Dernek Başkanımız Prof. Dr. Gülbu Tanrıverdi, 14–17 Ekim 2026 tarihlerinde ABD'nin San Antonio kentinde düzenlenen 52. Transcultural Nursing Society Yıllık Kongresi'nde, "Türkiye'de Kültürlerarası Hemşireliğin Gelişimi ve Güncel Durumu" başlıklı posterini sundu. Çalışmada, ülkemizde alanın gelişimine ve derneğimizin bilimsel ve mesleki katkılarına yer verildi.

The Development and Current Status of Transcultural Nursıng in Türkiye: A Comprehensıve Revıew

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Introduction

Türkiye represents a culturally diverse health care context shaped by migration, international mobility, and health tourism. As of November 2025, 3,611,218 foreign nationals with legal residence status were living in Türkiye. In addition, 1,398,580 people visited Türkiye for health care services in 2025. This diversity increases the importance of culturally congruent nursing care that is responsive to differences in language, beliefs, values, and health practices.The foundations of nursing education in Türkiye date back to voluntary caregiver training courses in 1911. The opening of nursing schools in 1920 and 1925, the establishment of the Turkish Nurses Association in 1933, and the introduction of university-level undergraduate nursing education in 1955 contributed to the educational and institutional development of the profession. Within this historical development, transcultural nursing began to develop and gain visibility in Türkiye in the early 2000s, with progress in education, research, care, and professional organization. Examining the Turkish experience contributes to understanding how transcultural nursing develops within different social, cultural, and institutional contexts.

Transcultural Nursing Care in Türkiye

The most prominent challenges in caring for individuals from different cultural backgrounds in Türkiye are language and communication barriers. In one study, 77.7% of nurses reported being unable to respond effectively to questions from foreign patients, and 76.8% stated that communication problems disrupted nursing processes. Another study found that 47.8% of nurses experienced difficulties communicating with individuals from different cultures. A systematic review of studies conducted between 2016 and 2022 similarly identified language and communication as the most frequently reported problems in caring for migrant patients. The challenges extend beyond language. A recent study of migrant women found that cultural differences, discrimination, and economic difficulties created barriers to accessing health care, while women expressed expectations for care that respected privacy, dignity, empathy, and cultural values. In prenatal education programs for migrant women, practices were reported to focus primarily on overcoming language barriers, while cultural practices were not sufficiently incorporated into education. Despite these challenges, gaps in nurses' transcultural care education persist. In four city hospitals in Istanbul, 71.7% of nurses had received no education in transcultural nursing care, while another study reported that only 5.2% had received in-service education on cultural competence. Among nurses working in maternity and women's health units in Gaziantep, 85.1% reported difficulties caring for patients from different cultural backgrounds, and 59.4% had not received cultural sensitivity training. Overall, current evidence indicates that the major challenges in transcultural care in Türkiye center on language and communication barriers, insufficient integration of cultural differences into care, and gaps in nurses' cultural competence education.

Transcultural Nursing Education in Türkiye

The integration of transcultural nursing into nursing education in Türkiye was initially very limited. In 2004–2005, none of the 66 undergraduate nursing programs offered a required course, and only one program (1.52%) offered an elective. By 2020, only 45.4% of 121 universities offered culture-related courses; 98.2% were elective and all were theoretical. At the graduate level, transcultural nursing courses were included in 14.5% of master's programs and 35.4% of doctoral programs. Educational initiatives subsequently increased, and transcultural nursing education was shown to improve cultural sensitivity, competence, intelligence, empathy, professional values, and communication. Another important milestone was the inclusion of "Transcultural Nursing" in the undergraduate curriculum content of the National Core Nursing Education Program 2022 and "being sensitive to transcultural care needs" among its goals/learning outcomes. Nevertheless, expanding course availability, clarifying required-course status, standardizing education, and strengthening practice-based education remain key areas for further development.

Cultural Competence Training -2026

Nursing and Culture Workshop-2018

Conclusion and Recommendations

Since the early 2000s, transcultural nursing in Türkiye has advanced through education, research, publications, and professional organization. The Transcultural Nursing Association has helped sustain this progress. The next priority is to turn it into consistent practice: standardize education, strengthen clinical training and research, and define transcultural nursing's place in care standards and national regulations.

5th International and 8th National Transcultural Nursing Congress- 2025

Poster With References

Scientific Aktivities and Professional Organization in Türkiye

Early scientific activities included the "Culture and Nursing Symposium" in Cappadocia in 2003, a workshop in 2006, and the First International Congress of the European Transcultural Nursing Association in Izmir in 2008. The "Transcultural Approach in Nursing and Midwifery Symposium," held in Çanakkale in 2009, represented an important turning point in establishing continuity in scientific activities and was followed by national congresses in 2011 and 2013. The establishment of the Transcultural Nursing Association (TNO) in 2013 provided an institutional structure for the field and became an important professional organization guiding the development of transcultural nursing in Türkiye. Under the leadership of TNO, congresses have been held biennially, gaining an international dimension and reaching the 5th International and 8th National Transcultural Nursing Congress in 2025. The Association has also organized workshops, webinars, and "Transcultural Nursing Conversations," supporting education, research, and scholarly exchange. Through these activities, particularly its congresses and workshops, TNO has played an important role in guiding transcultural nursing initiatives and ensuring the continuity of activities in Türkiye.

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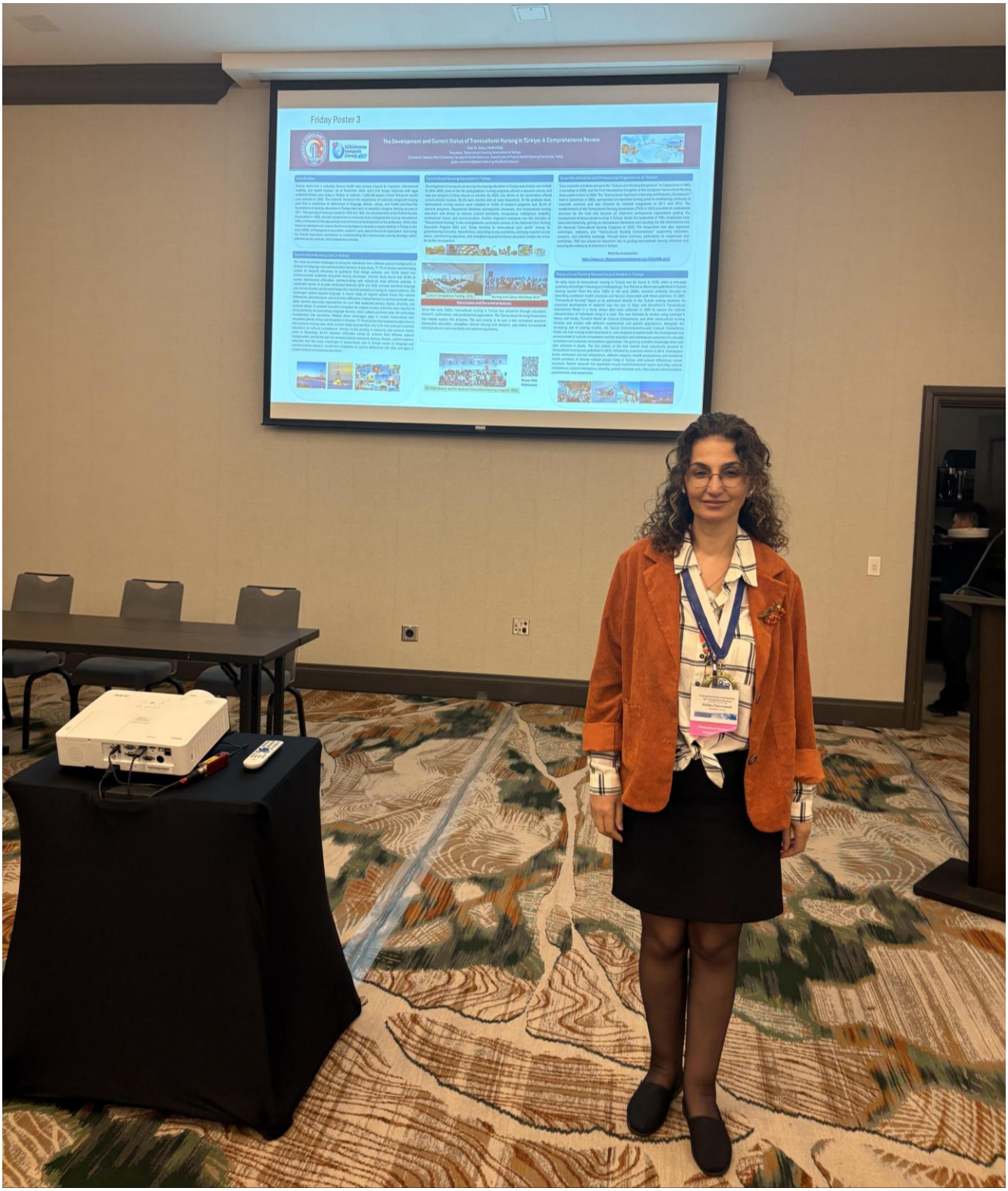
Transcultural Nursing Researchs and Models in Türkiye

An early trace of transcultural nursing in Türkiye can be found in 1978, when a one-page summary of Leininger's Nursing and Anthropology: Two Worlds to Blend was published in Turkish Nursing Journal From the early 1980s to the early 2000s, research primarily focused on describing traditional health practices and factors associated with these practices. In 2001, "Transcultural Nursing" began to be addressed directly in the Turkish nursing literature. An important development in research was the use of Giger and Davidhizar's Transcultural Assessment Model in a study whose data were collected in 2005 to assess the cultural characteristics of individuals living in a rural. This was followed by studies using Leininger's theory and model, Purnell's Model for Cultural Competence, and other transcultural nursing theories and models with different communities and patient populations. Alongside the increasing use of existing models, the Türkiye Environment-Focused Cultural Competency Model, the first nursing model developed in, was designed to explain both the development and enhancement of cultural competence and the individual and institutional outcomes of culturally competent and culturally incompetent approaches. The growing scientific knowledge base was also reflected in books. The first edition of the first Turkish book specifically devoted to transcultural nursing was published in 2012, followed by a second edition in 2014. Subsequent books addressed cultural competence, different religions, health perspectives and traditional health practices of diverse cultural groups living in Türkiye, and cultural differences across countries. Recent research has expanded toward multidimensional topics including cultural competence, cultural intelligence, empathy, patient-centered care, intercultural communication apprehension, and xenophobia.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