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INTERNATIONAL STUDIES RESEARCH

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Ms. Gisèle Morin-Labatut
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SPECIAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
Ottawa.

May 29, 2007

Ref: 103089-014

Dear Ms. Morin-Labatut,

I am enclosing herewith the final technical and financial report for our project for the development and dissemination of gender-related teaching material. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns. Let me also take this opportunity to thank you for your invaluable support and encouragement for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ananya Mukherjee Reed'.

Ananya Mukherjee Reed
Director

ananya@yorku.ca

**A Pilot Project for the Development & Dissemination of
Gender-related teaching material**

Grant 103089-014 Final Report

Submitted by

International Secretariat for Human Development (ISHD),
York University
May 2007

I. Introduction

The International Secretariat for Human Development (ISHD) was awarded a pilot grant of \$25,000 in November 2004 for a period of one year to complete Phase 1 of the above project. Upon submission of the report on Phase 1, we were awarded a second grant of \$25,000 to further develop our work. In what follows, we provide a report of this work.

The project aims to use ICT to develop curricula and educational material to be used for training related to human development and allied fields. In particular, the project seeks to enable the development and dissemination of gender-related teaching material through the *Human Development Resource Network (HDRNet)*, a virtual library on human development and international cooperation that we have developed at York University.¹ It is part of a larger initiative to develop a new genre of graduate programs (and more generally, training and curriculum) in human development in a number of universities in the North and South.

At this point faculty members of three programs are collaborating on curriculum development and exchange activities:

1. University of Havana and Universitas Cuba: Several graduate diploma programs in local human development are offered under the aegis of these two institutions
2. The MA program in local human development with a focus on peace and international co-operation, offered at the University of Florence (Italy) in collaboration with the ART Initiative of the United Nations. This program is jointly organized by the Faculties of Education Sciences and Architecture at the University of Florence and the UN Agencies associated with the ART Initiative (UNDP, UNESCO, WHO, UNIFEM, UNOPS).² It aims to train professionals in the planning and management of participatory local development processes and the contribution that international co-operation can make to these. In particular, the Master offers conceptual and methodological tools to help local actors realize their endogenous visions of development.
3. The MA in International Development Studies at York University beginning in Fall 2007.

¹ <http://www.yorku.ca/hdrnet>

² <http://www.yorku.ca/ishd/ARTEng.pdf>

II. Achievements in Phase Two

- (1) Our bilingual project website can be viewed at <http://www.yorku.ca/hddg/GENDERGS/ghome.htm>.
- (2) Our inventory is archived on HDRNet, under the theme *Gender Perspectives from the Global South* (<http://www.yorku.ca/hdrnet>).
- (3) It currently has a database of 100 articles. Most of this work was completed in Phase I. In Phase II we focused more on a translation project and on developing formats which could illustrate how the inventory could be used. We also continued our emphasis on graduate training (outlined below).
- (4) Using the materials collected so far, as well as other published and online resources, we have produced a teaching resource which can be viewed at <http://www.yorku.ca/ishd/GENDERGS/GR.htm>. It is structured as follows:

Gender Perspectives from the Global South: A Teaching Resource
Introduction
Innovative aspects
Knowledge Without Boundaries: Our Approach
Challenges
Acknowledgements
Team
Themes
Theme 1 Understanding the process of knowledge production
Theme 2 Scholarship on knowledge production
Theme 3 Gender, Race, Indigeniety
Theme 4 Gender, Work, Political economy
Theme 5 Gender and Development: overview
Theme 6 Gender and Development: various topics

- (5) As further development of the teaching resource, we produced two bibliographic guides – one on *Indigenous women in the new millennium* and a second one on *Migration and Work*. Both these guides contain a narrative text, and relevant articles from the literature (along with abstracts). The online versions are posted under Theme 3 and Theme 5 respectively. The materials in the teaching resource as well as these two can be packaged into a self-executable CD for teaching purposes (trial version available upon request).

- (6) As an illustration of how the teaching resources can be used, we have developed a graduate level course entitled *Gender Perspectives from the Global South* (available upon request).
- (7) As we mentioned in our last report, Aida Hernandez Castillo from CIESAS, Mexico, sent us a collection “written and edited by indigenous women from México, Guatemala, Chile, Ecuador, Perú and Bolivia. The editor is an Amuzga woman, Martha Sanchez, who is the president of one of the most important Indigenous organizations in México (ANIPA), and for the Mexican context is the first book that is not about indigenous women, but written by indigenous women”. We had asked permission to translate the book and then seek support for its wider dissemination from various sources. Both Castillo and Sanchez encouraged us to do so, and accordingly we have now completed a translation of the book and most of it also has been edited. The manuscript stands at 33,000 words in its present version. We think it is an invaluable resource for teaching about indigenous women and hope to be able to collaborate further on getting this work published.
- (8) One of our most important achievements of the project has been the collaborative research project we have been able to establish with *Red de Mujeres (Women's Development Network)* in Costa Rica, an organization identified through the present project. WDN is based on the idea that overcoming isolation (geographic, economic, social and intellectual) is key to the development of alternative projects of organised women in the region. Therefore, the WDN regards mechanisms of solidarity exchange of information, and collective forms of organisation as important tools in the struggle of its affiliates. The network brings together over 1500 collective and individual affiliates and publishes, three times a year, a newsletter in which affiliates' collective projects and methodological tools are disseminated across Latin America and the Caribbean among affiliates from diverse class, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
- Nancy Boye of the *Red* wrote to us at the early stages of the project, asking if we would collaborate with them in systematizing their work over the last 10 years, help them conduct a survey amongst their members, etc. to better develop their work. This collaboration has led to the development of a successful submission to the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and ISHD was awarded a sum of \$90,000 for three years 2006-09 (**Annex 1** presents the details of this project). Paula Hevia-Pacheco, a member of our research team is centrally involved in this project and has undertaken one field trip to Costa Rica. As a significant development, Paula has proposed a panel entitled *Same Priorities, Different Paths: Approaches to the Empowerment of Women in Latin America* for the up-coming Latin American Study Association conference to be held in September 2007. This panel will allow Latin American female scholars from Canadian universities and one of our partners from the WDN, to share their work on women's political empowerment in the region.

- (8) A less formal linkage has been established with *Café Femenino*, an indigenous women's organization in Peru. As a result of our work with them, we hope to develop the Café Femenino experience into an important case study which can potentially be used for teaching. We have published some material about the organization on our website, and as part of the Canadian Social Science Congress in 2006, were able to bring to Canada one of its representatives, Isabelle Latour. Latour and Mukherjee Reed presented on the same panel on Gender and Alternative Economic Organizations on June 2, 2006 at York University. Subsequently, Jennifer Moore, an independent journalist who was at that panel, has produced an item for the CBC show *Dispatches* which was broadcast in October 2006.³ Moore and Mukherjee Reed are collaborating on an article "Café Femenino and North-South Cooperation in Gender Issues" to be published in a forthcoming volume from Cambridge Scholars Press. York University has also expressed interest in establishing a summer internship at Café Femenino to help it organize systematize its work and experience, a need expressed by Latour during her visit to Canada. Our hope is that these efforts will help students gain a different insight into women's agency and productive work in the South.

III. Dissemination:

As highlighted in the Phase I report, we saw very clear increases in the usage of our site immediately following the launch of the gender website. On August 9, 2005, when the gender page was launched, the Secretariat website received 8488 hits. Between December 2004 and August 2005, our monthly total hits have increased from 4476 to 40,376. The trend continued thereafter. The average monthly hits were at 12,219 in August 2005, rose to 20,975 in August 2006 and at the end of April 2007 stood at 24,962. A more significant increase is visible in the number of sites from which we received visits. Beginning with 852 in August 2005, it climbed to 3521 in August 2006, and in April 2007 stood at 5447.

The project has used HDRNet to archive and disseminate the inventory. As such, the HDRNet Newsletter was also used to disseminate information about the project and the inventory. The newsletter currently has 757 subscribers from 93 countries (we appear to be gaining subscribers on a daily basis). The main news box on the HDRNet site has also carried the announcement between March and September 2006, and will also be used for announcing its completion and the teaching resource (see above)

We have also created a separate newsletter for the project in English and Spanish. Three newsletters were produced and was circulated it to approximately 75 organizations and listserves. The newsletters are available on our website.

Finally, an article based on an interview conducted by Dolores Figueroa, one of our researchers, was published in the *International Feminist Journal of Politics* (Annex 2)

³ www.cbc.ca/dispatches/media/061012_moore.ram

IV. Graduate training

The project has involved one master's student, 6 doctoral students and one post-doctoral fellow. The involvement of the graduate students have been of a highly substantive nature, allowing them to do independent research, develop contacts with Southern researchers and organizations, and archive the research on HDRNet. Students have also been able to gain unique and specialized types of research experience not easily available to them elsewhere. The project has allowed students to develop three kinds of skills: presentation skills; research skills; and archival skills, in particular, using ICT for archiving. The project also emphasizes the need to work in collaboration with academics and practitioners, especially women's organizations in the Global South. Some examples are as follows:

Two graduate students, Vivian Jiménez and Evelyn Encalada Grez have established direct contact with indigenous women's organizations in Colombia, Guatemala and Peru and have obtained documents from them which are not available outside these countries. Jimenez, who had recently won a doctoral research award from IDRC has been able to contribute material from Guatemala which are also not available elsewhere. As we reported earlier Kate Ervine and Sarah Macharia of our team were awarded IDRC doctoral research awards in 2005, an indication of achievement of the project and the skills they have acquired through their involvement in it. Both were also awarded the internships under CIDA's Canada Corps program.

One of our contributors, Dolores Figueroa recently acted as one of the coordinators for a course on Indigenous and Afro-descendant Women, which took place between October 17 to November 11, 2005 at the Bilwi and Bluefields campus of the University of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua (URACCAN). The course brought together indigenous and Afro-Latin American and Caribbean women and stimulated discussions on many contemporary issues. Dolores has prepared a report of this course which we will archive on our site in English and Spanish. <http://www.yorku.ca/ishd/CEIMM.Report.HRCourse.pdf>
[http://www.yorku.ca/ishd/GENDERGS/Curso Interamericano ESP.pdf](http://www.yorku.ca/ishd/GENDERGS/Curso_Interamericano_ESP.pdf)

With permission from URACCAN, we have also archived a thesis produced by participants in this course. ("History of the Mayagna Indigenous Peoples since the Cacique times: Mayagna women's participation", by Fritz, Mayra; Mercado, Adela; Rufos, Elaina). This paper is a translation of Mayagna oral history into Spanish as told by Mayagna women artisans, members of a cooperative that promotes their collective work in the North Atlantic Region of Nicaragua. The authors present the demands and role Mayagna women have played in their struggle for self-determination, indigenous and collective rights and the rights of indigenous women around territorial issues.

We already mentioned above the involvement of Paula Hevia-Pacheco in the collaboration with WDN.

To help students communicate their work outside the academic community, we have introduced a feature *Reports from the Field*, as of October 2005. In this feature, doctoral or master's students and researchers will write brief reports on their work so as to share it with both academics and practitioners. For instance, Sarah Macharia, who is completing her dissertation on "The urban 'informal economy' in the Global South: A feminist postempiricist study of policy discourse in sub-Saharan Africa" has produced a field report that can be found at

<http://www.yorku.ca/ishd/SM.Kenya.Report.field>. Sarah is also an IDRC awardee and during her field trip, she visited the gender program office at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in Durban and was able to collect some material from there. On the basis of her work, Sarah was selected to participate in the International Conference on 'Sustainable Employment Generation in Developing Countries: Current Constraints and Alternative Strategies', in Nairobi, Kenya, 25 - 27 January, 2007. It was organized jointly by IDEAS New Delhi, Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi and Action Aid. The conference brought together leading economists but were primarily designed for budding professionals. Soon after submitting her draft dissertation, Sarah has taken up an assignment where she will work with Southern NGOs on communication rights, with a specific focus on media and gender justice. She plans to use the resources on our website on a regular basis. "I see them (Southern NGOs) using the resources to learn about global experiences, additional critiques and the alternatives offered in the theory. With the new understanding, they can get ideas on how to push the boundaries in thinking about the intersections between 'communication rights', gender and development in ways that make communication rights more relevant to their material struggles", Sarah says.

V. Resource use

The financial statement for the project, prepared by York's Department of Research Accounting is enclosed with this report. We received some technical support from York, which reduced the funds required for this item. We have allocated the savings to research. In general, given the resource constraints, we have maximized our research output, minimizing the expenditure on technical aspects.

VI. Concluding observations

Our work for Phase I and II are now completed. We greatly appreciate the opportunity and hope to see this work continue. Development Studies has clearly much to gain from a systematic integration of Southern voices, and the importance of gender perspectives in this respect can hardly be exaggerated. This will require in turn the adoption and validation of new methods of knowledge production and teaching. The younger generation of scholars and scholars-in-information are committed to such changes and there is much potential in channelling this commitment into the development of concrete research/teaching strategies.

There is one goal we had outlined in the proposal that we could not accomplish. This concerns our efforts to bring together the organizations we have worked with in a

workshop in November 2006. This proved difficult. We had identified SSHRC as one of the potential funders for the workshop, but its recent changes in the criteria for funding made it difficult for our partners, who are primarily not academics. Even though we could not systematize the linkage between all our different collaborators, we have been able to establish substantive collaborative linkages individually with a number of them, such as Hernandez Castillo of CIESAS, Mexico through the translation of *Doble Mirada*; Café Femenino through the publicization and systematization of their work and WDN through the research project.

At present, several opportunities exist for us to continue the work we have begun through this project. First, we mentioned above the SSHRC project which allows us to actually engage in collaborative research with Southern partners, who are not traditional academic partners, but development actors of a different kind. We believe that much is to be learned from this experience. Second, several of our team members teach courses in Development, where the materials collected under this project can be used (for example, Kate Ervine teaches Development Studies courses at Trent; Dolores Figueroa is teaching for the International Development Studies Program at York; Paula Hevia recently taught a course on Gender Violence in French at Glendon; Ananya Mukherjee Reed teaches Development Studies at the Department of Political Science, York University). Third, ISHD has also received a summer assistantship for 2007 fully funded by York. This will further enhance our gender inventory. We have also received seed funding to develop a specialized knowledge portal on India in collaboration with a leading university in New Delhi. Gender will be an integral part of this portal and will allow us to enhance the inventory further. Fourth, we have an ongoing partnership with ART, an inter-agency UN initiative which works on local development. Universitas is a component of ART which works specifically with universities interested in local development. The flagship initiative of this partnership is HDRNet which has emerged as a valuable tool for a large number of development actors. It would be very useful to develop similar inventories on themes related to development to be archived on HDRNet. Finally, we would be very grateful to IDRC for suggestions to develop this work further. In this respect, we hope to follow up with Centro Boliviano de Estudios Multidisciplinarios, UBC's Centre for Inter-Cultural Cooperation, Jacques Chevalier and Daniel Buckles, Carleton University, as suggested by Ms. Gisele Morin-Labatut.