

A portrait of Dr. Karen Carpenter, a woman with short, wavy, light-colored hair, wearing a dark patterned top and a necklace. She is smiling and has her hands clasped in front of a silver laptop with the Apple logo on the lid.

## INSTITUTE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (IGDS), MONA CAMPUS UNIT

Dr. Karen Carpenter – Senior Lecturer/Head

### OVERVIEW

The IGDS Mona Unit's priorities of Teaching/Learning & Student Development; Research, Publication, Innovation; and Public Service/Outreach continued to be guided by the 2022–2027 UWI Strategic Goals, centered on: Access, Alignment and Agility. Gender Justice: Where the UWI will actively create and sustain, as a core value, a social, academic and administrative culture that supports and promotes gender equality and justice within its environment. Coincides with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030) which include Goal #5 (Gender Equality) as well as gender as a cross-cutting issue to achieve all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

## ACCESS

### TEACHING, LEARNING & STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

**Undergraduate programme:** Courses in the BSc in Gender and Development (Major) and the Minor in Gender and Development Studies were delivered to students registered at the Mona and WJC campuses. An estimated 25 Majors were register in academic year 2022/2023. The Unit continues to face competition from larger Faculties and have worked with the Office of Marketing, Recruitment and Communication to increase registration in the programme as well as an increased presence on Social Media.

### Registration for AY2022/2023, Semesters I, II and Summer School

Course registration for Semesters I, II and Summer School of the AY 2022/2023 showed an increase in numbers from **490 to 744** when compared with AY2021/2022. The unit delivered 16 courses to 744 students, (which included all (16) courses at

the UWI Mona's Western Jamaica Campus (WJC). Registration was 160 students (49 males and 111 females) registered in six (6) courses in semester I; 382 students (92 males and 290 females) registered in seven (7) courses in semester II; and 202 (40 males and 162 females) registered in three (3) courses in summer school online delivery, the highest number since post-Covid.

***BSc in Gender & Development at The UWI Mona's Western Jamaica Campus (WJC):*** In support of University's Strategic Plan to grant access to students who wish to make the University their first choice to study, the BSc was offered to students wishing to study at the Mona Western Jamaica campus, effective September 2020. Gender courses from the Major were delivered to students at WJC remotely.

***Graduates BSc Gender and Development Graduates:*** Fifteen (15) students graduated in the November 4, 2022 ceremony. The total number of Gender and Development BSc graduates now stands at one hundred and ninety (190) since the inception of the programme in 2009/10. The classes of degrees awarded included: One (1) First Class Honours, One (1) Upper Second Class Honours; eleven (11) Lower Second Class Honours and two (2) Passes.

***Minors in Gender and Development Studies:*** Five (5) students declared the Minor in Gender and Development Studies during 2022/2023, resulting in 156 students who have declared the Minor to date.

***Responsive to students' needs:*** The Mona Unit was proactive in ensuring increased contact was made with students to provide additional support, especially those who were experiencing academic challenges. This included enquiring about challenges they might be facing, resolving technical and administrative issues and liaising with other Faculties and University Departments on their behalf. Students were given access to WhatsApp, text and cell phone lines to reach the office and teaching staff. Class and Guild Representatives provided additional support and were effective contact persons for getting information to and feedback from students about ongoing IGDS MU matters.

***Curriculum Review and Renewal:*** The Online Diploma in Gender and Development has been revised and is expected to be presented to AQAC for approval with the expectation of being offered in the academic year 2023–2024, Semester II.

***IGDS Honour Roll:*** The IGDS Mona's Honour Roll which was introduced some years ago to recognise the outstanding academic performance of BSc students, welcomed Honourees Mark Spence (GPA 3.93), Rohan Wallace (GPA 3.77) and Mariea Dixon (GPA 3.57).

***IGDS Guild Representative:*** The IGDS MU provided support to the IGDS MU Guild Executive led by Tavoy Housen to deliver some of their projects during the AY. Collaboration including support to the "hand bag project" during Women's History Month in March, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against

Women (IDEVAW) and 16 Days of Activism. Ms. Asharia Bowen was elected as the representative for AY2023–2024. The Unit remains committed to providing support to the IGDS Guild Committee.

### Guest Lectures

The IGDS staff supported several agencies and events and made several presentations as follows:

#### Dr. Steffon Campbell

UNESCO Caribbean Sheroes Initiative (CSI) Phase II Transforming MENTalities Initiative:

Dr. Steffon Campbell represented the Mona Unit by presenting at the IGDS-RCO / UNESCO's Caribbean Sheroes Academy 2022: Transforming MENTalities Edition, November 15–17, 2022 online, with thirty (30) Youth Advocates, ages 18–30 year, from UNESCO Caribbean member/participating countries.

#### Dr. Karen Carpenter

**Symposium** – The Head of Department IGDS Mona Unit and Clinical Sexologist, participated in a symposium on the theme “Sex, Love and The Influence of Music and Media on our Sexuality”. During the symposium, Dr. Carpenter provided the audience with valuable insights into the physical and emotional aspects of sex, as well as the importance of communication and consent in sexual relationships. In addition, she addressed the influence of music and media on our sexuality and discussed the ways in which popular culture can shape our attitudes and beliefs about our sexual relationships. Her insights on human sexuality were informative and thought-provoking.

**Support to Postgraduate programmes:** The Unit's academic staff continued to support graduate programmes within and outside the IGDS, locally, regionally and internationally. They served as supervisors, advisors and examiners and delivered guest lectures and special modules on Gender in graduate programmes. The academic staff supervised 11 graduate students, and served on Advisory and Examination Panels for the IGDS Regional Coordinating Unit, IGDS St Augustine, The Open Campus and other UWI Departments and overseas Universities. The breakdown is as follows: Dr Carpenter – five (5) students; Dr Dunn (Honorary Senior Research Fellow) – five (5) students; Dr Thame one (1) student.

**Partnerships with non-student customers, agencies:** During the reporting period a new PhD Thesis Coaching initiative to support graduate student throughput was launched by staff at the Mona Unit in collaboration with the Office of Graduate Studies, Mona. Dr Carpenter, Dr Campbell and Dr Stephens from the Quality Assurance Unit invited twenty-five (25) non-completing, PhD candidates to take

part in a year-long free coaching programme, to ensure the completion and award of their PhD thesis. This effort represented a considerable donation of time and academic resources to institutional building at Mona.

## PUBLICATIONS

The Mona Unit through its publication output aimed to increase access to information on the work of the Institute on gender mainstreaming, and improve the quality, quantity and impact of research and publication.

### Editors

- **Carpenter, K., Onoura, A. Weaver, L, Pappera, S.** Editorial Team, Caribbean Journal of Education (December 2023)

### Journal Articles

- Maziki Thame (2023) Sovereignty, freedom, and the problem of blackness in Jamaica, *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/17442222.2023.2174769
- **Maziki Thame**, “The Political Significance of ‘Communists Wearing Panties’ in the Jamaican Left Movement (1974-1980)”, in *Black Women in the Social Sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean*, edited by Melanie A. Medeiros and Keisha-Khan Y. Perry, (New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2023) 56-74.

### Refereed

- Cook, L.D., Kamalodeen, V.J., Hunt-Anderson, I.E., Haynes-Brown, T., **Weaver, L.**, Weaver, S.R., & Samuel Lee, L. (2023). Cultural studies in education: insights for the mixed methods researcher. In R.J. Tierney, F. Rizvi, K. Erkican (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Education Fourth Edition*, (417–425). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-818630-5.11077-2>

### Monograph

- **Weaver, L.** MPhil/PhD Upgrade Seminar on “Risk factors and social construction of physical discipline of Jamaica children: a mixed methods study” via Zoom meeting, ID: 97842260773 (January 19, 2023) (64 slides, 25 participants)

### Reviews

- Carpenter, K., Marjan DeBruin & R. Anthony Lewis (Eds.) 2020. *Gender Variances and Sexual Diversity in the Caribbean*. Kingston: University of the West Indies Press.
- Carpenter, K., Research Reviewer CAPRI, Various.

## ALIGNMENT

### RESEARCH

The IGDS Mona Unit staff continued with ongoing and new research projects aimed at improving the Unit's quality, quantity and impact of research, innovation and publication. Dr Carpenter, with the assistance of Mr. Rayan Elliott – Research Assistant to the HOD successfully submitted the following grant funding proposals:

1. The Commonwealth of Learning Canada (COL). **A Situational Analysis of Underperforming Boys (16–24) years in Jamaica** The objectives of the project are to:
  - a) Increase the participation of male youth (16–24 years) in educational and skills training opportunities in Jamaica,
  - b) To develop youth for employment in key industries, through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).
  - c) To increase the numbers of males in tertiary education institutions in the 16–24 age group. J\$1,719,793.26
2. In partnership with The Faculty of Medicine, UWI Mona. Psychoeducational Intervention On Gender Norms And Mental Health. IDRC. JMD\$72,745,139.
3. Review and update VAWG Awareness in the Training Curriculum for Pre-service and In-service Teachers and School Leaders/Administrators”, The Spotlight Initiative, \$50,000.

### SERVICE, OUTREACH & ACTIVISM

The Unit's participation in service, outreach and public advocacy and included the following events:

**International Men's Day (IMD) 2022:** The Unit successfully coordinated the International Men's Day (IMD) 2022 with a men's day symposium held on November 19th, 2022. The theme for the symposium was “Fostering Friendship: The Socio-cultural Value of Strong Male Bonds”. The event was hosted and moderated by Dr. Steffon Campbell. The panelists for the symposium included Michael Nattoo, co-host of Men's Truth podcast, Dennis Brooks, communication strategist and co-host of Jamaican Dads podcast, and Shaquille Ramsay, Chancellor Hall-Hall Chairman and UWI Mona Guild Council member. Each panelist brought a unique perspective to the conversation and shared their personal experiences with fostering strong male bonds. The discussion covered a wide range of topics related to the importance of male friendship, including the impact of social media on male bonding, the role of male friendships in mental health, and the challenges men face

in building and maintaining friendships. The panelists also shared practical tips and advice on how men can strengthen their friendships and build meaningful connections with other men.

**The International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW)**

**2022:** The staff and students of the IGDS Mona Unit organized a silent march to raise awareness about the urgent need to eliminate violence against women. The march took place around the ring road of the campus and involved representatives from each faculty, the Guild of students, and members of the Mary Seacole Hall. During the march, the group carried placards with important messages and information about the alarming rates of femicide in Jamaica. The placards highlighted the need for action to end violence against women and to create a safer environment for women in Jamaica. The campus community was invited to take a photo with one of four statements supporting the end of femicide in Jamaica. This was a powerful way of engaging the community and to raise awareness about this important issue. It was heartening to see staff and students from across the campus come together to support this cause. We hope that this event will inspire more action and advocacy to end femicide in Jamaica and to create a safer and more equitable society for all.

**International Women’s Day 2023: The Handbag Project:** The Handbag Project initiative was launched in commemoration of International Women’s Day, with the aim of providing personal hygiene items and handbags to women and children in need. The project was a great success, with the team visiting two facilities – the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre and the Combined Disabilities Association – to distribute the items. The Handbag Project initiative was a wonderful way to commemorate International Women’s Day and to provide support to those in need. The IGDS team’s dedication and hard work made a real difference in the lives of the recipients, and we are proud of their efforts. The hope is that this initiative will inspire more action and advocacy for women’s rights and social justice.

## **SUPPORT AND SERVICE TO THE UWI**

### **Sexual Harassment Complaint Committee:**

Mr. Rayan Elliott, Research Assistant, provided support on the campus-wide, Sexual Harassment Complaints Committee (SHCC), which was chaired by Dr. Carpenter for the academic year. The objective of the committee was to prepare the Sexual Harassment Complaints Protocol for the Mona Campus.

## MAJOR CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

- **Climate Change MOOC:** Dr Leith Dunn, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, has been representing the Mona Unit in the regional MOOC project and will continue to do so: Dr Dunn participated and presented on Gender Climate Change and Disaster risk Management in Flasco Cuba July 2023.

### Dr. Karen Carpenter

- Emotional Social Intelligence and Leadership. Lawe Insurance Brokers Annual Awards Ceremony. (March 3, 2023).
- Qualitative Methods and Approaches for the collection of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Data. CARICOM and the OECS. UN Women, Jamaica (April 18, 2023).
- He, She, They Gender in Youth. Jamaica Pediatric Association (March 2023).
- U.S. Embassy Gender and Violence Dialogue.
- Guest Lecture Philosophy of Sex, FH&E, UWI Mona.
- *Lifting The Veil*, Andrews 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church, Kingston, Jamaica.
- *Should Doctors be activists?* World Family Doctor Day Webinar 2023.

## AGILITY

The Unit contributed an estimated JA\$12,804,034/ US\$82564.61 to the UWI during the reporting period as follows:

- Tuition fees by Gender Studies Majors registered in the BSc Programme in Semesters I, II and Summer School AY 2020/2023 as follows:
- Semester 1 (est. 25 BSc students) 15 PT & 10 FT – JA\$4,450,970/US\$28664.25
- Semester II (est. 10): 6 PT & 4 FT – JA\$1,780,388/US\$11465.70
- Summer School 202 Students – JA\$6,572,676/ US\$ 42434.66

## STAFFING

**Academic Staff:** There were five (5) staff members: 4 FT Dr. Karen Carpenter Senior Lecturer/Head; Dr. Maziki Thame Senior Lecturer; Ms. Leemoy Weaver Assistant Lecturer; Mr. Rayan Elliott Research Assistant; and 1 PT Adjunct Lecturer Dr. Steffon Campbell.

**Administrative and Support Staff:** Ms. Natalie Williamson, Acting Senior Administrative Assistant (Temporary January–April 2023), Ms. Nicole Edwards, Senior Administrative Assistant (April 2023 Permanent), Ms. Shamar Lester, Receptionist, and Ms. Thalia Ellis, Office Attendant.