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## ISSUE 11

# Tool or Weapon? The Politics of Policy Making, Gender Justice and Social Change in the Caribbean

## Contributors

[Arif Bulkan](#) is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, where he currently lectures criminal law, constitutional law and human rights law. Before this he practiced law in Guyana as a prosecutor and then primarily in the area of criminal defence. In 2008 he obtained a PhD in Law from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Canada on the survival of the rights of Guyana's indigenous peoples. He is a co-founder and co-coordinator of the UWI Rights Advocacy Project (U-RAP) along with Tracy Robinson.

[Kervisha Cordice](#) is a student at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus currently pursuing a Bachelors of the Arts in Literatures in English. As a lover of the arts, spoken-word artist and a writer, she finds great pride in the growth of the craft as well as the growth of those around her, in their craft. In her work, she addresses various social issues; particularly regarding women's rights and racial prejudice, as well as muses upon various life experiences.

[Jewel Fraser](#) is a Caribbean journalist who has worked at major newspapers in the region, and as a freelancer with major international publications, including the International New York Times and the Miami Herald. She is a lover of French with advanced proficiency in the language. She is also a graduate of the Humber College, Ontario, creative writing programme.

[Tonya Haynes](#) is a lecturer at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit, University of the West Indies. Her research on Caribbean feminist thought and gender-based violence is published in *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism*, *sx:archipelagos*, *Global Public Health* and *Social and Economic Studies*.

[Gabrielle Jamela Hosein](#) is a Lecturer and Head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, has been involved in Caribbean feminist movement building for two decades. She also writes a weekly column, *Diary of a Mothering Worker*, for the *Trinidad Guardian*. She has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Toronto, an M.Phil in Gender and Development Studies from The University of the West Indies, and a Ph.D in Anthropology from University College London. Her current research areas are politics and governance, Caribbean feminisms, Indo-Caribbean feminist theorizing, and sexualities.

[Dominique Hunter](#) (b. 1987, Guyana) is a multi-disciplinary visual artist whose works often critiques the (mis/non)-representation of Black female bodies in art historical text and imageries as well as the stereotypical portrayals of those bodies in contemporary print media. Her recent body of work has expanded to include personal strategies for coping with the weight of those impositions by examining the value of self-care practices to improved mental health and quality of life. Hunter completed her BFA (Hons) from the Barbados Community College in 2015 and was the recipient of the Leslie's Legacy Foundation Award for Most Outstanding Work at Portfolio. She has exhibited work in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York, and has participated in residencies including Caribbean Linked IV (Aruba) and the Vermont Studio Center (USA), after being awarded the Reed Foundation Fellowship.

[Simone Leid](#) is an International Development Consultant from Trinidad and Tobago and Founder of The WomenSpeak Project - a participatory knowledge-sharing forum which seeks to build the capacity of individuals, activists and organisations to improve

advocacy outcomes around issues of discrimination against women in the Caribbean. The WomenSpeak Project website: <http://womenspeakproject.org>

[Deborah McFee](#) is currently a PhD candidate at the McCormack Graduate School of Public Policy and Global Studies, Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance, University of Massachusetts Boston. Ms McFee has worked for the last sixteen years in the area of women, gender and development. Deborah holds a BA in History and Political Science from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, and an MA in the Politics of Alternative Development from the Institute of Social Studies, the Hague. Her experience includes research on the impact of small arms and light weapons on women and girls in select communities in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as exploring traditional gender norms as facilitators and products of emerging human security vulnerabilities experienced in Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean. Additionally, she has worked throughout the English speaking Caribbean developing national policies for gender equity and equality. Ms McFee has served as the Outreach and Research Officer at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies since 2007, prior to this she worked in the Gender Affairs Division of the Ministry of Culture and Gender Affairs. Ms McFee has lectured in the areas of Gender and Development and Women, Gender and Public Policy.

[Jane L. Parpart](#) is Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, Visiting Professor at University of Massachusetts Boston and Adjunct Professor in Canada at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. She taught for four years in Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. She has been involved in gender and development projects in Africa and Asia, a summer institute on gender and development funded by IDRC, and published books and articles on women and empowerment, gender and leadership, masculinity/ies and conflict, and is currently working on an edited collection exploring gender, silence and power in insecure sites.

[Tracy Robinson](#) is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, The University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona, Jamaica. Her research, publications and professional work have focused on issues of gender and sexuality, constitutionalism and human rights. She is a co-founder and co-coordinator of the Faculty of Law The UWI Rights Advocacy Project (U-RAP) with her colleague Arif Bulkan. She was a member of the Inter-American Commission (IACHR) between 2012 and 2015. She is currently a

Commissioner on the Independent Review of Equity and Health Inequalities in the Americas, initiated by PAHO/WHO in 2016.

[Tracie Rogers](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work, at the University of the Southern Caribbean. She is a PhD graduate of the University of the West Indies and holds a Masters degree from New York University. Her research interests include sexuality and youth development, gender-based violence and the psychosocial development of adolescent girls in Caribbean contexts. More specifically, she has a keen interest in the use of qualitative research methodologies for social justice, activism, policy development and empowering marginalized populations. She works with collaborative and arts based methodologies as well as youth-led participatory action research and autoethnography.

[Patricia L. Rosenfield](#), Senior Fellow, the Rockefeller Archive Center (RAC), is developing a series of activities to connect practitioners and scholars of philanthropy. From 2013-2015 Rosenfield directed the RAC Ford Foundation History Project to conduct research in the Foundation's archives and prepare reports and briefings on themes requested by new Foundation leadership. The project's final report is available on the RAC website (<http://rockarch.org/publications/ford/overview/FordFoundationHistory1936-2001.pdf>). The separate reports will be available on-line in 2018. Her current research interests include the history of foundation-funded fellowship programs and foundation support for interdisciplinary social science research.

Prior to joining the RAC, Rosenfield served on the program staff at Carnegie Corporation of New York, first as chair of the Strengthening Human Resources in Developing Countries Program (with activities in African and Caribbean countries, Mexico, and the United States) and then as director of the Carnegie Scholars Program. Earlier she served at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, where she led a global program on social and economic research on tropical diseases and was a member of the program's research capacity strengthening team, providing graduate and post-graduate fellowships in medical and social sciences.

Rosenfield holds an A.B. cum laude from Bryn Mawr College, a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, and an Honorary Doctorate in Social Sciences from Mahidol University, Thailand. Rosenfield has written extensively on the history, practice and ethics of philanthropy; interdisciplinary team science linking health and social scientists; and the social and economic aspects of tropical diseases. Rosenfield is co-editor with Frank Kessel and Norman Anderson of *Expanding the Boundaries of Health*

and *Social Science* (Oxford University Press, 2003), and an updated volume, *Interdisciplinary Research, Second Edition* (Oxford, 2008). She is also the author of the book, *A World of Giving: A Century of International Philanthropy at Carnegie Corporation of New York* (PublicAffairs, 2014).

[Michelle V. Rowley](#) is an Associate Professor in the Women's Studies Department at the University of Maryland. Before joining the University of Maryland in 2006 she served in the Women's Studies Department at the University of Cincinnati (2004-2006). She has also held a visiting appointment as a Benedict Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Women's and Gender Studies Program, Carleton College.

She has served on the editorial collective for *Feminist Studies* and is presently a member of the editorial board for *Expanding Frontiers* (University of Nebraska Press) and *Tout Moun: Caribbean Journal of Cultural Studies*. Her publications include "When the Post-Colonial State Bureaucratizes Gender: Charting Trinidadian Women's Centrality Within The Margins," "Where the Streets have no name: Getting Development out of the (RED)." "Rethinking Interdisciplinarity: Meditations on the Sacred Possibilities of an Erotic Feminist Pedagogy," and "Whose Time Is It?: Gender and Humanism in Contemporary Caribbean Feminist Advocacy." Her book is entitled *Feminist Advocacy and Gender Equity in the Anglophone Caribbean: Envisioning a Politics of Coalition* (Routledge, 2011). Her research interests address issues of gender and development, the politics of welfare, as well as state responses to questions of Caribbean women's reproductive health and well-being, and rights for sexual minorities. She is presently working on a manuscript that examines queer representations of home and becoming in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Her research interests address issues of gender and development, the politics of welfare, as well as state responses to questions of Caribbean women's reproductive health and well-being, and rights for sexual minorities.

[Amílcar Sanatan](#) is an MPhil candidate in Gender and Development and a Research Assistant at the IGDS, SAU. He is an interdisciplinary artist and activist. Sanatan independently writes about economic, social and political developments in Latin America and the Caribbean at [teleSUR](#) English. Sanatan is co-ordinator for IGDS Ignite! and the UWI Socialist Student Conference.

[Sheila Stuart](#) attained a BA (Hons.) degree in Sociology from the University of Reading, United Kingdom, and an MA in Caribbean Studies focusing on Women and Development, from the University of Warwick also in the United Kingdom.

Ms. Stuart has had a varied professional career in research and development, human rights, gender and development and social development, spanning some four decades. She had early careers as a journalist, as an Administrative Assistant and Research Fellow with the University of the West Indies Institute of Social and Economic Research (Now SALISES), Coordinator of the regional NGO Caribbean Rights; and Director of the Bureau of Gender Affairs, government of Barbados.

Ms Stuart recently retired from the United Nations Secretariat, where she was employed as a Social Development specialist at the Caribbean headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) based in the Trinidad. Ms. Stuart provided technical assistance, training in capacity building and policy advice to Caribbean governments in a number of areas, including gender and development, statistics, disability issues and population and development.

She has undertaken research and written a number of papers and articles on the Caribbean family, gender and development and social development issues.