



Introduction to Special Archival Issue

[Patricia Mohammed](#)

Executive Editor, Caribbean Review of Gender Studies

Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies

Institute for Gender and Development Studies, St. Augustine Unit

Unlike the majority of our journal issues, this special issue is both commemorative and archival. It contains a selection of papers, keynote speeches and working papers presented over two decades by the Centre for Gender and Development Studies (CGDS), now, Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), that are brought together in one volume for easy recall and retrieval by scholars and students. In this issue, we highlight in particular, papers from the CGDS 15th Anniversary Conference which honoured Professor Elsa Leo-Rhynie, the first Professor appointed in the field of Women and Development Studies at The University of the West Indies. The issue is valuable in its own way as a recognition that, important as contemporary scholarship is, access to the unfolding history of the institution is key in understanding the intellectual tradition in Caribbean feminism and a critical component of Caribbean feminist discourse. As an open access online journal, the Caribbean Review of Gender Studies seeks to play a role both in producing contemporary research, as we have done in past issues, and in also making available to scholars the long tradition of research produced by the IGDS that may otherwise not be available to the increasing range of users who draw on the internet for their resources.

Background to the Elsa Leo Rhynie Symposium

The Centre for Gender and Development Studies (CGDS), Mona, Jamaica hosted the Elsa Leo-Rhynie Symposium and 15th Anniversary Celebrations of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies from November 9 through 11, 2008 at the Mona Visitors' Lodge and Conference Centre. The Symposium was held under the theme Gender Perspectives in Education: Caribbean Impact Global Reach. The Symposium activities began with an opening ceremony on Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at the Mona Visitors' Lodge. The Conference then continued with presentation and discussion sessions over two days on several topics including: Gender Studies in Higher Education: Retrospect and Prospect; Gender and Higher Education; and Gender and Caribbean Society. The Symposium was designed to recognize the sterling contribution of Professor Elsa Leo-Rhynie who was appointed the first Professor of Gender and Development Studies in 1992 and served as the first Regional Coordinator of the institutionalized Centre from 1993 to 1996. In addition it served to commemorate and reflect on the genesis, development and future direction of Gender and Development Studies at The UWI, across the region.

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