

# GRÓ·GEST 2022

## YEAR IN REVIEW



*GEST 2022 cohort at Jökulsárlón*

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

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

The GRÓ GEST programme and its staff wishes to express its gratitude for the past year to all of our fellows, instructors, collaborators and other colleagues. We welcomed this year's fellows in January 2022, only a few weeks after the 2021 cohort graduated, which was a huge challenge for the GEST staff. However, it is not an experience we would have wanted to be without, and we remain very grateful for our wonderful 2022 cohort and the support of our alumni and partners worldwide.

Happy New Year!





# The 2022 GRÓ GEST programme



GRÓ  
GEST

In 2022, the GEST team welcomed the new cohort of fellows in and around mid-January, and although Covid-restrictions were still in effect, they were milder than before and travel was generally not problematic. One fellow was required to quarantine for a week upon arrival (as compared with nearly half of the cohort that arrived in August the year before). The 2022 cohort consisted of 23 fellows, from 15 countries in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. This year, for the first time, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, and Moldova were represented among the GRÓ GEST fellows.



*The GEST 2022 cohort*

True to tradition, the Diploma programme ran from January to May, with six modules, beginning with *Theories and Concepts of Gender*, and continuing with *Gender and Development: Tools and Strategies*, *Gender, Violence and Security*, *Gender, Labor and Migration*, and *Gender, Environment and Climate Change*, and of course, with the *Final Assignment* module running through the entire semester.

Several guest lectures and shorter field visits within Reykjavík were part of the programme this year. Guest lectures included overviews of the history and work of the Icelandic women's movement and of the Queer Association of Iceland, *Samtökin 78*, as well as a presentation by Somali-Icelandic activist Najmo Fiyasko about her activism and advocacy; a lecture by Danijela Vukovic-Calasan of the University of Montenegro, who visited GEST supported by our Erasmus+ partnership, and last but not least, a visit by the First Lady of Iceland, Ms. Eliza Reid, who talked about her new book *Secrets of the Sprakkar: Iceland's Extraordinary Women and How They Are Changing the World*.



# The 2022 GRÓ GEST programme



GRÓ  
GEST

Off-campus the cohort visited *Konukot* shelter for homeless women and *Stígamót* Counseling Center for survivors of sexual violence, as well as leading themselves on a writing retreat/relaxation weekend at the university's *Laugarvatn* campus - only an hour outside town but a world away in terms of nature, calm, and quiet.



*GEST 2022 cohort visiting Konukot*



*GEST 2022 cohort visiting Stígamót*

On May 6th, the GRÓ GEST 2022 cohort was invited to visit the Icelandic president, Guðni Th. Jóhannesson at Bessastaðir, the residence of the Icelandic president. After being welcomed by President Guðni, two fellows, Mohamed Altamash Khan from India and Maame Adwoa Amoa-Marfo from Ghana, spoke on behalf of the GRÓ GEST fellows. Robert Chiwamba of Malawi recited a poem, dedicated to his experience in Iceland, and Aarti Lila Ram presented and gave the president an ajrak, a scarf of indigenous fabric from Sindh in Pakistan, traditionally considered a sign of respect and honor.



*GEST 2022 cohort with the President of Iceland at Bessastaðir*



# Cynthia Enloe's final year with the GEST fellows



GRÓ  
GEST

Spring 2022 saw many familiar faces among GRÓ GEST's instructors, several of whom have made long trips annually to take part in the programme for many years. Among them were long time friends and lecturers Dr. Elisabeth Klatzer and Dr. Joni Seager, and also our beloved and much admired Dr. Cynthia Enloe, who has generously given of her time and knowledge to teach the GEST cohorts about gender, militarization, and peacebuilding every year since 2010. Of the 195 fellows, who have completed the GEST diploma programme, Cynthia has gotten to know 193 through the programme, and alumni have mentioned meeting her, perhaps at some conference even years after sitting in her classroom in Reykjavík, and being greeted like family members or fond friends. The 2022 cohort was Cynthia's thirteenth GEST cohort, and it was also her last, as she will not be joining the programme in future years.



*The GEST 2022 fellows with Dr. Cynthia Enloe*

GRÓ GEST wants to take this opportunity to once more thank Cynthia Enloe for all the inspiration she has given us and our fellows, for her dedication to the education and personal development of the GEST gender specialists and practitioners from around the world who have joined us, and for her vast contribution to the GEST programme. We wish her well in all that she chooses to do in the future.



*GEST 2022 fellows with Dr. Joni Seager*



*GEST 2022 fellows with Dr. Elisabeth Klatzer*



# GRÓ GEST joins the 6th Meeting of the Informal Network of European National Commissions for UNESCO



GRÓ GEST joined the 6th Meeting of the Informal Network of European National Commissions for UNESCO for a special session on gender equality, that was held in Reykjavík in May this year. GEST academic coordinator, Dr Thomas Brorsen Smidt, and GEST fellows from the 2022 cohort, Ms. Sandani N. Yapa Abeywardena and Ms. Lahya Shikongo, gave a presentation on the work and activities of the GEST programme and its beginning and future collaborations with UNESCO. Ms. Abeywardena is an Attorney-at-Law at the Chambers of Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane in Sri Lanka. She spoke about the curriculum content of the GEST programme and how it has influenced her work, and she recalled her own personal experience with learning from a diverse cohort of other fellows and instructors during her five months in Iceland. Ms. Shikongo is the Chief Foreign Relations Officer at the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation in Namibia. She introduced the national commission representatives to the structure of the Final Applied project in the GEST programme and presented her own research from the GEST Programme on Namibian women in security and peacekeeping.



*Ms. Sandani N. Yapa Abeywardena*



*Dr. Thomas Brorsen Smidt*



*Ms. Lahya Shikongo*





*The GEST 2022 fellows during the field trip*

The fellows went on the yearly field trip to the south coast of Iceland on a beautiful weekend in May and enjoyed major sites along the way east to Höfn in Hornafjörður, such as *Reynisfjara* (known as „the Black Sand Beach“), the waterfalls *Seljalandsfoss* and *Skógafoss* and *Jökulsárlón* glacial lagoon. At Höfn in Hornafjörður, the fellows met with representatives from the Research Center at Höfn to discuss the effects of climate change on Iceland's glaciers, followed by a visit to the glacier *Fláajökull* to directly connect with their experience in Höfn.



*Dr. Þorvarður Árnason from the Research Centre at Höfn with the GEST fellows by the glacier Fláajökull*



*GEST fellows enjoying a snack by the waterfall Skógafoss*



# Final Seminar & Graduation 2022



After the field trip, the 2022 GEST fellows returned to Reykjavík to dive straight into the final seminar, where each fellow presented the design, analysis, and results of their final assignments to their peers and others in an open forum on May 16. The final assignments can be research papers, research proposals and project proposals, all having to do with issues relevant to gender equality in their home countries. The 2022 final assignments dealt with such diverse topics as women's protests in Kosovo, feminist self-care in Africa, Namibian women peacekeepers, Palestinian female bodybuilders, countering gender-based violence through poetry, challenging gender norms among pre-schoolers, and many more.

The semester concluded with the graduation ceremony on May 20. The ceremony was held in the university's beautiful Aula in the Main Building (Aðalbygging) and began with welcoming remarks by Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir, director of GRÓ GEST. In attendance were also Dr. Jón Atli Benediktsson, Rector of the University of Iceland and Martin Eyjólfsson, Permanent Secretary of State of Iceland, who both delivered speeches to the fellows and other attendees; Ólöf Garðarsdóttir, Dean of the School of Humanities and Nína Björk Jónsdóttir, Director General of GRÓ Centre who distributed diplomas and certificates to the graduating fellows, as well as GEST supervisors and other staff. Other

distinguished guests included several family members of fellows who came to Iceland for the occasion, and of course, the fellows themselves. Fellow Diana Motsi from Zimbabwe presented her powerful poem titled "Revolutionary" and Maame Adwoa Amoa-Marfo from Ghana addressed the guests on behalf of the cohort. Classical music performed by flautist Áshildur Haraldsdóttir and pianist Helga Bryndís Magnúsdóttir added beauty and passion to the proceedings. The ceremony was followed by a reception, after which GEST staff and fellows enjoyed a celebratory dinner.



*Robert Chiwamba receiving his diploma from Ólöf Garðarsdóttir. Photo by: Kristinn Ingvarsson*



*Diana Motsi presenting her poem. Photo by: Kristinn Ingvarsson*



*GEST 2022 fellows at graduation with Nína Björk Jónsdóttir, Director of GRÓ Centre, Jón Atli Benediktsson, Rector of the University of Iceland, Ólöf Garðarsdóttir, Dean of the School of Humanities, Irma Erlingsdóttir, Director of GRÓ GEST, and the staff of GEST. Photo by: Kristinn Ingvarsson, photographer, University of Iceland*



# Recipients of the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Award



*The award recipients: Nicole Wasuna from Kenya on the left, Sandani N. Yapa Abeywardena from Sri Lanka on the right. Photo by: Kristinn Ingvarsson*

The Vigdís Finnbogadóttir award was presented during the graduation ceremony by GEST academic coordinator and project manager Dr. Thomas Brorsen Smidt and GEST research specialist and coordinator for the final assignment module, Dr. Giti Chandra. The award is presented to two fellows, for the best final assignments in two distinct categories: an applied project or project document on the one hand and a research paper or proposal on the other.

In the category of applied projects and project proposals, Nicole Wasuna was awarded the prize for her project proposal “Counting Dead Women: Towards a Femicide Observatory in Kenya”. The project addresses existing gaps in the literature and in country-specific policy responses on femicide. It formulates and provides specialized and targeted training to the police, the media, and the judiciary on femicide cases in a way that respects the dignity and honour of the deceased and their loved ones. It transforms institutional operations at the national level and, in so doing, lays the foundation for a future free of violence for women in Kenya.

In the category of research and research proposals, Sandani N. Yapa Abeywardena received the award for her paper on “The Legal and Judicial Construction of Gender in Sexual Crimes in Sri Lanka”. The study interrogates the supposed core values of equality and impartiality in the Sri Lankan justice system in how it deals with sexual crimes. By examining judgements delivered by the Superior Courts on the offences of rape, grave sexual abuse, and sexual harassment in cases between 2020 and 2021, the study analyses and ultimately reveals how judges construct gender in the interpretation of the laws on gender-based violence, and the laws of evidence on victim-credibility.



# Stella Tereka PhD fellow in Iceland



At the beginning of September, GRÓ GEST was very pleased to welcome back to Iceland GEST 2016 fellow Stella Tereka, who is one of two PhD students currently supported by a GRÓ GEST full PhD fellowship. Stella began work on her PhD research at the height of the Covid-19 epidemic, and was now finally able to travel to Iceland to work closely with her main supervisor, Dr. Jón Geir Pétursson, Professor in Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Iceland, throughout the autumn semester in Reykjavík.

Stella is enrolled in the interdisciplinary doctoral programme in Environment and Natural Resources where her focus is on gender and climate change. Her research examines the gendered dimensions of climate change and aims to identify effective approaches and strategies to support gender transformative climate proofing in agriculture and natural resources sectors in Uganda. She conducts her research under the joint supervision of Dr. Jón Geir Pétursson, Dr. Auður H. Ingólfssdóttir, GRÓ GEST contributing lecturer, and Dr. Patrick Byakagaba, Associate Professor at Makerere University.

Stella has submitted the first of her PhD papers for publication. Her paper, *Gender perspectives on rural household water governance under changing climate in Uganda*, was furthermore accepted to the 2nd International Conference on Geographical Science for Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Livelihoods under Global Environmental Change (GORILLA) held in December 2022 in Kampala, Uganda.



From left: Dr. Jón Geir Pétursson, Ms. Stella Tereka, Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir

## Alumni fund recipient



The second GRÓ GEST March 8 Alumni Fund grant was awarded in 2022 to Claudia Pamela Chavarría Machado, GEST alumna of 2021 and Iniciativa Ciudadana y Desarrollo (INCIDE) Social in Mexico City where she serves as Research and Development Coordinator, for the project *Community response to access to the right of women to live free from violence in Mexico City*. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is one of Mexico's most prevalent types of violence and in the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic the number of reports increased. The response from the justice system has failed to provide safe and efficient solutions, and the services and programs for victims and survivors of IPV have been unable to consider the efficiency of working with communities.

Ms. Machado's project proposes to place victims' needs at the center of building a community-based response (CBR) while aiming for structural changes. CBR is a welcome new approach, with the goal of not

only providing options for women to exit violent relationships, but also to being a part of a transformative process where communities engage and participate in working together to change the presentation of violence as something normal.



After two years of almost no travel, the GRÓ GEST staff was happy to be able to visit its alumni, partners and collaborators to reconnect and strengthen its partnerships.

## Erasmus+ partners

In June, the GRÓ GEST director along with a GRÓ GEST project manager visited **Makerere University in Uganda**. The collaboration with the School of Women and Gender Studies at Makerere dates back to 2010. During the visit, collaboration between the two institutions was strengthened through discussions for short course development, student and faculty exchange, and a co-supervisor from Makerere University being identified for GEST PhD fellow Stella Tereka. Additionally, GRÓ GEST representatives interviewed candidates from Uganda for the 2023 GEST diploma programme.



*GEST director Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir honored to receive recognition for 10 years of collaboration between GEST and the School of Women and Gender Studies at Makerere University*



*GRÓ GEST operations manager, Guðrún Eysteinsdóttir, with partners from the University of Prishtina*

GRÓ GEST's operations manager visited the **University of Prishtina, Kosovo**, in December. The Program for Gender Studies and Research at the University of Prishtina and GEST have been Erasmus+ partners since 2019 but this was the first opportunity for in-person meetings. The GEST representative presented the programme to several faculty members and sat in on classes. The two programmes concluded with the decision to not only continue their Erasmus+ partnership but hopefully to also expand their collaboration to include further projects in the future.

The GRÓ GEST director visited **Birzeit University, Palestine**, which has been an Erasmus+ partner with GEST since 2016. She met with representatives from the Institute of Women's Studies, gave a lecture on gender equality in Iceland in class for MA students, and introduced the GEST postgraduate diploma programme.



# International travel and partner collaborations



GRÓ  
GEST

## Erasmus+ partners

Two GRÓ GEST project managers visited the **Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA) at the University of Ghana**, as a part of an ongoing Erasmus+ partnership between the two institutions, in November. The two university departments introduced each other to their work and discussed synergies and possibilities for collaboration. Among other things, this resulted in informal agreements to nominate qualified MA students and staff from UG to the GEST programme in collaboration with CEGENSA, and to involve CEGENSA staff in both teaching and supervision of future GEST fellows.



*Project managers Thomas Brorsen Smidt and Anna Guðrún Aradóttir with partners at CEGENSA.*



*From left: Kopano Ratele, Tamara Shefer, Professors in Gender Studies at UWC, Irma Erlingsdóttir, GEST director, and Umesh Bawa, Director of International Relations, University of Western Cape.*

GRÓ GEST's director visited the **University of Western Cape, South Africa**, to strengthen the collaboration with the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, to explore possibilities of future research collaboration, and student and faculty exchange, in addition to giving a lecture for MA students.

GRÓ GEST's director visited the **Lebanese American University in Beirut, Lebanon**, where she reconnected with partners at the Arab Institute for Women, and held a public lecture on Gender and LGBTQI+ politics in Iceland, introduced the GRÓ GEST postgraduate diploma programme for MA students at LAU, and discussed synergies with other departments at LAU.

16:21

Gender and LGBTQI+ Politics in Iceland..  
PNG - 285 KB

 **LAU**  
Lebanese American University

The Arab Institute for Women  
and the Title IX Office  
at the Lebanese American University  
invite you to a talk titled

**Gender  
& LGBTQI+  
Politics in Iceland**

Presented by  
**Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir**  
Professor at the University of Iceland  
& Director of the UNESCO-affiliated Gender  
Equality Studies and Training Program (GRÓ- GEST)

 **Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022**

 **12:00 p.m.**

 **AKSOB 903, LAU Beirut Campus**





## Alumni meetings

During the visit to Kampala, GRÓ GEST representatives invited the **Ugandan GEST alumni** to an alumni network event at the Icelandic Embassy in Kampala. The Ugandan alumni chapter is the largest of the GEST country alumni networks, consisting of 32 alumni. The meeting was attended by 17 alumni who represent different sectors, such as government agencies, international and local NGOs, and educational institutions. Two alumni gave extensive presentations: Stella Tereka, 2016 GEST alumna and a current GEST PhD fellow at the University of Iceland, presented early findings from her PhD research, and 2021 GEST alumna, Namutebi Bernah Namatovu, presented her work as the country manager with Aspire Women

Development Initiative, an NGO that promotes the rights of girls, women, and female youth with disabilities to live a dignified life. The meeting created a platform for the alumni to strengthen their connections and share their professional experiences, as well as strategizing the way forward for the Ugandan alumni network. As a network, they are currently in the process of forming a formal association which can facilitate their common goal: advancing gender equality in Uganda.



*GRÓ GEST representatives, and the Head of Mission of the Icelandic Embassy in Kampala with the Ugandan GEST alumni*



*From left: Erza Kurti 2022 alumna, behind her is Jeta Rexha 2019 alumna. On the right in the back sits Guðrún Eysteinsdóttir, GEST operations manager and in front of her is Rita Berisha, 2019 alumna*

During her visit to Prishtina GRÓ GEST's operations manager reconnected with the **Kosovar alumnae** at an informal alumni meeting. To date, three fellows, all of them women, have joined the GEST programme with the support of Erasmus+, two in 2019 and one in 2022. The three alumnae are all currently working in civil society organizations/NGOs and gave the visiting GEST representative an exceptionally warm welcome to Kosovo and Prishtina which included introductions to Kosovar culture through cinema and more, in addition to attending the alumni meeting.



## Alumni meetings

In Accra, GRÓ GEST representatives hosted an informal alumni meeting for the **Ghanaian alumni** group, which consists of six people. Four were available to attend the gathering, in addition to the fellow who is joining the 2023 programme from Ghana. The Ghanaian alumni work within academia, civil society, and government, and were all dedicated to formalizing their alumni network and look forward to its continued growth.

In Palestine, GRÓ GEST's director invited **Palestinian GEST alumni** to an alumni gathering. The Palestinian alumni network is one of the largest of the GEST alumni country chapters, consisting of 29 alumni. Only a few were available to attend the meeting, which nonetheless, was very informative and inspiring.



*Ghanaian alumni, from left: Nana Kwasi-Barning Ackah, incoming fellow of 2023, Owusuwaa Owusu-Brempong 2022 alumna, Godfred Baah-Dwase 2019 alumnus, Thomas Brorsen Smidt and Anna Guðrún Aradóttir GEST project managers, Maame Adwoa Amoah-Marfo 2022 alumna, Yagah Nakoja Batu 2019 alumnus*



*Palestinian alumni, from left, front to back: Razan Wazwaz 2022 alumna, Balquees Shaheen 2022 alumna, Raghda Da'boub 2021 alumna, Walaa Shamasna 2017 alumna. On the right from front to back: Wafaa Sadeh 2017 alumna, Irma Erlingsdóttir GEST director, Tony Bero 2015 alumnus*

## Nordic Women Mediators annual meeting

GRÓ GEST's director participated in The Nordic Women Mediators annual meeting that was held in Helsinki in November this year. Representatives from the five Nordic networks came together to discuss recent changes in the security environment in Europe and globally, and the challenges and opportunities for mediation and Nordic cooperation through the Nordic Women Mediators Network. At the meeting, a website for the five networks was formally launched. Earlier this year, GRÓ GEST, in collaboration with Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) Centre on Gender, Peace and Security, Norway, and CMI Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, Finland, received funding from NIKK on behalf of the five networks. A GRÓ GEST project manager has been developing the website in collaboration with other networks during the year. The website enhances the visibility of the networks' mission to advance the inclusion and meaningful participation of women in all phases of peace processes, as well as the members themselves who consist of over hundred women professionals across the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.



## Uganda Makerere seminar

During the visit to Kampala in June, GRÓ GEST's director, along with a GRÓ GEST PhD fellow, participated in a seminar at Makerere University facilitated by the Dean of the School of Gender and Women Studies at Makerere. The seminar was organized in two sessions, one on gender and climate change and the other on the Icelandic women's movement and gender equality in Iceland in a global perspective.

The GEST PhD fellow from Uganda, Stella Tereka, gave a presentation on the early findings of her PhD research. She was introduced by Dr. Jón Geir Pétursson, Professor in Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Iceland, who is one of the supervisors of her project. Her project is a novel study of Uganda. Importantly, it follows and expands on earlier GEST engagement on gender and climate change with partners in Uganda, with a focus on policy-relevant capacity building and training on the subject.

In the second session, Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir, Director of GRÓ GEST and Professor at the University of Iceland, gave a presentation on the Icelandic women's movement and gender equality in Iceland from a global perspective. She offered insights into the feminist struggles in Iceland, and showed how gender equality has, in the last decade, become a central part of Iceland's foreign policy.

The seminar took place in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Makerere University and was in a hybrid format. It was attended by around 100 guests in total, including students from women and gender studies and from environmental sciences, professors, GEST alumni, among others.



*Irma Erlingsdóttir, Stella Tereka GEST PhD fellow, Jón Geir Pétursson, and audience at Makerere University*

## Ghana UNESCO meetings

GRÓ GEST representatives visited the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, and the UNESCO Ghana Country Office, while in Accra.

At the meeting at the UNESCO Ghana Country Office, GEST representatives introduced the GEST programme and learned about gender related projects supported by the country office in Ghana, as well as learning about the two UNESCO category 2 centres in Ghana. Representatives from the country office were determined to share the open call for nominations to the GEST postgraduate diploma programme among its network and relevant partners in civil society.

GRÓ GEST representatives also met with the Secretary-General of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO and a Programme Officer at the commission offices at the Ghanaian Ministry of Education. The secretary-general last visited Iceland in May this year at the international meeting for UNESCO's country representatives in Reykjavik. At the meeting in Accra it was reaffirmed that the Ghana Commission for UNESCO is committed to supporting gender equality efforts in Ghana. The Secretary-General also expressed great interest in collaborating with GEST in locating excellent junior professionals in the area of gender equality for the GEST postgraduate training programme, as well as supporting GEST's existing Ghanaian alumni network in their future activities.



*GEST representatives at Ghana Commission with Secretary-general Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh (left) and programme officer Joan Agyekum Nsowah (right)*



# New MOOCs on the edX platform



GRÓ  
GEST

In August GEST's second MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) *Gender, Violence and Post-Conflict States* was launched on the edX platform.

Understanding the gendered dynamics of violence in conflict and post-conflict situations is crucial to anyone considering a career in international development, or just anyone who wants to learn more about the core theories, case studies, and policy frameworks necessary for understanding the interplay between gender and violence in conflict and post-conflict contexts. As such, the course is also directed at GRÓ

GEST's main target group, namely professionals (or future professionals) working for government and civil society organisations in low income countries and post-conflict societies undergoing reconstruction.

The course was developed with funding from Erasmus+ and in collaboration with experts from the University of Oslo, University of Cape Town, London School of Economics, and PRiO (Peace Research Institute Oslo). To date, a little over 300 people have enrolled in the course.



GEST's third MOOC, and the second one to be supported by Erasmus+, on *Gender and Development*, was in production during the year, and an agreement was reached with UNESCO's Division for Gender Equality and its Social and Human Sciences Sector for support and co-development of a fourth MOOC, titled *Men, Boys, and Masculinities*, production of which was also begun during 2022.



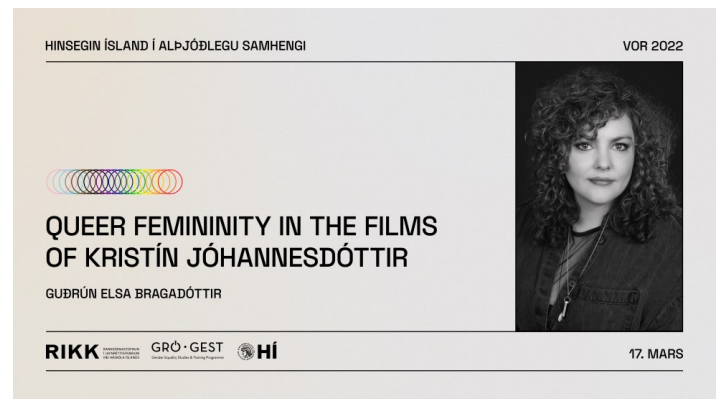
## Open call for nominations for the 2024 GEST programme

The call for nominations for the GEST postgraduate diploma programme opened earlier than in previous years. The call was made public on 1 December 2022, for nominations to the programme in 2024. The deadline for nominations through the open call is 8 March 2023, and 1 April for Erasmus+ partner Universities.



Throughout the existence of GEST the programme has collaborated closely with RIKK – Institute for Gender, Equality and Difference at the University of Iceland. In 2022 three important projects took place or were underway:

**The GEST-RIKK noon lecture series** was held as usual during spring semester, and fellows attended noon lectures twice. This time the theme of the series was Queer Iceland in an International Context, and the lectures presented in English were: *Mobilising for Intersex Rights in Iceland* by Daniela Alaattinoglu, Icelandic Research Fund Postdoctoral Researcher at the Faculty of Law, University of Iceland, and *Queer Femininity in the films of Kristín Jóhannesdóttir* by Guðrún Elsa Bragadóttir, lecturer in film theory at the University of Iceland.



**Decolonizing Nordic Higher Education** received a three year grant from the Icelandic Research Fund. The project's principal investigator is GEST's Research Specialist, Dr. Giti Chandra, and the project's research and results will directly influence GRÓ GEST's diploma programme.

**The IDEAS (Inclusive Digital Educational Anti-discriminatory AlternativeS) Podcast**, supported by Erasmus+, was published during the year. On behalf of RIKK and the University of Iceland, GEST project manager Dr. Thomas Brorsen Smidt participated in the project, supplying his expertise in podcast production. The podcast offers knowledge from a feminist and politically engaging perspective. It presents women's studies, gender issues, and theoretical options, speaks of social reproduction, body, sexuality, LGBTQI, and minorities' rights, warns of climate changes, and rethinks the political.

On October 26, the first module of the IDEAS podcast became available online on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, Deezer, Castbox and Podcast.rs. A new module was released every week for the remainder of the year. GEST's contribution to the podcast was five episodes on Gender and Climate Change in the format of interviews with GEST-affiliated experts.



Inclusive Digital Educational Anti-discrimination AlternativeS