

INSTITUTE FOR GENDER & DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Director: Professor Verene Shepherd, B.A., MPhil. (UWI.), Ph.D. (Cantab.)

Established in 1993, the Institute of Gender and Development Studies is an autonomous interdisciplinary entity, which aims, through its programme of teaching, research and outreach, to question historically accepted theories and explanations about society and human behaviour, as well as to critically examine the origins of power differences between and among men and women and the range of factors which account for these differences.

The Institute's mandate is to:

- Develop an integrated, interdisciplinary programme of gender studies within the University, at both undergraduate and graduate levels. This includes facilitating the incorporation of gender analysis in all disciplines.
- Produce and disseminate knowledge, based on the generation and analysis of research data on women, men, and gender related issues in the Caribbean.
- Establish and maintain linkages with national, regional and international institutions concerned with gender and development, provide advisory services, influence policy directions and assist with capacity building in these institutions.

Located on all three campuses of the University, the impact of the work of the Institute is wide-ranging and far-reaching as it enjoys long established relationships and collaborations with local, regional and international development agencies, including CARICOM, the Caribbean Development Bank, the United Nations, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and UK Department for International Development (DFID).

As the leading regional agency of expertise on issues of gender, the Institute has been instrumental in providing strategies to enhance awareness of the critical role played by the study of gender in national and regional development.

Graduates of the Institute join a cadre of professionals who are equipped with the knowledge and capacity to create a more equitable and gender-sensitive society.

MSc and MPhil / PhD in Gender and Development Studies

Programme Objectives:

MSc Gender and Development Studies: The programme of study is designed to provide a comprehensive interdisciplinary programme, focusing on gender and development, which:

- a. Provides analytical frameworks for understanding the differential experiences of women and men, in the Caribbean context and internationally.
- b. Facilitates research in gender and development, as it relates to issues of sustainable socio-

economic and political development of women and men in the region.

c. Encourages indigenous theorizing in dialogues around issues of gender and development.

d. Advocates for the inclusion and integration of gender in development policies and planning in government as well as in non-governmental agencies and organizations, through increased knowledge and understanding, skill development and attitudinal change.

MPhil / PhD Gender & Development Studies

These research-based programmes are designed to:

Increase the cadre of persons with dedicated training in gender and development studies, available to work in the public, private and NGO sectors; as well as persons capable of teaching at various levels of education and training institutions.

Entry Requirements

MSc Gender and Development Studies

To be admitted to the prescribed course of study for the MSc Gender and Development Studies, candidates must have at least a second-class degree from an approved university. Graduates without an honours pass, but with relevant work experience; e.g. in development agencies, women's bureaux, etc., will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

MPhil Gender and Development Studies

The M.Phil is offered to students who have obtained at least an Upper Second Class (Honours) undergraduate degree or who have already been awarded a graduate degree. Candidates who wish to pursue this option must show a strong proficiency for research and a sound understanding of research methodologies, as this is a research degree, by thesis only.

This is usually a research degree by thesis only. Where it is deemed necessary, a candidate maybe required to undertake and pass courses recommended by the Institute.

PhD Gender & Development Studies

The requirement for entry into this programme is a postgraduate degree. With the exception of holders of MPhil degrees from a recognised university, candidates are normally required to register for the MPhil degree in the first instance and will only be upgraded to the doctoral level if progress is satisfactory. Persons without a strong background in Gender Studies may be required to take relevant graduate level courses.

Areas of Research:

Consistently, the research interests of the Institute's graduate students have had significance to national and regional development. Areas of interest have included:

- Crime and sexual violence among females in Jamaica
- The feminization of HIV and AIDS
- The gender dimensions of social protection in Jamaica
- Gender and Parenting Skills
- Gender, Globalization and Work

- Women and Transformational Leadership
- Women and Micro-enterprise Development
- Gender Issues in Education

Seminars:

In its efforts to expedite the work of the Unit's graduate research students Graduate Seminar Series is convened for each cohort of MPhil/PhD students. The seminar series provides an opportunity for students to examine their individual research proposals, develop the appropriate techniques towards data collection and share their findings for peer review and critique. It also allows for supervisor guidance.

There should be at least three research seminar presentations throughout the course of the programme.

Duration of programme:

MSc Programme – 18 months full-time or and three (3) years part-time.

MPhil / PhD – The minimum time for the award of the MPhil is two years and for the award of the PhD the minimum time is three years.

Programme Structure:

MSc Gender and Development Studies

The programme comprises eight core courses with a combined total of 24 credits:

1. Feminist Methodology
- 2 Gender Analysis in Policy and Planning
- 3 Gender and Development and Human Society
- 4 Gender, Political Activism and Mobilization
- 5 Sex, Gender and the Family
- 6 Theories and Development of Feminism

Students are also expected to successfully complete a Research Methodology course offered through the Faculty of the Social Sciences, which is assigned three credits.

Each course runs for one semester (approximately 39 contact hours) and courses offered by the Institute are examined by a combination of course work and a final examination, which account for 40% and 60%, respectively, of the final grade.

Students who are unsuccessful in more than half of the complement of courses for which they are registered in any given semester will be required to withdraw from the programme.

The completion of a research paper (maximum 56,000 words, including appendices) based on independent research, which focuses on a problem or issue related to gender and development, is

the culmination of the M.Sc. programme, and is worth six credits.

MPhil / PhD Gender & Development Studies

Persons without a strong background in Gender Studies may be required to take relevant graduate level courses and where it is deemed necessary, a candidate may be required to undertake and pass courses recommended by the Institute.

With the exception of holders of MPhil degrees, from a recognised university, candidates are normally required to register for the MPhil degree in the first instance and will only be upgraded to the doctoral level if progress is satisfactory.

The completion of a thesis (maximum 50,000 words [MPhil] / 80,000 words [PhD], including appendices) based on independent research, which focuses on a problem or issue related to gender and development, is the culmination of the graduate research programme.

Broad Outline of Courses

MSc Gender and Development Studies

GEND6101: Feminist Methodology and Epistemology

The overall intention of this course is to examine feminist challenges to traditional ways of generating and creating knowledge and therefore to examine contending quantitative and qualitative research paradigms and arguments for a feminist epistemology.

GEND6502: Gender Analysis in Policy and Planning

It is now recognised that women and men have different and unique needs and that in order to promote greater gender equality projects, programmes and policies at community and national levels need to take these differences into account. In this course students are equipped with the tools for carrying out a gender analysis and made aware of the planning frameworks that can be used to guide such a process. The process for developing, evidence-based, gender responsive policies is explored and the rationale for pursuing a gender mainstreaming strategy in the Caribbean is highlighted.

GEND6601A: Gender and Development and Human Society

In this course students examine the concepts 'gender', 'development' and 'human development' and critically assess development paradigms in terms of their contribution to the project of gender equality and equity. The feminist critique of gender relations in national, regional and international development practices is examined and the extent to which development planning and interventions accommodate diversity in the social, economic and political roles of men and women across societies is also explored. Human and sustainable development approaches are positioned as contending developmental approaches and discussed in terms of their potential for promoting gender equality and social justice in Caribbean societies.

GEND6302: Gender, Education, Training and Work

This course is designed to assist participants to examine gender as a central organising structure in educational institutions and ways in which schooling, as an instrument of the State, reproduces and reinforces the gender system in the wider social order. Inequalities in education are examined, including debates on 'male underachievement' in relation to various theoretical paradigms advanced by educational sociologists and feminist educators and the research agenda related to the feminist project is explored. Feminist critiques of educational philosophies are examined in relation to alternative feminist pedagogies. The course also focuses on women's involvement in the formal labour market and the relationship between educational outputs and wider social, economic and political outcomes for both sexes

GEND 6402: Gender, Political Activism and Mobilisation

The course seeks to build an awareness of how patriarchy and gender as a central organising system continue to exclude women's participation in political decision-making and therefore affect the life experiences of families, communities and nations. The importance of engaging women in decision-making at the micro, meso and macro levels is presented as fundamental to the struggle for the transformation of governance structures and practices in the 21st century.

GEND 6201: Sex, Gender & the Family

Gender as a central system of social organisation is seen to be at work in the family and in household relations. In this course students interrogate patriarchal influences on and social norms related to family, family relations and issues such as masculinity and femininity, sexuality, property rights, marriage and abortion. They also examine the feminist project which sets out to expose the patriarchal influence and sexist notions embedded in these issues and to reconceptualise and reconstruct these realities from a feminist perspective.

GEND 6001: Theories and Development of Feminisms

The overall aim of the course is to help students to appreciate the discursive strategies employed by philosophy and language in defining and constructing the category woman and womanhood as 'other', diseased and incomplete. The Caribbean experience is examined as a valid standpoint from which to interrogate and theorise the otherness of woman which is not only created on the basis of biological sex and social gender but on the basis of geopolitics.

MPhil / PhD Gender & Development Studies

These degrees are issued on the basis of research only. However, persons may be required to take relevant graduate level courses and where it is deemed necessary by the department with regards to their knowledge of gender and competency in (feminist) research methodologies. The courses that are usually recommended are:

1. GEND 6001: Theories and Development of Feminisms
2. GS66A: Gender and Development in Human Society
3. GS61A: Feminist Methodology and Epistemology

Department Contact Information:

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