of feminism into its third wave, emphasizing diversity and intersectionality. Gender, as an analytical category, can no longer be understood in isolation from other forms of difference. However, the widespread use of "gender" as an analytical tool across various academic fields has led to concerns about its conceptual dilution and disconnection from emancipatory aspirations (Kantsa, Moutafi & Papataxiarchis 2010: 12).

The reception of gender studies in Greece varies across scientific fields. In some areas there is a broader scope of research inquiries based on gender; in others the subject has not found fertile ground. This uneven development among different disciplines—such as anthropology, history, sociology, psychology, and architecture—is a result of the differing frameworks of development and the structure of each respective scientific field within the Greek context. From this perspective, anthropology and history seem to have been particularly open to the reception of gender studies, whereas psychology has not extensively utilized this framework (Kantsa, Moutafi & Papataxiarchis, 2010: 22). Additionally, the sociology of education, labor economics, and political science have also to some degree incorporated gender into their inquiries.

The uneven reception of gender by the Greek academic community is accompanied by an uneven utilization of the analytical scope of the category across disciplines. As noted by Kantsa, Moutafi & Papataxiarchis (2010: 37), "The highest degree of critical processing of the category of 'gender' and its consequent development into a new perspective is observed in those scientific disciplines that are further removed from the dominant paradigm of utility and that, by and large, maintain a particularly critical stance even toward their own conceptual premises. Conversely, in disciplines and subfields closely aligned with the dominant normative framework, feminist influence produces softer, one might say 'superficial,' versions of the egalitarian theory of gender difference—versions that tend to reproduce rather than challenge the normative assumptions of human life in modern societies."

The development and further evolution of gender studies are closely linked to the domain of social movements and political activism. Social movements have historically provided a foundational platform for the emergence of gender and women's studies within academic circles. From the tradition of Black feminism in the 1960s to contemporary queer and difference-affirming movements, these spheres have contributed significantly to the dialogue and research within gender studies. However, the academic domain of gender studies does not entirely align or overlap with the spaces advocating for rights and identity discourses. Often, academic gender studies have been critiqued for their silence or omissions regarding critical social developments involving gender, identity, and other intersecting conflicts.

In Greece as well, gender studies have not proceeded in isolation from wider socio-political developments and social movements (Tziovas, 2022). This is documented in personal accounts by leading feminist academics but is also evident in how research agendas have changed over the years, moving from earlier topics such as gender and family, women and work, or gender and social policy to gender and migration, citizenship, and more recently sexual difference, including a renewed focus on gender and violence since the covid19 pandemic.

Though the early autonomous feminist struggles of the 1970-80s did not directly feed into research agendas, given the individualized and still tenuous links of the movement to the academy, this started to change from the 2000s onward with the influx of EU funding for gender research, and systematic networking efforts of gender scholars in Greece with colleagues abroad. Research focused more closely on the gendered structure and impact of social inequalities, while also engaging more closely with emerging social movements, such as the post-1989 antiracist and migration movement, and the mobilizations against austerity during the decade of the economic crisis, or, more recently, the growing queer movement. Indeed, as many of the younger generation of feminist and queer researchers are also politically active, the boundaries between the academy and social movements have become more permeable, especially as concerns raising awareness on issues of sexuality, gender, and violence. As noted by Giannakopoulos & Kantsa (2021: n.p.), "The connection of gender studies with the broader socio-cultural context, and particularly with events of recent socio-political conjunctures, became visible in relation to two recent incidents: first, the lethal attack on Zak Kostopoulos, which served as a catalyst for the emergence of not only a political movement and solidarity community but also studies on sexuality and gender (see, for example, Athanasiou, Gougousis, Papanikolaou, 2020). Secondly, the targeting of academic researchers specializing in gender and sexuality." In this sense, it raises the question whether in the greek context, socio-political circumstances and events become triggers for the renewal and transformation of gender studies, more so than an internal dynamic of the field itself.

In conclusion, the establishment of gender studies remains a gradual process, which requires not only further institutional support to solidify the field's position in academia but also the forging of ties with social movements that will allow for their continued relevance and critical impact, as well as stronger reflexivity on the politics of knowledge production, including practices of gatekeeping within academia, and the exclusions they engender.

II. Research objectives, basic concepts and theoretical resources

A. Research Objectives

To compile a database of (mainly academic) publications on gender violence produced in the context of gender studies and feminist movements from the post-dictatorship period onwards.

To map central questions, conceptualizations, and research orientations related to gender violence and to highlight the different phases, thematic focuses, and discourses that characterize the relevant literature.

To create a searchable digital repository that will be used in the subsequent stages of the project and by the wider research community.

B. Basic concepts and theoretical resources

In this work package, we adopt a "toolkit" approach, drawing on diverse theoretical resources rather than adhering to a single framework. As argued in feminist new materialisms, the concept of the "toolkit", which resists a singular approach, better aligns with the plurality and interdisciplinarity that characterize contemporary feminist and gender studies (Revelles-Benavente, Ernst & Rogowska-Stangret, 2019, Tamboukou, 2020a). Furthermore, the act of "re-reading," which is central to our research, does not impose rigid analytical constraints but instead resonates with a more exploratory and suggestive sensibility. Nonetheless, while heuristic, this approach demands conceptual clarity and rigor in establishing correlations between different theoretical perspectives.

Three conceptual nodes form the theoretical background of our research: the feminist archive, genealogy and the intersectionality of gender violence.

The feminist archive as a question of genealogy

The archival "turn" in the social sciences has been ongoing for over two decades, with an exponential increase in archival studies, approaches, and experiments in recent years (Manoff, 2004, Moore et al., 2017). Moreover, the very logic of the archive has expanded and become more flexible to the point where it can now encompass, beyond traditional historical documents, nearly any collection of sources, both older and contemporary, material and immaterial (Papanikolaou, 2017). The widespread availability of digitized archives has played a significant role in this explosive multiplication of archival projects. These may include written, visual, audio, or multimedia data, open access digital collections from libraries, museums, community archives, publishers, and others, as well as the possibility of navigating and searching through them online. The web itself is now considered an 'archive of archives' (Reay, 2019).

In this context, the very concept of the archive has acquired an almost dizzying polysemy, which can encompass different formal as well as competing or metaphorical meanings—in other words, an 'archival phantasmagoria' (Daston, 2017: 12). This environment of inquiry raises numerous theoretical and methodological questions, both concerning the delimitation of material and the methods of its classification and analysis, as well as the archival work itself, which no longer requires the researcher's engagement with the materiality or "dust" of the archive. It also raises questions about the (epistemological and ontological) status of data that are designated as archival evidence (Stanley in Moore et al., 2017: 65).

The present study engages with the above problematics. While it is not a typical historical study, it involves a re-examination of the trajectory of gender studies in Greece, through a combination of archival and empirical research, both online and in person, utilizing public digital sources, interviews and focus groups, with the aim

of facilitating critical reflection on the positions, oppositions, or silences, as well as the discontinuities or ruptures that may be inscribed in this history. It is in this sense that it constitutes a heuristic approach, drawing on, revisiting and reassembling existing records, including academic repositories, as well as other feminist and queer archives, from a specific vantage point that seeks to highlight and comment on understandings and representations of gender violence. At the same time, it invites new accounts on current and past feminist and queer engagements with gender violence, itself configured as an "archive", to gain further insights into the conditions and contexts of development and the intersections between gender studies and feminism in Greece. It is an exploration inspired by a genealogical perspective.

As discussed by Michel Foucault and elaborated within feminist research, genealogy as a method constitutes a "history of the present", critically examining how the present has emerged as a reality among alternative histories —not as the result of a linear, necessary, or inevitable progression, but symptomatically, as part of incidental, discontinuous, and contingent historical shifts (Kendall and Wickham, 1999, Tamboukou, 1999, 2013). Rather than assuming a stable, evolutionary trajectory, genealogy traces the ruptures, contradictions and extractions from history that have shaped contemporary power relations, subjectivities, and discourses. Feminist scholars have embraced the notion of genealogy, not only for its potential to envision alternative worlds but also for its ability to reveal "lines of flight" that challenge dominant narratives (Tamboukou, 2020b.

By taking a genealogical approach to the academic archive on gender violence, we are interested in tracing both the continuities linked to hegemonic feminisms within gender studies in Greece, but also those moments when a change of direction occurs, often in relation to external socio-political events which have a profound effect on the eruption of previously silenced voices in the discourse.¹

Intersectionality, embodiment & intra-action

In our archival research, we do not adopt a fixed definition of gender violence, as doing so would unduly restrict the scope of academic publications included in our database. Instead, our primary objective is to document how gender violence has been conceptualized and addressed within women's and gender studies in Greece. Recognizing that gender violence may be explicitly discussed or only tangentially referenced, we consider a broad range of disciplinary and theoretical perspectives that construct the issue in diverse ways. This approach enables us to trace the evolving focus of scholarly work, identifying which aspects and forms of gender violence have been emphasized, which have remained marginal or obscured, and how certain manifestations have gained prominence at different historical moments.

Nonetheless, we recognize from the outset that gender violence operates on multiple levels—epistemic, social, institutional, interpersonal, and psychological—and is always intersectional and embodied. Rather than viewing gender violence as a series of isolated incidents, we understand it as a systemic phenomenon that encompasses multiple forms of discrimination, manifesting in but also producing lived realities with affective and embodied dimensions. Indeed, as Avramopoulou (2024) points out, the structure as well as the experience of gender violence entail "brutal temporalities" produced by institutional regimes of governmentality and thus cannot be understood outside the frame of biopolitics as such.

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¹ One such case in point is the murder of queer activist and performer Zak Kostopoulos/Zackie Oh in 2018, which not only brought activists and academics together, but also pried open a space for the discussion of public mourning as an agonistic politics (Athanasiou et al. 2020). From a genealogical perspective, mourning emerges as a crucial concept for gender studies and the histories of repression in Greece, connecting the present with past struggles.

Crucially, gender violence is not solely about gendered power relations but is deeply embedded in and structurally articulated through intertwined systems of oppression. These systems create clusters of inequality and dependency with both collective and individual consequences. Even symbolic violence, such as culturally normative discourses of identity or racialized representations of difference, not only legitimizes social and institutional discrimination but also produces experiences of subjectification and abjection (Ahmed, 2002). This understanding calls for more complex and nuanced analyses of gender violence, moving beyond dominant legal, policy-driven, and quantitative approaches, which often dominate public discourse.

To further elaborate on our theoretical approach, we turn to the concept of "intra-action", developed by feminist theorist Karen Barad (2007), as a lens for understanding and analyzing intersectionality. The extensive feminist discussion on intersectionality spans from the late 1980s to the present (Collins, 2019), raising critical questions about how we conceptualize and articulate social and analytical categories, as well as the methodological challenges for studying social inequalities and discrimination at different levels of social organisation, including subjective experience, and as socio-historically situated phenomena (McCall 2005, Staunes 2003, Yuval-Davis 2015).

Barad's notion of intra-action offers an alternative perspective, challenging the assumption that social categories (such as gender, class, or race) exist as pre-formed, separate entities that later interact. Unlike "interaction," which implies distinct elements coming together, intra-action posits that categories emerge through relationality—they do not pre-exist their entanglements but are co-constituted in specific contexts. This conceptual shift is significant because it moves beyond static, preconstructed identity categories and instead emphasizes the dynamic, mutual constitution of social differences, thus providing a useful way of thinking about intersectional articulation (Dolphijn & van der Tuin, 2012, Jackson & Mazzei, 2012).

From an epistemological perspective, intra-action also problematizes conventional notions of scientific objectivity, in which an apparatus (such as a technology or medium used to measure a property or a phenomenon) is external to the 'thing' being studied. As Stark (2016) notes, intra-action acknowledges that any attempt to measure or analyze is inherently entangled with the phenomenon itself, an integral part of its manifestation. In this sense, the very process of knowledge production engenders the object as well as the agent of inquiry. Indeed, intra-action understands agency as not an inherent property exercised by an individual or a social actor (e.g. an institution), but as a dynamism of forces (Barad, 2007: 141) in which all designated 'things' are in a process of continuous exchange, diffraction, and inseparability.²

² To give a pertinent example of the intra-action between institutional, scientific and feminist discourses in the coconstruction of gender violence, we draw on our present case-study. Criminological, legal and policy studies of gender violence have significantly shaped feminist debate and gender studies in Greece from the 1990s onwards, as can be verified by the relatively large number of PhDs and book publications on the issue. Notably, such studies tend to rely on formal definitions of gender violence as codified in legal texts, as well as on official statistics recorded by the police—currently the only available quantitative data. As a result, gender violence is primarily delineated through the lens of institutional discourses and state actors, many of whom are themselves implicated in the reproduction of violence. This framing often marginalizes or renders invisible more implicit, silenced, or socially unrecognized forms of violence experienced by social subjects who may themselves be targeted by these very repressive structures. In this sense, feminist and institutional constructions of gender violence often reinforce, rather than challenge, each other. Furthermore, the very process of 'scientific' knowledge production can contribute to forms of epistemic violence by privileging institutional recognition and state-sanctioned categories, thereby shaping what is considered legitimate knowledge and excluding alternative experiences and perspectives. The implications for the development of the field of gender studies in Greece, and the challenges it raises for feminist and queer politics needs to be explored further.

Situating intersectionality and intra-action within our research, we recognize that social differences are not universally articulated in the same way. While intersectionality as a theoretical framework emerged in the U.S., where race, gender, and class have historically been dominant axes of oppression, the Greek context presents a distinct constellation of social divisions and power relations. Our case study further grounds these dynamics within the evolving landscape of academic and activist engagements with gender violence, tracing their intersections with the socio-political development of gender studies in Greece. Specifically, we examine how categories such as gender, class, sexuality, nation, and embodiment are constructed, negotiated, and contested within Greek feminist and queer discourses, paying particular attention to the ways these categories shift across different historical, institutional, and activist contexts.

III. Methodology

In compiling an archive of publications on gender violence in the field of gender studies in Greece, we had to resolve questions concerning sources, cataloguing, classification, mapping, construction of a digital repository.

Sources: Identifying and delimiting the textual material to be included in the archival corpus.

Cataloguing: Deciding what information to record for each referenced work.

Classification: Defining relevant tags (e.g. keywords, scientific fields) for catalogue entries.

Construction of a digital repository: Organization of the archived material in a searchable digital database.

Mapping and Analysis: Attempts at quantification and identification of phases of development, key milestones, points of density, and absences.

A. Archival corpus

In constructing the archival corpus, the selection of the following sources aimed to ensure a multidimensional/multidisciplinary and intersectional approach to the study of gender violence in Greece, covering a spectrum ranging from feminist analyses and theoretical debates to applied policies and empirical research, encompassing both historical and contemporary perspectives from various academic and social contexts. Specifically:

<u>Historical Feminist Journals of the Post-Dictatorship Period (1974-1997)</u>

This corpus includes the journals *Skoupa*, *Dini*, *Katina*, *Sfigga*, *Lavrys*, *Amfi*. <u>Justification</u>: These journals represent significant voices of the Greek feminist movement during the post-dictatorship era, documenting the development of feminist ideas, struggles, and concerns of the period. Their analysis helps to understand the historical evolution of feminist discourse and the formation of positions on gender issues.

<u>Doctoral Dissertations³</u>

The corpus of Doctoral dissertations includes theses carried out at Greek universities from the 1980s onwards, when the first dissertations on gender and/or gender violence are recorded and archived in the National PhD

³ Initially, we intended to include Master's theses in the catalogue, in order to map student research interests, emerging academic trends, and key institutional hubs in gender studies. To begin this process, we cataloged the universities that received funding under the Operational Program for Education and Initial Vocational Training (EPEAEK II) to develop undergraduate and graduate programs in gender studies. This funding facilitated the creation of gender-focused curricula at eight universities: the University of Athens, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University of Thessaly, University of Crete, University of Piraeus, University of the Aegean, Panteion University, and the National Technical University of Athens. We added the Interdepartmental Master's Program in gender studies launched in 2016 at Panteion University.

Repository. <u>Justification</u>: Doctoral dissertations represent primary academic research that significantly contributes to knowledge in gender studies. They capture the challenges, methodologies, and findings of emerging research, documenting the academic evolution of gender studies.

Scientific and Academic Journals

The corpus of scientific and academic journals includes publications from different academic fields, which have contributed to the development of feminist debates and gender research in Greece, starting with first issues.

- <u>Social Science and History Journals</u>: Key social science journals were selected, including, among others, Epitheorisi Koinonikon Erevnon [Review of Social Research], Synchrona Themata [Contemporary Issues], Elliniki Epitheorisi Politikis Epistimis [Greek Review of Political Science], Koinoniki Ergasia [Social Work], Koinoniki Politiki [Social Policy], To Vima ton Koinonikon Epistimon [Social Science Tribune], as well as the history journals Istorika, Mnimon, Historein. In addition, and in order to gain a broader overview, education journals and humanities journals were also selectively included in the indexed corpus, such , among others, Erevna stin Ekpaideusi [Research in Education], Erevnontas ton Kosmo tou Paidiou [Researching the World of the Child], Preschool and Primary Education, Gramma: Periodiko Theorias kai Kritikis [Letter: Journal of Theory and Critique], AWPEL-Aegean working papers in ethnographic linguistics, Automaton: Periodiko Psifiakon Meson kai Politismou [Automaton: Journal of Digital Media and Culture]. Justification: Publications of articles on gender and violence in different academic journals allows for an interdisciplinary approach to the subject, documenting how gender themes are integrated into broader sociological, historical, political, educational and cultural frameworks and research.
- <u>Gender Studies Journals:</u> This category includes the more recent journals *Feministiqá*, *EIRINI: Meletes Neon Erevnit(ri)on gia to Fylo* [Eirini/Young Scholar Studies on Gender], which represent editorial initiatives specifically in the field of gender studies. <u>Justification</u>: Academic journals dedicated to gender studies provide more in-depth analyses and serve as important sources for contemporary trends, theoretical approaches, and empirical studies. They are essential sites for documenting and mapping the field.

Other material

- <u>Books and Edited Volumes</u>: This category includes monographs, translated books, and edited volumes variously touching upon the issue of gender violence. Documented in this category are not only works directly addressing the topic, but also important gender studies publications, which have defined the development of the field in Greece. <u>Justification</u>: Books and edited volumes provide in-depth analyses, as well as cover a wide thematic range of empirical research, offering the foundations for theoretical and

Due to the substantial volume of Master's theses, their cataloging remains incomplete, and they have not been incorporated into the database. Furthermore, to extract meaningful insights from these theses, additional factors would need to be considered, including: a) the socio-political context of the period in which they were produced, b) the research interests and influence of academic supervisors, and c) the varying disciplinary approaches to gender within different graduate programs. Since these considerations extend beyond the current scope of our research, Master's theses have been excluded from our study at this stage.

methodological support in research. Translated books introduce international debates into the Greek academic community.

An important sub-category of this corpus concerns recent edited volumes and special issues focusing specifically on gender and sexual violence, which have been catalogued separately and in detail, since they represent key publications for documenting the horizon of the current debate, as it pans out across scholarly and activist elaborations.

- Research Reports: This category includes reports on different forms of gender violence, including family violence, sexual violence and harassment, gender related hate crimes, and Igbtqi violence, published by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) and Research Institutes, such as, among others, the National Center for Social Research (EKKE) and the Center for Equality Studies (KETHI), as well as by key NGOs in the field, e.g., Diotima, ActionAid, ColourYouth. <u>Justification</u>: Research reports provide data and analyses based on empirical research, surveys and policy implementation outcomes. Although often focused on more applied issues and project-based, they contribute to understanding gender and sexual inequalities and violence from an institutional and policy perspective.

B. Determining, cataloguing and indexing the corpus

Following, we outline the main steps we took to identify, catalogue, and index the corpus.⁴ Drawing on our literature review and knowledge of the field of gender studies in Greece, we began with a broad internet search to map various areas and resources relevant to our inquiry into gender studies, feminist and queer activism, and gender violence in Greece. This search encompassed platforms such as Google Scholar, university and departmental websites, scholar profiles, feminist and LGBTQ+ activist websites, online archives, NGO resources, and digital news media. A folder was set up in Drive for collecting and sharing documents and other materials, including a consolidated and regularly updated General Table with all relevant information. Thus, we began to flesh out a map of main sources, as well as key publication types and texts to be included in the archive and online repository.⁵

Next, we organized a series of shared Excel sheets, categorized by archival corpus type, to systematically enter data for inclusion in the digital database. Once the catalogue of records was finalized, these Excel sheets were integrated into the online digital repository under distinct headings: *Historical Feminist Journals of the Metapolitefsi, Gender Studies Journals, Scientific Journals, Editions, Doctoral Dissertations,* and *Research Reports*. Each category is further divided into specific sub-headings that correspond to the various corpus subcategories (see Appendix I).

For <u>scientific journal publications</u>, our search began with the database of the National Documentation Centre (EKT), which is digitized and open access. Within this database, we identified journals of interest, such as *Epitheorisi Koinonikon Erevnon* etc., for each of which we conducted a comprehensive search using specific

⁴ The main question we faced concerned whether to restrict our choice of publications to those explicitly referring to gender violence or include a broader selection directly and indirectly related to the issue. We opted for the second, in order to reflect the breadth and scope of the debate and of gender studies scholarship in Greece. Therefore, we used a combination of criteria to delineate the corpus, using authors' designations (e.g. title, keywords), as well as our own judgement, based on our knowledge and understanding of the field.

⁵ The General Table is work in progress that exceeds the scope of the academic publications database and is not included in the Repository at present.

keywords.⁶ The list of publications generated from the general search was reviewed for relevance, per record, based on the title and abstract, while article content was also occasionally scanned. Next, for cross-referencing purposes, a detailed search for further, unidentified articles was conducted per journal issue. Articles directly or indirectly related⁷ to gender violence were catalogued in excel sheets.

Concerning <u>historical feminist journals of the post-Junta period</u>, based on our literature review of the development of contemporary feminism and gender studies in Greece, key publications were selected, e.g. *Skoupa*, *Dini*, *Katina* etc., each of which was reviewed in detail, per issue, and authored articles, as well as editorials and anonymous opinion pieces were recorded in excel sheets. A similar detailed search per issue was conducted for Gender Studies journals.

For the documentation of <u>doctoral dissertations</u>, we utilized the digitized, open-access National Archive of PhD Theses, conducted keyword searches, and recorded theses directly or indirectly related to gender violence, based on title and abstract, as well as review of table of contents and chapters, where necessary. The first results were cross-referenced against authors with published work on gender and/or violence to identify possible omissions. The final results include a broader collection of PhDs and were organized into two sub-categories: theses focusing on gender violence, and theses with references to gender violence in the context of other enquiries.

Finally, <u>Research Reports</u> were collected from online websites and databases of key institutions, NGOs and research centers focusing on gender related issues; and <u>books and edited volumes</u> were identified through online research on Google Scholar, academia.edu, scholar websites and CVs, publisher's websites, the national university textbook catalogue, as well as research in the library of the University of Crete and Panteion University.

For each catalogued record, following information is recorded: Author, Title, Publication information, Keywords (provided by the author), Summary (author's abstract, introductory excerpt, or editorial summary), Link (where available), Tags (given by the researchers), Scientific Field (where applicable), Comments, Full Reference (following APA 6th edition).⁸

The choice of which information to record was made after several trials with different types of publications. For example, we noticed that not all journal articles, especially older ones, have author-provided keywords. This presented the need to classify them in a way that would indicate how gender violence is thematized in each text. Therefore, we defined a series of tags, which we used in addition to author keywords, to allow for more systematization and greater searchability of the recorded material. We also decided, where applicable, to categorize publications on the basis of scientific field, in order to be able to group together records across different publication sources.

⁶ Keywords included the terms: feminism/feminist, female, femininity, femicide, gender, gendered violence, male, masculinity, man/men, sex, sexism, sexual harassment, rape, sexuality, heterosexuality, homosexuality, lgbtqi, queer, homophobia, transphobia, racism, woman/women, body, embodiment etc.

⁷ Direct relevance was defined as explicit reference to gender violence, either verbatim or through related terms such as "violence against women", "rape", "homophobic violence", "sexual harassment" appearing in the title or abstract. *Indirect relevance* refers to conceptual and/or empirical connections of the content, as reflected in the abstract, to the issue of gender violence from a broader perspective.

⁸ For a list of tags and scientific fields used in cataloguing, see APPENDIX II.

IV. Research results & findings

A. Digital Repository

The Digital Repository (https://gesture.soc.uoc.gr/databases-gr/) was implemented over many months of trial and error in collaboration with Dimitris Sakellaridis, the IT consultant for the project, who developed an online database and designed a custom-made search engine (see Appendix I).

Architecture of the Repository

The Repository database is organized on the basis of a main "Menu" of sources, a list of catalogue "Tags", and a central "Search-engine", and includes two main classes of information: a) Tables, included in the Menu under different source headings, and b) Index Cards of individual records included in the tables.

Main Menu: Sources

The main Menu is organized under Headings and Subheadings, which correspond to the different types of material included in the corpus, i.e. journals, dissertations, books, etc., and provides Tables of records catalogued per source. The Tables were created from the excel sheets of the database and include summary information catalogued per Record. In this way, users can gain an overview of all records (i.e. individual publications) included in a particular corpus category, e.g. all publications on gender violence included in a particular journal. By clicking on the record Title, users can access individual Records.

Individual Records: Index Cards

Records represent index cards for each publication catalogued in the corpus, and include the full information of the record, e.g. article summary, tags, comments, bibliographic reference. At the bottom of the index card the tags by which the text is classified are displayed. Clicking on a tag generates a list of texts with the same classification, as well as a list of all tags corresponding to the listed records, which can be further searched.

Search-engine: Multi-level Search

- General Search, which can be conducted with user-supplied keywords. The search identifies all records
 where the terms appear in any of the catalogue categories, e.g. author, year, publication, title, summary,
 keywords, tags, etc.
- <u>Search by Categories and Tags</u>, which are listed in separate columns on the Repository homepage and allow users to search by author name, year of publication, scientific field, etc.
- <u>Search by Sources</u>, which displays in table format all publications included in a specific source category, e.g. journals, dissertations, books, research reports, etc.

B. Preliminary findings

Following, we present key findings from our preliminary analysis of the database. Given the breadth and complexity of the material, this report offers an initial overview of emerging patterns and trends, highlighting significant aspects that warrant further exploration. A more comprehensive and in-depth analysis will be undertaken in forthcoming publications.

Overview of academic publications corpus included in the database

Source category	Total publications		Highest number of publications per year	Year of highest number of publications		
Doctoral Dissertations (direct focus)	47	1994	5	2022, 2023		
Doctoral Dissertations (indirect focus)	93	1989	10	2023		
Books (Monographs and Edited Volumes)	130	1980	17	2023		
Research Reports	45	2001	10	2022		
Humanities Journals	25	1992	6	1992		
Education Journals	21	2009	3	2017		
History Journals	37	1987	7	2024		
Social and Political Science Journals	159	1976	8	2013		
Gender Studies Journals	75	2018	17	2023		
Historical Feminist Magazines	143	1978	14	1979		
TOTAL	800	1976	17	2023		

Table 1: Summary data for records included in the database

As shown in the summary table above, the first publications on gender-based violence appeared in the late 1970s in feminist magazines of the post-dictatorship period in Greece. These were followed by feminist books and a few articles in Social and Political Science journals from the 1980s onward. In the 1990s, we see the emergence of the first dissertations, along with articles in Humanities journals. The 2000s marked the appearance of the first research reports, as well as publications in Education journals. Meanwhile, Gender Studies journals did not begin to be published until fairly recently, at the end of the 2010s.

It could be argued that the earliest and most engaged discussions on gender-based violence took place within the feminist groups of the post-dictatorship era, which initiated the first publishing efforts—both in the form of magazines and, primarily translated, books. These initiatives were more prevalent in activist spaces than in academic settings. The limited number of articles published in Social and Political Science journals during that period were largely concentrated in two publications—*Epitheorisi Koinonikon Erevnon* and *Synchrona Themata*—authored by scholars linked to the feminist movement of the time.

Within academia, gender as a research topic gained visibility in the 1990s, with the first dissertations appearing early in the decade. By the mid-1990s, the first dissertation specifically on gender-based violence was published, focusing on domestic violence within the field of Criminology—an issue of enduring relevance. At the same time, gender-related discussions also emerged in Humanities journals, particularly in Critical and Comparative Literature. These studies explored gendered representations and symbolism, either directly or indirectly linked to gender-based violence, contributing to and expanding feminist discourse.

The 2000s saw gender studies gain significant momentum, both within academia and among other institutions engaged in gender and equality issues. Beyond the increase in journal articles, monographs, and edited volumes, this period also saw the publication of the first research reports on gender-based violence by the Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI). From the 2010s onward, gender-based violence became a more established area of study within the academic community. The creation of Gender Studies journals, the rise in doctoral dissertations in Greek universities, and the emergence of a new generation of researchers significantly broadened the conceptual frameworks and research fields related to gender, sexuality, and gender-based violence. Since 2020, there has been a surge in doctoral dissertations, academic and research

publications, as well as edited volumes and special journal issues dedicated to gender-based violence. The topic has also gained substantial visibility in public discourse.

In concluding this introductory overview, it is worth noting that most academic publications on gender and gender-based violence appear in special issues and thematic volumes, which account for the highest annual number of relevant articles. These special issues typically aim to introduce a gender perspective into various academic fields, although they may also reflect specific socio-political contexts. This phenomenon deserves closer examination, as it may be driven more by feminist scholars' efforts to influence academic debates rather than by an inherent interest from the broader scientific community. At the same time, Social and Political Science journals publish the highest volume of articles on gender-based violence, particularly *Epitheorisi Koinonikon Erevnon* and *Synchrona Themata*. Finally, our extensive survey reveals that gender-based violence is often not studied as an isolated issue but rather in connection with broader social topics such as women's labor, migration, and economic crises. In the following sections, we will focus our analysis on specific categories of sources.

Feminist Journals of the Post-Dictatorship Period (1974-1997)

A significant portion of the research examines feminist magazines from the post-dictatorship era (Metapolitefsi), which prominently highlight gender-based violence in its various forms. These publications address issues such as rape, harassment, sexual assault, prostitution, social oppression and marginalization, and intimate partner violence. The findings presented here are based on an analysis of the magazines *Skoúpa*, *Sphínga*, *Katína*, *Díni*, *Amfí*, and *Lávrys*.

Year	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Amfi																				
Dini																				
Lavrys																				
Sfigga																				
Skoupa																				
Katina																				

Table 2: Chronological table of Feminist Journals of the Metapolitefsi

The two decades following 1974 saw a surge in feminist groups, radical organizations, and publications—a phenomenon fueled by the restoration of liberal democracy and the newfound freedom of the press. Having endured nearly uninterrupted censorship from 1936 to 1974, with only a few exceptions, Greece experienced a publishing boom after the fall of the junta, marking a significant shift in public discourse. Feminist magazines from this period can be categorized using Maria Repousi's (2018) framework, which differentiates between publications affiliated with political organizations and those produced by autonomous groups. This analysis focuses on the latter, which, according to the research, can be further divided into two subcategories: magazines that blend academic and activist writing and those primarily dedicated to activist content. *Díni* and *Skoúpa* fall into the first category, while the remaining publications belong to the second.

The magazine Skoúpa: For the Women's Question launched in January 1979, with an editorial board comprising influential women who played a pivotal role in establishing gender studies in Greece. Among them were Éfi Ávdela, Faní Ziózia, Lída Moschoná, Marilíza Mitsú-Páppa, Georgía Papageorgíou, Marína Papagiannáki, Ínta Florentín, Ánna Fragkoudáki, and Angeliká Psarrá. The magazine featured numerous theoretical articles and translations from international feminist publications such as Questions Féministes and Penelope. A significant

portion of its content centered on advocating for abortion rights, presenting reports from other countries, scientific data, and theoretical analyses (Michopoúlou, 1995–1996).

The magazine *Díni* launched in 1986, led by a collective of women who played a key role in shaping gender studies in academia. Several members of its editorial board had also been involved in the earlier *Skoúpa* initiative. Building upon its predecessor's foundations, *Díni* combined theoretical explorations of feminism with more activist-oriented writings. The editorial team included Éfi Ávdela, Giánna Athanasátou, Fófi Alethízou, Eléni Varíka, Chrýsi Inglesi, Matína Kalogerákou, Mariánna Kondýli, María Korasídou, Marilíza Mitsú, Aléka Boutzoúvi-Baniá, María Nasiákou, Marína Papagiannáki, Dímētra Samíou, Kostoúla Sklaveníti, Eléni Fournaráki, Ánna Fragkoudáki, and Angeliká Psarrá. Both *Skoúpa* and *Díni* sought to provide a platform for autonomous feminist groups, defining autonomy broadly to include independence from institutions (Sklaveníti, 2018: 79).

During this period, the magazine *Amphí* (1978–1990) was also in circulation, championing the slogan "the liberation of homosexual desire." It was closely associated with the Greek Homosexual Liberation Movement (*AKOE*), an organization that played a pivotal role in unifying and structuring Greece's homosexual movement—though it primarily represented gay men. The emergence of this movement was largely a response to a 1977 legislative proposal titled "On the Protection Against Venereal Diseases and Related Matters," which framed homosexuals as a societal threat.

In 1982, Lávrys: Women's Voice and Counterpoint was launched as a quarterly magazine, publishing a total of three issues. It was founded by lesbian women who had parted ways with Amphi to establish an independent lesbian perspective (Kantsá, 2018: 65). Notably, the third issue featured a critical reflection on power dynamics within the homosexual-lesbian movement, highlighting the marginalization of lesbians and their role within the organization. This critique also examined the radicalism of gay discourse, the scope of the debate, and the organization's overall influence. A key point of contention was Amphi's conference, "Sexualities and Politics" (November 6–7, 1982), which became a focal point for discussing these issues.

The magazine *Katína* was another notable feminist publication, running for five years (1987–1992), while *Sphínga: Feminist and Other Issues* first appeared in 1980. *Katína* was among the longest-running feminist magazines of this period, with gender violence as a central theme. Other activist publications included *Kráximo*, a revolutionary magazine for homosexual expression published by queer activist Páola, and *Telessíla: Greek Feminist Network of Information, Solidarity, and Women's Activism*, in circulation from 1989 to 1992.

The analysis of feminist magazines from the post-dictatorship period highlights their crucial role in addressing and promoting discussions on gender violence, sexual identity, and patriarchy. The key conclusions drawn from this research are as follows:

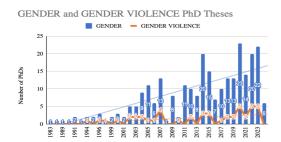
- a) A multidimensional understanding of gender violence: Gender violence is explored not only as physical abuse but also as psychological and social pressure stemming from patriarchal power structures. Male dominance over women is identified as the root cause of violence, exacerbated by social and political systems that legitimize or activate it. Additional factors such as social class, race, and geographic location also play a role in shaping and intensifying these dynamics.
- b) Inclusion of sexuality: Sexuality intersects with gender violence and power relations, particularly in magazines linked to the Gay and Lesbian movement (e.g., Amphí, Lávrys, Kráximo). These publications highlight the links between violence against women and LGBTQ+ individuals, pointing to patriarchal

and societal prejudices, and explore how violence manifests in intimate and romantic relationships. Notably, AKOE (Greek Homosexual Liberation Movement), one of the most influential collectives of the time, emerged in response to homophobia and entrenched social views on homosexual sexuality. Through these magazines, experiences of violence against women or LGBTQ+ individuals were framed as deeply connected to issues of gender and sexuality.

- c) The political dimension of violence: Documenting experiences of violence in these magazines is positioned as a political act. These narratives, often presented collectively, interpret violence as a structural social phenomenon, going beyond individual experiences to challenge the societal structures that perpetuate it. The collective nature of these accounts underscores the significance of understanding modern societies and their power structures (Avdela, 2018: 15).
- d) Activism and awareness-raising: The large number of magazines published by collectives, political groups, and parties played a critical role in raising awareness about gender violence and shaping discourse around it. In many instances, the discourse was primarily activist-driven, but magazines like Díni and Skoúpa blended academic and activist content, with editorial boards composed of women who combined intellectual rigor with activism. These publications aimed to challenge entrenched social behaviors and perceptions about violence, working to dismantle myths, stereotypes, and narratives that perpetuate rape culture, the culture of silence, and the stigmatization of survivors.
- e) *Policy influence*: These magazines also sought to influence policy by advocating for reforms, new legal regulations, and exposing gaps in the legal and judicial systems that help perpetuate violence. By highlighting grassroots movements and legislative initiatives, the publications aimed to contribute to broader social and political discussions on gender violence.

In conclusion, the post-dictatorship period, extending into the early 1980s, represents a transformative and pioneering era for collectives and groups that sought to articulate their concerns about gender violence, equal rights, and respect for individual identity, regardless of sexual orientation. The magazines of this era introduced new conversations in Greece about gender relations, the denunciation of gender violence, the rights of homosexuals, and patriarchy. Both academically oriented and activist-driven publications contributed to challenging patriarchy in Greece's still-developing society and to establishing a dynamic field of research and intervention around gender relations, sexual identity, and gender violence. This period can be described as heroic, as the magazines and collectives of the time gained visibility and formed a counter-hegemonic discourse that radically addressed demands for equality in both activist expression and the formalization of gender studies in Greece. Qualitative research and biographical interviews could offer valuable insights into the connections among the people involved in these publications. Interviews could also help clarify how activist practices intersected with the academic development of women who later became key figures in the formal establishment of gender studies in Greece.

Doctoral Dissertations



Initially, we conducted an extensive search for doctoral dissertations on gender. Of the 274 dissertations recorded, 47 explicitly focused on gender violence as their central theme. On average, these PhDs account for approximately 20% of all gender-related dissertations. Furthermore, their distribution follows a similar trajectory to the overall pattern of gender-related PhDs, albeit in smaller numbers (see Fig. 1).

Figure 1: Comparative distribution of PhD Theses on gender and gender violence

Next, we categorized PhDs based on their degree of relevance to gender-based violence, distinguishing between those with a direct focus and those with an indirect or occasional reference to the issue. Dissertations were classified as directly related if they explicitly examined gender-based violence in any of its forms. In contrast, those considered indirectly related either addressed gender-based violence as a secondary aspect, without necessarily adopting a gender studies framework, or they included references to the issue without making it their central focus. Additionally, this second category includes dissertations that, through theoretical analysis or empirical findings, contribute to the broader debate on gender-based violence within gender studies. From 1989 to the present, we identified a total of 140 dissertations. Of these, 47 dissertations with a direct focus on gender-based violence were recorded, beginning in 1994. The remaining 93 dissertations, categorized as having an indirect connection, date back to 1989.

As illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, which depict the annual distribution of dissertations, both categories—those with a direct and an indirect focus on gender-based violence—have exhibited an overall upward trend, with certain years showing higher concentrations. While we canno account for the reasons for these fluctuations, given the multiple factors influencing the production of doctoral dissertations (e.g., supervising faculty, the availability of gender-related postgraduate programs, and the academic trajectories of PhD candidates), it is possible that the integration of gender perspectives into undergraduate and postgraduate curricula—introduced through the EPEAEK II program between 2003 and 2008—played a crucial role. This initiative not only created greater interest among PhD candidates but also expanded the pool of faculty members specializing in gender studies, contributing to a sustained increase in research on gender-based violence.

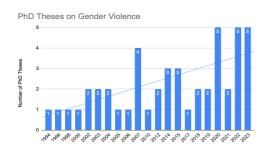


Figure 2: Distribution per year

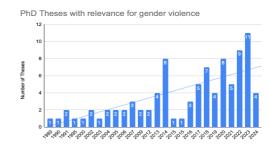


Figure 3: Distribution per year

Moreover, as shown in the following two figures displaying the distribution of doctoral dissertations by university, certain institutions demonstrate a higher concentration of research. Notably, the number of

universities that have produced dissertations specifically focused on gender-based violence is significantly smaller than those with dissertations that engage with the issue more indirectly.

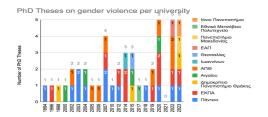




Figure 4: Distribution per university

Figure 5: Distribution per university

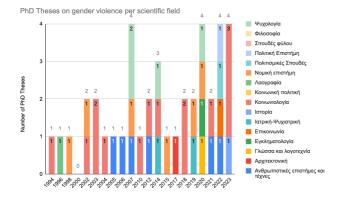
Specifically, regarding doctoral dissertations directly related to gender-based violence, the distribution across universities from 1994 to 2024 is as follows:

PANTEION	AUTH	EKPA	Democritus	Aegean	Ioannina	Thessaly	Ionian	HELMEU	нои
12	4	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	1

Table 3: Distribution of PhD Theses on gender violence per university between 1994-2024

As we can see, Panteion University, specifically the Department of Sociology, stands out with a significant margin for producing the most dissertations on gender-based violence during the examined period. It can be considered a key hub for the production of scholarly work on the topic.

Another comparison worth noting is the distribution of dissertations across academic fields, based on the categorization we, as a research team, have made, considering the documentation provided by the dissertations themselves (Fig. 6, Fig. 7).



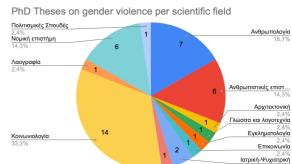
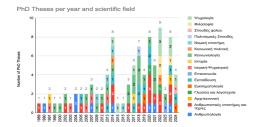


Figure 6: Distribution per scientific field and year

Figure 7: Overall distribution per scientific field

Dissertations with a direct focus on gender-based violence are predominantly within the field of Sociology, which accounts for 33%. When we include the 2.4% from Criminology—since criminological studies often intersect with Sociology—the total rises to 35.4%, representing over a third of all dissertations. This is followed by Anthropology at 16.7% and Law at 14.3%, with other fields accounting for a significantly smaller proportion of research on gender-based violence. Some fields, such as Political Science, have no dissertations on the topic.

However, this pattern changes when we examine the corresponding distributions for doctoral dissertations with an indirect focus on gender-based violence.



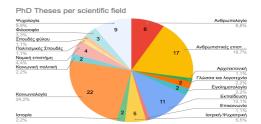


Figure 8: Distribution per scientific field and year

Figure 9: Overall distribution per scientific field

As illustrated in Figures 8 and 9, dissertations on gender-based violence are distributed across a wider range of academic fields, with a more balanced representation among them. Sociology remains the dominant field, accounting for 24.2% of dissertations, followed by the Humanities (18.7%), Education (12.1%), Psychology (9.9%), and Anthropology (8.8%). The concentration of dissertations—both those directly and indirectly related to gender-based violence—within Sociology can be attributed to several factors. First, as indicated in the Figures showing dissertation distribution by university, the Department of Sociology at Panteion University has emerged as a central hub for research on gender-based violence. Additionally, the prevalence of criminology-related themes and a more legalistic approach to gender-based violence has been a defining characteristic of feminist discourse in Greece, as evidenced in our mapping of academic journals and books. This trend is further confirmed when analyzing dissertation distribution over time. Up until the 2010s, the fields of Sociology, Criminology, and Law were dominant. However, in more recent years, dissertations on gender-based violence have expanded across a broader spectrum of academic disciplines and institutions, as reflected in Figures 4 and 5.

To illustrate this, the following table shows dissertations directly related to gender-based violence by academic field and year.

Scientific Field	Total	Years
Sociology	11	2003, 2004, 2007-2, 2010, 2012, 2018*2, 2021,
		2022, 2023
Criminology - Law	8	1994, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2010, 2015, 2020*2
Anthropology	5	2000, 2002, 2004, 2015, 2023
Psychology	5	2007*2, 2014, 2020, 2024
Media & Communication	1	2023
History	1	2024
Literature	1	2022

In the fields of Media & Communication, History, and Literature, dissertations on gender-based violence only appeared in the last two or three years, despite History being a significant area for gender studies in Greece.

Table 4: Number of PhDs on gender violence per scientific field and year

In the field of Anthropology, another key hub for gender studies in Greece, there has also been an increase in dissertations on gender-based violence since the 2010s. Prior to that, the fields of Sociology, Criminology, and Law accounted for nearly all relevant dissertations. This suggests that, while gender studies have been expanding, particularly in the fields of History and Anthropology, the issue of gender-based violence appears to have been approached predominantly from a legalistic perspective.

GESTURE: Rereading gender studies and activisms in Greece: Encounters on gender related violence



Finally, we offer a preliminary picture of the development of MSc theses on gender-based violence, acknowledging that our analysis is based on a sample rather than a comprehensive examination of all available material. Table 5 presents the number of MSc theses on gender-based violence in comparison to those on gender more broadly, in specific university departments that offer postgraduate programs in gender studies. The number of MSc theses on gender

saw a notable increase in 2015, likely influenced by the establishment of the "Gender, Culture, and Society" graduate program at the University of the Aegean in 2013, which produced its first theses by 2015. Similarly, the peaks observed in 2017 and 2022 align with the introduction of the interdepartmental "Gender, Society, and Politics" graduate program at Panteion University. While the growth in MSc theses on gender-based violence does not follow the same trajectory, there was a discernible increase in 2015 and again in 2022. A more in-depth analysis is required to fully explore the factors underlying these trends.

Scientific journals

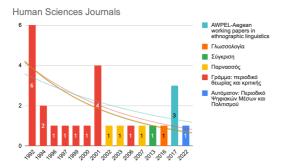
We begin by discussing the gender studies journals, which, although the most recent, are the ones we considered most relevant to the field under study. For these journals, we cataloged all articles related to gender and then singled out those specifically addressing gender-based violence.

Gender Studies Journals		•	Articles on gender violence to total articles on gender
feministiqa (2018-today)	6 volumes	2018	65/98 = 65%
ΕΙRΙΝΙ/Μελέτες Νέων Ερευνητ(ρι)ών για το Φύλο (2022-today)	3 volumes	2022	9/26 = 34%

Table 6: Articles on gender violence in Gender Studies Journals

As shown in the table above, the issue of gender-based violence is a central theme in the journal *feministiqa*, with 65% of its articles addressing it directly or indirectly. In the journal *EIRINI*, the percentage of articles focusing on gender-based violence is 34%, which aligns closely with the proportion found in feminist journals from the post-junta period, where around 30% of the articles reference gender-based violence in some way.

Turning to other journal categories, in <u>Humanities journals</u>, the number of articles addressing gender-based violence remains relatively small and does not display significant growth over time. We recorded a total of 26 articles, with the first appearing in 1992. As illustrated in Figure 10, *Gramma: Journal of Theory and Criticism* has the highest number of publications on the topic, though most are concentrated in the early years of the journal. Notably, its inaugural volume in 1992—a special issue on "The Gender of Reading"—contains the highest number of articles per year within this category. In contrast, more recent publications addressing gender-based violence appear in newer journals, such as *AWPEL - Aegean Working Papers in Ethnographic Linguistics*, which launched in 2017, and *Automaton: Journal of Digital Media and Culture*, first published in 2021. This trend may suggest a renewed interest in the subject in recent years. Nevertheless, overall academic output in this field remains relatively limited.



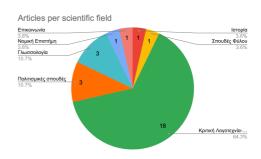
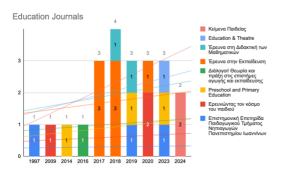


Figure 10 Gender violence articles in Human Sciences Journals

Figure 11 Articles per scientific field

Regarding the scientific fields associated with publications (see Fig. 11), Critical Literature and Philology account for the highest number of articles, followed—at a considerable distance—by Cultural Studies and Linguistics. Within Critical Literature, in particular, most analyses focus on seminal works of world, national, or ancient Greek literature, often adopting a comparative perspective. Notably, early publications exhibit a more explicitly critical approach, shaped by key feminist and psychoanalytic texts.

Publications in <u>Education journals</u> are relatively limited, totaling 21, with most appearing in recent years (see Fig. 12). Notably, apart from an early article on the "psychosocial problems of Greek mothers" published in 1997 by a male psychologist, the majority of contributions emerge from 2016 onward, averaging three articles per year across various journals. Additionally, Education journals stand out as the only category that has not featured special issues dedicated to gender or gender-based violence.



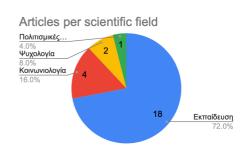
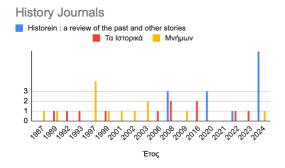


Figure 12 Gender violence articles in Education Journals

Figure 13 Articles per scientific field

In terms of content (see Fig. 13), the majority of articles fall within the field of Education (72%) and usually concern small-scale surveys or qualitative research regarding the manifestation, or fear, of violence and harassment—including gender-based violence—mainly in primary and, to a lesser extent, secondary education. Intersecting scientific fields within our sample include Sociology, Psychology, and Cultural Studies, with the latter focusing primarily on the educational challenges faced by migrant and refugee children. Notably, nearly all publications adopt a strong normative and regulatory perspective.

Regarding <u>History journals</u>, we identified 37 articles directly or indirectly related to gender violence, a higher number than in Humanities and Education journals, considering also that these were published in three journals, as compared to the larger number of relevant journals in the other two categories. However, the yearly volume of articles may shed some light on the trajectory of the issue in this category.



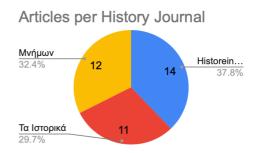
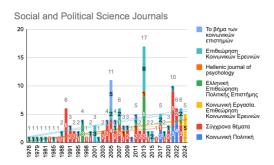


Figure 14 Gender violence articles in History Journals/year

Figure 15 Gender violence articles per History Journal

As illustrated in Fig. 14, the first article was published in 1987; however, in the following years, the number of publications remained relatively low, typically not exceeding one article per year. Notably, the highest concentration of articles occurred in specific years, aligning with the publication of Special Issues dedicated to women's history or gender theory—a pattern observed across all journal categories. Additionally, as shown in Fig. 15, the three journals exhibited a comparable volume of articles. In terms of disciplinary scope, all articles fell within the field of History, with minimal interdisciplinary crossovers into other scientific fields.

Lastly, turning to <u>Social and Political Science journals</u>, which contain the bulk of publications on gender and gender violence, we recorded 159 articles with direct or indirect relevance to gender violence, a significantly higher number than all the other journal categories combined. As seen in Fig. 16, the first article appeared quite early, in 1976, however few publications appeared in the following decade. The publication rate began to rise in the 1990s and has maintained an overall upward trend. Notably, certain years saw significant spikes in output, largely linked to Special Issues in specific journals focusing on gender-related topics. However, from the mid-2010s onward, articles began appearing in a wider range of journals that had not previously featured such work, and publication became more consistent, no longer confined to Special Issues.



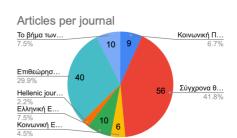


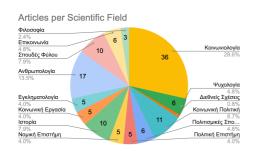
Figure 16 Gender violence articles in Social and Political Science Journals

Figure 17 Gender violence articles per journal

Among the seven journals cataloged, two stand out for publishing the highest number of articles on gender violence: *Epitheorisi Koinonikon Erevnon* and *Synchrona Themata*, with 40 and 56 articles, respectively. Together, these two journals account for 40% and 56% of the total publications in this category (see Fig. 17).

In terms of scientific fields, Sociology and Anthropology account for the highest number of articles, with approximately 29% and 17%, respectively. They are followed by Gender Studies (8%), Social Policy (9%), and History (8%), each showing roughly equal representation. Other fields include Cultural Studies (5%), Media Criminology (4%), and Legal Studies (4%), with Political Science, Philosophy, and Social Work contributing a smaller share (2-3% on average) (see Fig. 19). Notably, unlike other journal categories, publications in Social

and Political Science journals show significant crossovers, such as between Sociology, Criminology, and Legal Studies, as well as between Anthropology and History or Cultural Studies, and between Anthropology, Sociology, and Gender Studies.



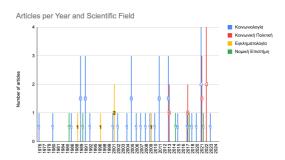


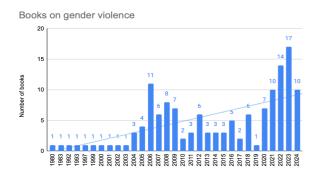
Figure 18 Gender violence articles per scientific field

Figure 19 Gender violence articles per scientific field/year

Finally, in terms of the development of scientific fields over time, we observe a significantly higher representation of sociological articles—including criminology and legal studies—in the earlier publications, up until around the 2000s. After this period, there is a gradual diversification, with an increasing number of articles in anthropology, gender studies, cultural studies, and social policy, a trend that becomes more pronounced after 2020 (see Fig. 19).

Other material

Books and Edited Volumes



Overall, we recorded 130 books (monographs and edited volumes) directly or indirectly related to gender violence, starting in 1980 with Marta Tikkanen's *The Rape of a Man* by the Women's Publishing Group and Farzié Marie-Odil's *Rape* by Livanis Publishing. The list includes not only works focusing on gender violence but also key texts in the field of Gender Studies, which have been significant milestones in the development of feminist and academic discourse in Greece.

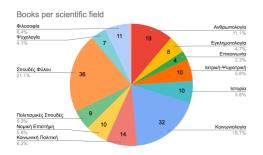
Figure 20 Books & edited volumes on gender violence per year

As illustrated above (see Fig. 20), there is a decade-long gap between the first two publications in 1980 and the subsequent books, during which the post-dictatorship feminist movement remained active, addressing gender violence in the public sphere and engaging extensively with the topic in dedicated magazines. The next four books, two of which are translations of foreign works, one is an edited volume covering broader feminist themes, and the fourth is a legal treatise on rape, were published in the 1990s. A notable increase in publishing activity occurred in 2006, with 11 books, while a rising trend began already in 2003 but was interrupted in 2010 and the following years. From 2018 onward, there has been a steady annual increase, peaking in the publication of 17 books in 2023.

In interpreting this picture, we could hypothesize that publishing activity, as an economic undertaking, is shaped by a range of external, non-academic factors. For example, the increase in publications from 2003 onward may be attributed to the introduction of the EPHEAC II programs and their associated funding,

alongside the growing spread of gender studies within academic and student communities. On the other hand, the sharp decline in publications starting in 2010 is likely tied to the contraction of publishing activities during the economic crisis. The subsequent resurgence in publishing from 2018 onward appears to align with the rise of new, smaller, and more versatile publishing houses, many of which seem to have a specific focus on feminist, gender, and sexuality topics, as reflected in their catalogs.

Turning our attention to scientific fields, it is important to note that the present classification serves as a heuristic tool rather than a rigid framework, as fields often intersect and lack clear boundaries. For instance, we frequently observe overlaps between Anthropology or Sociology and Gender Studies, Anthropology and History or Cultural Studies, as well as Sociology and Social Policy or Criminology. This fluidity aligns with the inherently interdisciplinary nature of gender studies itself.



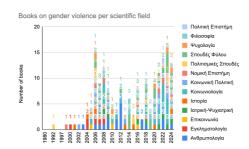


Figure 21 Books & edited volumes per scientific field

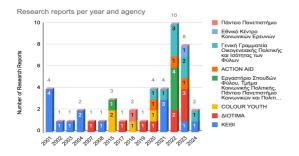
Figure 22 Books & edited volumes per scientific field/year

As shown above (see Fig. 21, Fig. 22), our classification highlights a higher concentration in Gender Studies (21%) and Sociology (19%), followed by Anthropology (11%) and Social Policy (8%). The remaining academic fields each represent smaller proportions, averaging around 4-5%. However, analyzing the distribution of disciplines over time reveals notable shifts: a decline in Criminology-related works, a growing emphasis on Gender Studies, and an increasing presence of fields such as Medicine-Psychiatry and Psychology. While the increasing integration of Gender Studies into the analysis of social phenomena, including gender-based violence, is expected—given the field's expansion and greater institutional recognition—the shifts in other disciplines warrant deeper examination. Notably, the rise of publications in the fields of Medicine-Psychiatry and Psychology raises questions about whether these disciplines are engaging more with gender identity issues or, conversely, contributing to a renewed psychologization or even pathologization of gender.

Research Reports

The first research reports on gender-based violence in Greece were published in 2001 by the Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI), focusing on domestic violence, workplace sexual harassment, and human trafficking of women. These short studies provided an overview of international discussions on these issues, as well as legislative developments at the international, European, and national levels. In 2003 and 2004, the first epidemiological studies on gender violence were published, incorporating policy recommendations tailored to the Greek context. These studies, conducted within the framework of broader interventions by women's organizations and other social stakeholders, aimed to raise public awareness and inform policymakers about gender-based violence, while also aligning Greece with European directives. Although the issue of domestic violence was introduced in parliamentary discussions in 2002, it wasn't until 2006 that laws were enacted to criminalize sexual harassment in the workplace (Law 3488) and domestic violence, including marital rape (Law 3500) (Stratigaki, 2006).

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In the following years, research on transnational human trafficking of women gained momentum, reflecting international and European concerns. From 2015 onward, studies began addressing other forms of gender violence, such as homophobic violence and violence against women refugees. These were mainly conducted by NGOs like Diotima and ActionAid, often within EU-funded projects (see Fig. 23).

Figure 23 Research reports on gender violence per year

Most of these studies were short-term and limited in scope, typically linked to advocacy campaigns and human rights initiatives. Indeed, funding has been a decisive factor both in shaping research on gender-based violence and in the expansion of the NGO sector, which has grown significantly since 2016 in response to the economic and refugee crises. Since 2020, the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality (formerly the General Secretariat for Gender Equality) has published annual reports on violence against women, documenting intervention efforts in various sectors, such as family and workplace settings, and assessing their impact on social policy. A milestone in research came in 2023 when the National Centre for Social Research released the findings of Greece's first nationwide epidemiological study on violence against women, conducted as part of a pan-European Eurostat study.

Overall, domestic research on gender-based violence is largely shaped by European priorities and policies, while also responding to contemporary socio-political developments, such as migration, economic and refugee crises, and most recently, the Covid-19 pandemic. Over time, certain institutions have emerged as key players in this field, including KETHI and the DIOTIMA-Centre for Research on Women's Issues, alongside university research centers such as the Gender Studies Laboratory of the Department of Social Policy at Panteion University. The influence of feminist scholars actively engaged in both academia and social policy has been instrumental in shaping the research agenda and fostering a more nuanced understanding of gender-based violence in Greece.

Periodization

In closing, we would like to outline some thoughts on a possible periodization of how gender violence has been addressed within gender studies in Greece, acknowledging that it is only a tentative framework that does not capture the complexity of feminist academic engagement with the issue. The discourse on gender violence in Greece has evolved through three distinct phases, each shaped by broader socio-political transformations.

Phase A: 1980s-1990s was dominated by the post-dictatorship feminist movement, with the autonomous feminist groups laying the foundation for a critique of patriarchy. During this period, gender-based violence emerged as a key issue, particularly in relation to abortion, contraception, bodily autonomy, violence against women—including rape—and sexism in the media. Institutions such as religion, the state, the justice system, and the police were viewed as mechanisms that perpetuated oppression. The dominant theoretical approach was radical feminism, emphasizing patriarchy and female oppression. Feminist discourse took the form of movement-based texts, collective volumes, and translations of key feminist theory works, while criminological and sociological research were the primary methodologies employed.

Phase B: 2000s saw the integration of new themes into gender studies, particularly the experiences of migration and the feminization of poverty. This period was marked by the establishment of Gender Studies programs in Greek universities, which institutionalized the academic study of gender. Gender-based violence discourse expanded to include intersections with migration and economic inequality. Alongside movement texts, there was a rise in academic articles, monographs, and doctoral dissertations. Theoretical perspectives shifted towards understanding gender as a social construct and analyzing power relations, with increasing attention to the intersection of gender, nation, and sexuality. Methodologically, sociological and criminological research remained central, but ethnographic studies and analyses of legislation and policies became more prominent.

Phase C: 2010s-2020s was shaped by multiple crises, including the economic downturn, the pandemic, the rise of the far right, and the refugee crisis, all of which profoundly affected society and feminist activism. New social movements emerged, linking gender-based violence to broader issues such as precarity, human rights, and queer theory. Discussions expanded to include sexual harassment, economic insecurity, masculinities, LGBTQI+ sexuality, and nationalism. The types of texts produced during this phase included scientific articles, specialized gender studies journals, and a growing number of theses and doctoral dissertations. Theoretical approaches diversified, incorporating concepts like gender performativity, postcolonial feminism, queer theory, and masculinity studies, with an emphasis on intersectional analysis. In terms of methodology, research became more interdisciplinary, utilizing sociological and ethnographic studies, discourse and representation analysis, legal and archival research, and qualitative interviews.

Across all three phases, gender-based violence has been framed through various key themes, including male oppression, sexism, rape, sexual harassment, migration, trafficking, LGBTQI+ rights and sexuality, masculinities, legal and social policy frameworks, nationalism, and racism. The field is dynamic, with internal differentiations and conflicts, which require more in depth interpretation.

V. Conclusion

Research on gender violence in Greece started in the 1990s and has been predominantly concerned with violence against women. It has developed to a large extent through legal and policy analyses on rape and sexual harassment, domestic violence, and child abuse, intending mainly to highlight legal and institutional discrimination against women and gaps in the protection of victims of gender violence. However, discussions of gender violence were already taking place in key feminist journals of the 1970s and 1980s, where the issue was approached from a radical feminist standpoint as a fundamental apparatus of patriarchal oppression, manifesting not only in the family and in everyday life, but also in the workings of State, Church and the Media, and affecting all women across the board. Even though these insights did not involve academic research, they relied on rich political analyses of current cases of violence against women, including rape trials and trials of women perpetrators, as well as commentary on newspaper and media coverage, politician's and church responses.

In the 2000s, studies of migration formed a significant part of the research agenda in the social sciences. Gender violence was framed in relation to migrant women's exploitation and trafficking and was approached through qualitative and policy research. The concepts of intersectionality and agency provided tools for exploring the structural inequalities migrant women faced, but also their resistances through every-day practices and political organizing. Importantly, the focus on migration allowed gender scholars to highlight the nexus between gender, class and nation, drawing attention to differences of positionality, power and privilege between migrant and greek women.

At the same time, significant socio-political events, such as the December 2008 uprising following the murder of a teenage boy by Greek police, occasioned the analytical deployment of other key concepts of gender theory, such as masculinity, broadening thereby understandings of gender violence beyond exclusively women. Thus, notions such as "gendered violences" or "masculinities in crisis", that seek to capture the inherent violence inscribed in gendered normativities, have been introduced in gender studies literature.

The decade that followed was marked by the far-reaching impact of the socio-economic crisis on all aspects of social life. The feminization of poverty and the worsening position of women in the labour market and in the home became focal points of gender research. Gender violence was framed in relation to the rationalities and effects of neoliberal governmentality, furnishing interpretations with a wider historical and political scope that highlighted its global and biopolitical nature.

The social movements that emerged in reaction to the crisis were multifaceted and politically diverse. Notably, they included mobilizations for lgbt rights that raised awareness on the rise of homophobic and transphobic violence, linked to the spread of alt-right ideologies and the neo-conservative gender backlash. Further exacerbated by the uneven management of the covid19 pandemic, gender violence has become not only a major social problem but also a critical issue for activists and gender scholars alike. In this context, queer theorizations of gender, sexuality and violence have gained ground, producing new analyses, for example of the pervasiveness of the "atmospheres of violence", as well as new conceptualizations, such as the notion of "brutal temporalities" articulating lived experience, structural violence and time, that highlight the affective and embodied dimensions and the durability of gender violence.

The archival research we conducted raises a number of questions, to be addressed by further in-depth analysis of the corpus, as well as empirical research carried out in Work-packages 4 and 5 of the project. Among others, we would like to draw attention to the following:

- What politics of academic publishing do feminist scholars pursue in order to further a gender studies agenda in the social sciences and humanities?
- Who emerge as key gender studies scholars in the field and how does their work impact the debate on gender violence?
- Which gender studies communities of knowledge have consolidated over the years and what are their approaches to gender violence? What gatekeeping and/or trespassing practices
- Which overall factors influence the development of the feminist academic debate on gender violence?
- In what ways can the academic archive on gender violence inform a feminist ethico-politics?

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VII. Appendix

I. DIGITAL REPOSITORY

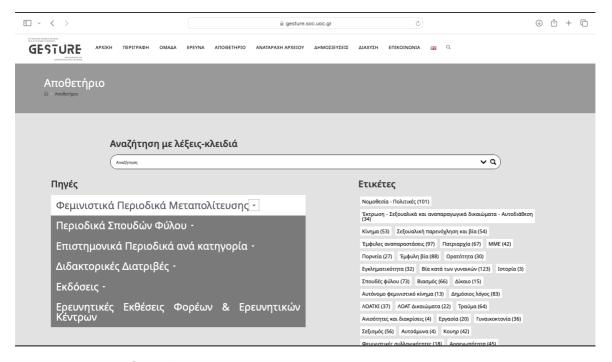


Photo 1 Screenshot of Digital Repository Home Page

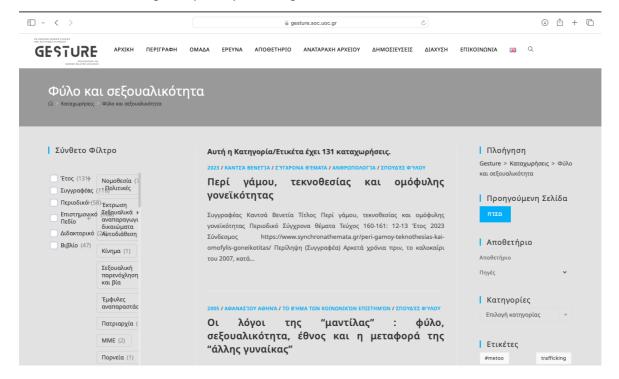


Photo 2 Screenshot of Digital Repository Combined Search Function

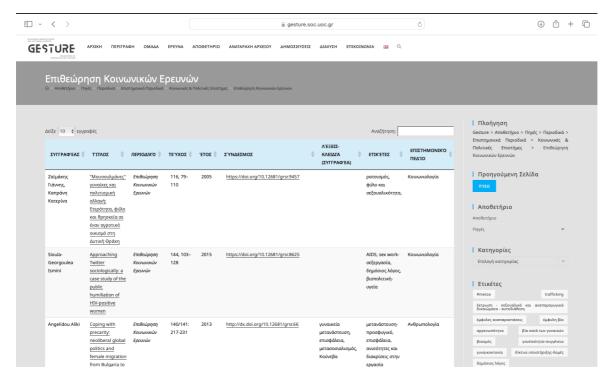


Photo 4 Screenshot of Records Table per Source Category



Photo 3 Screenshot of Individual Catalogue Record

II. TAGS & SCIENTIFIC FIELDS

THEMES	TAGS	Scientific Fields
Feminism	Autonomous feminist movement	Anthropology
	Second-wave feminism	Linguistics
	Postcolonial feminism	Criminology
	Radical feminism	Communication
	Abolitionist feminism	History
	Feminist collectives	Social Policy
Gender Studies		Sociology
Social Movement	Visibility	Legal Science
	#metoo	Political Science
	Lesbian and Gay movement	Cultural Studies
	Abortion - Sexual and reproductive rights - Self-determination	Philosophy
	LGBT Rights	Psychology
	Sex work	Medicine - Psychiatry
Gender Violence	Violence against women	Psychoanalysis
	Rape	, ,
	Self-defence	
	Pornography	
	Sexism - Misogynism	
	Sexual harassment	
	Domestic violence	
	Prostitution	
	Trauma	
	Femicide	
	Support structures and networks	
Patriarchy	Social oppression	
Labour	Inequality and discrimination	
Queer		
Gender and Sexuality	Lesbianism	
,	Homosexuality	
	Masculinity	
	Femininity	
	LGBTQI+	
	Parenthood - Kinship	
Law	Legislation - Social Policy	
	Justice – Penal System	
	Criminality	
Biopolitics	AIDS	
·	Covid 19 – pandemic	
	Economic crisis	
Migration - Refugees	Women refugees	
	Trafficking	
	Exploitation	
Discourses and Representations	Media	
·	Public discourse	
	Representations of gender	
Ideology	Racism - Nationalism	
<u> </u>	Homophobia	
	Transphobia	
	Gender backlash	