



# Highlights Reel 2017/2018

## UNESCO/UNITWIN Network: Gender, Culture & Development at BU's Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program



Saraswati's Cow:  
West Bengal Project



#MeToo – UVA Exhibit:  
Women's History Month



Participants from Four Continents at Paris Experts' Meeting  
of UNESCO Chairs on Gender Equality

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39<sup>th</sup> session  
UNESCO General  
Conference 2017



Boston University

UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on  
Gender, Culture & People-Centered  
Development

Global

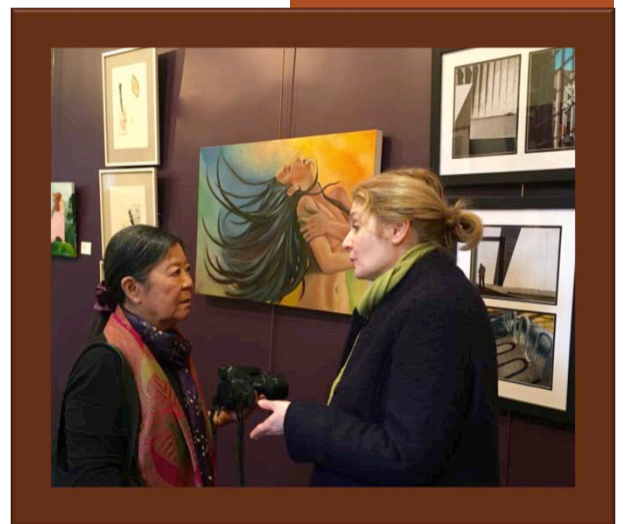
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

# SPOTLIGHT:

## Battle of the Sexes Revisited: The Sexual Harassment Volley of Today



In Boston, the **Unbound Visual Arts (UVA)** exhibition *Battle of the Sexes Revisited: The Sexual Harassment Volley of Today* at the Boston Public Library's Honan Branch Gallery showcased works from Greater Boston, West Africa, and beyond portraying ongoing challenges to achieving gender justice. The #MeToo movement was a leitmotif of the well-attended 2018 events. UVA's Executive Director John Quatrale was Curator and UNITWIN Director at BU Brenda Gael McSweeney was Exhibition Advisor and Artist. Cosponsors included the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program (WGS) at Boston University, Gender and International Development Initiatives of the Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center (GaIDI/WSRC), and Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows at BU. See Exhibition Catalogue with Curatorial and Artists' Statements, bios, theme-related links: <http://www.unboundvisualarts.org/wp-content/uploads/Printed-Program-Revised-.pdf>



Top: UVA Artist Peg Ehrlinger, with *Meissa*, West Africa  
Above: Dr. Mei-Mei Ellerman and Dr. Angela Shpolberg of the Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center  
Left: UVA Executive Director John Quatrale introducing the opening reception program





# SPOTLIGHT:

## Meeting of UNESCO Chairs: Gender Equality

UNESCO convened a Paris Experts' Meeting of UNESCO Chairs in the field of Gender Equality in 2017. Professor Asha Mukherjee of Visva-Bharati University in Shantiniketan, West Bengal represented our Network. Asha made policy recommendations in the arena of 'Women's equal participation and leadership in political and economic domains: research findings on advances, obstacles and way forward strategies.' Experience shared among eleven UNESCO/UNITWIN Chairs on Gender Equality in research, training and action programs, and advising policy makers is now enriching the UNESCO Priority Gender Equality Action Plan 2014-2021, plus feeding into the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

Saniye Gülser Corat, Director of UNESCO's Division for Gender Equality and Professor Gloria Bonder, Director of the UNESCO Regional Chair Women, Science and Technology in Latin America co-chaired this flagship gathering. Participants brought diverse experiences and shared strategic work of their universities in Argentina, Burkina Faso, Cyprus, India, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Spain, Turkey and the USA. Next up: two e-books on leadership and social and political participation of women as well as feminist leadership in a new era.



Gülser



Gloria

Meeting Co-Chairs:  
Gülser Corat and Gloria Bonder

We had a wonderful time exchanging our deep-rooted experiences as UNESCO Chairs; it was one of the rarest opportunities for me personally in my life!



Asha

Photo credits: Top left BU/SPH;  
Top Right Global Network site



Working session in Paris of the UNESCO Chairs in the field of Gender Equality: March 2017

# PUBLICATIONS:

## BU College of Arts & Sciences



**Dr. Catherine ‘Cati’ Connell**, Director of BU’s Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program and Co-Coordinator of our UNESCO/UNITWIN Network has had a stellar year publishing a mammoth number of articles! Contents include issues related to social justice and discrimination based on diverse identities and experiences. They personify the WGS Program theme: “Protest, Resistance, and Social Movements.” Here’s a sampler for which you can explore the articles.

Connell, Catherine. 2017. “‘Different Than An Infantry Unit Down In Georgia’: Metronormativity in the Homophobia Narratives of Boston Area ROTC Cadets” *Sexualities*. DOI: 10.1177/1363460717699771  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1363460717699771>

Connell, Catherine. 2017. “The Cost of Fight Club Membership Too High For Some Women.” *Signs Journal*, Feminist Intellectuals Project, Short Takes: Provocations on Public Feminism  
<http://signsjournal.org/feminist-fight-club/>

Connell, Catherine. 2017. POV: What Does It Mean When We Say #MeToo? BU Today, <https://www.bu.edu/today/2017/me-too/>

Cati also shared important news about publications by **Yoon Sun Yang** who was promoted to tenured Associate Professor of Korean and Comparative Literature as well as Joanna Davidson who was promoted to tenured Associate Professor of Anthropology. Yoon Sun Yang’s scholarship uses literature as a tool for investigating how gender and sexuality are implicated in the projects of modernity and coloniality, and does so in new and exciting ways. Her first book, **From Domestic Women to Sensitive Young Men**, disrupts the taken-for-granted interpretation of female characters in the early colonial Korean literature as outside of the modernization process.

**Joanna Davidson** specializes in cultural anthropology, centering her research on the Diola peoples of Guinea-Bissau in West Africa through lenses of economic development, agriculture, gender relations, inter-ethnic conflict, and the politics of storytelling. She authored a critically acclaimed book, **Sacred Rice: An Ethnography of Identity, Environment, and Development in Rural West Africa**.

More on WGS publications:

<https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2017/09/a-message-from-wgs-director-cati.html>





~ Synopsis by  
Chandana Dey



# SPECIAL EVENT:

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs Programme



39<sup>th</sup> session  
UNESCO General  
Conference 2017



### UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & People-Centered Development

Boston University

Global



Network Coordinator: Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney

<http://www.bu.edu/wgs/networks/unesco-unitwin-at-bu/>

Contact: [bgm@bu.edu](mailto:bgm@bu.edu)

UNESCO EDUCATION SECTOR

#### Current areas of activity

- Inter-country dialogue: women's contributions and leadership
- Outreach through e-books and journal articles, exhibitions and special events, library programs and children's books (Global)
- Cultural resources conservation initiatives (India)

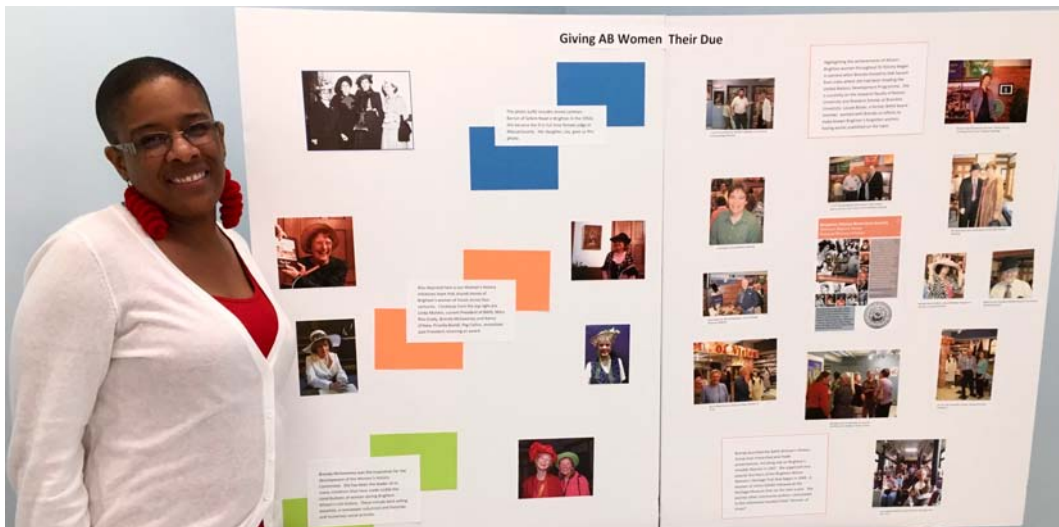
#### Future Activities to address the SDGs

- Social activism for gender equality and women's empowerment (West Africa, India, Greater Boston)
- International Women's Day/Women's History Month 2018: Boston Exhibition on ending discrimination against women
- Gender perspectives in cultural and historic resources preservation (India, Greater Boston)
- Interdisciplinary interactions on women's equal participation in educational, economic, and political spheres (Global)



Our UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & People-Centered Development was invited to participate at the high level event in Paris for the 25th Anniversary of the UNESCO/UNITWIN (University Twinning and Networking) Programme on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Key activities of the UNESCO Chairs and Network Programmes around the globe were presented in a video display at the gathering. Our slide depicts main current activities and future plans of our UNESCO/UNITWIN Network aimed at helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, notably gender equality. Anniversary Slide at:

<https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2017/11/25th-anniversary-of-unescounitwin.html>



## SPECIAL EVENT: BAHS 50<sup>th</sup>!

UNITWIN Affiliate the Brighton-Allston Historical Society's Women's History Initiatives figured in the **BAHS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** educational celebrations that took place in May 2018. Twin display panels featured community events inspired by the Women's History Group that Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney chairs. The display also included *Women of Vision: Brighton Allston Women's Heritage Trail Guide* that portrays women's remarkable contributions across four centuries. Guide available here: <http://www.bahistory.org/WomanOfVisonGuide.pdf> Additional photo panels and a PowerPoint presentation shared BAHS accomplishments – and challenges encountered – in preserving cultural heritage over five decades.



At Rt: Sharon Cayley hoisting the Beagle Award that honors her service with BAHS.  
At Lt: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary photographers Liane Brandon, Fran Gardino, and Eric West.  
At Top: Bernadette Brewer with 'Giving Brighton-Allston Women Their Due' panels.





The Brighton-Allston Historical Society invited Mary Smoyer, a Founder of the Boston Women's Heritage Trail, as the featured speaker at an April 2018 event titled *Women in Boston's Public Art*. Mary focused on the stories of six women honored with statues around Boston. She shared action being taken to boost the number of memorials in Boston honoring women. Event cosponsors: UNESCO/UNITWIN Network and GaIDI of the Brandeis WSRC.



## SPECIAL EVENTS



Chandana Dey, a Founding UNITWIN Partner in West Bengal has long been working on women's empowerment and food security issues in rural India. Chandana explores the individual impact of the *Manab Jamin* initiative on 'moving banks' asset building in districts in Bengal through a narrative about "Saraswati's Cow." Chandana writes, "The entire village sat and chose the most deserving recipients. The first animals to be given in each village were cows and goats. An essential part of the livestock development programme is that once the cow has calves the first calf will be given to another person in the village." Continues at [unitwin.blogspot.com](http://unitwin.blogspot.com)

At a 2018 flagship event, GaIDI screened *Nowhere to Call Home: The tale of a Tibetan migrant worker in Beijing* in the presence of Director Jocelyn Ford, an award-winning international filmmaker and journalist! Debates followed with students, faculty, and community social activists. Cosponsors included the BU-based UNESCO/UNITWIN Network and Unbound Visual Arts. Story continues at: <https://unitwin.blogspot.com/>  
At right, clip from Brandeis/WSRC poster.





# SPECIAL EVENT:

## Humanitarian Action in Lebanon



Above: BU student Ashray Mohan examining a well and pump at the informal settlement; his team worked on water quality and quantity.

**Message from Dr. Carrie Preston:** “A group of seven BU students traveled to Beirut for a 3-week summer school dealing with the Syrian Refugee crisis from an interdisciplinary perspective. Faculty for the school included Professor Muhammed Zaman from Biomedical Engineering, myself, and colleagues at Johns Hopkins University and the American University in Beirut. The goal was to bring groups of students, including engineers, health practitioners, humanists, and social scientists to help develop solutions for refugee camps in Lebanon” – a step towards sustainable people-centered development.



Students walking next to an open sewage pit in the Bekaa Valley. One of the student teams worked on waste and sewage.



An informal settlement in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon, with a water container in the foreground.

On the occasion of the **5th Anniversary of Unbound Visual Arts** – a UNESCO/UNITWIN Affiliate – Danielle Legros Georges, Poet Laureate of Boston, dramatically shared readings of her poetry in November 2017. Work of UVA artists was on display, and UVA's Founding Members were honored – including President Ruth Rieffanaugh, Executive Director John Quatrale, plus Board of Directors/Council of Advisors Members Susan Loomis-Wing, Christine Winship, Louise Bonar, Brenda Gael McSweeney and Karen Smigliani.



At right, Poet Laureate Danielle Legros Georges  
Photo credit: Priscilla Harmel

## RECOGNITION AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

- \* 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Unbound Visual Arts with Poet Laureate
- \* Nicole Rizzo Awards
- \* Raffi Freedman-Gurspan Awards

**Nicole Rizzo**, UNITWIN Research Assistant, was awarded the College Prize for Excellence in English at Boston University, May 2018, as well as a certificate attesting to her nomination for the 2018 Undergraduate Student Employee of the Year award, also in May 2018. Her work was highlighted in a feature in BU Today, April 2018. (Photo courtesy Nicole)



**Rafael "Raffi" Freedman-Gurspan**, earlier of our BU/WGS community – also Outreach and Recruitment Director for Presidential Personnel and Senior Associate Director for the Office of Public Engagement with President Barack Obama – was a featured speaker at the **United State of Women Summit** in Los Angeles in May 2018, with Special Guest Michelle Obama. The workshop at which Raffi spoke was titled *La Lucha Da Energía* (The Struggle Gives You Energy): Our Experiences as Trans Women of Color and the Journey Toward Liberation. In September 2017, BAGLY (Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Youth) honored "the legendary Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, the first trans woman to ever work for the White House and alumna of the The Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth." (Photo courtesy Raffi)



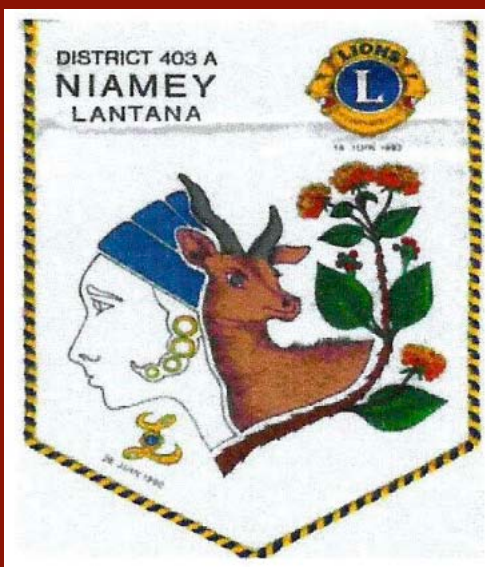
2017

## Construction d'une 2<sup>ème</sup> classe équipée au jardin d'enfants de Lossogoungou



## RECOGNITION:

### Aminata Kiello - Lions Clubs in Africa



**Message from Aminata Salamata Kiello, UNITWIN Member from Burkina Faso and Niger:** "After being President four times of the Lions Club Niamey LANTANA in Niger, President of the Presidents' Council, and Zone President, I recently received the distinction of 'Companion de Melvin Jones.' This year I am President of the Membership Commission (recruitment, retention), an important post in the sense that we are aiming for a very big goal: that Africa should attain a membership enabling it to become a Constitutional Area!"



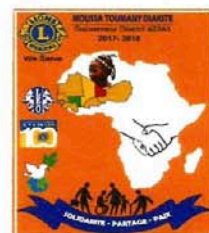
Aminata Kiello  
Top photo: Construction of a second classroom complete with kindergarten in Lossogoungou



**LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL**  
**DISTRICT 403A1-REGION 17-ZONE 172**

**Lions Club Niamey LANTANA**

Identification Board: 53311 - B.P: 11 840 NIAMEY-NIGER - Email: nahadjo@yahoo.fr





# NEWS:

## Faneuil Branch Library in Action!



The dynamic **Friends of the Faneuil Library** (FOFL) became our latest UNESCO/UNITWIN Affiliate in 2017, and teamed up with Oak Square Brighton Faneuil Branch Librarian Dorothy Keller & Staff plus the community to host amazing events non-stop! An illustration is below of the Faneuil Gallery Exhibits – by photographer Michela West also an FOFL Board Member. More: <https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2018/01/you-are-invited-michela-west-s-upcoming-17.html>



Michela West's "Power in Pink" Exhibit at the Faneuil Gallery January to March 2018 was inspired by the Women's March of January 2017. Her photo "Amy" on the Bigelow St. side of the Faneuil Library.



At the Funky Auction June 2017: rt, Faneuil Branch Librarian, Dorothy Keller; lft, Ronni Komarow, Faneuil Gallery Coordinator; far left, Rep. Kevin Honan with Mike O'Hara of the 57 Readers & Writers



L to R: Dorothy Keller, Ronni Komarow, a visitor to the Aug. 2017 outreach event in Oak Square, former FOFL President Maria Rodrigues. Top rt: Charismatic and beloved Dorothy at her July 2018 farewell gathering as she moves on after 50+ years of dedicated, outstanding service to the community with the Boston Public Library!



# NEWS & PUBLICATIONS



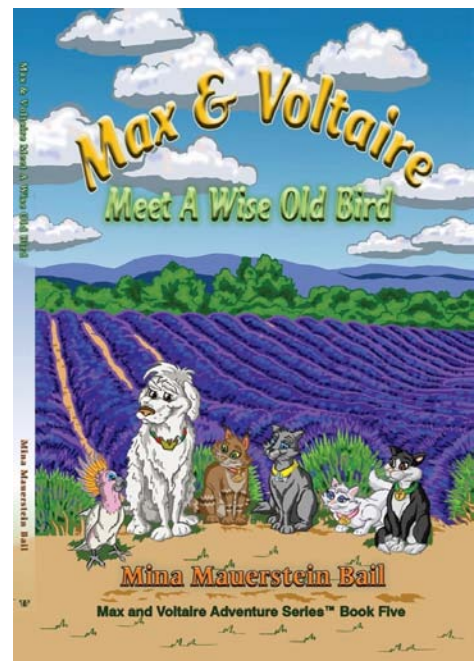
Cyrus Segawa Konstantinakos edited: *Nicaragua: Culture and Climate Change in the Land of Lakes and Volcanoes* with support from Ricardo Mendieta and Wilman D. Garcia Arbizú, a bilingual photo-essay book produced by Humphrey Fellows, students and faculty of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua at Managua (UNAN-Managua), student interns of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at BU, and Peace Corps Volunteers. The volume will be used in public schools in Nicaragua and Boston. Photo rt, courtesy Cyrus. More:

<https://www.bu.edu/hhh/2018/01/18/konstantinakos-and-mendieta-complete-culture-and-climate-change-in-nicaragua/>



Just published is the 5th volume in Mina Mauerstein-Bail's series of books for children that showcase diversity and tolerance, titled *Max & Voltaire: Meet a Wise Old Bird*. Set in Aix-en-Provence (France), Max and Voltaire and their furry pals meet a wise old bird and learn about the life of Cézanne, following one's dreams and elder wisdom. Mina's Book One, *Max and Voltaire: Getting to Know You*, is available in French as *Max et Voltaire: Faisons Connaissance*. Visuals courtesy Mina. More at:

<http://www.maxandvoltaire.com>



# NEWS



**Dr. Diane Balser**, BU/WGS Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies attended International Women's Day 2017 events in Copenhagen focusing on women's rights around abortion, the sexualization of women's bodies, and violence against women. In 2018, she led a workshop in Stockholm that addressed in particular women's feelings around sexual exploitation. Diane shared with us that Sweden also has an active #MeToo movement. In July 2018, Diane was in Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa, and met with women to learn about issues they are facing in their countries and how they are impacted by global issues such as sexual violence, inequality, poverty, and women's health. She brought women tools on how to both think about change and also give women emotional support. Local communities that are part of Reevaluation Counseling hosted Dr. Balser.



**Vrinda Varma**, former Fulbright-Nehru Research Scholar at WGS, successfully defended her Doctoral Thesis in April 2018 on issues of the "Construction of Women's Identities and Food Narratives" in Kerala, India. Vrinda pursued her Doctoral Research at BU's WGS in 2016 on a Fulbright-Nehru Grant. (Photo courtesy Vrinda)



**Dr. Barbara Gottfried** of BU/WGS, also Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies, was the speaker at a BU Alumni Association event in Cambridge, Massachusetts in February 2018. She examined a short history of American masculinities, where notions of masculinity come from, and the pressures of/ resistances to rigidly policed expectations of masculine performance. Her recent teaching at Boston University includes courses on "Women in Popular Fiction" and "Women, Race and Gender in the Mass Media."





# FUTURE



**Dr. Shahla Haeri**, a Founder at BU of our UNESCO/UNITWIN Network, has a forthcoming book titled *The Unforgettable Queens of Islam: Succession, Patriarchy, Gender* about Muslim women rulers, women who have contested rules of dynastic succession in medieval Yemen and India or stood for election in modern Pakistan and Indonesia. Following the trajectory of the political ascent of Muslim women rulers, Shahla explores the paths to power and authority taken by four women from across the Muslim world. Shahla's newest project is tentatively called "Iranian Women's Engagement with Civil Society". (BU Photo)



**Dr. J. Keith Vincent**, Chair of BU's World Languages and Literatures Department has a forthcoming work entitled "Purple and White: Sōseki and Shiki's *Genji*" in the Norton Critical Edition of *The Tale of Genji*. This piece will also be a chapter in his next book, *Shiki and Soseki: from Haiku to Novel*. (BU Photo)



In the Global Literature in Libraries Initiative, BU's **Dr. Roberta Micallef** writes: "European men and women fantasized about, wrote about and painted Middle Eastern, especially Ottoman/Turkish, women for decades. Ottoman and Turkish women were not silent passive participants in this conversation. They wrote back. Some participated in the stereotypes abounding about them and others fought them, but all of those who participated in the dialogue revealed keen insights about themselves and those observing them. Furthermore, some traveled to Europe and America, pursuing their own illusion of the West and life in the West and wrote about what they found." Posted August 2017; more at: <https://glli-us.org/2017/08/02/ottomanturkish-womens-autobiographical-narratives-19th-to-early-20th-century/comment-page-1/>

Roberta continues to explore these themes; a forthcoming book will also include work by BU's Professor Sunil Sharma. (BU photo)





# UNESCO/UNITWIN Network: Gender, Culture & People- Centered Development at BU's Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program (WGS)



UNESCO/UNITWIN at Boston University's WGS  
Dr. Catherine 'Cati' Connell – Director, WGS  
Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney – UNITWIN Director

+ Highlights Team:

Publisher + Editor-in-Chief Brenda Gael McSweeney  
Editor Nicole Rizzo

We congratulate all participants in the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & Development for their compelling contributions, January 2017 – August 2018. Our Network aims to share and exchange realities of the field among academics, students, activists. Every effort has been made to credit substantive and creative content herein; we welcome necessary additions or amendments for further acknowledgment.

*Right: Ebony statuette from East Africa*

More information at: [www.unitwin.blogspot.com](http://www.unitwin.blogspot.com)  
<http://www.bu.edu/wgs/networks/unesco-unitwin-at-bu/>  
[www.equalityburkina.blogspot.com](http://www.equalityburkina.blogspot.com)



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and People-Centered Development

