INSTITUTE FOR GENDER & DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

University Director: Dr. Opal Palmer Adisa

Established in 1993, the Institute for Gender and Development Studies is an autonomous interdisciplinary entity, which aims, through its programme of teaching, research and outreach, to question historically accepted theories and explanations about society, sexuality and human behaviour, as well as to critically examine the origins of power differences between and among men, women and other genders and the range of factors which account for these differences.

The Institute's mandate is to:

- Develop an integrated, interdisciplinary programme of gender studies within the University, at both undergraduate and graduate levels. This includes facilitating the incorporation of gender analysis in all disciplines.

- Produce and disseminate knowledge, based on the generation and analysis of research data on gender related issues in the Caribbean.

- Establish and maintain linkages with national, regional and international institutions concerned with gender and development, as well as provide advisory services, influence policy directions and assist with capacity building in these institutions.

Located on all three campuses of the University, and with established links with the Open Campus, the impact of the work of the Institute is wide-ranging and far-reaching as it enjoys long established relationships and collaborations with local, regional and international development agencies, including CARICOM, the Caribbean Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), UNWomen, the United Nations, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and UK Department for International Development (DFID).

As the leading regional agency of expertise on issues of gender, the Institute has been instrumental in providing strategies to enhance awareness of the critical role played by the study of gender in national and regional development.

Graduates of the Institute join a cadre of professionals who are equipped with the knowledge and capacity to create a more equitable and gender-sensitive society.

Programmes Offered

MSc and MPhil / PhD in Gender and

Development Studies

Programme Objectives:

MSc Gender and Development Studies: The programme of study is designed to provide a comprehensive interdisciplinary programme, focusing on gender and development, which:

a. Provides analytical frameworks for understanding the differential experiences of women and men, in the Caribbean context and internationally

b. Facilitates research in gender and development, as it relates to issues of sustainable socio-economic and political development of women and men in the region.

c. Encourages indigenous theorizing in dialogues around issues of gender and development.

d. Advocates for the inclusion and integration of gender in development policies and planning in government as well as in non-governmental agencies and organizations, through increased knowledge and understanding, skill development and attitudinal change

MPhil / PhD Gender & Development Studies

These research-based programmes are designed to:

- Increase the cadre of persons with dedicated training in gender and development studies, available to work in the public, private and NGO sectors; as well as persons capable of teaching at various levels of education and training institutions.

Entry Requirements

MSc Gender and Development Studies

To be admitted to the prescribed course of study for the MSc Gender and Development Studies, candidates must have at least a second-class degree from an approved university. Graduates without an honours pass, but with relevant work experience; e.g. in development agencies, women's bureaux, etc., will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

MPhil Gender and Development Studies

The M.Phil is offered to students who have obtained at least an Upper Second Class (Honours) undergraduate degree or who have already been awarded a graduate degree. Candidates who wish to pursue this option must show a strong proficiency for research and a sound understanding of research methodologies, as this is a research degree. All candidates are required to undertake and pass courses recommended by the Institute to a limit of 9 credits.

PhD Gender & Development Studies

The requirement for entry into this programme is a postgraduate degree. With the exception of holders of MPhil degrees from a recognised university, candidates are normally required to register for the MPhil degree in the first instance and will only be upgraded to the doctoral level if progress is satisfactory. All candidates are required to undertake and pass courses recommended by the Institute to a limit of 9 credits.

Areas of Research:

Consistently, the research interests of the Institute's graduate students have had significance to national and regional development. Areas of interest have included:

- Crime and sexual violence among females in Jamaica
- Masculinities
- The feminization of HIV and AIDS
- The gender dimensions of social protection in Jamaica
- Gender and Parenting Skills
- Gender and Human Rights
- Gender and Migration
- Women and Transformational Leadership
- Women and Micro-enterprise Development
- Gender Issues in Education

Seminars:

In its efforts to expedite the work of the Unit's graduate research students, a Graduate Seminar Series is convened for each cohort of MPhil/PhD students. The seminar series provides an opportunity for students to examine their individual research proposals, develop the appropriate techniques towards data collection and share their findings for peer review and critique. It also allows for supervisor guidance.

Each MSc candidate must give at least one seminar presentation during the course of the programme. MPhil/PhD candidates are encouraged to present at one seminar each year, but must complete at least 3 seminars during the course of the programme.

Duration of programme:

MSc Programme – 18 months full-time or and 36 months part-time.

MPhil / PhD – The minimum time for the award of the MPhil is two years full time, four years part time and for the award of the PhD the minimum time is three years full time and 5 years part time.

Programme Structure:

MSc Gender and Development Studies

Core Courses (Revised)	**Course Code**	**Semester**	**Credit weighting (4 credits)**
Contemporary Feminist Theorizing	GEND6001	1	50% course work/ 50% examination
Foundations of Feminist Methodology and Epistemology (Part I)	GEND6101	2	100% in course assessment
Key Theories and Debates in Gender and Development	GEND6601	1	50% course work/ 50% examination
Data Collection and Analysis: A Gendered Approach (Part II)	GEND6102	1	100% in course assessment
Gender Analysis for Development Policy and Planning	GEND6502	2	100% in course assessment
Electives			
Gender, Political Activism and Mobilisation	GEND6402	1	50% course work/ 50% examination
Gender in Conflict Situations	GEND6105	2	50% course work/ 50% examination
Sexualities, Bodies and Power in Society	GEND6201	2	50% course work/ 50% examination
Gender and Globalization	GEND6202	2	50% course work/ 50% examination

Each course runs for one semester and courses offered by the Institute are examined by a combination of course work and a final examination. Students who are unsuccessful in more than half of the complement of courses for which they are registered in any given semester will be required to withdraw from the programme.

The completion of a research paper (maximum 56,000 words, including appendices) based on independent research, which focuses on a problem or issue related to gender and development, is the culmination of the M.Sc. programme, and is worth eight credits. Candidates can also opt to do an internship with an organisation for 2-3 months instead of the research paper.

MPhil / PhD Gender & Development Studies

With the exception of holders of MPhil degrees, from a recognised university, candidates are normally required to register for the MPhil degree in the first instance and will only be upgraded to the doctoral level if progress is satisfactory.

The completion of a thesis (maximum 50,000 words [MPhil] / 80,000 words [PhD], including appendices) based on independent research, which focuses on a problem or issue related to gender and development, is the culmination of the graduate research programme.

Outline of Courses

GEND 6001: Contemporary Feminist Theorising
The course looks at the discursive strategies employed by Western philosophy and language in defining and constructing the category woman and womanhood as 'other', diseased and incomplete, in other words, a product of various pathologies.

GEND 6101: The Foundations of Feminist Methodology and Epistemology
This course examines the challenge of feminist methodology and epistemology to traditional research methodology and epistemology. It exposes the myth of objectivity and clarifies concepts of feminist epistemology.

GEND 6102: Data Collection and Analysis: A Gendered Approach
This course is designed to assist students develop their qualitative and quantitative data analysis skills. The course is based on the principle of mixed methods approach, often used in gender studies, where both qualitative and quantitative methods are used enhance the quality of the research and to interrogate social problems and issues from a gender perspective.

GEND 6502: Gender Analysis for Development Policy and Planning

Women and men have different and unique needs and problems which require varying approaches that promote gender equality and gender equity. Understanding these differences in needs, access and opportunities means that designing policies, plans and programmes have to take these differences into account. In this course, students will be equipped with the tools to carry out gender analysis and will be taught key development policy and planning frameworks that can be used to guide such a process.

GEND 6601: Key Theories and Debates in Gender and Development

This course is designed to expose students to various gender related developmental issues in the Caribbean. A gender based analysis of developmental paradigms, governance, the labour market and health care is done with the aim of ascertaining ways in which these sectors are being (or can be) transformed to entities that greater exhibit gender equality, social justice and sustainable Caribbean development.

GEND 6201: Sexualities, Bodies and Power

The course exposes students to theoretical debates about the historical, social and psychological regulation of sexuality. It explores the importance of diverse sexual identities in controlling and ordering the structure of societies. This course is grounded in the theoretical, methodological and empirical realities of how sexuality functions as a distinguishing category of hierarchy and privilege. It examines the antagonism between bodies as natural, biological and socially controlled within the context of power and knowledge relations.

GEND 6105: Gender and Conflict Situations

This course explores key theories and issues of gender and conflict situations in global as well as regional contexts. It also investigates how gender, violence and war impact upon development. The course conceptualizes various forms of conflict situations in relation to gender ranging from total war and genocide to gender based violence in the private sphere. The course makes the link between prevailing gender inequalities and gender based violence, and also facilitates a gendered approach to the study of peace and justice initiatives.

GEND 6402: Gender and Political Activism and Mobilisation

Understanding how patriarchy and the gender system continue to influence the participation of women and men in political decision-making and therefore affect the realities of life for families, communities and nations is fundamental to the struggle for transformation in governance in the

2lst century. Understanding of issues of gender and governance is a part of the foundation for activism to achieve the goal of gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women.

Department Contact Information:

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