

2212

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
CENTRE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS**

**A Report to the
Regional Coordinating Unit
for the period
September 2002 to August 2003**

**Prepared for the May 2004 meeting
of the RCV - CGDS
Cave Hill Campus, Barbados
17th - 19th May 2004**



national gender policy training of Facilitators and rapporteurs

CGDS

Introduction

The 2002 academic year saw the appointment of Dr. Patricia Mohammed¹, who now fills the post of Senior Lecturer at the Centre. Her contribution was immediate and significant, especially in relation to the graduate component of the CGDS' programme, as she serves as Coordinator of Post-Graduate Studies. Dr. Mohammed also shares teaching duties with Professor Reddock and she has assumed responsibilities for the Graduate Sub-Committee. Dr. Mohammed also took over responsibility as Chair of the Editorial Sub-committee.

Administrative – There were several other staff changes. Lara Roopnarine, Graduate Research Assistant, who joined the Centre's staff in October 2001, left one year later in September 2002. For the first time, provision was made in the 2002/2003 estimates for the post of Graduate Research Assistant and Ms. Heather Collins was selected to fill said post. She assumed duties in October 2003. x 2002

Ms. Miriam Auguste, Clerical Assistant I also left on August 8th to pursue further studies abroad. Ms. Devon Telesford replaced her three days later. These were both temporary positions. In the budget of 2003-2004, a permanent post of clerical assistant was added for the first time.

Fulbright Scholar Programme – Dr. Dorothy Roberts of Northwestern University's School of Law joined the Centre for the academic year 2002-2003. Professor Roberts contributed significantly towards the development of the Research Programme on Gender and Sexuality and the Implications for HIV/AIDS.

Review of Operations – Sept. 2002 to August 2003

TEACHING:

The Centre continues to attract interest among the student population, as evidenced by the steady increase in course-enrolment figures. The AR11C intake was approximately 60 and the SY27D was approximately 35.

¹ Former Senior Lecturer and Head of the Mona Unit of the CGDS.



However problems with the registration of minors continued. It was suggested that Professor Reddock write to the Faculty Board as a matter coming from the Board of Studies, CGDS. The latter noted that minors in the Faculty of HUED were not declared in advance as in other Faculties – instead minors were declared when students applied to the Centre – and this might be contributing to the problem.

Two new courses, AR20M - Men and Masculinities in the Caribbean and NS21B – Gender and Science were introduced in Semester II, 2002/3 in the Faculty of Humanities and Education and Agriculture and natural Sciences respectively. Academic Board also approved a second course, Race, Ethnicity, Class and Gender in the Anglophone Caribbean for offer at a later date in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The two-year Certificate programme started in January 2003 with 34 new students. The preparation of course materials for this programme continued.

Programmes Offered :-

1. Cross-Faculty Undergraduate courses (see Appendix I)
2. Minor in Gender Studies in the Faculty of Humanities and Education.
3. Minor in Gender and Development Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences.
4. Certificate Course in Gender and Development by Distance

The Graduate Programme :-

Dr. Mohammed, in her capacity as Graduate Studies Coordinator, held introductory meetings with registered graduate students and it must be noted that Mr. Wayne Riley, a postgraduate student from the second cohort, had submitted a complete first draft of his thesis. Dr. Mohammed also met with Ms. Hebe Verest, a University of Amsterdam PhD. candidate whose comparative research examined the livelihood strategies of lower-income families in Paramaribo and Port of Spain. Dr. Reddock and Dr. Asad Mohammed of the Department of Land Surveying were supervising Ms. Verrest locally.

Ms. Gabrielle Hosein, a postgraduate student had submitted her MPhil. Thesis. Ms. Hosein had also received a scholarship from the University of North London for a Ph.D. in Anthropology.

RESEARCH:

The Centre's accomplishments in the area of research have been outstanding. CGDS research projects, individual research and contracted research have proved beneficial, not only to the Centre and the University, but to Trinidad and Tobago and the region as well. In 2002/2003 these included: -

Gender and Sexuality

The research project Gender and Sexuality and the Implications for HIV/AIDS came on stream over this period. A number of project proposals were prepared and work began on a Pilot phase. This phase includes:

- The preparation of an annotated bibliography on this theme – completed and presented to the March 2004 symposium
- A pilot study of attitudes, behaviours and taboos among UWI students under 25 years old using the focus group method – interviews completed and transcribed. Analysis ongoing
- A regional symposium/conference on March 11-13, 2004 – completed - Prof Barry Chevannes was the Keynote speaker at the opening ceremony
- Analysis of the data of the HIV/AIDS Hotline – ongoing.

Work is continuing on the completion of these research activities and on publishing in book form the papers presented at the symposium. The bibliography is also to be published. Researchers in this programme are – Prof. Dorothy Roberts, Northwestern University School of Law, Dr. Dianne Douglas, Yale University Dept of Psychiatry, Dr. Sandra Reid of the UWI Dept. of Psychiatry and Prof. Rhoda Reddock.

Women, Gender and Water

This is an interdisciplinary research project examining the gendered use of water and water resources in Trinidad and Tobago and the Implications for Policy. It began with a lunchtime seminar to mark World Rural Women's Day 2002 and the theme *Your Right to Safe*

Water.² The presence of Fulbright scholar, Dr. Jill Schneiderman, in Semester II of 2002-2003 facilitated the initiation of a research programme. The research paper – Women, Gender and Community was presented at the 2003 CSA conference and locally at a special seminar. Since then a meeting of interested stakeholders was organized with representatives from – the Faculty of Engineering, Dept of Life Sciences, Kairi Consultants, a freelance artist/poet musician and of the CGDS. Dr. Frederika Deare and Dr. Dawn Phillip have agreed to be the joint coordinators of this project.

The Nariva Swamp: A Gendered Case Study

This project came to an end in 2003. Five research reports had been distributed, but two had to be recalled for revision. A public viewing of the video, "Living with the Wetlands: Women, Men and the Nariva Swamp", took place on January 28th 2003 at the Learning Resource Centre. This event was planned in collaboration with the Marketing and Communications department. Ms. Lirlyn Elliott suggested that a copy of the video be placed in the Library.

video the Centre was invited to apply for additional funds to produce a 2nd video focusing on the bio-physical aspects of the results this is ongoing.

Regional Research Projects: -

The Making Of Feminisms in the Caribbean

The project progressed very slowly. Professor Reddock wrote to the Campus Librarian, asking that a Special Collection be opened. This had been agreed upon and Ms. Kathleen Helenese-Paul was assigned to assist the Centre.

Work on the Biographical Dictionary continued. Unfortunately, Ms. Barclay could not complete her work on the transcripts and Ms. Kimberly Byng replaced her. The biographies of 30 women were prepared and five more remained.

Work began on the full-length biographies of Christina Lewis and Beatrice Greig. Ms. Naette Lee worked on the biographies during the vacation period of 2003-2004.

² Panellists included – Dr. Lester Forde, Water Resources Engineer, Ms Niala Maharaj, consultant to the Gender and Water Alliance and Global Water Partnership, and Ms Rose Rajbansee of the Rural Women's Association and the Plum Mitan community.

A draft of the Deed of Gift for the Library Special Collection was forwarded to the University's Legal Officer and had been subsequently revised.

Gender Differentials in Educational Performance at the Secondary and Tertiary Levels

This project has three main components – a statistical analysis of educational achievement using CXC data by Dr. June George; A study of education and student identity being carried out by Dr. Jennifer Mohammed and Mr. Carol Keller and a classroom interaction study by Dr. Jeanette Morris. The schools being used in the study are – Queens Royal College, Signal Hill Senior Comprehensive and Bishops High School Tobago, St. Augustine Senior Comprehensive School, St. Josephs Convent and St. Georges College. On graduate student is also carrying out his research in this area.

↓
CGDS

CGDS Publications: -

Professor Reddock compiled two thematic issue of *Social and Economic Studies* to mark the tenth anniversary of the CGDS. Themes identified were. The first issue has a publication date of September 2003 and the second for December 2003.

Secondly, the two outstanding working papers in the series had also been completed and published. These were entitled:

- "Like Bush Fire in My Arms": Interrogating the World of Caribbean Romance – Paula Morgan
- Aspects of Gender in the Spiritual Baptist Religion in Tobago: Notes from the Field – Maarit Laitinen

OUTREACH:

Book Launch :

"Creole Recitations" – Faith Smith

The CGDS hosted "A Post-Carnival Interlude" at the Social Science Faculty Lounge on Thursday 6th March, 2003. The event, which was organized by Mirriam Auguste and Heather Collins was held to introduce the book **Creole Recitations** and its author Dr. Faith Smith. Artist Christopher Cozier, whose work appears on the cover, was also invited to present a selection of slides of past and ongoing work to the audience.

The National Gender Policy and Action Plan :

In 2003 the Centre was contracted by the UNDP, the executing agency of the project, to collaborate with the Ministry of Community Development and Gender Affairs, in the formulation of a National Gender Policy and Action Plan (NGPP), for Trinidad & Tobago³. This is an extremely important component of CGDS' activities, as it responds to the demands of interested members of the local community. Facilitators and Rapporteurs were trained on June 11th 2004. They comprised undergrad. and postgrad. Students of the CGDS, as well as Ministry officials and members of women's groups.

Activities for this undertaking began with a National Consultation on June 13th at the Trinidad Hilton, hosted by the Ministry. Approximately 300 stakeholders attended, representing government, non-governmental organizations, women's and men's groups, religious organizations, private sector and many other diverse groups and interested individuals. An internal review of the consultations was held and a report was prepared.

Eight community Consultations were also held – seven in Trinidad and one in Tobago – this was a major undertaking and additional staff had to be hired.

Annual International Women's Day Cultural Celebration: –

JAZZABELLE – This year's cultural celebration in observance of International Women's Day, "JAZZABELLE" featured female-led jazz ensembles. Ms. Marjorie Whyllie, renowned jazz pianist, drummer and composer and Head of the Music Unit, UWI, Mona, Jamaica was the guest artiste. The cast of **Jazzabelle** performed to a sold out audience with many suggestions that the show be mounted at another occasion.

³ Funded by CIDA-GEF and the UNDP

International Women's Day Celebrations 2003: -

The CGDS/WDSG took part in the annual activities on March 8th organized by the Network of NGOs, this time sharing a booth with the Women Working for Social Progress. The event was very successful with members of the public as well as Government officials visiting the booths during the course of the day. The annual lunch-time march through the streets of Port of Spain was also well-supported.

NGO Proposal for Ministry of Health Consultation: -

The CGDS was invited to participate in a meeting to draft a proposal put forward by NGOs, as input in the Ministry of Health's two-day stakeholder consultation held in September. The planning session was spearheaded by the network of NGOs.

YMCA Men Touring Programme: -

The CGDS is a member of the Advisory Committee for the YMCA's Men Touring Project. This project is aimed at the re-socialization of young men in our society. The first activity was the Training of Trainers Workshop aimed at training selected men to become mentors. Trained mentors will then be attached to schools to hold sessions with selected children.

The mentors were provided with skills in counseling techniques, gender sensitization, re-evaluation counseling as well as training in popular theatre techniques such as the Character Caravan.

The Illegal Use of Small Arms in the Caribbean: Issues for Governance: -

A three-day, regional workshop was held during which participants heard status reports from the countries represented and were involved in small group sessions devising strategies and recommendations around critical areas of demand/supply issues, measures to be taken and research needed.

How To Publish Workshop: -

On February 22nd 2003, the "How to Publish" workshop was held. This was organized by the Women and Development Studies Group (WDSG) and the CGDS. There were 20 participants.

The half-day seminar looked at publishing needs, perils and rewards as well as the different requirements and styles from the perspectives of the various disciplines. The panelists included Dr. Patricia Mohammed, Dr. Brian Cockburn from the Department of Life Sciences, Dr. Sam Rawlins from the Department of Microbiology and Mrs. Zaleena Ramnath from the Office of Research who spoke on how to access funding. The majority of the participants were postgraduate students.

UWI Orientation Week: -

As part of its continued support of the WDSG the Centre assisted in organizing an information booth for Orientation week, held September 5th, 2002 at the UWI, St. Augustine Campus.

UWI Open Days 2002: -

The CGDS participated in the UWI's Annual Open Days with a very successful booth display and programme of activities held at the Centre's Seminar Room. This year activities included rap sessions on HIV/AIDS and sexuality facilitated by Rapport of the Ministry of Health. Young women and men who use popular theatre methodology to educate young people on HIV/AIDS staff this group.

Creative Strategies for Making a Difference in Secondary Schools: Reclaiming the Classroom – Alternatives to Corporal Punishment: -

The CGDS was approached by the Ministry of Education to develop a series of eight, one-day workshops for implementation.

The target groups were teachers and principals of secondary schools.. It is expected that at the end of all eight training workshops, approximately 320 teachers would have been trained in alternative discipline strategies, classroom management and gender. A core element of these workshops was Youth Developmental Assets. The

gendered dimension of youth development, learning and behaviour will also form a major part of this course.

At present, seven of the workshops have been completed and the eighth, which is to be held in Tobago, has not yet taken place.

Ministry of Community Development & Gender Affairs Workshop: -

A one -day workshop and reporting session by the Domestic Violence unit of the Ministry of Community Development and Gender Affairs was held at the Eric Williams Financial Complex. After the reporting session in the morning, participants then took part in small group sessions to discuss various concerns relating to current programmes on gender violence and to provide recommendation on future activities and strategies to the Ministry.

NGO Proposal for the Ministry of Health Consultation: -

The CGDS participated in a meeting to draft a proposal put forward by NGOs, as input in the Ministry of Health's two-day stakeholder consultation held in September 2002. The planning session was spearheaded by the Network of NGOs.

Lunch Time Seminar Series 2002-2003

1. Catching Dynamic Gender Trends with Simple Data Analysis: A Skeptical View – Dr. Mark Figueroa, UWI, Mona
2. Race, gender and the Meaning of Reproductive Freedom – Dr. Dorothy Roberts, Visiting Fulbright Scholar
3. Women, Gender and Safe Water: Claim your Right – Niala Maharaj, Dr. Lester Forder, Rose Rajbansee, Roundtable Discussion
4. "Ten years was not enough in 1985": Reflections on the History of feminism and the Women's Movement –Sonia Cuales, UNECLAC
5. Gender, Acculturation and the Muslim Community between the War – Halima-Sa'adia Kassim, COSTATT
6. Human Rights, Law and Social Change in relation to Women – Heather Collins, CGDS, St. Augustine
7. POCOMANIA: Una Marson's 1938 play – Dr. Leah Rosenberg, University of Florida

8. "The taste of rum and Coca cola": Calypso, Nationalism and American Audiences in Occupied Trinidad – Professor Harvey Neptune, Northwestern University
9. Gender, Geology and Environmental Justice – Dr. Jill Schneiderman, Visiting Fulbright Scholar
10. The Reality of Unsafe Abortion in Trinidad & Tobago: A Call for Abortion Law Reform – Dylis McDonald, ASPIRE
11. Aestheticising Nationalism, Race, Gender and the Representation of America – Professor Carol Smith-Rosenberg, University of Michigan
12. Theorising Black Gay Subjectivity: From Margin to Centre – Dr. Wesley Crichlow, Carleton University
13. The Gender and Social Implications of the Illegal Use of Small Arms in the Caribbean – Folade Mutota, WINAD
14. Rescuing Diaspora: Rethinking the role of Migration and Diasporic Identity in International Political Economy – Chanzo Greenidge, IIR
15. Gender, Science and the Environment – Dr. Grace Sirju-Charran and Dr. Jill Schneiderman, Visiting Fulbright Scholar
16. Women, Gender and Water: A presentation of research Findings – Dr. Jill Schneiderman, Visiting Fulbright Scholar

OTHER:

Women and Development Studies Group: -

The coordinator, Ms. Claudia De Four, resigned from the post. Some of the members of the executive met and planned to resuscitate the group with a different focus. There were also plans to change the name of the group. It was hoped that more people would join in due course. Ms. Camille Antoine worked with the group.

Tenth Anniversary Celebrations: -

The Mona Academic Conference entitled, "Gender in the 21st Century: Perspectives, Visions and Possibilities" was held in 29th-31st August 2003. Ms. Mia Mottley, Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney-General of Barbados, was the Keynote Speaker.

Professor Reddock presented a paper entitled, "Caribbean Masculinities and Femininities: The Impact of Globalisation on Cultural Presentations".

St. Augustine's celebrations of the Tenth Anniversary included plans to publish a Tenth Anniversary booklet, stage a Library exhibition, host an open Lecture in December 2003, publish a booklet based on the lecture, print commemorative cards and produce a 10th anniversary video. The Unit also had CGDS Polo jerseys, Baby-T's and stickers on sale.⁴

Website Development: -

Ms. Collins attended the Web Course Tools (WebCT) course offered by the Instructional Development Unit and some of Dr. Mohammed's courses were put on line. The Centre experienced some difficulties with the person assigned to update the website and so corrections were not made after February 2003.

Distinguished Visitors to the CGDS: -

- Ms. Denise Paiewonsky Di Franco, Centro de Estudio del Genero, Dominican Republic, Oxfam Consultant – September 6th 2002
- Delegation from the Republic of Suriname – Drafting of Domestic Violence Legislation – September 11th 2002
- Ms. Harriet Massingberd, Representative of the British Council – September 23rd 2002
- Delegation of Banulacht – On September 29th 2002, the Centre met with members of Banulacht of the Republic of Ireland Banulacht is a network of women's organizations that works towards attaining women's rights and social justice

⁴ Professor Leo-Rhynie delivered the open lecture on December 3rd 2003 and the booklet is in the process of being published. Ms. Karel McIntosh has finished writing the Centre's booklet – it has not yet been published. Production of the anniversary video has been postponed and the Library display did not take place.

- Professor Sylvia Wynter, Distinguished Lecturer, was hosted by the CGDS. A small luncheon was held in her honour on November 11th 2002. Professor Wynter also presented a lunch-time seminar.

Appendix I – Staff Publications

Individual Staff Research: - Dr. Patricia Mohammed

- Image and Iconography in the Evolution of Caribbean Identity – Dr. Mohammed received a grant from the Campus Research & Publications Fund committee for this project in which representations of the past are systematically examined and interpreted by placing collected visual data alongside text. The will also be the production of audio_visual teaching material in DVD format and a printed user manual.
Dr. Mohammed had completed a manuscript and CD on “Imaging the Caribbean” and had received provisional acceptance for publication by the Smithsonian Institute.

Publications

- *Gendered Realities: Essays in Caribbean Feminist Thought*, The University of the West Indies Press and Centre for Gender and Development Studies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica, 537 pp, 2002
- "The Creolization of Indian Women in Trinidad" in Verene Shepherd and Glen Richards (eds.) *Questioning Creole: Creolisation Discourses in Caribbean Culture (In honour of Kamau Brathwaite)*, Ian Randle Publishers and James Currey Publishers: Kingston and Oxford pp: 130-147, 2002
- "Taking Possession: Symbols of Empire and Nation" in *Small Axe 11: A Journal of Caribbean Criticism*, pp 31-58. This volume entitled *Narratives of Empire*, edited by Anthony Bogues, Indiana University Press, Indiana, USA., March 2002
- "Refining Gender Methodology: Studying Masculinity through Popular Song Lyrics" in *Caribbean Masculinities: Working Papers*, Rafael L. Ramirez, Ineke Cunningham and Victor I. Garcia-Toro, HIV/AIDS Research and Education Centre, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico pp. 33-56, 2002

Individual Staff Research: – Prof. Rhoda Reddock

- Gender Differentials in Educational Performance at the Secondary and Tertiary levels in Trinidad and Tobago – a pilot study of Trinidad & Tobago is being conducted in collaboration with the School of Education and is funded by a personal grant from bpTT of TT\$50000 to Professor Rhoda Reddock. June George, Jeannette Morris, and Jennifer Mohammed of the School of Education are also working on this project.
- Ethnicity, Class and Gender in Contemporary Trinidad and Tobago - Intersections and Contestations – This project encompasses a number of research and collaborative initiatives which seek to examine this complex phenomena. It includes examination of historical and contemporary factors affecting gendered relations among ethnic and religious groups in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean region. These initiatives have included collaboration with the University of Dartmouth/Ford Foundation project of the same name on Latin America and the Caribbean, and more recent

collaborations with St. Lawrence University, USA and Trent University, Peterborough, Canada.

Publications

- "Caribbean Masculinities and Femininities: The Impact of Globalisation on Cultural Representations", Mona Academic Conference, "Gender in the 21st Century: Perspectives, Visions and Possibilities", August 29-31, Kingston, Jamaica
- *Interrogating Caribbean Masculinities: Theoretical and Empirical Analyses*, University of the West Indies Press, Kingston, Jamaica, 2003.