

CENTRE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, MONA UNIT

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WORK OF THE UNIT

Staffing

In 1993 the Mona Unit of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies (CGDS) was established with one academic position, Senior Lecturer in charge of the Unit. During the 2003/04 academic year, two additional academic posts were added to the establishment and in 2004/05 permanent appointments at the Lecturer level were made to Dr. Annecka Marshall and Ms. June Castello. The staff complement also included Ms. Beverly Shirley, Senior Administrative Assistant, and two temporary appointments Miss Althea Perkins, Research Assistant and Miss Suzanne Charles, Junior Research Fellow. As a result of the exercise undertaken by the Mona Campus to contain costs during the period under review, the post of Head/Senior Lecturer was not filled and Prof. Barbara Bailey continued to oversee the work of the Unit. This position has been advertised and will be filled during the 2005/06 year.

Undergraduate Teaching

The Mona Unit continued to offer a Minor in Gender and Development Studies. Two Level 3 courses have been developed and are in the process of approval by the Quality Assurance Academic Committee for teaching in 2006/7. During the year, the CGDS undertook a process of harmonization and rationalization of courses taught across the three campuses and the outcome of that exercise pointed to the fact that adequate approved courses exist for the offering of a Major in Gender and Development Studies at the

undergraduate level. In the coming year discussions will be held with the Faculty of Humanities and/or Social Sciences to determine how this might be achieved administratively.

Staff of the Mona Unit was also involved in the delivery, monitoring and examination of courses offered in the distance mode Diploma in Gender and Development Studies programme. Ms. Perkins was responsible for five courses while Ms. Suzanne Charles had responsibility for two courses.

Graduate Teaching

Both Ms. June Castello and Dr. Anneka Marshall taught courses in the M.Sc. Gender and Development Studies Programme. Ms. Castello also supervised two graduate students, one from the Cultural Studies programme and the other from Union Theological Seminary.

During the academic year the CGDS mounted a series of graduate seminars targeting persons registered in the M.Phil/PhD programme. The series was spearheaded by the visiting Fulbright scholar, Dr. Diana Fox and members of the Mona Unit staff participated in the seminar series.

Research Activities

The research staff attached to the Mona Unit worked on two major projects executed through the Regional Coordinating Unit:

- *The Root Causes of Gender-based Violence* funded by Canada-Caribbean Equity Fund (Jamaica) was coordinated by Ms. Althea Perkins. Principal Researchers included Professor Barbara Bailey, Dr. Veronica Salter and Mrs. Hermione McKenzie. The final Report should be presented at the stakeholders meeting on September 22, 2005.
- *Gender Differentials at the Secondary and Tertiary Levels of the Educational System in the Anglophone Caribbean* was coordinated by the Junior Research Fellow, Ms. Suzanne Charles. During the period under review a workshop was held in Trinidad to train 24 field workers drawn from four Caribbean countries and twenty-four instruments for data collection were finalized. Guiding protocols for the field work exercise were also developed and included in a Field Manual, which was

subsequently disseminated to all Research Teams. Data Collection was completed during the period November 2004 – April 2005. Thereafter, tenders for data processing were received, with the most competitive bid coming from The Planning Institute of Jamaica. Data coding, entry, processing and preliminary data analysis is expected to be completed by December 2005.

Individual staff members continue to pursue their individual research interests and issues range from Gender and Theology, to HIV and Sexuality.

Outreach Activities

International Day Against Violence Against Women

In commemoration of the *International Day Against Violence against Women*, November 25, 2004, the Mona Unit collaborated with UWIHARP under the theme “Women and HIV/AIDS”, and hosted a display for public viewing at the Main Library for two weeks.

World Aids Day

The Mona Unit participated in the mini-fair/exhibition hosted by the University Health Centre on December 1, 2004. The Unit organized and set up a display booth at this event.

Teaching Assessment

The mean scores and response rates of the 2004/05 teaching assessment exercise were as follows:

Course		Mean scores		Response %
		Lecturer	Course	
AR20B	Gender in Caribbean Culture1	4.7	4.5	70
AR21B	Introduction to Women’s Studies 11	4.6	4.7	50
AR20M	Introduction to Men and Masculinities in the Caribbean	4.3	4.0	88
AR20A	Gender in Caribbean Culture 1	3.7	3.6	56
*AR21A	Introduction to Women’s Studies 11	3.1 4.4	3.0 4.1	67
SY37G	Sex, Gender and Society (Semester 1)	3.9	3.7	61
SY37G	Sex, Gender and Society (Semester 2)	3.5	3.4	48

*Two lecturers taught AR21A in Semester 1.

Targets

The main targets set for the academic year 2005/6 are as follows:

- a) To increase course offerings by introducing two Level 3 courses.
- b) To increase student registration for the summer school programme;
- c) To move towards offering a Major in Gender and Development Studies, in addition to the Minor which is already being offered. The Centre will continue to try to negotiate this concession, (the double coding of courses) as well as the placing of the CGDS Minors on the Banner System. This would ensure that students registering for courses would be aware of them. Another aim for the coming academic year is to negotiate with the Faculties, especially Social Sciences and Humanities and Education, to place the minors offered by the Centre in their Handbooks
- d) To attract new projects to the Unit which are in keeping with our mandate and work.

Per capita publications

The Unit has four academic staff members integrally involved in expanding teaching and research. Though the Unit is working towards increasing the number of publications, it had to rethink its priorities which necessitated shifting the focus into developing a strong teaching programme. Publications will again be brought into main focus for the academic year 2005/6.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- Charles, Suzanne: “Sexuality in the Caribbean: Problematizing Homophobia”:1st Global Conference – Sex and Sexuality: Exploring Critical Issues Salzburg, Austria(2004)
- Charles, Suzanne “Women Count! HIV / AIDS: A Problem of Gender” Publishers against AIDS: Third International Conference on Publishing in the Caribbean: Montego Bay, Jamaica (May 2005)

- Marshall, Anneka: “Fear of the White Man’s Disease: Homophobic Boundaries to Caribbean Sisterhood”:2005 Annual Conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics: American University, Washington DC, USA, June 17 - 19, 2005
- Perkins, Althea & Fox, Diana: “What is to be done about Sexual Diversity? -The Role of Institutions in Behaviour Change” UWI HARP Conference, Barbados: May 6 - 8, 2005.
- Shirley, Beverly: “The Bi-Furcality of Women’s Activism: The Experience of Two Different Women in the Same Space - Guyana 1970s” Women’s Stories, Women’s Lives: Making Sense of Experience, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, Yonkers NY, March 4 - 5, 2005
- Shirley, Beverly “Divided in the Struggle, Undivided in the Pain: Women, Politics and Activism in Guyana in the 1970s” 2005 Annual Conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics, American University, Washington DC, USA, June 17 - 19, 2005
- Costello, June “Development, Feminist Politics and the Academy: Walk the Walk if you talk the talk” - Women’s World: 9th Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Seoul, South Korea, June 19 - 24, 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- * Castello, June: “Shake that Booty in Jesus Name: The Possibilities of a Liberation Theology of the Body for the Body of Christ in Jamaica” Gender in the 21st Century: Caribbean Perspectives, Visions and Possibilities ed. Barbara Bailey and Elsa Leo-Rhynie: Ian Randle Publishers, Kingston, Jamaica: 2004
- * Charles, Suzanne: “Mirror, Mirror: A Feminist Examination of the Construction of Beauty of Body Image” Gender in the 21st Century: Caribbean Perspectives, Visions and Possibilities ed. Barbara Bailey and Elsa Leo-Rhynie: Ian Randle Publishers, Kingston, Jamaica: 2004

Income Generation

The Mona Unit offered three undergraduate courses in Summer 2005. The income for Summer School is in excess of \$1m.

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Ms. June Castello revised and produced a gender-sensitive curriculum for the National Youth Service program and trained volunteer workers and other individuals involved in the delivery of the curriculum.
- Ms June Castello was a member of the organizing committee for the Jamaica Launch of the UNFPA State of World Population Report, 2004.

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Teaching

Six undergraduate courses were offered through the Unit during Semesters 1 and 2 of the 2004/5 academic year while three courses were offered in the summer semester.

Due to the high student subscription to the SY37G undergraduate course, the course was offered in all three Semesters.

The courses taught and registration in each were as follows:

		Courses	Reg.
	AR20A	Gender in Caribbean Culture 1	77
SEM 1	AR21A	Intro. to Women Studies 1	27
	SY37G	Sex, Gender and Society	103
SEM 2	AR20B	Gender in Caribbean Culture 2	26
	AR20M	Intro. to Men and Masculinities	35
	AR21B	Intro. to Women Studies 2	22
	SY37G	Sex, Gender and Society	126
SEM 3	AR20A	Gender in Caribbean Culture 1	26
	AR20M	Intro to Men and Masculinities	17
	SY37G	Sex, Gender and Society	46
		Total	502

These courses were taught by three persons and the per capita student registration was therefore 167.

Prizes Awarded

The Mona Unit, Centre for Gender and Development Studies, awarded Mrs. Siddier Chambers with the Dorian Powell Prize 2004/5, for scholarly achievements in Gender and Development Studies. The Dorian Powell Prize has been established since 1999, and awards the student who had completed and excelled in at least three courses in Gender and Development Studies offered through the Centre.