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## Editorial

In the inaugural issue of *Culture-Borders-Gender / Studies*, we set the framework for a rigorously interdisciplinary methodology crucial for delving into regional issues within the regions of Eastern and Southeastern Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. As detailed in 2022 (see Τσιμπριζίδου, Μάνος, Σιδέρη, Καταϊφτσή, Καπετανάκη 2022 issue), our initial commitment focus was on global and local hegemonies, the intricacies of representation politics, and a proactive engagement with the decolonization process regarding culture, borders, and gender. Furthermore, we concentrated on revealing the living conditions and stories of marginalized groups, aligning with our pursuit of a deeper understanding of these realms. As well, our ethos, advocating for a critical reevaluation of area studies, has underscored the necessity of applying interdisciplinary approaches in unearthing the cultural and political facets of these subjects.

As we introduce our second issue, we affirm unwavering dedication and commitment to interdisciplinary research, further enriched by a profound emphasis on qualitative methodologies. The first section of this issue is anchored in the discussions from a September 2022 webinar, titled ‘Silenced Minority Languages: Folk Tales and Songs in France and Greece’, organized by Professor Alexandra Ioannidou, Slavist and member of the Culture Borders Gender Lab. This section, including papers in English, critically examines the marginalization of minority languages in France and Greece, offering a nuanced analysis of state policies and their implications for preserving cultural practices. This exploration significantly contributes to the dialogue on cultural policy, minority rights, and state-minority relations in Europe.

Moreover, in this issue, we emphasize the roles of ethnography and critical textual analysis, both of which are indispensable tools when challenging and reshaping established cultural and political narratives. The second section, ‘Μελέτες Νέων Ερευνητριών: Εξερευνώντας την Κατανάλωση και τη Δραματολογία’ (Junior Scholar Studies: Exploring Consumption and Dramaturgy), features select Greek-language papers from our 2023 PhD seminar, an integral platform for academic dialogue, which brought together researchers in Social and Cultural Anthropology, Literary Studies, and other related fields. These studies explore contemporary themes like consumption in Greece and dramaturgy in the post-1990, post-socialist era, while embodying our journal’s commitment to nurturing interdisciplinary dialogue and supporting emerging academic voices.

This issue of *Culture-Borders-Gender / Studies* seeks to further contribute to the academic discourse on these contemporary pressing issues. Readers can experience a rich exploration into new dimensions of our core themes through fresh insights, as we advance our understanding of these complex socio-cultural phenomena.

**The Editorial Team**