

# INSTITUTE OF GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES – MONA UNIT

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## Overview

**Milestones:** During the 2008-2009 Academic Year the Centre marked several historic milestones. The **15th Anniversary** of the establishment of the Centre, was celebrated with the **Elsa Leo-Rhynie Symposium:** a regional conference held to honour the life and work of Professor Emerita, Elsa Leo-Rhynie and to reflect on achievements and challenges since gender and development studies was first introduced as an interdisciplinary academic programme at the UWI, which now has four Units: the Regional



Coordinating Unit, the CGDS Nita Barrow Unit at Cave Hill, the CGDS Mona Unit and the CGDS St Augustine Unit, The well-attended regional conference was held from November 9-11 2008 at Mona, and coincided with the UWI's 60th Anniversary Celebrations. Linked to these celebrations was the IGDS Mona Unit's hosting of the **6th Lucille Mathurin Mair Public Lecture** delivered by Professor Emerita Elsa Leo-Rhynie and the launch of the publication: **the UWI Glass ceiling: splinters cracks and scratches**. The event also marked the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Lecture series and was held on November 12 2008. The Unit, in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, also launched a second publication: **Working paper #5** entitled **Gender and Governance**.

**Change of Status:** In October 2008, the University Council approved a change in status and the Centre became the **Institute for Gender and Development Studies**.

**New Programme:** The first Major in Gender and Development at UWI was implemented in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work at Mona. Graduates will be

awarded a BSc in Gender and Development from the Institute for Gender and Development Studies. The Minor in Gender and Development Studies was revised, updated and expanded.

**Launch of the Angela King Collection:** In March 2009, the IGDS Mona Unit launched the catalogued collection of historic books and papers of the late Jamaican diplomat who died on February 5 2007. Ms King was a former UN Assistant Secretary-General for Gender Issues, a post she held from 1997 until she retired in 2004 following a distinguished career promoting equal rights for women as well as peace and security. The **Angela King Collection** has now been established in the Main Library as a resource for students and academics across several disciplines to support research and teaching. The Collection was launched at a public lecture held to celebrate International Women's Day and was delivered by another distinguished diplomat, the former UN Ombudsman, Ambassador Patricia Durrant (O.J.). This emotional event also included presentations from her family delivered by Dr Swithin Wilmot, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Ms Theresa Richards who coordinated the cataloguing process and a video presentation on the life and work of Angela King produced by Suzanne Charles and Erika Ellis both of the IGDS. All presentations were all well received by the large audience.

**Death of Our Founder:** In February 2009, the IGDS mourned the loss of Dr Lucille Mathurin Mair, distinguished Jamaican historian, diplomat and women's activist who founded the Centre. A small group of other pioneers, scholars and activists from across the region, met after her funeral, to discuss her contribution to founding the Centre, This will be part of a project to write the history of the IGDS.

**Strategic Directions:** Guided by the UWI Strategic Plan 2007-2012, and in response to emerging gender and development issues in the Caribbean, the IGDS Mona Unit expanded its programme of teaching, research and outreach. The focus was on curriculum review, building teaching skills, enriching students' experiences, upgrading the office and equipment to improve efficiency and ensure maximum support to students. Opportunities were also provided to expand staff involvement in research, and publications. A report was also prepared on teaching loads for the Unit. Highlights of these and other developments are summarized below.

## Teaching:

In addition to the Curriculum Review and revision of courses for the Minor that were re-submitted to AQAC, the IGDS Mona Unit staff taught: 9 undergraduate courses to 399 students pursuing the Minor and new Major; two postgraduate gender courses and a module in the MSc in Gender and Development Studies coordinated by the IGDS Regional Coordinating Unit. Guest lectures were delivered to approximately 150 undergraduate and postgraduate students pursuing other disciplines. In addition, 11 postgraduate theses and research papers were supervised and/or examined. Staff also supported the Graduate Research Seminar Series coordinated by the IGDS Regional Coordinating Unit.

## Research

Consistent with a commitment to expand research on emerging gender and development issues in the Caribbean the Unit implemented three major research projects.

## Gender and Trade

A study entitled *“Gender and Women’s Rights Analysis of Economic Partnership Agreements: The Implementation of Trade Liberalization: Jamaica Case Study”* was commissioned by One World Action and the Commonwealth Secretariat and funded by the UK Department for International Development. **The research team included:** Dr Leith Dunn (Lead Researcher), Ms Anneke Hamilton, (MSc), Dr. Jessica Byron and Mr. Quaine Palmer (BSc.)). The study is being published by the sponsors, with two other country studies (Tanzania and Mozambique). As part of the study, the Unit also co-hosted a Caribbean Conference entitled “Mainstreaming Gender in Trade” with One World Action, and the Commonwealth Secretariat. This was held at UWI Mona Visitor’s Lodge and Conference Centre, February 4-5 2009, and was attended by approximately 60 participants from seven countries. Papers from the study were also presented at trade conferences in Brussels, Belgium (Ms Hamilton) and in Delhi, India (Dr Dunn).

## **Enhancing Gender Visibility in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management in the Caribbean**

This research study was commissioned by UNDP as part of the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative (CRMI), an umbrella programme designed to build capacity across the Caribbean region for the management of climate-related risk. The research involved conducting five country assessments on gender mainstreaming in disaster management agencies, three country case studies on gender and climate change adaptation as well as an overview chapter (forthcoming UNDP/CRMI publication). Papers from the study were presented at 3rd Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management held in Barbados in December 8-12 2009 (Dr Dunn). Ms Ellis and Mr. Senior also presented papers on the studies done in Dominica and Jamaica at the 4th Conference on the Environment organized by the Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals which was held in Kingston, May 26-27, 2009.

### **Gender and Governance**

Research on women's political participation at the highest level of decision-making focused on the experience of Jamaica's first female Prime Minister and gender equality in governance. This resulted in three articles published in IGDS Working Paper 5, co-published with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and an article published in the JaPeople journal of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). The research also provided input for the Gender Task Force of 'Vision 2030 Jamaica, (the national strategic plan coordinated by the Planning Institute of Jamaica). In addition, the IGDS Mona Unit provided technical assistance to support a CIDA-funded research study on *Gender and Governance: A study of Women on Boards and Committees in Jamaica*, sponsored by the Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC). Support was also provided to launch the study and plan a follow-up training programme funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund.

## **PAPERS PRESENTED**

### **Ms June Castello**

- Wave You Han' If You Want To Be Sanctified: Gendered Interpretations of the Christian Bible. Caribbean Studies Association 34th Annual Conference, June 2009, Kingston, Jamaica.

### **Dr. Leith Dunn**

- "Gender and Governance: Lessons from Southern Africa". Caribbean Regional Workshop on Gender and Governance in the Wider Caribbean, Alhambra Inn, May 14-15 2009.
- Gender Women's Rights and the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement. The Case of Jamaica'. Commonwealth Secretariat Conference on "Mainstreaming Gender in Trade Policy at the National Level: The Way Forward", New Delhi, India May 4-5 2009.
- Gender Women's Rights and the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement. The Case of Jamaica'. Regional Caribbean Conference on Mainstreaming Gender in Trade, UWI Mona Visitor's Lode and Conference Centre, February 4-5 2009.
- Enhancing Gender Visibility in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management" – Summary of Main Findings from UNDP/Caribbean Risk Management Initiative project. 3rd Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management, December 8-12, 2008, Barbados.

### **Dr. Annecka Marshall**

- Provocative Pedagogy: Powerful Eroticism in Jamaican Academia. American Association of Black Sociologists Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 17, 2009.
- Sexualities Studies, Activism and Plan of Action. Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica on June 3, 2009.

- Gender Dynamics and Approaches to Sexuality as a key to wellbeing'. SALISES Conference held at UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados on March 25-27, 2009.

#### **Mr. Keino Senior**

- Enhancing Gender Visibility in Disaster Risk Management: Jamaica Country Assessment. Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals 4th Conference on the Environment, Kingston, May 26-27, 2009.
- The Potential Child and Caribbean Parenting: Male Perspectives on Abortion in Jamaica. Child and the Caribbean Imagi-nation Conference, held in Trinidad and Tobago, May 21-22 2009.
- "Nah Go a Jail Again, Oh No": A Philosophical Consideration on the Development and Challenges of the Abortion Debate in Jamaica." SALISES Memorial Conference, September 25-27 2008, Trinidad and Tobago.

#### **Ms Erika Ellis**

- Enhancing Gender Visibility in Caribbean Disaster Risk Management' Report on the Commonwealth of Dominica. Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals 4th Conference on the Environment, Kingston, May 26-27, 2009.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **The two IGDS Publications were:**

- \* Working Paper #5 on 'Gender and Governance' edited by Leith Dunn and Judith Wedderburn.
- \* The 6th Lucille Mathurin Mair Public Lecture 2008 prepared by Professor Emerita Elsa Leo-Rhynie entitled: 'UWI Glass Ceiling: splinters, cracks and scratches'

## Refereed Journal Articles

### Dr Leith Dunn

- \* Gender and Governance. *JA People*, Vol. 10, No. 2. 7-11. "Gender and National Development". (L. Dunn, P. Hamilton, L. Vassell, G. Brown Wynter).

### Ms. June Castello

- \* Caribbean Review of Gender Studies (CRGS). <http://sta.uwi.edu/crgs> 2nd Issue Guest Editor with Dr Gabrielle Hosein.
- \* Retrospect and Reflections – Introducing Gender Into the Academy. An interview with Elsa Leo-Rhynie. Caribbean Review of Gender Studies (CRGS). <http://sta.uwi.edu/crgs>

## Book Chapters

### Dr Leith Dunn.

- \* Gendered Dimensions of Environmental Justice: Caribbean Perspectives in Steady, Chioma, F. (Ed.) Environmental Justice in the New Millennium: Global Perspectives on Race, Ethnicity and Human Rights, Hampshire: Palgrave McMillan.
- \* Child Labor in Jamaica. Child Labor World Atlas: a Reference Encyclopedia, Hindman, H.D. (Ed.). New York: M.E. Sharpe, Inc.
- \* Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Jamaica. Child Labor World Atlas: a Reference Encyclopedia. Hindman, H.D. (Ed.). New York: M.E. Sharpe, Inc.
- \* Introduction in Dunn, L and Wedderburn J. (2008). (Eds.). Gender and Governance, Working Paper #5, Kingston: Centre for Gender and Development Studies Mona Unit and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

## **Technical Reports**

### **Ms. June Castello**

- \* Enhancing Gender Visibility in Caribbean Disaster Risk Management. Country Assessment for Guyana on UNDP and CRMI Gender and Risk Management Initiative Project.
- \* Final Report on Gender Mainstreaming Audit. Prepared for CARICOM Secretariat (with Barbara Bailey and Suzanne Charles), December 2008.

### **Dr Leith Dunn**

- \* Gender and HIV/AIDS Education for the Education Policy Maker in the Caribbean: Training Programme prepared for UNIFEM Caribbean (with Dr Rachele Evie Vernon for UNIFEM Caribbean).
- \* CEDAW Report for the Bahamas (1993-2007), (for the Department of Women's Affairs, Government of the Bahamas).
- \* Enhancing Gender Visibility in Caribbean Disaster Risk Management. Country Assessment for the Dominican Republic and Introduction and Summary Report for UNDP/Caribbean Risk Management Initiative Project.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **Dr. Dunn**

- Member, Shortwood Teachers' College Board
- Member, Research and Policy Committee of the Council for Voluntary Social Services (CVSS). (Jamaica);
- Member, Board of the Foundation for International Training (FIT) in Canada
- Member, Editorial Boards: *Convergence*,
- Member, MEDICC, Editorial Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Gender Review

### **Ms Castello**

- Member, Editorial Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Gender Review



**Dr Marshall**

- Member, Editorial Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Gender Review

**Contribution to Students' Achievements**

The Mona Unit hosted one group of students in the UWI's First Year Experience – a programme of the Office of Student Services and Development as well as the UWI Mentorship programme. The IGDS support to the FYE programme included counselling through regular weekly meetings, leadership development through projects, building awareness of gender equality and environmental issues, as well as career development, and building social skills. The major activity was a beach cleanup at Palisadoes to support the survival of turtles and protect the environment. This was a joint project with the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), the Jamaica Environmental Trust and the National Solid Waste Agency. One female student leader in the group was nominated for and a UWI student leadership award and participated in the annual visit to the other two UWI campuses.