

INSTITUTE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT



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University Director & Regional Coordinator

OVERVIEW

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) celebrates its 25th anniversary in the coming year, yet the question “Do you know your gender?” is one that has to be asked over and over again, and each time, even with the same person, we receive perplexed looks and diverse answers. Nonetheless, IGDS forges ahead as a multi- and interdisciplinary Institute of the University of the West Indies (UWI) that is ideally placed, giving it flexibility and extensive outreach.

The Regional Coordinating Office (RCO) functions as the administrative hub of the Regional Institute and as such, the University Director, based in the RCO, has oversight of the Campus-based Units. The primary task of the RCO is to coordinate major regional activities in consultation

with the Unit Heads and their community partners. In addition to its administrative duties, the RCO accepts its charge to help finance the enterprise and does so through collaborative initiatives with its partners, including UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, the IDB and CDB. Currently, the RCO administers the Graduate Programme at the Mona Campus, but is investigating if it should continue in this role. In 2012, the Quality Assurance Team that reviewed the RCO's role of overseeing the Graduate programme recommended that all teaching should take place at the Mona Campus, with the RCO focussing on project-driven research and administration. The current RCO Director wants to take the necessary steps to move in this direction, but careful investigation, looking at and evaluating all the ramifications, is necessary before such a recommendation can be put forward.

IGDS' mission (which is currently being revised) directs the projects that IGDS adopts and administers. The Mission Statement follows: "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."

In conjunction with the other IGDS Units, the RCO worked to evidence the above ideals by producing and delivering interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programmes characterized by excellence in the following areas: **Teaching** -guided by Feminist Theories and Gender and Development perspectives, principles and practices; **Research** from a gender perspective that investigates societal issues and challenges and that results in publications; and **Building Partnerships** and mobilizing resources to facilitate its work that involve public service, outreach and activism to help in the transformation of gender relations and the promotion of social justice.

Most of the energies of the RCO during the period under review were directed towards ensuring that the Office 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 and Student Development, Researching and Innovation and Outreach.

In 2014, the larger IGDS, led by the RCO, was tasked by the UWI with developing a UWI-wide Gender Policy, to ensure the Institution's compliance with international standards at the tertiary level in the areas of gender equity, equality and parity and to eliminate sexism from the practices and processes of the UWI. The Regional Steering Committee comprising members of all the Campus-Based Units, the RCO, the Open Campus, the University Registrar and the Office of Planning and Institutional Research, with the help of a consultant provided oversight and implemented a work plan for the process on all campuses as well as at the Regional Headquarters. During the academic year (AY), a Working Group was established and a Rapporteur (Suzanne Charles Watson) appointed to complete the final draft version of the policy. The University Director presented the policy at the May/June UWI meetings and the Policy was endorsed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. IGDS awaits the Vice-Chancellor's announcement of when it will roll out this policy to the entire UWI community under the One Campus mandate. IGDS is gratified that the Gender Policy has been accepted.

Following now in this report are some of the accomplishments of the RCO in the critical areas mentioned in this Overview.

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

During the period under review, the RCO continued to play an important role under the broad themes mentioned above.

Teaching, Learning and Student Development, Research and Innovation and Outreach

During the AY, the RCO offered the following Degrees in Gender and Development Studies: a Postgraduate Diploma; an MSc (with a Research Paper or 3-month internship report); and an MPhil and PhD Degree (in a wide range of related fields).

Eight graduate courses were offered during the period and taught by Drs Dalea Bean and Natasha Mortley, and adjunct staff Dr Jean Johnson, Ms. Judith Wedderburn and Ms. Joan French, with Professor Verene Shepherd, Ms. Wedderburn and Ms. French team teaching the Gender, Political Activism and Mobilisation course. Thirteen students were enrolled in the Master's Programme for the AY under review, and 34 students are currently in the combined Graduate Programme.

During the AY, meetings were held to review the graduate curriculum. The review process was spearheaded by Professor Shepherd, and Dr Bean. The process also involved other members of the RCO staff, as well as members from the IGDS, Mona Unit, adjunct lecturers and student representatives.

STAFFING

The staff complement in the RCO remains small despite persistent requests for additional researchers. Nevertheless, supporting the various programmes and activities were, in addition to the University Director, Professor Verene Shepherd (up to July 28, 2017), Drs Dalea Bean and Natasha Mortley, Administrative Officer, Dr Roger Nesbeth (up to April 28, 2017), Junior Research Fellow, Mrs. Suzanne Charles Watson, Senior Secretary Mrs. Kadine Marshall who acted in the position of Administrative Officer from May 1 to August 31, 2017 and Senior Office Attendant,

Mrs. Margaret Rowe-Hunter. Mr. Floyd Williams was also employed in a temporary capacity as Senior Secretary from (May 1 to August 31, 2017).

RESEARCH

The RCO continued to participate in regional research, which informs policy-making throughout the Caribbean. Below is a highlight of the major research undertaken during the period.

- **Jamaica Social Investment Fund Project – Institutional Strengthening in Gender Mainstreaming Project:** this project involves a comprehensive situation analysis of Caribbean men and boys (using Jamaica as a Case Study), with consideration given to the socio-cultural, economic and political impact on perceptions and representations of Caribbean masculinities. The project also explores the challenges and opportunities that the factors have created. An Inception Report was submitted on March 28, 2017. It is hoped that the findings will inform a Regional Masculinity Project.
- **Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO (JNC-UNESCO) & Ministry of Gender, Sport and Entertainment – Contemporary Caribbean Masculinities Project:** this pilot study is part of the wider IGDS Contemporary Masculinities Study. The research is being spearheaded by Dr Natasha Mortley. An inception report was submitted to UNESCO in March 2017 and a dissemination event is being planned.
- **History of the Gibson Relays Research Project:** this was commissioned by Professor Rainford Wilks on behalf of the Gibson Relays Committee and research was spearheaded by the University Director, Professor Verene Shepherd with research input from Mrs. Charles Watson, Mr. Kemal Brown and MSc. graduate student Mr. Deighton Stuart. Special mention should be made of the role of Drs Dalea Bean and Natasha Mortley. The book was launched in June 9, 2017.

OUTREACH

The RCO engaged in several important outreach activities during the period under review. Some of the highlights included:

- **IGDS/European Union School Tour:** the RCO partnered with residents from the European Union Member States to host a series of conversations with students in some Jamaican high schools on the topic ‘*Gender-based violence and women’s economic empowerment*’.
- **Breakfast Forum:** this breakfast forum was held on March 17, 2017 in observance of Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day. The RCO honoured a number of outstanding women who had ‘broken the glass ceiling’ in their respective fields. The honourees included Hon. Portia Simpson Miller.
- **Re-enactment of the Trial of Governor Edward Eyre Play:** the RCO partnered with the Faculty of Law and presented the play, the Trial of Governor Eyre from December 3–18, 2016 at UWI, Mona.
- **Spunky Women Seminar:** the RCO commemorated 16 Days of Activism for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW) by hosting a Panel Discussion entitled: Spunky Women, Abusive Men?: Conversations at the UWI on Domestic Violence, on December 8, 2016 at the UWI Regional Headquarters.
- **IGDS Regional Lecture Series:** the Regional Lecture Series was held in collaboration with the Open Campus under the theme “*Exploring Caribbean Feminisms: History, Culture and Movements of Social Change*”. The Series was launched on International Women’s day in March 2016 and ended in May 2017. Twelve lectures were delivered throughout the Caribbean. The RCO plans to publish the lectures.
- **Presentation to the Haiti Jamaica Society (HJS):** the RCO made a donation on November 7, 2017 of JA\$50,000.00 to assist with the recovery efforts in Haiti

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Dalea Bean.** “Walking the difficult road of Nationalism: Amy Bailey’s World War II Philosophy” Berkshire Women’s History Conference, Hofstra University, June 2–4, 2017.
- **Dalea Bean.** “It’s better in the Bahamas?: The case of Jamaican women’s struggle for empowerment in Nassau”, 10th International Workshop on Women in the 21st Century. University of Havana, March 6–9, 2017. (5 pages)
- **Dale Bean.** “Conversations on Gender-Based Violence and Gender Discrimination” IGDS Regional Lecture Series, Grand Cayman, November 15, 2016.
- **Natasha Mortley.** “Lessons Learned from Teaching Feminist Epistemology and Research within a Cross Cultural Context”, International Women in the 21st Century Conference, Havana Cuba. March, 6–8, 2017 (12 pages)
- **Natasha Mortley.** “Caribbean Women in the Diaspora: Shaping and Reshaping Policy. 46th Annual Conference of the Association of Black Sociologists, “Black sociology Matters.” Memphis TN. October, 6–8, 2016 (14 pages)
- Shepherd, V. and **Bean, D.** “Conversations on Gender-based Violence and Gender Discrimination”, IGDS Regional Lecture Series, Grand Cayman, November 15, 2016.
- **Verene Shepherd.** “Gender-Based Violence in the Caribbean: Historical Roots”, IGDS Regional Lecture Series, Grand Cayman, November 15, 2016.
- **Verene Shepherd.** “Justice and International Norms and Standards” UN Expert Seminar on the UN International Decade for People of African Descent, York University’s Osgoode Hall Law School, February 2–3, 2017.

PUBLICATIONS

Books & Book Chapters

- **Dalea Bean**, (2017) “Bodies in Conflict: Policing Sexual Liaisons in Jamaica during World War II” *World War II and the Caribbean*. Eds by Debbie Eccles and Karen McCollin, UWI Press. (20 pages)
- **Dalea Bean** and R. Sukhu. “Signs of the Future of Feminist Praxis and Practise: IGDS Graduate Students and the Evolution of Caribbean Gender Theorising”. *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies 10- IGDS Gold: Advancing Caribbean Feminist Scholarship*, eds Dalea Bean and Raquel Sukhu. (2016) (5 pages)
- **Natasha Mortley** “Building and Evaluating Research Capacity in Health Systems: Case Studies and Innovative Models”. *Building and Evaluating Research Capacity in Health Systems: Case Studies and Innovative Models*. Eds. By Nancy Edwards, Dan Kaseje, Eulalia Kahwa. Canada: UTC Press. 2016: 11–38 and 125–24
- **Verene Shepherd**. Foreword for the book: “*The UWI Gender Journey, Recollections and Reflections*” The University of the West Indies Press, 2017. xvii–xxiii

Refereed Journal

- **Natasha Mortley**. “The impact of nurse migration on Caribbean health care systems: A Phenomenological approach”. *Sage Online Journal*, Sage Publications. January, 2017 (22 pages).
- Baldwin, A and **N. Mortley**. “Reassessing Caribbean Migration: Love, Power and Re Building in the Diaspora”. *Journal of International Women Studies*. Vol. 17, Issue 3 *Women and Gender: Looking Toward Caribbeanness*, 2016, 164–176
- **Verene Shepherd**. *The Gibson Relays, History & Impact on Jamaica's Sports Culture and Social Development*” Ian Randle Publishers, 2017.
- **Verene Shepherd**. ‘Reckoning with 1865 in 2015: the Morant Bay War & the Case for Reparations’, *Jamaica Journal*, 36:3, 2017: (33–39)

Non-refereed and Technical reports

- **Natasha Mortley.** Inception Report: Contemporary Masculinities: A Pilot Study of Males, Crime and Community in Jamaica. IGDS – RCO. March 2017. (19 pages)

INCOME GENERATION

For the period under review, the IGDS, RCO, continued to make fundraising for Project Research and Student Development a critical part of its mandate. The Office generated J\$1,066,891 from the MSc self-financing programme and successfully won the following bids and finalised MOUs/contracts with the relevant stakeholders:

1. Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), Gender Mainstreaming project – US\$45,000.00
2. Jamaica National Commission for United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Caribbean Masculinities project – US\$18,000.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr Dalea Bean

- Member of the Kiwanis Club of Young Professionals, Kingston
- Peer Reviewer, *Caribbean Quarterly*;
- Research Volunteer, 51% Coalition
- Planning committee member and participant: European Union/IGDS/Spanish Embassy School Tour against Gender Based Violence, Jan-April 2017

Dr Natasha Mortley

- Expert advisor to the OECS Secretariat on Engaging Caribbean Diaspora; Member Global Development Network
- Moderator, Jamaica Diaspora Connect Research Online

Dr Roger Nesbeth

- Member, Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators;
Member, Human Resource Association of Jamaica

Professor Verene Shepherd

- Member of the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Co-Chair, National Council on Reparation (Jamaica)
- Vice-Chair, CARICOM Reparation Commission
- Editorial Board, *Caribbean Quarterly*, *Jamaica Journal*, *Journal of Caribbean History*, *Slavery and Abolition*, *Atlantic Studies*
- Host of “Talking History” on Nationwide 90 FM.

Mrs. Suzanne Charles Watson

- Member, Research Sub-Committee for the National Women’s Health Survey of Jamaica STATIN/IDB/PIOJ/UNWomen.

STUDENTS

The RCO continued to fund both financially challenged and outstanding graduate students, maintaining both a Fund for MSc students and the Louraine Emmanuel Fund. The Annual Louraine Emmanuel Scholarship presentation was made on November 7, 2016. The recipients were Miss Petulia Clarke, and Miss Nadine Wilson who graduated with distinction from the MSc programme in Gender and Development Studies. Both awardees, each received a cheque valuing US\$250.00, and a book on Gender and Development Studies.

CONCLUSION

The RCO is committed to research and activism in keeping with the VC’s mandate. IGDS continues to improve its throughput rate and participate in several public service and outreach activities. The RCO also maintains its regional and international links and is a leader in the

area of Gender and Development locally and regionally, with international impact. In the coming year, IGDS will play a key role in the implementation of the Gender Policy, will endeavour to provide an invaluable service to the institution and region while expanding its outreach into various communities.