




**IGDS**  
INSTITUTE FOR GENDER &  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

# GRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINARS

<p>The Institute for Gender and Development Studies invites the campus community to the upcoming</p> <p><b>Graduate Research Seminars</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday, April 1st 2014</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>IGDS Seminar Room, The UWI, St. Augustine Campus</p> <p>Approximate times</p>	
<p>9:00 - 9:50 a.m.</p> <p><b>Marissa Richardson</b></p> <p>MSc Programme in Gender and Development</p>  <p>Supervisor: Patricia Mohammed (Prof) Co-Supervisor: Natalie O'Brady (Ms), General Manager of the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Rape Crisis Society Assessor: Sue-Ann Barratt (Dr)</p>	<p><b>Advocacy, Empowerment and Outreach through the Rape Crisis Society of T&amp;T and the T&amp;T Coalition Against Domestic Violence: An Internship Report</b></p> <p><b>Abstract:</b> Women are predominantly the victims of Gender-Based Violence. Men dominate as perpetrators in a patriarchal system that has condoned GBV for too long. This leads to women being prohibited from being in charge of their own lives and bodies. Statistics from 2008 to present, indicate that there has been a rapid increase and continued prevalence in varying types of crimes against females in Trinidad and Tobago. In an effort to assist with intervention, I have interned at the Rape Crisis Society and Coalition Against Domestic Violence to help develop policies and programmes that they support. These NGOs have been implementing programmes and offering services, to eradicate all forms of violence, and to work towards the achievement of equal gender relations. In this report, I put theory into practice, and by committing my expertise and time I document and analyse specific areas of work undertaken by these non-profit organisations.</p>
<p>10:00 - 10:50 a.m.</p> <p><b>Annehara Guy</b></p> <p>MSc Programme in Gender and Development</p>  <p>Supervisor: Sue-Ann Barratt (Dr) Assessor: Jeanne Roach-Baptiste (Dr) Assessor: Indira Rampersad (Dr)</p>	<p><b>From HIV+ to Positive Living - Examining the Extent to which the Virtual Alters the Reality for HIV+ Trinidadian Women</b></p> <p><b>Abstract:</b> Both globally and in the Caribbean, HIV/AIDS remains one of the most serious disease epidemics of the modern era. The nature of stigmatisation has made it necessary for individuals living with the disease to find unique ways of garnering the support required to comfortably live with the illness. Within recent times, facebook interaction has become a major source of connecting with other individuals. There is little known, however, about the extent to which social capital and social support can lead to positive health benefits.</p> <p>This study investigates how women living with HIV/AIDS use facebook as a tool in coping with the disease. The use of narratives from a group of women whose diversity is reflected in age, employment, educational background and degree of facebook interaction will be the main form of data collection. Data analysis should shed light on the value of facebook in moving beyond the realm of coping and finding spaces that enable the possibility of normative living.</p>
<p>10:50 - 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>

<p>11:00 - 11:50</p> <p><b>Melvin Julien</b></p> <p>MSc Programme in Gender and Development</p>  <p>Supervisor: Rhoda Reddock (Prof) Assessor: Valerie Youssef (Prof)</p>	<p><b>Through the Eyes of Boys: Male Academic Underachievement in Secondary Schools</b></p> <p><b>A Case Study in Victoria District, Trinidad and Tobago</b></p> <p><b>Abstract:</b> Available data seems to suggest that males are underachieving academically. If a reality, male academic underachievement can have many negative social implications, one of which is males' inability to compete successfully against females in the workplace. However, some researchers disagree that it is a reality, arguing that this perception is due either to the closing of the gender gap in education or to the educational achievement of a small group of girls. The literature, in fact, suggests that male academic underachievement is a reality though not to the extent as articulated by some. Moreover, its existence is not disadvantageous to males in the labour market.</p> <p>The field work for this study involved the use of focus group discussions. These were conducted with male students of five secondary schools in County Victoria, Trinidad to determine boys' perceptions of the notion of male academic underachievement.</p>
<p>11:50 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:00 - 1:50 p.m.</p> <p><b>Charen Glasgow</b></p> <p>MSc Programme in Gender and Development</p>  <p>Supervisor: Patricia Mohammed (Prof) Supervisor: Sue-Ann Barratt (Dr) Assessor: Valerie Youssef (Prof)</p>	<p><b>Resisting a Sexist Ideology: Responses to Sexual Harassment by Women Security Officers in Trinidad and Tobago</b></p> <p><b>Abstract:</b> Sexual harassment of women at work is a phenomenon that is prevalent in Trinidad and Tobago; yet, individuals, organizations and law makers are silent on this particular form of discrimination and violence against women. This "action research" breaks the silence on sexual harassment and creates environmental awareness for the safety of women and men. The study used a qualitative design. Data collection included a combination of focus group discussions and face-to-face interviews with women security officers from three companies. Women security officers are suggested as now occupying a historically male space. Four main themes emerged: (i) prevalence of sexual harassment of women by men, (ii) supervisors are often the perpetrators and decision makers in the companies, (iii) existing silence on sexual harassment due to fear of reprisals against victims, and (iv) sexual advances being offensive but accepted in order to negotiate increase in income. The psycho-feminist approach to the study also used grounded theory and popular culture for analysis of data. This subjective approach successfully stimulates discussion amongst women on various dynamics of sexual harassment. In addition it offers methods of resistance against sexual harassment. The research also adds to the paucity of scholarly writings on sexual harassment in Trinidad and Tobago.</p>
<p>2:00 - 2:50 p.m.</p> <p><b>Stephanie Leitch</b></p> <p>MSc Programme in Gender and Development</p>  <p>Supervisor: Charmaine Crawford (Dr) Assessor: Patricia Mohammed (Prof)</p>	<p><b>Marginal Migrations: Female Sexuality and Return</b></p> <p><b>Abstract:</b> Despite the rich migration scholarship on the Caribbean region, significantly less attention has been paid to return migration. This lack may be interpreted as an oversight by researchers, or a more deliberate resistance to interpreting migration in a linear fashion, with clear distinctions between abroad and home. Caribbean mobility is better conceptualised through circulatory movement, which takes into account the psychic effects of slavery and indentureship on migratory patterns, influenced by attachments to 'homelands' and feelings on un-belonging. Despite this, however transient a concept of home, the heart for most Caribbean people remains in their place of birth and it is within these emotional considerations that migratory processes can also be understood. Unlike traditional migration scholarship, queer theory privileges the dimensions of love and desire as motives for mobility and challenges heteronormative scripts which typically describe women relationally. This paper explores the subjective and embodied experiences of queer Caribbean women's desire and movement away from and back home using a phenomenographical approach.</p>