

INSTITUTE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT



Professor Verene A. Shepherd
University Director & Regional Coordinator

OVERVIEW

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) is an independent, multi- and interdisciplinary Institute of the University of the West Indies and falls outside of the traditional Faculty system. The IGDS consists of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), located in the Regional Headquarters of the UWI, and three Campus-based Units, each with its own Head, located at Cave Hill, Barbados, Mona, Jamaica and St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. The IGDS also maintains active links with the Open Campus. Each Campus-based Unit has a Board of Studies chaired by the Unit Head that functions like Faculty Boards. The University Director, based in the RCU, has oversight of the Campus-based Units as the RCU functions as the administrative hub of the regional Institute. A key role of the RCU is to coordinate all regional

activities of the Campus-based Units, with inclusion of a representative of the Open Campus in all its strategic plans and policies at its annual Regional Planning and Strategy Committee Meetings.

In addition to its administrative duties, the RCU has responsibility for helping to finance the enterprise and does so through collaborative initiatives with its partners, including UNWomen, UNFPA, the IDB and CARIBSAVE. Administering the Graduate Programme at the Mona Campus is also the responsibility of the RCU.

The activities of the RCU for the period under review were governed by the IGDS' Mission Statement, which is to; "Produce and disseminate knowledge to transform gender relations in the Caribbean, in support of the UWI's mission to enhance regional and international development."

Its Vision is to ensure that, "All UWI graduates are committed to social justice and the promotion of gender-responsive human relations and development." Like the wider IGDS, the RCU tried to achieve this Mission and Vision by producing and delivering interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programmes characterized by excellence in:

- Teaching and learning guided by feminist theories and Gender & Development perspectives, principles and practices,
- Research and publications from a gender perspective that investigate societal issues and challenges,
- Public service, outreach and activism that transform gender relations and promote social justice, and
- Building partnerships and mobilizing resources to facilitate its work.

Most of the energies of the RCU during the period under review were directed towards ensuring that the Unit continued to play its critical role in helping to shape several of the key strategic themes and goals of the Institute itself as well as of the wider UWI, falling under the broad themes of: Teaching, Learning & Student Development; Research & Innovation, Public Service and Outreach.

The larger IGDS, led by the RCU, was tasked by the UWI during the year with developing a UWI Gender Policy, which will ensure the

Institution's compliance with Jamaica's National Policy for Gender Equality and develop best practices for the UWI in the areas of gender equity, equality and parity and eliminate sexism from the practices and processes of the UWI. Work began during the period under review and will continue into 2015.

The rest of this Report highlights the work of the RCU of the IGDS in the critical areas mentioned in this Overview.

The highlight of the year was the celebration of the IGDS' 20th anniversary with all 4 Units collaborating to hold a 20th Anniversary Regional Museum Exhibition. The launch of the exhibition entitled, "The IGDS at 20: Two Decades of Gender and Development Studies" was held on June 3, 2014 at the UWI Museum. It attempted to map the legacy and capture the impact of the IGDS and its work over the last 20 years. It also engaged with its various constituents in an attempt to encourage thinking around issues of Gender and Development. At the end of June, the exhibition was moved to the Main Library of the UWI with the kind assistance of the Mona Campus Unit of the IGDS and the Main Library. The Exhibition will next move to the National Library of Jamaica.



Prof. Elsa Leo-Rhynie, E. Nigel Harris, Barbara Bailey and Verene Shepherd opening the 20th anniversary exhibition of the IGDS at the UWI Museum, Regional Headquarters

TEACHING & LEARNING:

During the AY, the RCU offered the following Degrees in Gender & Development Studies:

- A Postgraduate Diploma
- An MSc (with a Research Paper or 3-month internship report)
- MPhil and PhD Degrees (in a wide range of related fields)

Eight graduate courses were offered during the period and taught by Prof. Verene Shepherd, Drs. Dalea Bean, Natasha Mortley, Annecka Marshall (from the Mona Campus Unit (MCU)), and adjunct staff Dr. Beverly Shirley. The numbers in the taught Masters programme also remained steady with seven MSc degrees being awarded in the ceremonies in November 2013. The Units' first MPhil graduate, Mrs. Violet Sutherland was also awarded her degree during the graduation exercise.

The RCU also continued its Staff/Graduate Seminar Series. A Graduate symposium was held during the Mona Campus Research Days activities in February 2014 and another on May 2, 2014. Presenters were able to engage with a wide range of research issues and the series provided insight into the research papers or internship programmes for graduate students. An MPhil/PhD seminar was also held on December 5, 2013 with presentations by IGDS graduate students.

The Unit was pleased to award Ms. Georgia Marks-Doman the CARIBSAVE/INTASAVE Partnership scholarship in support of her post graduate studies. The scholarship is valued at US\$8,500 and will cover expenses including tuition and research costs. Ms. Marks-Doman, an MSc candidate with the RCU, will be exploring the topic: "The Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity of Rural Women in Agriculture to the Impact of Climate Change and Climate Variability in Jamaica."

During the period, the Unit was also approached by the family of the late Ezroy Millwood, former president of the National Transport Co-operative Society in Jamaica to offer an MSc scholarship to an incoming student in the RCU. The Unit is still in discussion with the family in relation to the details of the scholarship.

Three MSc Gender and Development Studies students were supported by the RCU to attend the Global Competitiveness Global Value Chains Conference, held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, March 18 and 19, 2014. The RCU regularly tries to assist MSc student's attendance at activities that will help in their graduate development or provide funding to help in the completion of research activities.

STAFFING

The RCU has a small staff complement. Supporting the various programmes and activities were, in addition to the University Director, and the lecturers already mentioned, Administrative Officer, Mrs. Shakira Maxwell, Junior Research Fellow, Ms. Suzanne Charles, Research Assistant, Mr. Kemal Brown who joined on November 13, 2013, Secretary, Ms. Kadine Marshall, and Office Attendant, Mrs. Margaret Rowe-Hunter.

Ms. Lahoma Thomas also joined the RCU as a visiting PhD student/Weston Fellow from the University of Toronto in January 2014. While in Jamaica she will be conducting research towards her PhD thesis on gender inequality and political violence. The Unit also hosted Prof. Steeve Buckridge as a visiting fellow for the period April 17 to April 30, 2014. Prof. Buckridge is an Associate Professor at Grand Valley State University and a Fellow at the Yale Centre for British Art at Yale University. While in Jamaica he conducted research for his next book project on Luce Bark in Jamaican History.

RESEARCH

The RCU continued to participate in regional research which affects policy making throughout the Caribbean. Below is a highlight of the major research undertaken during the period.

- A History of the Gibson Relays, which will not only explore the life of Bishop Gibson himself and the evolution and impact of the relay carnival, but undertake a gender analysis of the Relays within the context of gender and sports in Jamaica.

- An IDB funded project entitled, “Adolescent Dislocation in Jamaica: Causes and Costs of Dislocation at the Secondary Level.” After final comments were received the final report was submitted on April 30, 2014. A dissemination workshop will follow.
- A Regional Masculinity Project, spearheaded by the RCU is currently in development with funds being sought from several funding agencies. The project, which intends to be a CARICOM wide study, will examine the ways in which the lives of Caribbean men have evolved over the last thirty years.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Participated in the Mona Campus Research Days 2014. Dr. Bean served on the Steering Committee. The Unit subsequently mounted a Booth at Research Day with women from the Mount Friendship Agricultural Group, who had played a part in a past research project in the RCU. Activities included; giving away samples of products they had produced and highlighting the important role women play in the agricultural sector in the island. The Unit also participated in the UWI Research Day Opportunity Lounge with Dr. Mortley and Ms. Charles meeting with representatives from UNFPA to discuss possible future research collaborations between the two organizations.
- In collaboration with the Mona Department of Sports and the MCU, the RCU further hosted a panel discussion on Gender and Sports on February 21, 2014 during the Mona Campus Research Day. Panellists for the event included, Verene Shepherd, Leighton Levy, Sports Journalist, Nationwide 90 FM, Juliet Campbell, Athlete, Agent and Olympian and Hubert Lawrence, Sports Commentator. The event was moderated by former Olympian, Grace Jackson.
- Hosted a fundraising event with the National Dance Theatre Company (NDTC) for the Louraine Emmanuel Scholarship fund on August 8, 2013 at the Little Theatre. The successful event saw just under JA\$200,000 being raised towards the fund. The first awardee, from the RCU, will be announced by the end of the 2014 calendar year.

OUTREACH

The RCU engaged in several important outreach activities during the period August 2013–July 2014. These included:

- Collaborating with the Department of Government to continue its “Through Women’s Eyes: Conversations on Gender, Politics, and Society” project. The series is meant to present an alternative voice to the primarily male dominated dialogue within the larger society around issues of politics and governance and provide an opportunity for women’s voices to be heard. A forum was held on May 15, 2014 and featured, Government Senator, Imani Duncan-Pryce, Opposition Senator, Kamina Johnson-Smith, Hon. D. Gisele Issac-Arrindell, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Antigua and Barbuda and Senator Irene Sandiford-Garner, Barbados, who all spoke on some of the challenges facing women in politics and the possible strategies, such as the implementation of a quota system, which can help to break some of the barriers which hinder their full participation. The event was broadcast Live on Nationwide 90 FM and streamed live on UWITV.
- Operating the Home Work Centre for the benefit of the children of staff and students on the Mona campus. We were delighted to receive a donation of a flat screen TV from members of the Regional Headquarters Christmas Event Planning Committee. The Centre also received additional donations and supplies from members of staff in the RCU during the month.
- Facilitating the press conference for the first CARICOM Reparation Steering Committee meeting. The committee chaired by Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles met on December 9, 2013, and then held a press conference on December 10, 2013 at the Regional Headquarters.
- Re-launching one of the Unit’s flagship events, “Groundings with the Brothers & Sisters – Reasoning the Way”, as part of the IGDS 20th Anniversary celebrations. The RCU secured one hour sessions on the radio programme “Fun Factory” on the UWI station, Newstalk 92 FM to discuss topical issues on gender relations on the campus.

The first programme was held on August 21, 2013 with Dr. Natasha Mortley being the discussant on Gender Roles on Campus, discussing the topic “Act Like a Lady, Think Like A Man”. The next programme was broadcast on Wednesday 16 October, 2013 at 3 pm and addressed issues of skin bleaching in Jamaica. It was hosted by Dr. Christopher Charles, Ms. Rani Sarju and Ms. Suzanne Charles.

The final programme was aired on November 20, 2013 at 3 pm and addressed issues of manhood and masculinity in Jamaica, in commemoration of International Men’s Day. The show addressed some of the pertinent issues concerning men in Jamaica and the Caribbean today, including issues of marginalisation, involvement in crime as well as definitions and expressions of masculinity and sexuality. The objective of the show was to help listeners arrive at a constructive definition of manhood that challenges prevailing and destructive stereotypes. Guests included Dr. Leachim Semaj and Mr. Jaevion Nelson.

WORKSHOPS/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- “Gender, Human Rights and Education: A Caribbean Perspective” by Ms. Charles on behalf of the RCU via video conferencing to the 14th Session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, which met at the UN in Geneva, on April 1, 2014.
- Film screening and panel discussion on Gender-Based Violence entitled, “Silent Voices: Can You Hear Me?” on March 6, 2014, at the Regional Headquarters. This was an initiative of an IDGS student, Tamara Nicholson.
- The Caribbean Conference on Domestic Violence held in Montego Bay Jamaica, March 26–28, 2014 was part-sponsored by the IGDS. Prof. Verene Shepherd delivered the opening keynote lecture and Dr. Natasha Mortley moderated a panel discussion.
- Professor Shepherd participated in the authors’ speak series hosted by the University of the West Indies Press and was interviewed on her book *Maharani’s Misery: Narratives of a Passage from India to the Caribbean* on February 27, 2014 by Dr. Annecka Marshall. The

video interview was watched by hundreds of viewers around the world.

- The RCU collaborated with the Jamaica History Teacher's Association (JHTA) to host a dissemination workshop on October 11, 2013 to all History teacher's at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on the findings from the recently concluded IGDS/UNFPA Caribbean Review of History Textbooks Project. The workshop provided an opportunity to sensitize the island's teachers to the IGDS' findings on gender biases in history texts at the CAPE and CSEC levels and to expose them to strategies to correct these biases in the classroom. The workshop was attended by over 70 teachers from across the island and was facilitated by Mrs. Gloria Bean, Immediate Past President of the JHTA.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITY – STAFF MEMBERS:

In addition to carrying out their teaching and administrative responsibilities and participating in general IGDS activities (workshops, projects, e.g.), members of staff found time to attend various academic fora at which they made individual presentations. A sample is highlighted below:

PAPERS / LECTURES PRESENTED

Dr. Dalea Bean

- (With A. Spencer), "Unpacking Old Directions, Unearthing New Approaches: A Critical Review of Paradigms of Gender Research in Tourism and Hospitality in the Caribbean." IGDS 20th Anniversary Conference on Gender Transformations in the Caribbean November 7–9, 2013, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago. (12 pp)
- "Adopting a Gender Sensitive Approach to the Teaching-Learning Process". Jamaica National Association of Teachers of English AGM. November 1, 2013. (power point presentation)
- "Bridging the 300 Mile Gap: The IGDS Commitment to Gender Capacity Rebuilding in Haiti". Gender and Development Round

table and Panel at SALISES 2013 Conference: 'Rethinking Regionalism and Regional Integration'. Mona, Jamaica, October 8, 2013 (10 pp)

Ms. Suzanne Charles

- "Gender, Human Rights and Education. A Caribbean Perspective". Paper presented to the 14th session of the UN Working Group on People of African Descent on April 01, 2014. (16 pp)
- "An Examination of Caribbean Education Systems: Perspective, Prospects and Possibilities." IGDS 20th Anniversary Conference on Gender Transformations in the Caribbean, November 7–9, 2013, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago. (15 pp)

Mrs. Shakira Maxwell

- "In the Interest of the Nation?: Examining Reproductive Health Policy in Jamaica since Independence." IGDS 20th Anniversary Conference on Gender Transformations in the Caribbean, November 7–9, 2013, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago. (14 pp)

Natasha Mortley

- "Medical Tourism in the OECS". Paper presented at the Global Competitiveness Global Value Chains Conference, March 18 and 19, 2014. Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica. (42 pp)
- "Progress towards gender equality in political leadership in the Caribbean: The case of local versus central government in Jamaica, 1944–2012". IGDS 20th Anniversary Conference on Gender Transformations in the Caribbean, November 7–9, 2013, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago. (17 pp)

Professor Verene Shepherd

- George Lamming Distinguished Lecture, "Reparation, Psychological Rehabilitation & Pedagogical Strategies", Errol Barrow Centre for the Creative Imagination, Cave Hill, Barbados, June 11, 2014. (34 pp).
- "History and Gender Analysis: Implications of Sexism in Schools' Texts" (18 pp) and "Historicizing Gender in the Caribbean." (7 pp)

Papers presented at the Berkshire Women's History Conference, Toronto, Canada, May 22–24, 2014.

- Address, New Providence High School Award's Dinner, May 17, 2014. (16 pp)
- "Pan Africanism and the CARICOM Reparatory Justice Programme." Paper presented at the CBAAC Conference, Mona Visitor's Lodge and Conference Center, April 25, 2014. (14 pp)
- "Gender & Reparation for Slavery & Indentureship: A Research Initiative." Paper presented at UWI-UAG Bordeaux Conference, April 22, 2014. (6 pp)
- "Reparation and the Right to Development: The CARICOM Case" (18 pp) and "Justice for People of African Descent through Mental Liberation: How Historians are Helping" (15 pp). Papers presented at the 14th Session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Geneva, March 31 to April 5, 2014.
- "The Historical Roots of Gender-Based/Domestic Violence in the Caribbean." Keynote speech at 2014 Caribbean Conference on Domestic Violence, March 26, 2014. (18 pp)
- "Reparation & the Right to Development: The CARICOM Case." Keynote speech, Puerto Rico, March 20, 2014. (33 pp)
- "Gender and Leadership." Paper presented at Jamaica Public Service Seminar, March 14, 2014. (12 pp)
- "Legacies of the Plantation." Paper presented at Mona High School, March 12, 2014. (7 pp)
- "The Woman's Case for Reparation". Lecture delivered at Whitfield Town Inner-city Community, March 9, 2014. (12 pp)
- "Samuel Sharpe and the making of Modern Jamaica" Keynote speech delivered at Sam Sharpe Teacher's College, February 28, 2014. (23 pp)
- "The Struggle for Black Identity in Postcolonial Jamaica." Lecture delivered at Portmore Community College, February 25, 2014. (21 pp)

- “Bluewashing & Whitewashing: Different Sides of the Same Coin: If we are not Careful.” Lecture delivered at UNIA –AC: Mass meeting, Liberty Hall – The Legacy of Marcus Garvey, Kingston, Jamaica, February 2, 2014. (13 pp)
- Presentation made to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Decade for People of African Descent as Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, New York, November 4, 2013. (6 pp)
- “CARICOM and the Decade for People of African Descent: A Post-Independence Imperative”. St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Annual Independence Lecture, October 22, 2013. (27 pp)
- “Jamaica and the Debate over Reparation for Slavery and Native Genocide”. Heritage Month Public Lecture, UWI Western Campus, Montego Bay, Jamaica, October 16, 2013. (18 pp)
- “Local Links, Regional Research: The IGDS and its Partners at 20”. Gender and Development Roundtable, SALISES 2013 Conference: ‘Rethinking Regionalism and Regional Integration’. Mona, Jamaica October 8, 2013 (13 pp)
- “‘Enough Done Be Enough!’ Women. Enslavement. Emancipation”. Paper presented at the 10th Annual Slavery Remembrance Day Memorial Lecture, International Slavery Museum, Liverpool, UK, 22 August, 2013 (23 pp) and Keynote Lecture, Opening of the first CARICOM Reparation Conference, SVG, September 16, 2013. (25 pp)

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles & Book Chapters

- **Dr. Dalea Bean** and A. Spencer, “Assessing Gender Depictions in Jamaican Hotels through the lens of Entertainment Coordinators: An application of Butler’s theory of Performativity to the study of Creative Industries”. *Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies* (2013): 37 (3/4).
- **Dr. Natasha Mortley**, N. George and J. Jervais (2014). “Case Study:

Medical Tourism in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States”, *Journal Publication*, UWI Press.

- **Verene Shepherd** Afterword – “Walter Rodney’s Groundings – 45 years On”, New Foreword In *The Groundings with My Brothers*, Walter Rodney Press, LLC, March 2014:63–67.
- **Verene Shepherd**, “Jamaica and the Debate over reparation for Slavery: An overview”, In *Emancipation and the Remaking of the British Imperial World*. Ed. By Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper and Keith McClelland. London: Manchester University Press, 2014.

INCOME GENERATION

1. IDB funded project entitled, “Adolescent Dislocation in Jamaica: Causes and Costs of Dislocation at the Secondary Level” – US\$90,000
2. MSc Self Financing Programme – JM\$1.3M
3. Gibson relay Project – US\$6,000

AWARDS & PUBLIC SERVICE

Dalea Bean

- Peer Reviewer, *Caribbean Quarterly*
- Research Volunteer: 51% Coalition

Shakira Maxwell

- Member, Development Alternatives with Women For a New Era (DAWN) Caribbean. Kingston
- Member, Jamaica Women’s Political Caucus
- Member, Working Group on Women’s Reproductive Health and Rights. DAWN Caribbean. Kingston, Jamaica.

Natasha Mortley

- Member, Global Development Network
- Member, Jamaica Diaspora Connect

Verene Shepherd

- Awarded the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander (CD) by the Government of Jamaica for outstanding service to Education in particular History education and Gender Studies.
- Elected one of three vice-chairs of the CARICOM Reparation Commission, chaired by Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, PVC and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus.
- Chair, United Nation’s Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGPAD) (up to April 2013)
- Member, Jamaica Chapter, International Women’s Forum
- Chair, National Commission on Reparation (Jamaica)
- Editorial Board, *Caribbean Quarterly*, *Jamaica Journal*, *Journal of Caribbean History*, *Slavery and Abolition*, *Atlantic Studies*
- Host of “Talking History” on Nationwide 90FM.

CONCLUSION

The RCU continues to maintain a steady level of student intake, improve its throughput rate and participate in several public service and outreach activities. It is also continuing to forge regional and international links and is a leader in the area of Gender and Development across the globe. In the coming year, as it seeks to spearhead the process of crafting and implementing the UWI Gender Policy, it will provide an invaluable service to the institution and region.