

GRÓ GEST 2020

YEAR IN REVIEW



The GEST 2020 cohort at Reynisfjara, south of Iceland during a field trip in May 2020

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The staff of GRÓ GEST, the Gender Equality Studies and Training programme at the University of Iceland, send their best holiday greetings to programme alumni, sponsors, partners, and collaborators. We wish you joy, peace, and good health for this festive season.

As we near the end of 2020, the GEST programme's first year as part of GRÓ Centre for Capacity Development, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Societal Change, we reflect on the challenges this year has brought humankind. We are thankful for all we have learned and for the support of our partners at GRÓ and beyond, as well as for the continued safety and vigour of our alumni worldwide. As we move forward into 2021, we feel encouraged that the pandemic will be conquered, and empowered to continue to contribute to the advancement of gender equality across the globe.

Happy New Year!



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

The Gender Equality Studies and Training programme (GEST) graduated the 2020 cohort on 22 May. This was the first cohort to graduate from GRÓ GEST, as this year, GEST joined GRÓ Centre for Capacity Development, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Societal Change, which operates under the auspices of UNESCO. Luckily, as Iceland was nearly COVID-19 free during the latter part of May, the graduation ceremony was able to be held at the University of Iceland premises and was celebrated with limited number of guests. Twenty fellows from twelve countries, thereof for the first time fellows from Sri Lanka, Russia (Arctic) and Cameroon, were awarded a postgraduate diploma in international gender studies from the University of Iceland. Four fellowships were partly funded through the ERASMUS+ partnership; one fellow participated through a collaboration with the Icelandic Red Cross; one through joint partnership with NUDIPU in Uganda and the Icelandic Equality Fund; and for the first time, a fellow from the Arctic was funded by the Icelandic MFA to participate in the programme. The twenty graduated fellows joined the other 132 GEST alumni in the GEST alumni network, bringing the total number of alumni to 152 and the network's reach to 25 countries worldwide.

The graduation ceremony took place at the University of Iceland and was attended by Ms. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, former president of Iceland and the patron of the programme; Mr. Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation; Dr. Jón Atli Benediktsson, Rector of the University of Iceland; Guðmundur Hálfðanarson, Dean of the School of Humanities, as well as GEST fellows, supervisors, staff, and other guests.



The 2020 GEST cohort at graduation



The Rector of the University of Iceland addressed the fellows and guests.

The Rector of the University of Iceland, congratulated the fellows on their achievement, and encouraged them to “embrace the challenges and get ahead of the change”. Fellow and 2020 graduate Allen Asimwe addressed the guests and shared her reflections on the programme. She highlighted the positives and the challenges as she said: “The time here has provided us with an opportunity to reflect, rethink and question ourselves on who we are and what we stand for.” She emphasized that this end was a new beginning as the group of fellows would now return to their home countries, stronger and more determined to make a change within their communities.

Despite the challenging semester, never before did so many final assignments receive an honorary mention, with 11 of 20 assignments having been rewarded a first-class grade with distinction. Two final assignments stood out and were awarded with the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir award.

RECIPIENTS OF THE VIGDÍS FINNBOGADÓTTIR AWARD



Ms. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, awarded fellows Nadhiya Najab & Brenda Apeta, Rector Jón Atli Benediktsson

Two final assignments received the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir award in 2020. Brenda Apeta, from Uganda, received the award for her project on gender responsive pedagogy in schools at the Imvepi Refugee Camp and Nadhiya Najab from Sri Lanka for her analysis of microfinance institutions and the gendered social and economic implications resulting from growing levels of indebtedness.

This year, for the first time and henceforward, the award was presented in two

distinct categories. The first category is for applied projects or project documents, in which the fellow addresses and provides practical recommendations for an issue in relation to gender equality in their home country. The second category is for essays or research proposals, which aim at contributing to the existing academic literature on a particular topic relating to gender equality or outlining a proposal for a future PhD project. For all final assignments, in order to be considered for the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir award, it applies that the work has to address gender issues that are of concern in the fellow's home country. It must show evidence of sophisticated gender analysis with appropriate academic references, and it shall be well-structured and written.

In the category of applied projects and project documents, Brenda Apeta, from Uganda, was rewarded for her assignment "Equipping Primary Teachers in Gender Responsive Pedagogy to Strengthen Quality and Equity in Schools at the Imvepi Refugee Camp". In her assignment, Brenda formulated a commendable practical project that centres on the promotion of gender responsive pedagogy in primary education. Brenda acknowledges that teachers in Uganda lack training in paying attention to the different needs of girls and boys in early education, leading to a gender gap in the education system in Uganda. As the Director of Teaching and Learning at the NGO Pangea, Brenda is positioned to contribute to important research and curriculum development, equipping teachers with the knowledge and understanding they need to effectively overcome traditional gender roles.

In the category of essays and research proposals, Nadhiya Najab was rewarded for her analysis of microfinance institutions, and the gendered social and economic implications that result from increasing levels of indebtedness. Nadhiya works for Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) where she has been involved in projects that offer service such as assistance in post-war resettlement and in finding livelihood opportunities. Based on her previous research, it was clear that structural issues and traditional gender roles have made it difficult for women to make an income in parts of Sri Lanka. Many women use microcredit loans for consumption and basic survival, rather than as an investment in an income-generating activity. In her assignment, *Spiralling into Poverty, One Debt at a Time*, Nadhiya sought to understand why women borrow from microfinance institutes and how the current borrowing system has led to an increasing level of indebtedness for Sri Lankan women. The findings are broadly analysed within the context of Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces, which were directly impacted by an armed conflict.



THE GEST PROGRAMME DURING COVID-19



The 2020 GEST academic programme was very unusual. It started off like any other programme, where the GEST team welcomed the 2020 cohort during the darkest days of winter in January. After two months of adjusting to a very different environment, the fellows had to prove their resilience and determination once again, as the University of Iceland closed in mid-March due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Overnight, lectures were transferred over to remote teaching. Social distancing was introduced and restrictions on the number of people allowed to gather at a time made it difficult to complete field trips and visits. Throughout this period, the fellows continued their studies using online platforms. As the University of Iceland reopened at the beginning of May, the fellows had all managed to keep on track, completing their final assignments on schedule on May 10th.



The president of Iceland, Mr. Guðni Th. Jóhannesson and First Lady, Ms. Eliza Reid met with the 2020 GEST cohort at the University of Iceland in May, where social distancing could be guaranteed.

After their graduation on 22 May 2020, the GEST team had the difficult task of bringing all the fellows home. Long trips of 3-4 connecting flights, which are always challenging, became impossible in May, due to COVID-19 disruptions. Flights were frequently cancelled or not scheduled at all. In time the fellows left Iceland, one by one or in small groups, and by early July only four fellows remained in Iceland. By the end of July, Jameelah Yusuf and Kehinde Kayode from Nigeria were the only two fellows left in Iceland. All Nigerian international airports remained closed until mid September, causing Jameelah and Kehinde to wait for their return trip for over three months.

“The first and second month gave me an extra opportunity to explore Iceland and see the places I couldn’t see during the course work,” said Jameelah, adding that she definitely gained a lot from the extended stay. Kehinde agreed and said that the fact that they had each other’s company definitely helped. “By the third month the excitement had been replaced with a longing to be home and absolute boredom. I definitely felt stuck at some



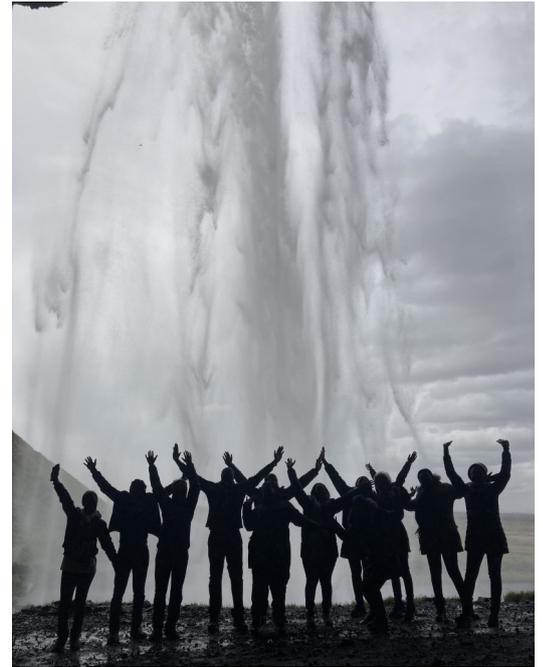
Kehinde at Pingvellir in May

point. Especially when most of the other fellows had returned to their various countries. It sometimes felt like being isolated on an island,” Jameelah said. “What was most difficult was having to stay away from my loved ones with no definite date to look forward to returning home” said Kehinde and Jameelah agreed. “The support system we received from the GEST team was encouraging. We were relieved from the thoughts of being ‘stuck’ by the assistance we got from GEST. They deserve some accolades. Thank you, GEST,” Kehinde adds, and Jameelah said “I would love to appreciate the entire GEST staff who made the extended stay bearable, especially Guðrún, Védís and Randi.”



Jameelah with GEST fellow Ivan, at Sólheimajökull

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions in Iceland, the GEST programme had to cancel the annual four-day long field trip, which is part of the Gender, Environment and Climate Change module. Fortunately, as the number of COVID-19 cases dropped in Iceland in May, the GEST team was able to organize a two day trip to the south of Iceland. The group travelled the Golden Circle in beautiful weather and also visited the south coast of Iceland. The usually very busy tourist sites and locations, were then empty of other people, making for an unusual trip.



The fellows visited Friðheimar, greenhouse and learned about tomato farming in Iceland



2021 GEST PROGRAMME POSTPONED

In planning for the spring 2021 academic programme, the GEST team opted to remain positive despite the international uncertainty about travel and other restrictions due to the pandemic. The GEST programme opened a call in April 2020 and received a record number of qualified applications. The selection process was very competitive with over 270 nominations received from 61 countries. 32 applicants from 19 countries were invited to participate in the 2021 programme.

At the beginning of the fall semester in 2020, operations at the University of Iceland were relatively normal. Iceland had been COVID-19 free from mid-May until the end of July; classes were being held on the University premises, and with relatively few new viral infections, life felt mostly normal. Shortly after, there was unfortunately a significant upsurge in COVID-19 cases, causing a near complete lockdown of activities at the University and in the country at large. In light of these developments nationally, and after consulting with university officials, it became clear that predicted circumstances at the University of Iceland in spring 2021 would not allow the kind of quality learning experience that is integral to the vision and mission of the GEST programme. It was therefore decided to postpone the GEST diploma programme until August 2021. Prospective spring 2021 fellows were invited to join the programme in August 2021.

The open call for spring 2022, starting in January 2022, will be advertised in February 2021.

CYNTHIA ENLOE AWARDED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE



Cynthia Enloe, Research Professor at Clark University, who is a world-renowned feminist scholar, and long-standing lecturer at the GEST programme, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Languages and Cultures at the University of Iceland in February 2020. An honorary doctorate is the highest order the University can bestow.

Prof. Enloe's teaching and research focus on the interplay of gendered politics in the national and international arenas and she has written extensively on the topics and intersections of feminism, women, militarized culture, war, politics, and

globalized economics. She has conducted her research in Iraq, Afghanistan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Philippines, Canada, Chile, and Turkey.

Since 2010, Prof. Enloe has been a lecturer on gender, peace, and security issues at the GEST programme at the University of Iceland. During her stays in Iceland, she has held many lectures and participated in conferences pertaining to peace, security issues and gender equality and is very well known to our alumni and staff.



Dean of the School of Humanities, Guðmundur Hálfðanarson, Rector of the University of Iceland, Jón Atli Benediktsson, Prof. Cynthia Enloe and Head of Faculty of Languages and Cultures, Birna Aðalbjörnsdóttir

GEST DIRECTOR AWARDED FOR HER CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND



Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir, Director of GEST, was, in December, awarded by the Rector of the University of Iceland for her outstanding professional contributions to the University of Iceland. The award is for Irma's contributions to equality through her work in establishing the Gender Equality Studies and Training programme, and her contribution as the Director of RIKK - Institute for Gender, Equality and Difference. Furthermore, Irma is the Director of the EDDA Research Center on critical contemporary research at the University of Iceland, which focuses on the politics of equality in the humanities and social sciences.





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Centre for Capacity
Development, Sustainability
and Societal Change
Under the auspices of UNESCO

Resources and Societal Change, as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

GRÓ is the first multidisciplinary Category 2 Centre in UNESCO's network and the centre's mission is to support capacity development in Africa, Asia and Central and South America in the centre's four areas of expertise and thus strengthening their abilities to attain international and national targets set with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals.

To recognise and celebrate the newly established partnership with UNESCO, the GEST programme celebrated its 10-year anniversary at the Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development (KICD) Nairobi in collaboration with the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) and the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) in December 2019. This was the first international GEST alumni seminar and was a three-day event 16-18 December, where eleven former GEST fellows from Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique and Palestine presented their current work in gender equality in their home countries and contributed to a discussion on GEST alumni strategy. Moreover, several international scholars and experts presented their research in the fields of higher education, masculinity studies and climate change, so as to set the agenda for GEST's future priorities. The seminar was attended by local participants from UNESCO partner organizations in Nairobi, Kenya.



Participants of the first international alumni seminar in Nairobi, December 2019.

GRÓ CENTRE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND SIGN A HOST AGREEMENT



Upper row: Guðrún Eysteinsdóttir, Guðmundur Hálfðanarson, Irma Erlingsdóttir, Bryndís Kjartansdóttir. Lower row: Jón Atli Benediktsson, Jón Karl Ólafsson

In July, the Rector of the University of Iceland, Jón Atli Benediktsson and GRÓ Chairman, Jón Karl Ólafsson signed a new host institution agreement for GRÓ GEST.

Also present at the signing were Bryndís Kjartansdóttir, then Director of GRÓ Centre; Irma Erlingsdóttir, Director of GRÓ GEST; Guðmundur Hálfðanarson, Dean of the School of Humanities; and Guðrún Eysteinsdóttir, GRÓ GEST Operations Manager.



In December 2020, GEST hosted the first Alumni Online Seminar where six GEST alumni shared their research findings on the gendered impact of COVID-19 restrictions. The seminar was well attended by former fellows, representing 11 years of the GEST programme, as well as GEST lecturers, supervisors and staff.

The purpose of the seminar was to record and document a historical snapshot of how the gendered impact related to the global pandemic of COVID-19 unfolds in different national contexts. Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir opened the seminar and in her address, she noted that globally, “the COVID-19 pandemic has had an immense impact on everything from the global economy to local communities and has sparked serious questions about how we think of global safety and security in collective and individual terms”. She added: “Having had such a widespread global impact, it is unthinkable that the COVID-19 pandemic should not also impact gender equality. Indeed, what we have witnessed and are still witnessing globally is that women tend to become the world’s safety net in times of crisis.”

To assess and further understand the gendered impact of the COVID-19 restrictions, the GEST team called for research proposals from its alumni in October 2020. Six proposals were selected, and those responsible were asked to present their findings at the seminar. It took place in two sessions, which were moderated by GEST alumni, Brenda Apeta and Gideon Adjei-Mawutor. The following research proposals were presented:

- **Shamim Nampijja:** Analysis on the Impact of COVID-19: A Study on Women and Girls with Disabilities in Uganda
- **Kondwani MacDonald Mhone:** Impact of COVID-19 on Girls’ Education in Malawi
- **Nadhiya Najab:** The Balancing Act: Gender Dynamics of Remote Working in Sri Lanka
- **Sophia Nabukenya:** Examining the Gendered Impact of COVID-19 on Access to Adolescent Friendly Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Information to Teenagers in Uganda. A Case of Kawempe Division- Kampala District
- **Jessica Mandanda:** Where is the Relief? Understanding the Urgency of Financial Relief and the Influence of Domestic Violence. A Study on Child Trafficking, Odd Jobs, and Domestic Violence during COVID-19 in Malawi
- **Chinenye Anekwe:** Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Rural Clean Energy Women Entrepreneurs in Nigeria: A Mixed Method Study

Each session was concluded with questions and answers from the seminar's participants. The presentations were insightful, showing the quality research conducted by GEST alumni. The complete research reports are to be published on the GEST website in early 2021.

Gender Equality and COVID-19 in Contexts

GEST Alumni Online Seminar 2020

with contributions from:



Sophia Nabukenya
Uganda



Nadhiya Najab
Sri Lanka



Kondwani Mhone
Malawi



Shamim Nampijja
Uganda



Jessica Mandanda
Malawi



Chinenye Anekwe
Nigeria



18 December 2020
15-16 GMT and 17-18 GMT



Earlier this year The Gender Equality and Studies Training programme set up an alumni seed fund to finance GEST alumni-led projects. Through the fund, GEST issues an annual call for proposals that focus on advancing gender equality and promoting gender transformative approaches to achieve social change.

The projects funded are to be initiated and managed by alumni of the GEST programme, who must function as main applicants and those ultimately responsible for implementing the project. As the GEST programme revolves around gender equality and social justice, the projects must have a primary focus on advancing gender equality and promoting gender transformative approaches to achieve social change. These priorities need to be clearly reflected in the project's activities and strategies.

The aim of the fund is to support alumni in disseminating their knowledge and expertise obtained during their participation in the GEST programme and to encourage alumni to develop and implement projects focused on advancing gender equality in their home communities.

CHINENYE ANEKWE THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE GEST ALUMNI FUND

It is our great pleasure to announce that a €10,000 grant from the GEST Alumni Fund was awarded to Chinenye Anekwe, GEST alumna of 2018. Chinenye Anekwe is a Development Specialist at Solar Sisters, an NGO that has helped kickstart more than 5.000 women clean energy entrepreneurs and continues to deliver clean energy directly to homes in rural African communities.

Chinenye receives the grant for the project **Business Booster Programme for 100 Rural Women Energy Entrepreneurs**. The grant will fund community sensitization programmes for 100 Solar Sister Entrepreneurs in each of the 25 states of Nigeria where the organisation operates. The project aims to support 100 participants to double their local clean energy business enterprises through targeted activities conducted to improve their capacity, expand their customer base and increase their market visibility. The grant will enable the Solar Sister Entrepreneurs to create additional impact by funding community-based market awareness and sensitization campaigns, as well as provide marketing materials that will build awareness of gender-inclusive business, increase the uptake of clean energy conversion, and provide enhanced economic opportunity to women entrepreneurs.



GEST FIRST ONLINE COURSE ON GENDER AND INTERSECTIONALITY



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GEST

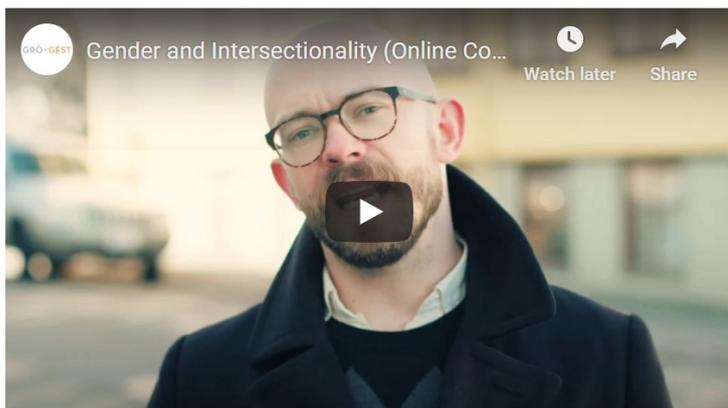
In May, GEST launched GEST's first online course within the edX network. EdX is a leading international online learning platform founded by Harvard and MIT. Joining edX is a natural step for GEST in our efforts to improve the quality and outreach of transnational knowledge transmission and exchange, and to adapt to rapidly changing technological environments in higher education.



The online course is developed and taught by GEST Research Specialist Dr. Giti Chandra and GEST Project Manager Dr. Thomas Brorsen Smidt.

Understanding how gender intersects with various cultural and social concepts is not only essential to understanding gender studies as a scientific discipline, it is also an important part of moving through and experiencing the world as a human being. Understanding gender and intersectionality can help us understand ourselves and the world and culture we live in.

The course is an excellent starting point for anyone coming to gender studies for the first time, or for those already in the field who wish to brush up on the basics through a more visual experience. The course offers different resources in the form of literature, articles, images, audio, websites, and visual texts about gender in many different contexts.



Specifically using examples from popular culture, classical literature, and history, this course teaches you how to analyze religious texts and traditions, class divisions, racial inequality, sexualities, and nationalism through a gendered lens.

Since its launch in May, over 5,500 online learners have enrolled in the course. The course's website can be found [here](#).

TESTIMONIALS FROM PARTICIPANTS IN THE COURSE

'[The] course allowed me to explore different cultures, regions, and beliefs from a gender lens [...] I have always been a curious learner, but never have I found myself screaming YES, and thumping my desk to every third paragraph in each reading you shared. It has been an experience like no other!' – Saloni, India

'Gender is everything! You may think it does not concern you, but you live it out daily. Join the course and see things from every perspective. The materials, lectures, podcast and even the discussion groups are filled with lessons on life, history and everything in between.' - Comfort, Nigeria

'I really enjoyed the way Thomas and Giti interacted during the class. With the different life experiences that they each have had, they were great examples of how gender intersects with so many other factors in our lives. I highly recommend this course to anyone who wants to expand their knowledge [and learn how] important the concept of intersectionality is in any discussion about gender.' - Tom, United States of America



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

THE HANDBOOK OF THE POLITICS OF THE #METOO MOVEMENT



GRÖ
GEST

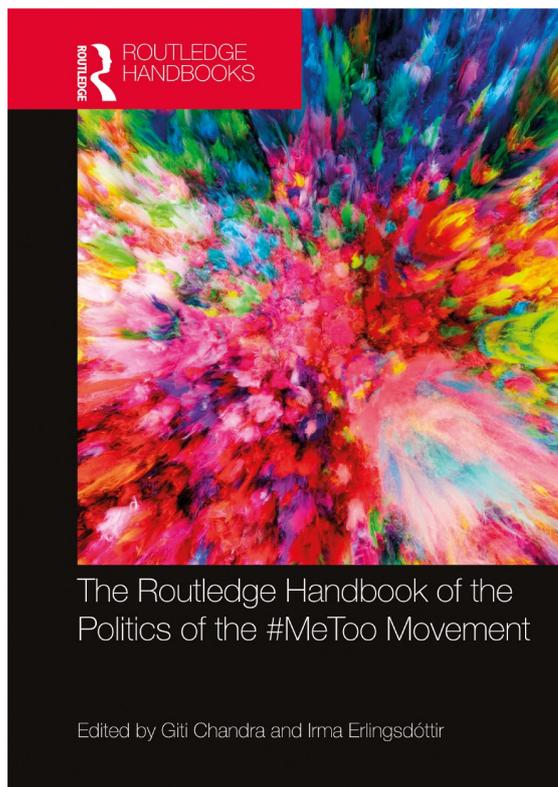
In November, the Handbook of the Politics of the #MeToo Movement was published by Routledge. The book was edited by Dr. Giti Chandra, GEST Research Specialist and Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir, Director of GEST, and includes chapters from renowned scholars on gender, activism and social media.

The book is an interdisciplinary handbook which identifies thematic and theoretical areas that require attention and interrogation, inviting the reader to make connections between the ways in which the #MeToo Movement has panned out in different parts of the world, seeing it in the context of the many feminist and gendered struggles already in place, as well as the solidarities with similar movements across countries and cultures.

With contributions from gender experts spanning a wide range of disciplines including political science, history, sociology, law, literature, and philosophy, this ground-breaking book will have contemporary relevance for scholars, feminists, gender researchers, and policy-makers across the globe.

To celebrate the launch of the book, GEST held a virtual launch on Zoom on 3 December 2020 where some of the book's contributors shared their perspective of the developments since the spread of the #MeToo Movement in 2017.

The recording from the launch can be found [here](#).



#METOO: THINKING AHEAD

3 December 2020 — 16:00–17:30 / 4–5.30 pm GMT

Virtual symposium on the occasion of

Launch of The Routledge Handbook of the Politics of the #MeToo Movement

Hosts: Giti Chandra & Irma Erlingsdóttir

Angela Davis	DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITA, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA CRUZ
Purna Sen	VISITING PROFESSOR, LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY
Marai Larasi	ADVOCATE, COMMUNITY ORGANISER, CONSULTANT AND EDUCATOR
Freyja Haraldsdottir	ACTIVIST AND ADJUNCT LECTURER, UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND
Jeff Hearn	SENIOR PROFESSOR, ÖREBRO UNIVERSITY
Magdalena Grabowska	PROFESSOR, POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
Cynthia Enloe	PROFESSOR, CLARK UNIVERSITY

RIKK INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY



Routledge Taylor & Francis Group



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

THE GEST PODCAST



The GEST Podcast was launched in January 2020. The Podcast's main host is GEST's Project Manager Dr. Thomas Brorsen Smidt, and he is regularly joined by his colleague Dr. Giti Chandra, Research Specialist at GEST. In the podcast, Giti and Thomas engage in conversation with fellows and international experts affiliated with the GEST Programme. The Podcast topics range from cultural appropriation and revenge pornography to colonialism and the #MeToo Movement through a gendered perspective. The Podcast also follows up with topics related to GEST's edX course on Gender and Intersectionality.



The GEST Podcast's hosts, Dr. Thomas Brorsen Smidt and Dr. Giti Chandra

GEST's most listened podcasts until now are correlated with the edX course, where Thomas and Giti in two episodes, discuss the relationship between gender and religion, as well as gender and class. They also try to tackle issues such as feminism versus capitalism, and the impossibility of being the perfect activist.

Other recommended episodes are the two-part series including a conversation with long-standing GEST faculty member Cynthia Enloe where the Clark University professor looks back at a half-century long illustrious career as an author, teacher, and outspoken feminist activist. Professor Enloe speaks about the #MeToo Movement, the importance of making feminist research more accessible through translation, and how dedication to curiosity can inform your gendered awakening. Taking a starting point from her own experiences, she reminds us that "everybody, no matter how slow a learner they are, can wake up."

The GEST Podcast
Cynthia Enloe: A Career Fueled by Curiosity

SOUNDCLOUD
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30:52
▶ 137

Shamim Nampijja is a GEST alumna and works for the National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda - an organisation that advocates for the rights of women with disabilities. In the podcast, Shamim Nampijja tells stories of women with disabilities and discusses the rights of disabled women in Uganda, and how the rights of women with disabilities exist on paper but not in practice. "The issues at stake are for example freedom of sexuality, gender roles for girls and women with disabilities, and relationships in general."

The GEST Podcast
Shamim Nampijja: Gender and Disability in Uganda

SOUNDCLOUD
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24:52
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The podcast's website can be found [here](#).



RIKK & GRÓ-GEST · VOR 2020

HÁDEGISFYRIRLESTRAR

FYRIRLESTRARSALUR ÞJÓÐMINJASAFNS ÍSLANDS

KL. 12:00-13:00



For the spring 2020, RIKK and GEST organized its annual joint lecture series devoted to gender and climate change. The first few lectures were held at the National Museum of Iceland, or until the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the rescheduling of the lectures. The lectures were eventually delayed and then moved to an online platform.

The aim of the lectures was to shed light on the gendered side of climate change and open the debate on how to make climate change and the environmental policies gender sensitive. The lectures were either in English or in Icelandic; and the recordings can be found [here](#). Below are few examples of the 2020 lectures.

Climate Crisis and „the Logic of Masculinist Protection“



In his lecture Ole Martin Sandberg argues that the fear of social collapse tends to make us seek protection by giving more power to those in charge of the political system, while we lose trust in each other. Thus, the climate crisis is more likely to lead to the intensification of current power structures, globally and within nations. As the already vulnerable suffer from climate catastrophes, those who are protected and already powerful will increase their domination, especially if they do so under the guise of the “benevolent patriarch” that promises to protect us from disorder. This logic undermines the elements that are most needed to survive disasters: care, social trust, and mutual aid. Sandberg analyses the social and political reactions in recent real disasters as examples of what we can expect more of, and learn from, as the climate crisis intensifies.

Climate Change, Gender Equality and Development Cooperation



Auður H. Ingólfssdóttir analyses the different ways people are impacted by the climate crisis, that is profoundly influencing the planet, putting pressure on both ecosystems and communities. In order to make the argument that gender sensitive climate policies can only be realized if policy makers are aware of the various links between climate change, gender equality and social justice, Auður points out the specific links between gender and climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa and the role of education and awareness raising on the issue.

A Question of Fairness and Hope. Feminist Theology’s Response to the Impending Climate Crisis.



Arnfríður Guðmundsdóttir, professor of theology, kicked off the autumn 2021 series with this lecture that was presented as an online event only. She discussed feminist theologians’ responses to the climate threat, and the impact of global warming on women in vulnerable situations, in both the global south and the global north. Research indicates that women are differently and more severely impacted by climate change than men. Criticism has been raised about gender inequity’s, or gender blindness’, influence on climate research and its conclusions, as evidenced e.g. in Pope Francis’ second encyclical, *Laudato Si’* (2015). Arnfríður argued that no academic field, theology included, can shirk responsibilities when it comes to the enormous challenge we now face.

NORDIC WOMEN MEDIATORS

GEST continues to coordinate the Icelandic branch of the Nordic Women Mediators Network (NWM) in close collaboration with the Icelandic Ministry of

Foreign Affairs. The NWM is a network of women from the Nordic countries with professional expertise relevant to conflict mediation, peace-building and negotiations.

In early June, due to the pandemic, the NWM changed its annual meeting to a virtual meeting titled "Beyond the Pandemic: A Critical Time for the Meaningful Inclusion of Women in Mediation in Peace Processes". The Swedish national network organized the opening and closing events. Each national network contributed to the virtual annual meeting by coordinating a discussion session for NWM network members, where the Icelandic NWM national network moderated discussions on militarized, securitized and repressive responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

The next Nordic Women Mediators annual meeting is scheduled to take place in fall 2021 in Iceland, with GEST and the MFA being the main coordinators.

ONLINE SEMINAR ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY FOR 20 YEARS

GEST, in partnership with the Nordic Women Mediators Network and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Iceland, organized an online seminar in three sessions on 26 November 2020, addressing the progress made within the Women, Peace and Security Agenda since the signatory of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000. The NWM Icelandic members were the key speakers and moderators at the online seminar, but were also joined by specialists such as Stella Samúelsdóttir and Íris Björg Kristjánsdóttir from UN Women, Randa Siniora General Director of Women Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) in Palestine, Sylvia Thompson, Senior Manager at Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) in Yemen and a member of the Nordic Women Mediators Network– Norway, and Emma Leslie, Executive Director of Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and a member of the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth.






KONUR, FRÍÐUR OG ÖRYGGI Í 20 ÁR

26. nóvember 2020 14:00–18:00



RAFRÆN DAGSKRÁ UM ÞÁTTTÖKU KVENNA Í ÖRYGGISMÁLUM OG FRÍÐARVIÐRÆÐUM

14:00-15:00 ÍSLENSKA	15:30-16:30 ENGLISH	17:00-18:00 OPIN MÁLSTOFA
<p>1325 Konur, friður og öryggi: Stefnu- mötun, fræðin og íslensk þekking Nordic Women Mediators</p> <p>Fundarstjóri: Védís Ólafsdóttir Verkefnastjóri hjá GEST</p> <p>Stella Samúelsdóttir Frankvæmdastýra UN Women á Íslandi</p> <p>Guðrún Sif Friðriksdóttir Doktor í mannfræði</p> <p>Gréta Gunnarsdóttir Sendiherra</p> <p>Íris Björg Kristjánsdóttir Sérfræðingur á svæðisskrifstofu UN Women fyrir Evrópu og Mið-Asíu</p>	<p>Implementing 1325 through Mediation</p> <p>Moderator: Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir Historian and former member of Parliament for the Women's Alliance</p> <p>Sylvia Rani Thompson Senior Manager at Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) in Yemen and a member of the Nordic Women Mediators Network</p> <p>Randa Siniora General Director of Women Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) in Palestine</p> <p>Emma Leslie Executive Director of Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and a member of the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth</p>	<p>Aðkoma kvenna að friðar- og öryggismálum — 20 ár frá ályktun öryggisráðs Sameinuðu þjóðanna um konur, frið og öryggi</p> <p>Fundarstjóri: Þjarney Friðriksdóttir, sérfræðingur í fólks- flutningum og mannréttindum við Mannréttindastofnun Deusto háskóla</p> <p>Silja Bára Ómarsdóttir, prófessor við stjórnmalafraeðideild Háskóla Íslands — Hvað er öryggi og hvernig breytist skilningur á því á óvissutímum?</p> <p>Helen María Ólafsdóttir, sérfræðingur um öryggismál og uppbyggingu öryggis fyrir Sameinuðu þjóðirnar í Sómalíu — Mikilvægi þátttöku kvenna í öryggismálum: Aðkoma og hlutverk kvenna í öryggismálum á óvissutímum í Sómalíu.</p> <p>Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, fyrrum forstjóri Lýðræðis- og mannréttindastofnunar Öryggis- og samvinnustofnunar Evrópu — Árangur af ályktun 1325 frá öryggisráði Sameinuðu þjóðanna um konur, frið og öryggi.</p>