



UWI

IGDS
INSTITUTE FOR GENDER &
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

GRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINARS

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies invites
the Campus community and the general public
to the upcoming Graduate Research Seminar

MONDAY 18 MAY 2015

IGDS SEMINAR ROOM, THE UWI, ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

03:00 p.m. – 04:00 p.m.



MELVIN JULIEN

MPhil Interdisciplinary Gender Studies

THROUGH THE EYES OF BOYS: MALE ACADEMIC UNDERACHIEVEMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS – A CASE STUDY IN VICTORIA DISTRICT, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The literature on male academic underachievement, while not being unanimous about some issues, suggests that the phenomenon exists. Suggested explanations for its existence are the feminization of education where more females are engaged in education today than in the past; male privileging developed through differences in the socialization of boys and girls and hypermasculinity where under particular circumstances, some males exaggerate behaviours which are perceived to be manly but which may devalue formal education as a manly pursuit. However, some of the literature surveyed suggests that males are not so much underachieving as under-participating in education. Furthermore, in spite of males' self-limitation in education there exists a gender gap in their favour in the labour market.

The methodology of this study entailed the examination of official educational statistics and data from focus group discussions. I conducted the focus group discussions among male students of five secondary schools in County Victoria, Trinidad to determine boys' notions about male academic underachievement. I also solicited the boys' views on how male academic achievement may be improved.

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