

**CURRENT STUDIES IN
SOCIAL SCIENCES
XI**

Editors

Yelda DURGUN ŞAHİN
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PREFACE

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CHAPTER 1

A FINAL ACT OF AUTHORSHIP: VIRGINIA WOOLF'S SUICIDE NOTE AS TEXT, VOICE, AND LEGACY

Mevlde ZENGİN¹

*“I meant to write about death,
only life came breaking in as usual.”*
(Virginia Woolf, *A Writer’s Diary*)

THE AIM AND THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Virginia Woolf, one of the most influential modernist writers of the 20th century, faced persistent struggles with mental illness throughout her life. On March 28, 1941, she composed a brief but profoundly intimate suicide letter addressed to her husband, Leonard Woolf, before her death. While often regarded as a personal document of farewell and despair, this note can also be interpreted as a deliberate literary act – a final act of authorship in which Woolf exercises conscious control over narrative, language, and tone that defines her broader oeuvre. Its restrained diction, careful pacing, and characteristic blending of lucidity with emotional depth suggest a conscious shaping of self even in the face of annihilation. By analysing this letter alongside Woolf’s ideas as presented in her critical works and developed in her novels – especially *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925), *To the Lighthouse* (1927), and *The Waves* (1931) – this study argues that the text represents a final expression of her enduring artistic and philosophical concerns. Situating the note within Woolf’s modernist aesthetics and her recurring explorations of consciousness and identity, the present study demonstrates how Woolf transforms a private farewell into a deliberate literary gesture through which she consciously frames her own

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principles Woolf theorized across her career. Its measured emotional register – marked by clarity, tenderness, and restraint – confirms that this is not a spontaneous outpouring of despair but a consciously shaped articulation of love, gratitude, and lucid self-recognition.

The letter's structure and closure further reinforce its status as a literary act, imposing order, progression, and finality upon an experience that resists narrative explanation. In doing so, Woolf transforms farewell into form. Written at a moment when selfhood appears threatened by dissolution, the letter functions as an act of textual preservation, stabilizing feeling through language and ensuring its survival beyond the author's life. What the letter ultimately bequeaths is not a narrative of suffering, but a configuration of voice, rhythm, and emotional coherence – a final instance of Woolf's belief that meaning resides not in explanation but in form. As such, the suicide letter stands as both an ending and a legacy: a concluding work that gathers Woolf's aesthetic, ethical, and authorial commitments into a single, deliberate act of literary closure.

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CHAPTER 2

THE IMPACT OF SELECTED MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS ON CONSUMER EXPENDITURES: AN ANALYSIS OF THE EU-27 AND TURKEY

Erhan DUMAN¹

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, the global economy has repeatedly faced major crises such as the 1929 Great Depression, the 1973 Oil Shock, and the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. These episodes were driven by various demand, supply, price, financial, and technological shocks. In contemporary times, however, the most significant adverse shocks have emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic and trade wars. Within the scope of this study, the analysis is restricted to the pandemic, as trade wars are excluded from the empirical framework.

While historical pandemics—such as the Spanish flu of 1918-1920 left lasting scars on economies, the economic fallout from COVID-19 and trade wars have been particularly destructive. First detected in Wuhan, China, in early 2020, the disease rapidly spread worldwide, prompting the World Health Organization to declare a global pandemic by March. In response, governments implemented measures aimed at curbing the transmission of the virus—most notably, restrictions on human mobility—which significantly disrupted production, consumption, and supply chains. As a result, sectors such as tourism, aviation, hospitality, and catering were severely affected, experiencing a sharp decline in demand.

Given these developments, it is crucial to explore the macroeconomic determinants of consumption expenditures during periods of intense uncertainty. In an era of increasing globalization, consumption accounts for a substantial share of national economic growth, thereby making it a key indicator of economic resil-

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In conclusion, the COVID-19 crisis and trade wars have underscored the need to rethink the foundations of consumption-based growth models in light of structural vulnerabilities and global interdependencies. Future research should focus on developing integrated macro-behavioral frameworks that can better explain and predict consumption dynamics under crisis conditions. For policymakers, the lessons of the pandemic are clear: restoring consumption requires more than income support—it demands rebuilding confidence, ensuring systemic resilience, and embedding flexibility into macroeconomic governance structures.

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CHAPTER 3

RECONCEPTUALIZING DEMOCRATIC PEACE IN THE AGE OF HYBRID WARFARE: THE CASE OF ESTONIA AND POLAND

Gizem YILDIRIM ¹

Elif YILMAZ ²

A type of warfare that includes conventional skills, unconventional tactics and formations.

Frank G. Hoffman

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, war has not been merely a clash of military forces, it has taken shape as a tool in multifaceted struggles waged in political, social, and cultural spheres. Just as political communication is multifaceted, wars have evolved according to the communication methods, technologies, and social structures of their time. In this context, hybrid warfare represents a noteworthy new stage in the historical transformation of war.

Unlike classical warfare strategies, hybrid warfare is a multi-dimensional form of struggle conducted not only through military conflict but also through various tools such as discourse production, media use, propaganda, disinformation, cyberattacks, and economic pressure. Just as leader image, rhetoric, and symbols play a central role in political communication, in hybrid warfare these elements become strategic tools to weaken the enemy, manipulate public opinion, and shape perceptions. Therefore, hybrid warfare is a contemporary form of warfare where the conflict is waged not only on the battlefield but also on screens, social media, political discourse, and economic markets. In this respect, modern warfare, much like political communication, has acquired an interdisciplinary structure,

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of the information sphere, the sustainability of institutional trust, and the critical capacity of citizens. In this context, democratic peace should be conceptualized not as a static state “protected” against hybrid threats, but as a dynamic process that is constantly reproduced, strengthened by social participation, and sustained through democratic resistance.

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CHAPTER 4

GENDER-RELATED CHALLENGES OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN RUSSIA

Vladislava VERBNAYA¹

Ivan VERBNYI²

INTRODUCTION

The development of women's entrepreneurship is of immense importance to many countries. This significance is based on the social, economic, and scientific benefits of women's entrepreneurship. Gender equality is a crucial UN Sustainable Development Goal (United Nations, n.d.). Therefore, the study adds to deepening the field of women's entrepreneurship for advancing human rights and equality. Moreover, women's entrepreneurship significantly contributes to GDP through innovation and job creation. Involving women in entrepreneurial activities and leveling the existing gender gap in entrepreneurship delete extra space can become a significant source of sustainable economic growth (Sajjad et al., 2020). Additionally, the topic of Women's entrepreneurship was examined in more than 2,848 articles across a multidisciplinary field of study (Cardella et al., 2020), indicating increasing scientific interest. Given the economic and social significance of women-led entrepreneurship, understanding factors that influence it remains vital.

Contemporary Russia provides an interesting context for studying women's entrepreneurship, as its post-Soviet legacy reflects a complex interplay of gender roles. Soviet ideology promoted women as equal contributors to the workforce, while simultaneously burdening them with unpaid domestic labor and caretaking responsibilities; this dual expectation persists in various forms to this day (Iakovleva et al., 2013).

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research should focus on deepening the understanding of each obstacle women entrepreneurs face in Russia and globally.

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CHAPTER 5

ONLINE PUBLIC SPHERE AND PSYCHOLOGY: EMOTIONS, BELONGING, AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY

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INTRODUCTION

The public sphere has long been regarded as one of the foundational pillars of democratic life, referring to the domain in which citizens engage in the exchange of ideas concerning matters of common concern and participate in processes of rational critical deliberation. Historically grounded in face to face interaction and spatial copresence, the public sphere has undergone a radical transformation with the advent of digital communication technologies. What was once structured around physical assembly has evolved into a network based, multilayered, and algorithmically mediated communicative environment. In this transformation, publicity no longer denotes merely a space of discursive negotiation; rather, it has become a dynamic social process in which identities are performatively constructed, emotions circulate, and collective worlds of meaning are continuously reconstituted (Habermas, 2003, p. 36).

Digital technologies have not only expanded the geographical and temporal boundaries of communicative interaction but have also redefined the roles of participation. Individuals have become not merely passive recipients of information but active producers within a participatory culture (Jenkins, 2009). However, this expansion of participation simultaneously introduces new structural asymmetries. As digital communication transforms the modalities of public engage-

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collective orientations. In digital contexts, affective intensities anger, fear, pride, solidarity are amplified and redistributed through algorithmic infrastructures. Emotional mobilization becomes a driving force of digital collectivities, reinforcing belonging while also deepening polarization. Thus, the emotional architecture of the online public sphere plays a decisive role in shaping contemporary forms of political identification and collective memory.

At the micro level, Goffman's dramaturgical framework clarifies how individuals navigate this environment through strategic self presentation. The collapse of front stage and backstage in digital contexts produces a condition of continuous visibility. Identity becomes an ongoing performance directed both toward audiences and toward algorithmic systems. Selfhood is increasingly constructed within measurable feedback loops, where recognition is quantified and social approval is numerically represented. These performative dynamics are not isolated psychological phenomena; they contribute directly to macro level transformations in representation, legitimacy, and power.

Taken together, these processes indicate that the online public sphere must be conceptualized as a psychopolitical infrastructure rather than a neutral communicative medium. It is a space where rational discourse, emotional circulation, performative identity, and algorithmic governance converge. The digital age thus carries both emancipatory and disciplinary potentials. While digital platforms enable expanded participation and new forms of collective belonging, they simultaneously reorganize publicity through mechanisms of visibility control and affective amplification.

Understanding contemporary public life therefore requires an integrated theoretical framework that bridges political theory, critical social analysis, and psychological insight. Only by examining the interplay between communicative norms, emotional dynamics, and identity performances can we adequately grasp how digital publicity reshapes democratic practice, collective memory, and social power in the twenty first century.

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CHAPTER 6

UNIVERSAL WOMANHOOD AND EPISTEMIC EXCLUSION: A POSTCOLONIAL CRITIQUE OF WESTERN FEMINISM

Soner KAYA¹

This chapter highlights Western feminism not as a singular, unified tradition of thought but as a discourse shaped by historical influences and the social and political conditions of its respective eras. From its beginning, feminist thought in Europe has advocated for equal rights for women and challenged the established patriarchal systems that have configured their lives and marginalized them in different spheres for centuries. However, centring on white Western women as quintessential womanhood, this ongoing effort has conceptualized womanhood within a universalising framework that prioritizes gender as the primary axis of patriarchal oppression. Mainstream Western feminist discourse, thus, has failed to adequately address the material and social conditions of women beyond Euro-American contexts and disregarded the heterogeneous experiences of those in the Global South and from (formerly) colonised communities. As a result, as postcolonial scholars argue, patriarchal ideologies have been challenged in Western contexts, and this led to an epistemic exclusion. Sa'ar (2005) maintains that "leaving out the interests and life experiences of women from marginalized or oppressed groups means that the exclusive focus on gender discrimination has made feminism an exclusionary practice and ideology" (p. 686). Postcolonial feminism, therefore, emerged as a critique of both mainstream Western feminism and its reductionist tendencies, emphasizing historically ingrained gender oppression resulting from patriarchal ideologies, colonialism, and class hierarchy. While every stage of feminist theory broadened the scope of women's rights and deepened the challenge to patriarchal ideologies in its historical framework, the definition of the category of "woman" was predominantly framed within the epistemic boundaries

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