

INSTITUTE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT

Professor Opal Palmer Adisa – University Director



OVERVIEW

The activities of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies – Regional Coordinating Office (IGDS – RCO) for the 2018/2019 academic year (AY) continued to be guided by the IGDS’ Mission and Vision. The Mission 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.” The Vision seeks to ensure that “All UWI graduates are committed to social justice and the promotion of gender-responsive human relations and development.” The RCO’s theme Research, Activism, Community Engagement and Education (RACE) sought to produce and deliver interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programmes characterized by excellence in: teaching and learning, guided by feminist theories and Gender and 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.

During the reporting period, the RCO focused on a range of activities geared at advancing its core mandate across the four critical pillars encapsulated in the RACE theme. There were many highlights: the Graduate Seminars organised by Dr Dalea Bean and Brown Bag Seminars organised and chaired by Dr Natasha Mortley provided opportunities for intellectual discourse and engagement around topics of relevance; the RCO successfully collaborated with various partners, including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in convening the international ‘Policy Meeting on Masculinity in the Caribbean’ on April 12, 2019; and the Child Month Forum held on May 21, 2019 was critical in facilitating conversations between students and experts such as Mrs. Diahanne Gordon Harrison, Child’s Advocate of Jamaica and Ms. Maria-Lisa Price, Registration Office, Officer of the Children’s Registry. The successes of the RCO were realised even amid challenges in staffing and finance. This report highlights the work of the RCO in the afore-mentioned areas, as well as staffing, publications, funding and special events.

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

Teaching and Learning

During the AY, the RCO delivered the following Degrees in Gender and Development Studies: a post Graduate Diploma; an M.Sc. (with Research paper or a three-month internship and report); and MPhil and PhD Degrees. Nine graduate courses were taught by Drs. Dalea Bean and Natasha Mortley and adjunct staff, Dr. Keino Senior, Ms. Joan French, Ms. Judith Wedderburn and Mr. Warren Thompson with support from Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa and Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama. Twenty-two students were registered in the combined Graduate Programme; 15 MPhil/PhD and 7 MSc students.

The Unit presented four students (MSc) at the graduation ceremony held on November 3, 2018.

The RCO supported its students through various graduate and research seminars.

Research

The RCO continued to be involved in a broad range of research projects, which informs policymaking throughout the Caribbean, as well as extend and contribute to the creation of knowledge. The major research projects undertaken during the AY under review are highlighted below:

- **70 Plus Outstanding UWI Women project:** this is a regional project, which began as part of The UWI's 70th anniversary celebrations and is geared at highlighting the significant contribution of 70 plus women who graduated from the various campuses of The UWI since its inception. An award ceremony and exhibition launch was held on February 14, 2019 at the Regional Headquarters (RHQ) and featured graduates of the Mona Campus. Also, a photo exhibition was mounted at the RHQ from February 14–28, then from March to April, 2019 in the Main Library on the Mona Campus. A similar launch was held on the St. Augustine Campus on December, 2018 and an exhibition was mounted in the Alma Jordon Library from December 2018–April 2019.
- **Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO (JNC-UNESCO) – “Positive Fathering: A Bridge to Enhancing Family Unity and Community Cohesion in Jamaica”** project is a collaboration between the IGDS-RCO and the Bureau of Gender Affairs and is being led by Dr. Natasha Mortley. The project was launched on November 19, 2018 and is expected to be completed by December 2019. Data collection is almost complete and data analysis is now being done. The project has engaged three (3) graduate students who provides research assistance. The project is being undertaken at a cost of USD 20,000.

- **European Union – “A New Jamaican Justice Era: Consolidating Community Access and Alternative Justice for the Protection of All”** is a joint project that is being undertaken by the IGDS-RCO, the Center for Leadership, Department of Government and the Institute of Caribbean Studies. The IGDS’ component is being led by Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa with support from Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama and is aimed at improving Jamaican’s access to justice and the promotion of the ‘the rule of law’ with a view to enhancing the protective environment for women and children. The overall cost of the project is 247,475 euros distributed among the partnering Departments.
- **Cultural Purveyors project** is aimed at documenting the contributions of outstanding Jamaica personalities to the enhancement and protection of diverse aspects of culture. This project is being spearheaded by Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa. For the period under review, interviews were conducted with Honor Ford-Smith, Judith Wedderburn, Joan French, Lorna Goodison, among others.
- **Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica - “Gender and Media: Assessing impacts on Jamaican youth identity, attitudes and behaviours”**: the RCO won the bid for the afore-mentioned project. The research design for this project is currently being revised and the project is expected to begin early 2020 and will be led by Dr. Natasha Mortley.
- **Book launches**: The book, “Jamaican Women and the World Wars: On the Front Lines of Change”, written by Dr. Dalea Bean was launched at the Regional Headquarters on November 12, 2018.
- “Love’s Promise”, written by Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa was launched on the St. Augustine Campus on June 11, 2019. *The Interviewing the Caribbean Journal*, which is edited by Prof. Adisa was also launched during that event.

OUTREACH

The RCO was involved in various outreach activities for the year under review. These included:

- A workshop, titled **Building Self Esteem** held at the Elsie Bemand Home for Girls on October 27, 2018. The workshop was conducted by Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa
- **A Positive Male Role Models Art Exhibition** was mounted at the RHQ from November 5–November 24, 2018 in commemoration of International Men’s Day (IMD). The curators were Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa and Dr. Keino Senior.
- **The Art and Ananse Come to UWI storytelling festival** was held on November 19, 2019 and included the *Positive Male Role Models* art exhibition launch and a storytelling festival, which featured both local and international storytellers. The

storytelling component was in collaboration with Dr. Amina Blackwood-Meeks and Ntukama productions.

- **The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign** was observed from November 12, 2018, International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence (IDEVAW) to December 10, 2018, International Human Rights Day with several activities including: visits to four high schools, Wolmer's Trust High School for Girls, St. George's College, Excelsior and Charlie Smith High Schools in which the RCO staff participated in morning devotions and in the case of the Wolmer's High School for Girls, there was an hour-long session led by Dr Dalea Bean with presentations by Dr Natasha Mortley and Ms Rachel Nagy on gender based violence (GBV); daily posts on social media; and a lunch-time event at the RHQ, moderated by Dr. Bean with focus on engaging men in the fight against violence women.
- The Brown Bag series, a year-long series of lunchtime seminars on current and topical gender issues was organized and moderated by Dr. Natasha Mortley. The first Brown Bag, **Hear me too: Relevance of the Me Too movement in Jamaica** was held on December 5, 2018 as part of the IDEVAW activities. A Brown Bag, **Balance for Better: Abortion and Life Choices for Women in Jamaica** was held on March 28, 2019. The panellists included Ms. Joan French, Ms. Shakira Maxwell, Ms. Shenoweth Holmes and Stacy-Ann Gavin.
- **International Women's Day (IWD) 2019** was observed with the mounting of a card in the lobby of the RHQ building and a lunchtime event was held on March 12, 2019 to honour women who work at the RHQ. The event was moderated by Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama and included performances by poet, A-dziko Simba Gegele and dancer, Tara Pryce.
- A **Child Month Forum** was held on May 21, 2019 under the Child Month's theme 'Encourage, Enable, Include ME!.' Two high schools participated, the Calabar and the Haile Sellassie High schools. Mrs. Diahanne Gordon Harrison, Child's Advocate of Jamaica, Office of the Children's Advocate and Ms. Maria-Lisa Price, Registration Officer, Child Protection and Family Services were the feature speakers. Entertainment was provided by Ms Cherry Natural.
- A '**Policy Meeting on Masculinity in the Caribbean**' hosted by The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in collaboration with the RCO was convened on April 12, 2019 at the RHQ. This conference brought together participants from eight Caribbean countries, as well from outside the region. Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa, Drs Natasha Mortley and Imani Tafari-Ama presented at this event.
- **The inaugural lecture by the Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller**, Honorary Distinguished Fellow attached to the IGDS was held on April 25, 2019 at the RHQ. Mrs Simpson Miller spoke on the topic "Gender Justice & Equity in a

Post-Colonial Society: A Critique of the Ideology of Pulling Ourselves up by our own Bootstraps.” Dr. Natasha Mortley was the chairperson.

- The IGDS – Mona Campus Unit and the RCO collaborated in hosting the **9th Biennial Lucille Mathurin Mair Public Lecture** on April 17, 2019. The lecture “Lucille Mathurin Mair: The Opinions and Philosophy of a Rebel Woman” was delivered by Prof. Verene Shepherd.

OTHER

- **The UWI Gender Policy:** during the AY, several meetings were convened with the Gender Mainstreaming Committee (GMC), which is responsible for implementing The UWI Gender Policy. The GMC is being chaired by Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa.** “Positive Masculinity”. UNESCO/British Council - Boys for Education Week. April 29, 2019. Kingston Conference Centre. (8 slides)
- **Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa.** “Masculinities and Gender Equality: A Nordic-Caribbean Contribution to Sustainable Development”. Seminar in Mozambique, February 25–27, 2019. (15 slides)
- **Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa.** Framind Deire: “A Woman’s Self-fulfilment or Seducing the Man. Reggae Innovation and Sound System Culture II”. 6th Global Reggae Conference, February 13–16, 2019.
- **Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa.** “Masculinity Trying to find its Manhood: The “Crisis” of the Jamaican male”. Inter-American Development Bank Round Table discussion in Washington on November 26, 2018. (20 slides)
- **Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa.** “The “Boy Problem” in the Caribbean”. Inter-American Development Bank, Washington D.C, (Round Table Discussion on Masculinity, Risky Behaviour and Violence in the Caribbean), November 26, 2018.
- **Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa.** “Strengthening the framework for gender equality and the empowerment of all girls”. Women in Maritime Association Conference (WiMAC). Belize, October 16–19, 2018. (26 slides)
- **Dr Dalea Bean** “Jamaica and World War 1: The Great War and a Small Island”. Jamaica Heritage Trust Lecture Series, Up Park Camp and Northern Caribbean University, October 9 and 11, 2018. (25 slides)
- **Dr. Dalea Bean & A. Clarke.** “The Silence is Deafening: A Preliminary assessment of Deaf Women’s experience of GBV”. Global Feminisms and Anti-Colonial Project, November 21–23, 2018. (13 slides)

- **Dr Dalea Bean.** “Women and War: History’s Unlikely Bedfellows.” Presentation at the Jamaica Defence Force Study Day on Gender Optimisation. April 13, 2019. (16 slides)
- **Dr Dalea Bean.** “Race, War and Service: Jamaican Women’s Contestation of Blackness during Service in the ATS in World War II”. Association of Black Sociologists Conference August 8–10, 2019. (7 pages)
- **Dr Dalea Bean.** “Understanding Intimate Partner Violence”. Presentation at the Jamaica Defence Force Gender Focal Point Training by the Bureau of Gender Affairs August 22, 2019. (12 slides)
- **Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama.** “Psychological Harm: Lingering Legacies of Enslavement and Colonialism among people of African descent”. Centre for Reparations Research. June 4, 2019. Panellist
- **Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama.** “Representing Africa: Identity and the Exhibitionary Complex” in celebration of International Museums Day. Liberty Hall. May 17, 2019. Panellist
- **Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama.** “Reflections on Rum, Sweat and Tears,” at the launch of the “Kolonial” reader, November 1, 2018 (14 slides)
- **Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama.** “Rum, Colonial Heritage and Transitional Justice.” Global Summit of Research Museums November 4–6, 2018.
- **Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama.** “Skeletons in the Closet: Curating the Colonial History of Flensburg, Germany’s ‘Rum City’.” Decolonising the Museum: Transnational Comparisons, held in Washington, Nov 9–10, 2018
- **Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama.** “Decolonising the Museum”. First International Summit of Research Museums, Berlin, Germany, November 4–6, 2018.
- **Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama.** “Caribbean Feminism: From a Jamaican Perspective” July 29, 2019 at the CEDAW South to South Institute, Trinidad and Tobago, July 22–August 2, 2019. Panellist.
- **Dr. Natasha Mortley.** “Engaging Men for Reducing Gender-Based Violence”. IDB Caribbean Masculinities Policy Meeting, 12th April 2019. Panellist.
- **Dr. Natasha Mortley & Keino Senior.** “Interrogating Michel Foucault’s history of sexuality: Jamaican realities of masculinities and sexualities”. Global Feminisms and Anti-Colonial Project, November 21–23, 2018. (21 pages)
- **Dr. Natasha Mortley.** “Caribbean Migration Consultations. International Organization for Migration”. Montego Bay, Jamaica, 24 to 26 September 2018. Presenter.

PUBLICATIONS

Books & Monographs

- Opal Palmer Adisa. *Dance Quadrille, Play Quelbe*. Pulmeria, 2018.

Book Chapter

- Imani Tafari-Ama. "Rum, Sweat and Tears: Denmark's Colonial History in Flensburg, Ghana and the Virgin islands of the United States", in *Kolonial: A Reader*, Danish Library, Flensburg, 2018.

Refereed Journal articles

- Bronty Liverpool-Williams. "Calvert Jones: An Appreciation of Caribbean Life: An Interview with Bronty Liverpool-Williams", *Interviewing the Caribbean*, 4 (1), 2018: 62–71.
- Dalea Bean with Goldthree, R (2018) "Writing New Histories of War and Women's Activism in Jamaica: An Interview", *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*, 12: 345–362
- Natasha Mortley and Baldwin, A. "Caribbean women and reparatory justice: Reclaiming, rebuilding and restoring communities through migration". *International Journal of Africana Studies*. 2019. (17 pages)
- Natasha Mortley. "More than dollars and cents: Leveraging the multiple roles of Caribbean migrant women within the Diaspora for sustainable development". *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies: A Journal of Caribbean Perspectives on Gender and Feminisms*, Issue 13, June 2019: 69–92.
- Opal Palmer Adisa. "Eudine Barriteau: Gender Champion and Top Administrator". *Interviewing the Caribbean*, 2019: 16–25
- Opal Palmer Adisa. "Shallon Fadlien: Comfortable In My Skin: An Interview with Opal Palmer Adisa". *Interviewing the Caribbean*, 4 (1), 2018: 32–39
- Opal Palmer Adisa. Edward Baugh: Memories Define Me: An Interview with Opal Palmer Adisa". *Interviewing the Caribbean*, 4 (1), 2018: 40–62
- Opal Palmer Adisa. "Brian Copeland: Creative and Commercial Engineering: An Interview with Opal Palmer Adisa. *Interviewing the Caribbean*, 4 (1), 2018: 128–141

Non-refereed and Technical reports

- Natasha Mortley. "Positive Fathering: A Bridge to enhancing family unity and community cohesion in Jamaica". Inception report. UNESCO. 28th February 2019.
- Natasha Mortley. Positively male: Leveraging Jamaican masculinities for effective

role modelling. All Woman, *Jamaica Observer*. November 19, 2018. (23 pages)

- **Natasha Mortley.** Balance for better: Abortion and life choices of women in Jamaica. Feature for *Caribbean Studies Association Newsletter*, June 2019.

INCOME GENERATION

For the AY under review, the RCO continued to make fundraising for Project Research and Student Development a priority. The Office generated JMD 1,420,499.25 from the MSc self-financing programme. The following projects came on stream during the year under review:

- Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO (JNC- UNESCO) -“Positive Fathering: A Bridge to Enhancing Family Unity and Community Cohesion in Jamaica”- USD 20,000.
- European Union – “A New Jamaican Justice Era: Consolidating Community Access and Alternative Justice for the Protection of All”. The RCO will receive 40,236 euros to administer its portion of the project.
- Collectively, 150,000 JMD was realized in sponsorship from Neal and Massy and Imara Medical Centre for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence activities and the Child Month Forum respectively.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Professor Opal Palmer Adisa

- Editor, *Interviewing the Caribbean*. Published Caribbean Femininity + Masculinity = Gender Justice Pt. 1 (80 pages), January 2019
- Justice, Volume 4 part 2,” An online journal, 156 pages, Spring 2019
- Justice, Volume 4 part 1” An online journal, 157 pages, Winter 2018
- Member of the Board of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars (ACWWS)
- Judge for Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards, New York
- Judge for Sexual Assault Awareness Month Poetry contest, Women’s Coalition of St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

Dr. Dalea Bean

- Member of the Kiwanis Club of Young Professionals, Kingston
- Peer Reviewer, *Caribbean Quarterly*

Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama

- Member, Fellow-Me Academy of International Curators

Dr. Natasha Mortley

- Peer Reviewer: *Social and Economic Studies: A Journal of Social Sciences* (UWI)
- Peer Reviewer: *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*
- Peer Reviewer: *Caribbean Perspectives on Criminology and Criminal Justice*
- Resident Advisor to the St. Lucian Students Association at The UWI, Mona Campus
- Member: Research and Planning Sub-Committee, United Way Jamaica
- Member: The African-Caribbean Women's Mobility and Self-fashioning in Post-diaspora Contexts Network.
- Member: Migration and Development Cluster, SALISES UWI, Mona Campus
- Gender Representative: Technical Committee for "Enhancing Knowledge and Application of Comprehensive Disaster Management (EKACDM) Initiative." UWI, Mona Jamaica.
- Expert Advisor to the OECS Secretariat on the Programme of Research for Engaging the Diaspora for Development in the OECS
- Member: Observatory on African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Migration.
- Member: Commonwealth Scholars Alumni Association, St. Lucia and Jamaica chapters.

STUDENTS

Dr. Jacqueline Coore-Hall, who graduated in 2018 with a PhD, high commendation was one of four students who received the award for Most Outstanding Thesis from the Mona Research and Publications and Graduate Awards Committee in collaboration with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. Dr. Coore-Hall was supervised by Prof. Verene Shepherd and Dr. Tracy Ann Johnson Myers. The RCO received the award for Outstanding Performance in the Development of Research Students 2016/2017.

Ms. Ruth Howard, a student enrolled in the MSc programme became the first recipient of the Catherine James Scholarship. The scholarship was named in honour of the mother of Professor Opal Palmer Adisa and the official hand-over took place on January 21, 2019. The scholarship is expected to be offered annually.

CONCLUSION

There were many challenges during the AY, however, the commitment of staff to the fulfilment of the Mission and Vision of the IGDS was central to successes in teaching and learning, research, publication and activism in keeping with the Vice-Chancellor's Triple A Strategy.