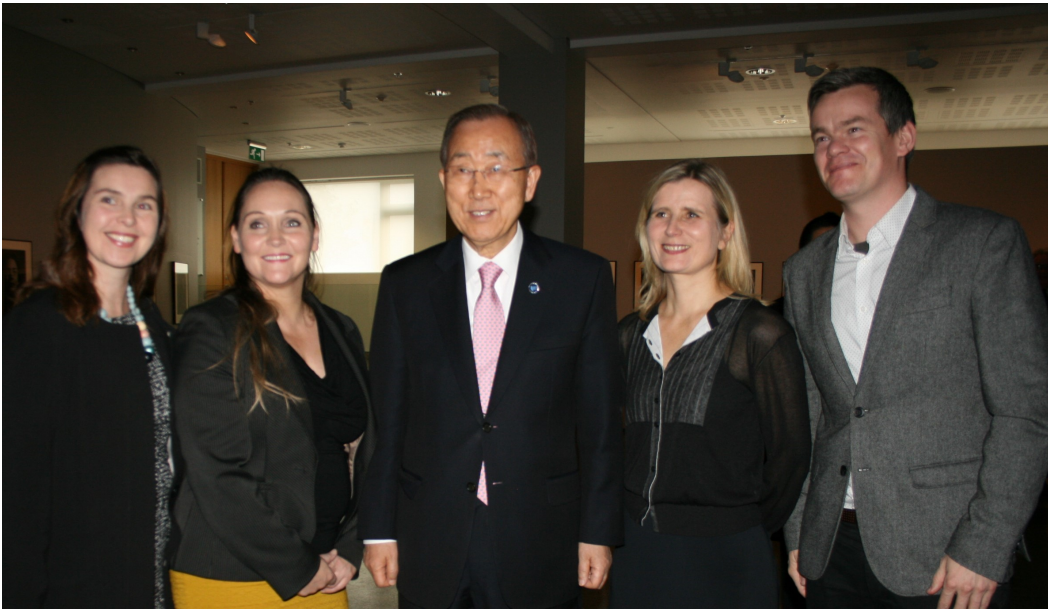


UN SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS ICELAND



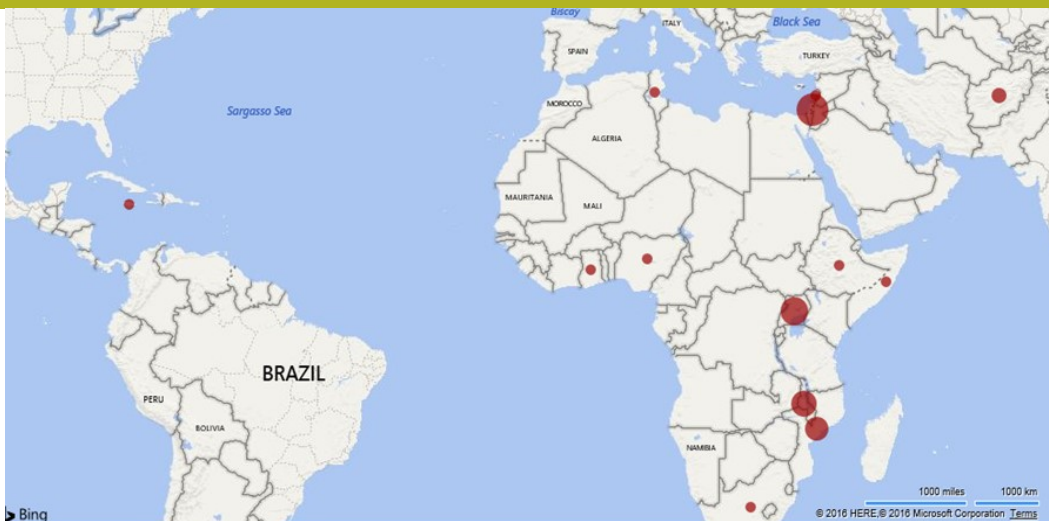
In the beginning of October, UNU-GEST staff met the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and presented its work on gender and climate change in a meeting with the other UNU institutes based in Iceland. UNU-GEST highlighted its commitment to advancing gender equality while combating environmental issues, and used the opportunity to present some of the great work that former fellows have been doing. [Two final assignments by 2016 alumni, Diana Al-Azzeh and Madalitso Makondi](#), concentrating on the gender aspects of climate change at the local level in Palestine and Malawi were presented to Mr. Ban Ki-moon. The outgoing UN Secretary-General was in Iceland to attend the Arctic Circle conference that took place in Reykjavik in October.

In this issue:

- ⇒ Ban Ki-moon visit to Iceland
- ⇒ 2017 Cohort of Fellows
- ⇒ UNU-GEST Research
- ⇒ UNU-GEST Events
- ⇒ UNU-GEST Alumni

2017 COHORT OF FELLOWS

In January 2017, UNU-GEST will have the pleasure to welcome 18 fellows from eleven countries: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jamaica, Lebanon, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Palestine, Somalia and Uganda. The UNU-GEST team is looking forward to welcoming this diverse group of young professionals to Iceland and exchanging knowledge with them throughout the post-graduate diploma programme in international gender studies!



Global distribution of UNU-GEST fellows

Useful links:

- [UNU-GEST website](#)
- [June 2016 newsletter](#)
- [Overview of the programme](#)

Follow us!

UNU-GEST is on Twitter [@unugest](https://twitter.com/unugest) and on [Facebook](#)





UNU-GEST contributes to the Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGE0) 2016

The [GGE0](#) provides a comprehensive overview of the interplay between gender and the environment and presents the first such [assessment by the UNDP](#). UNU-GEST contributed to the assessment by hosting a GGE0 expert meeting in February 2016 in Iceland. Three women associated with UNU-GEST had important roles in the creation of the GGE0: Dr. Joni Seager, Lilja Dóra Kolbeinsdóttir and Dr. Annadís Gréta Rúdólfssdóttir.



Gendered Value Chain Analysis of Small-Scale Fisheries by Lake Tanganyika, Tanzania

This [research project](#) explores the gender dimensions of the small-scale fisheries sector in Kigoma on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Western Tanzania using the gender-responsive value chain analysis research methodology. Our senior researcher Pétur Waldorff conducted the second phase of the field research in early November 2016. The project is run in collaboration with the United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme (UNU-FTP) and MATÍS.

Steam Up!

[The project](#) is a documentary and a visual ethnography about women in the geothermal energy sector. UNU-GEST has partnered up with the award-winning Bless Bless productions and Women in Geothermal (WinG) women's professional organisation for the project. The documentary will be set in Ethiopia, Kenya, Iceland and Japan. The first phase of the research was conducted in Ethiopia in early November when the filming crew attended the 6th African Rift Geothermal Conference (ARGeo) in Addis Ababa.



"The Law is Not for the Poor": Land, Law and Eviction in Luanda

UNU-GEST Senior Researcher Dr. Pétur Waldorff published on his Angolan research in the September issue of [Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography](#). The results of Pétur's research in Luanda were also on display at the 2016 Oslo Architecture Triennale in the installation [Isle of Pleasures](#), a collaboration with Dr. Paulo Moreira.

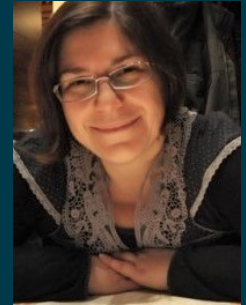


Evaluation of Iceland's National Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

The evaluation of [Iceland's national action plan for 2013-2016](#) conducted by our team will guide the Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the process of developing a new national action plan on women, peace and security.



New members of the UNU-GEST Team



Milica Minic joined the team in September as a project manager.



Ortrun Merkle, PhD Candidate at the UNU-Merit, has been a research fellow at UNU-GEST for this fall semester. Her research is on the impacts of corruption on women's political participation in Georgia.



Laura Malinauskaitė works as a project assistant on gender and climate change.



Renata Guimarães Naso joined UNU-GEST in August as an intern.

In 2017 UNU-GEST is welcoming the following three interns:

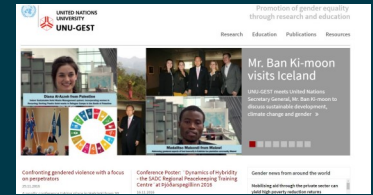
Paula Mata from Spain,
Flora Tietgen from Germany and
Michael Gumisiriza from Uganda.

Confronting Gendered Violence in Helsinki

UNU-GEST Head of Research, Erla Hlín Hjálmarsdóttir, presented research on Icelandic perpetrators at the [“Confronting Gendered Violence: Focus on Perpetrators”](#) conference held in Helsinki during 30 November to 2 December. The Institute for Gender, Equality and Difference in Iceland (RIKK) co-organized the conference, sponsored by NIKK, with several [Nordic partners](#). The focus was on perpetrators in the context of the Nordic countries. The main goals were to find ways to break the cycles of violence, generate and share knowledge and explore the different ways to address domestic and intimate partner violence. The conference enabled a dialogue between different Nordic actors in the field, forming a professional network.



SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOTS

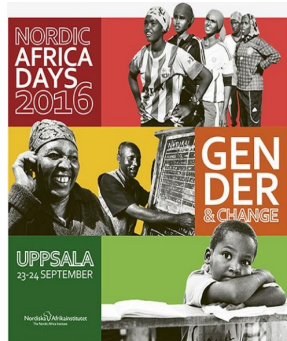
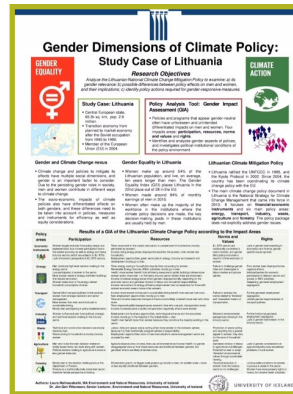
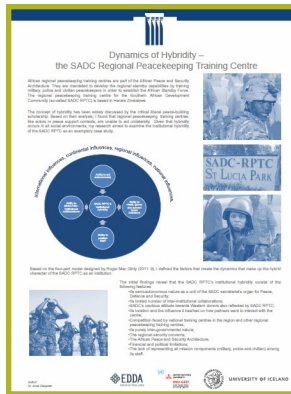


UNU-GEST at Þjóðarspejillinn 2016, University of Iceland

At the conference, Erla Hlín Hjálmarsdóttir presented her paper [“Playing the Gender Card”](#) on the gender dimensions of the rural water supply systems in Namibia; discussing the contradictory takes on gender roles by various actors and how they are manipulated in the context of development assistance.

Anne Flaspöler shared the initial findings of her [field research](#) at the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre of the Southern African Development Community (SADC RPTC) in Harare, Zimbabwe in a poster titled [“Dynamics of Hybridity- the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre”](#).

Laura Malinauskaitė presented her master’s research on the gendered impacts of climate policy in the European context with a poster titled [“Gender Dimensions of Climate Policy: Study Case of Lithuania”](#).



Gender Research in Africa: Nordic Africa Days 2016

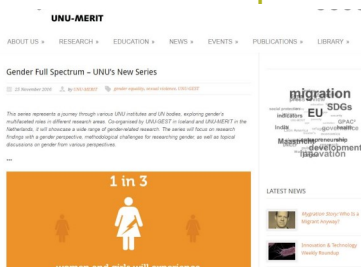
Gender-based research in Africa was this year’s thematic focus at the Nordic Africa Days 2016 (September 22-24) held at the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, Sweden. Erla Hlín Hjálmarsdóttir and Pétur Waldorff organized and convened a panel focusing on gender research and gender-responsive methodologies, during which they presented the research data from the UNU-GEST research project [Gendered Value Chain Analysis of Small-Scale Fisheries and Fish Processing in Lake Tanganyika, Tanzania](#).

COP22 Climate Conference in Marrakech

Laura Malinauskaitė attended the second week of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP22 in Morocco, in November as a part of the Women and Gender Constituency, the platform for observer organizations working to ensure women’s rights and gender justice within the climate change convention framework. [COP22 turned out to be pivotal for gender advocacy](#) in the context of climate change; gender was a strong focus throughout the official negotiations, as well as in climate innovation and civil society forums and discussions.



Gender Full Spectrum – UNU’s New Blog Series



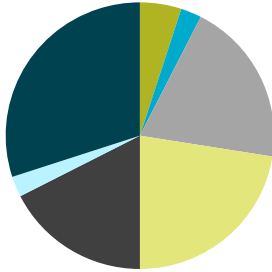
[Gender Full Spectrum](#) blog series represents a journey through various UNU institutes and UN bodies, exploring gender’s multifaceted roles in different research areas. Co-organized by UNU-GEST and UNU-MERIT in the Netherlands, it will showcase a wide range of gender-related research. The series will focus on research findings with a gender perspective, methodological challenges for researching gender, as well as topical discussions on gender from various fields.



ALUMNI STRATEGY

UNU-GEST is currently formulating its Alumni Strategy that will be used to initiate the UNU-GEST Alumni Network. We aim to establish a sustainable network of alumni as a platform for past and future fellows to exchange knowledge, resources and project ideas for advancement of gender equality in different areas of expertise in their home countries and globally.

Alumni Network Survey Responses



The network will be set up to encourage and facilitate continuous and sustained interactions, communication and support among the UNU-GEST alumni.

The strategy relies on input of former fellows channeled through an Alumni Network Survey administered in 2016. 42 fellows of 68 graduated from 2009 to 2016 completed the Alumni Network Survey. Responses will be used by the UNU-GEST team for guidance when establishing its overall and specific objectives regarding the Alumni Network and the best ways for its implementation.

2011 Fellow Ester Sumbana joins Plan International Mozambique

Ester joined the organization Plan International Mozambique, as the Gender and Advocacy Coordinator. Ester's role involves helping the organization to implement and achieve their Gender Strategy goals, as well as to mainstream gender in all programs and other initiatives that enhance children's protection and empowerment across the country.



2013 Fellow Chikondi Manyungwa wins the Rosemary Firth Award at the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET)

At the 2016 IIFET conference, Chikondi was awarded the Rosemary Firth Award as the best presenter in a special session that focused on gender. This session reunited several gender researchers to discuss tools, technologies, and processes in gender research, especially in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture. Chikondi contributed to the discussion by bringing the preliminary results of her PhD research on women and fish value chain governance in Malawi.



Alumni Gatherings in Palestine and Mozambique

UNU-GEST Director Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir visited Mozambique and Palestine in November. On this occasion, she met with government institutes, international organisations and universities. During her stay she hosted two alumni meetings and presented a draft of the UNU-GEST Alumni Strategy. These were the first steps in formalizing the UNU-GEST Alumni Strategic Plan for 2016-2018 and creating an active alumni networks in both countries.



Note from the Director

2016 was a year of many rewarding moments for the UNU-GEST programme. As a sign of its continued growth, the total number of graduates reached 68, 44 women and 24 men. In 2016, the country base expanded, as students from Ghana and South Africa enrolled in the programme. Next year it will grow even further with the admission of the largest student cohort to date: 19 fellows from 11 countries. The UNU-GEST has also initiated several research projects and solidified partnerships with a number of international organizations and institutions. Within the context of UNU-GEST's joint research initiative with the EDDA Research Center, two postdoctoral fellowships were awarded for projects related to the programme.

This year UNU-GEST has been active in convening events on its own and in collaboration with partners in the form of public lecture series, workshops and conferences. The aim is to provide a platform for knowledge sharing and exchange as well as offering networking opportunities. The conference on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which was held in April in co-operation with the EDDA Center and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, is an example of that. It was a venue to analyze and confront many of the theoretical and practical problems associated with Resolution 1325, explore its political and social relevance and assess its future prospects. As a foundation document and reference point, the resolution has been successful in raising international awareness of the role of gender in war and peace, and in placing the issue of women and security on the top of the UN agenda. In practice, however, it has not been able to function as a vehicle for reshaping gender relations, as testified to by the mixed reception of women themselves, peace-brokers and policy-makers that deal with post-conflict reconstruction. Far more needs to be done in challenging the use of military in this context and in advancing the role of women as agents of change. Approaching the topic from a broad and inclusive perspective makes it easier to transcend national borders and achieve political and societal reconciliation.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the development of the UNU-GEST programme in 2016: former fellows, instructors, partners and friends of UNU-GEST.

I wish you all a very happy New Year!

Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir