



IGDS
INSTITUTE FOR GENDER
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
REGIONAL COORDINATING OFFICE
MONA, JAMAICA

CELEBRATING THE LIFE & ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN STUDIES' PIONEER & EDUCATOR DR JEANNETTE ARLENE MORRIS (1940-2022)

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies joins the UWI Community in celebrating the life and achievements of Dr Jeanette Morris, Senior Lecturer and former Head of the School of Education at The UWI, St Augustine Campus.

Dr Morris was a long-time member of the Women and Development Studies Group (WDGS) - a cluster of intrepid women who understood the entrenchment of patriarchal hierarchies and structures within the university systems. Collectively, they responded by innovatively building a UWI cross-campus network to develop, support and institutionalize an integrated, interdisciplinary, programme of research teaching and activism in women's studies. Their commitment bore fruit in the establishment of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies (CGDS), which later became the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS).

Jeanette was the chair of the WDSG in when Professor Rhoda Reddock assumed the headship of the CGDS, St Augustine in 1994. Professor Reddock recalls the support of Dr Morris provided during this critical developmental period. Jeanette Morris's commitment to the IGDS continued throughout the decades. Most recently, she served as an internal assessor for the review team which examined the Nita Barrow Unit of the IGDS, The UWI, Cave Hill.

Dr Morris's research focus was on women and gender in education. In 1990, her MA thesis investigated a case study on the reproduction of gender inequality on the secondary school system. Her PhD was on "Female secondary school principals: Career paths and management practise". Eudine Barriteau and Rhoda Reddock recall their exciting participation with Jeanette in the Women's World Conference at Makerere University in Uganda in 2001.

Her contribution to national and regional development and to the broader UWI community was significant. Jeanette Morris worked in education for 48 years in various capacities: as a secondary school foreign language teacher, university lecturer, teacher educator, Head of the School of Education, The UWI St. Augustine, Programme Professor at the University of Trinidad and Tobago and as a consultant. She also worked as Assistant Chief Examiner and Chief Examiner for Spanish for the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC). She was contracted Accreditation Councils of Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados as an external evaluator.

A former president and vice president of Soroptimists International St Augustine, Jeanette Morris made important contributions to their work at the Trinidad and Tobago Women's Prison. An active member of the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), she served on its executive board. Many of us have fond CSA conference memories with Jeanette in various territories of the region. A lovely, well-rounded and pleasant person, Dr Morris with her husband Jim Morris, will live on in the memories of festival practitioners and artists in Trinidad and Tobago. Often, they celebrated in the front line of carnival fetes. Many musicians would call them by name. We miss her joyful spirit and warm smile.

We at the IDGS pay tribute to our colleague, teammate, scholar, teacher, carnival aficionado, supporter of the arts and women's activist. May her works bring her praise!