

Rana Izci Connelly, Dr.

Marmara University, EU Institute

ranaizci@marmara.edu.tr, ranaizci@gmail.com

No more Gozleme with fresh herbs? Gender, Food and Climate Change.

In semi-rural areas and tourism dependent communities, female food vendors contribute significantly to the household budgets. Most of the times in informal settings, women vendors are involved in selling of local food and agricultural products, not far from their home or their familiar environment. Economic empowerment, earning extra amount of money to support education of children and self-employment for basic survival are the most well-established benefits of such small-scale entrepreneurship. However, sustainability of these opportunities relies on the healthy functioning of ecosystems which might have already under pressure by urban sprawl, construction of high ways or energy investments. Besides climate change is likely to intensify such pressures threatening rural livelihoods and well-being of inhabitants. As underlined by numerous research scarcity and/or degradation of natural resources hit women worse than men. Likewise, in the aftermath of any disaster, the recovery capacity of women in low income regions seems to be lower than men.

At the same time, in recent years, the growing number of protests against private or state led projects in energy, transport and industry sectors attracts more female attention. Women in rural or semi-rural areas have led or found themselves at the forefront of these civic movements and participated in numerous eco literacy meetings all over the world. Nevertheless, such involvements are often on a case by case and *ad hoc* basis.

Against this backdrop, the proposed research agenda tries to answer the following question:

What are the conditions necessary for the encouragement of women's permanent involvement in conservation and resilience of ecosystems?

The short-term goal of the research agenda is twofold: to develop alternative means to support gender equality and to increase the resilience of the socio-natural system as a whole in specific regions. The long-term goal is however to enhance the mainstreaming of gender equality and climate justice at the international level. Regions or communities in which the research will be carried out, can be selected using economic and social welfare indicators but also taking the interaction between food cultures and street food traditions into consideration.