

HOSTED BY THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CARIBBEAN CULTURAL CENTER (VICCC)



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF THE  
WEST INDIES



# ISLANDS IN BETWEEN CONFERENCE

22ND ANNUAL EASTERN CARIBBEAN ISLAND CULTURES CONFERENCE  
ON LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURES OF THE EASTERN AND GREATER CARIBBEAN

KEYNOTE BY DR. GEORGE A. FRANKLIN  
AKA DR.ZAY

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31ST @9AM IN UVI GREAT HALL

## CONFERENCE DATES

THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER TO SATURDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2019

LOCATION: UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

ALBERT A. SHEEN ST. CROIX CAMPUS - UVI GREAT HALL\*EVC 401\*NWW102-103

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL: [VICCC@LIVE.UVI.EDU](mailto:VICCC@LIVE.UVI.EDU) CALL: 340-692-4283/4272

80+ SCHOLARLY  
PRESNTERS CONFIRMED!





# University of the Virgin Islands

*Historically American. Uniquely Caribbean. Globally Interactive.*

## *Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center*

October 2019

Welcome to the 22nd Annual ECICC/IIBC 2019 in St. Croix!



On behalf of the Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center (VICCC) nestled in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) on the Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix, we welcome each of you to this 22nd Annual *Eastern Caribbean Island Cultures Conference* (ECICC) aka “*Islands In Between Conference*” being hosted here from October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Embrace the wealth of information, research, education and transcultural highlights on languages, literatures and cultures of the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Eastern Caribbean, Americas and beyond. We welcome your contributions to “*All Tings’ Caribbean*” during these intellectual exchanges we shall share together!

October 2019 marks the closing months of the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the United Nations’ designated *International Decade for People of African Descent* (IDPAD) with the theme of “*Recognition, Justice and Development for People of African Descent.*” This IDPAD theme designated from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2024 is intellectually associated with multiple presentation topics being offered at this ECICC/IIBC 2019- in the cultural capital of the VI- AyAy St. Croix. This interdisciplinary annual gathering embraces the quests for academic excellence, innovative creativity and exceptional collaboration among scholars, students, stewards, educators, trailblazers and others among our respective institutions and organizations within our VI, Caribbean, Americas and globally. Special thanks are extended to the founding institutions of ECICC/IIBC- the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras and the University of the West Indies-Cave Hill, Barbados for embracing the University of the Virgin Islands via our VI Caribbean Cultural Center to continue as a collaborative organizer since our inception in November 2012.

May we honor a reflective moment of silence in memory of scholars, colleagues, guides and friends that have transitioned in 2019—Dr. Gloria I. Joseph, Dr. Arnold Highfield and Dr. Elizabeth Arbuckle Sanders.

Know that your authentic support, mutual respect, resourceful intentions and spirited guidance during and beyond this week of intellectual engagement, discourse and life-long solutions for issues within our transcultural, multilingual and diverse communities in our beloved St. Croix, United Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Caribbean, Americas and globally are genuinely appreciated and welcomed. The VICCC@UVI extends our thanks to everyone contributing to the success of ECICC/IIBC2019!

Shared in Culture, Heritage, Arts and Education,

Chenzira Davis Kahina, M.S., Ph.D.  
Director and CLASS Teaching Faculty

*VICCC –A Center nestled within the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences at the University of the Virgin Islands — Preserving, Cultivating, Nurturing & Respecting Creative Arts Industries, Cultural Research and Technology, Educational Publications, Heritage Restoration, Traditional Arts & Sciences, Inclusivity & Disabilities’ Rights, Socio-Economic Sustainability, HEAL365 & beyond in the VI and Caribbean*  
Visit VICCC online @ <http://viccc.uvi.edu> TuneIn2 VICCNotes on WUVI FM97.3 Mons & Thurs @1pm Streaming on <http://wuvu.uvi.edu>  
UVI is the only Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in the Caribbean AND a Land Grant Institution (LGI)  
UVI is “Historically American, Uniquely Caribbean, Globally Interactive” <http://uvi.edu>

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*Office of the President*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

It is my distinct honor as the president of the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) to welcome each of you to this 22nd Annual Eastern Caribbean Island Cultures Conference also known as "***Islands In Between Conference***" being hosted here on the University's Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix. We extend thanks to the collaborative organizers: VI Caribbean Cultural Center here at UVI; the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras; and the University of the West Indies-Cave Hill Barbados. Your collaborative and cooperative work to making this conference and the research outcomes a resounding success are appreciated.

This is the second time that the University has hosted the Islands In Between conference and we are honored to do so. The rich presentations and scholarly articles that emerge as a product of this gathering make an important contribution to our understanding of those nations and territories in the Caribbean that are easily overlooked and often forgotten. All voices must be heard and all issues must be addressed if we truly want to transform the Caribbean. This gathering ensures that these various voices and perspectives are shared with the world. These voices compel us to reflect upon historical patterns and chart new directions. These voices also remind us of the richness and uniqueness of the cultures and traditions of these "islands in between" so they will not be lost in the silence of time.

This intellectual and academic convening is also a historic milestone that supports the vision of the founders of the ECICC/IIBC and are in alignment with UVI's "Greatness Through Innovation" strategic plan goals as greatness extends beyond the buildings we construct and the size of our endowment. It includes the dedication and genuine commitment of ensuring that we are doing our best to systematically and respectfully nurture and promote the culture of the people who live within the sacred spaces of our Virgin Islands, Caribbean Americas and beyond. Preservation, exploration, research, teaching, dissemination, and respect of literatures, languages and culture are most powerful tools in our quest to inspire the mind, strengthen the body and lift the spirit.

The last time the University of the Virgin Islands hosted this conference we used it as a platform upon which to launch our Virgin Islands and Caribbean Cultural Center (VICCC). I am delighted that as we host it this time, the VICCC has grown and made an important contribution to the life of this University and the Territory. I want to especially thank Dr. Chenzira Davis Kahina for her leadership of the Center and for spearheading the hosting of this unique conference.

As we open this annual conference, may we take a moment of silence in honorable memory of great contributors to Virgin Islands and international literature, linguistics, culture, education and gatherings like this: Dr. Gloria I. Joseph, Amherst Emeritus Professor and Dr. Arnold Highfield, UVI Emeritus Professor. We extend well-wishes of success and look forward to the continuation of thoughtful presentations, collaborative intellectual exchanges and implementation of the outcomes of this year's conference.

Sincerely,

David Hall  
President of the University of the Virgin Islands





**University of the Virgin Islands**

*Historically American. Uniquely Caribbean. Globally Interactive.*

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
RR1 Box 10000, Kingshill, VI 00850  
Tel: (340) 692-4110

## MESSAGE FROM DEAN

It is my honor to welcome you to the Albert A. Sheen Campus of the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) as you participate in 22nd Annual Eastern Caribbean Island Cultures ("Islands in Between") Conference on the Languages, Literatures & Cultures of the Eastern and Greater Caribbean. This conference is co-sponsored by the Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center at the University of the Virgin Islands, the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras and the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

UVI is fortunate to serve as the host of the *Islands in Between Conference*. Our campus will be buzzing with scholarly discussions on Language and Culture, Drama, Music, Tourism, Politics, Art, and Eastern Caribbean Carnival to name a few. Please look through your program for more details on the various sessions. The sessions prove to be very interactive and engaging.

A special congratulations and thank you to Dr. Chenzira Davis-Kahina for her leadership as well as to the other committee members for organizing this event. Thank you to all the speakers for sharing their knowledge and expertise. Also, thank you to the attendees for recognizing the value of this conference and making the time to attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimar Engerman".

Kimarie Engerman, Ph.D.  
Dean  
Professor of Psychology





### Welcome to *“Islands in Between”*

On behalf of The University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, I am honored to welcome you to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference *“Islands in Between” on the Languages and Cultures of the Eastern Caribbean*, co-organized with the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados and the University of the Virgin Islands, Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center, with this year’s conference being held at the University of the Virgin Islands in Saint Croix.

I would like to thank the organizers, both from the UPR and our partner institutions, for what promises to be a very ambitious program, with well renowned Caribbean scholars in various fields, such as: Literature (Drama, Poetry, Fiction, Essays, Biographies), Cinema, Language and Culture, Identity and/or Gender, Creole Linguistics, Arts and Popular Cultures (Music, Dance, Cuisine, Carnival, Religion and Other Performance Traditions), Politics, Society, History, Law and Economics, etc.

This is an important collaboration with our Eastern Caribbean partners, focused on our literatures, languages, and cultures. This Conference aims to bring together students, researchers, and specialists in different fields of study, to engage them in discussion on these common topics and encourage research in these areas. It also allows us to strengthen our bonds and celebrate our linguistic and cultural diversity. It is also another way of coming together in times of hardship like those caused by events such as atmospheric disasters (Irma, Maria, Dorian), and economic crisis.

The aims of *Islands in Between* are in perfect alignment with our respective institutions’ goals in the field of internationalization, research, and recruitment. I am certain that this will be a memorable event!

I wish you fruitful discussions and a nice stay on our sister island of Saint Croix!

Agnes M. Bosch Irizarry, PhD  
Acting Dean  
College of Humanities  
University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras





October 2019

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 22nd Annual Eastern Caribbean Island Cultures ("Islands in Between") Conference on the languages, literatures and cultures of the Eastern Caribbean on behalf of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature in the Faculty of Humanities and Education of the Cave Hill Campus of The University of The West Indies.

The annual *Islands in Between* conference in its 22nd year remains committed to its mandate to bring a university presence to, and to share the results of the research in which we engage with, islands where there is no full-scale university campus. We endeavour to make contact with local students and scholars, engage them in joint discussions on Eastern Caribbean literatures, languages, and cultures, and encourage research in these areas.

This year we again offer a collection of high quality research papers with a particular focus on the language, culture, literature, economics, history, identity, and heritage of the United States Virgin Islands.

I invite you to explore the intellectual delights offered here as a part of the latest academic insights, but don't neglect to explore the other cultural and culinary delights which St. Croix has to offer.

We thank you for your participation and look forward to a stimulating and productive conference.

Sincerely,

**Korah Belgrave**  
**Head**  
**Department of Language, Linguistics, and Literature**  
**Cave Hill Campus, The UWI**



**THE 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL EASTERN CARIBBEAN ISLAND CULTURES CONFERENCE**  
**“ISLANDS IN BETWEEN”**  
**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, ST. CROIX CAMPUS**  
**31 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER, 2019**



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF THE  
WEST INDIES



Co-organized by the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras, the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados, and the University of the Virgin Islands—Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center, St. Croix

**OVERVIEW AND TIMETABLE FOR**  
**THE 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL EASTERN CARIBBEAN ISLAND CULTURES CONFERENCE**  
**“ISLANDS IN BETWEEN”**  
**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, ST. CROIX CAMPUS (UVI)**

**WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER: ARRIVAL DAY**

5:30PM ONWARD Informal Get-Together & Registration at Maria's Cantina in Gallows Bay in Christiansted  
Special Cultural Heritage Art Exhibition “Beautifully Sterotyped” by Opi'a Taino International (VICCC Suites Oct.30-Nov2)

**THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER: CONFERENCE DAY 1 (UVI)**

8:00AM-3:00PM: Registration (In front of Room NWW 102-103)  
9:00AM-10:20AM: Opening and Keynote Address (Room: Great Hall)  
10:20AM-10:50AM: Tea Break- Provided by UVI VICCC (Room: NWW 102-103)  
10:50AM-12:10PM: Parallel Sessions A (Room: Great Hall) & B (Room: EVC 401)  
12:10PM-1:20PM: Lunch (Room: Great Hall Provided by the Virgin Islands Writing Project)  
1:20PM-3:20PM: Parallel Sessions C (Room: Great Hall) & D (Room: EVC 401)  
3:20PM-3:50PM: Tea Break- Provided by UVI VICCC (Room: NWW 102-103)  
3:50PM-5:30PM: Parallel Sessions E (Room: Great Hall) & F (Room: EVC 401)  
7:00PM-9:00PM: Cultural Night organized by UVI VICCC at the Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts (CMCA) on Strand Street in Frederiksted

**FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER: CONFERENCE DAY 2 (UVI)**

8:00AM-3:00PM: Registration (In front of Room NWW 102-103)  
9:00AM-10:20AM: Parallel Sessions G (Room: NWW 102-103) & H (Room: EVC 401)  
10:20AM-10:50AM: Tea Break - Provided by UVI VICCC (Room: NWW 102-103)  
10:50AM-12:10PM: Parallel Sessions I (Room: NWW 102-103) & J (Room: EVC 401)  
9:00AM-12:00PM: Virgin Islands Writing Project 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (Room: Great Hall)  
12:10PM-1:20PM: Lunch (UVI Great Hall/NWW102-103- Provided by the Virgin Islands Writing Project)  
1:20PM-3:20PM: Parallel Sessions K (Room: NWW 102-103) & L (Room: EVC 401)  
3:20PM-3:50PM: Tea Break- Provided by UVI VICCC (Room: NWW 102-103)  
3:50PM-5:30PM: Business Meeting and Book Launches (Room: EVC 401)  
7:00PM: Dinner in Christiansted Town. Food and drinks at participants' expense. (*Details at Book Launch 11/1*)

**SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER: CONFERENCE DAY 3 (UVI)**

9:30AM-10:30AM: Registration (In front of Room NWW 102-103)  
9:30AM-11:30AM: Parallel Sessions M (Room: NWW 102-103) & N (Room: EVC 401)  
11:30AM-12:30PM: Lunch at participants' expense  
1:00PM to Evening (SATURDAY): ISLAND TOUR at participants' expense. *Gather @12:45pm by Great Hall.*  
Pre-registration required by October 31<sup>st</sup> and details to be provided at Registration Desk.



## **DETAILED DAILY SCHEDULE**

### **THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER:**

**8:00AM-3:00PM: Registration** (In front of Room NWW 102-103)

**9:00AM-9:30AM: OPENING & REMARKS** (Great Hall)

VI-US Governor Hon. Albert Bryan, Jr.

Dr. David Hall, President, UVI

Dr. Kimarie Engerman, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS), UVI

Welcome from the UVI- VI Caribbean Cultural Center: Dr. ChenziRa Davis Kahina

Welcome from one of the ECICC/IIBC Founders: Prof. Peter Roberts

Remarks from representatives of:

University of the West Indies, Cave Hill-Barbados:

Dr. Korah Belgrave, Head of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature

University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras: Prof. Dannabang Kuwabong, Department of English

### **9:30AM-10:20AM: KEYNOTE ADDRESS** (Great Hall)

Dr. George A. Franklin aka Dr. ZAY (CEO, CALM CARIBBEAN SEE): Why Is Understanding Our African-Caribbean Traditions, Context & Orality Important in Scripting our Text?

### **10:20AM-10:50AM: Tea Break** (Room: NWW 102-103)

### **10:50AM-12:10 PM (THURSDAY): Parallel Sessions A & B:**

**Session A (Room: Great Hall): EDUCATION IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN** (Chair: Carlos Rodriguez Iglesias)

Valerie Combie (University of the Virgin Islands) - The VIWP's Story: Teachers Teaching Teachers.

Angélica Hernández (Western University in Canada) and Christopher Plyley (University of the Virgin Islands) - Student attitudes towards use of Creole in education on the island of St. Croix.

Sally J. Delgado (University of Puerto Rico, Cayey) - The hurricane does not roar in academic recess: A call to share creative educational strategies in a Caribbean context.

Gomatee Ramnarine and Leesha Roberts (University of Trinidad and Tobago) - Emoji, Text Messages and Social Media Influences on Classroom Language.

**Session B (Room EVC 401): LINGUISTICS IN THE CARIBBEAN** (Chair: Janice Jules)

Jason F. Siegel (The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados) - The Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage: The "Larger Work" Entries.

Cristal R. Heffelfinger-Nieves (University of Puerto Rico, Utuado) - A Comparative Analysis of Politeness Strategies in the Radio Cultures of St. Eustatius, St. Croix, and Barbados.

Kebrina Bailey and Micah Corum (InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico) - A Cognitive Grammar Analysis of go for in Eastern Caribbean Creole: Focus on Purposive, Directional, and Benefactive Meanings in Crucian and Anguillan Creole.

Jason F. Siegel (The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados) - Uncovering the Lexique de Saint Barthélemy.



12:10PM-1:20PM: Lunch (UVI Room: Great Hall, provided by the Virgin Islands Writing Project)

1:20PM-3:20PM (THURSDAY): Parallel Sessions C & D:

Session C (Room: Great Hall): VIRGIN ISLANDS HISTORIES (Chair: Carlos Rodriguez Iglesias)

Amrey Mathurin (University of Pennsylvania) - Beyond the Frame: Transfer and the Rise of Virgin Islands Literature

Samantha Nordholt Aagaard (Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark) - 'Too Lazy as Captain': New Insights into the Organization of the Fireburn of 1878.

Rikke Halberg (Lund University, Sweden) - The Nameless and the Named: Black Female Caretakers in the Danish West Indies 1848-1917.

Elizabeth Rezende (Independent Scholar) - D. Hamilton Jackson Meets the VI Diaspora of Harlem on the Brink of Political Activism in 1915.

ChenziRa Davis-Kahina (University of the Virgin Islands) - Healing Race and Reparatory Justice Affairs in the Caribbean Global South.

Caroline A. Browne (Independent Scholar) – Freedom is Not Free. (Read by Dr. ChenziRa Davis-Kahina).

Session D (Room EVC 401): MUSIC IN THE CARIBBEAN (Chair: Jason Siegel)

Iris Hewitt-Bradshaw, Hazel Ann Gibbs De Peza and Lynette Tyson-Noel (University of Trinidad and Tobago) - "We Jammin Still": The Calypsonian as Commentator on National Identity in Trinidad and Tobago.

Janice Jules (The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados) - Caribbean Musical Movement: The Lyrical Bound of Bashment Soca.

David Lizardi Sierra (University of Puerto Rico, Cayey) - Calypso in the Caribbean and the Awareness of (the) Africa(n): Fictitious and Historical Portrayals of Africa in Calypso (A Synopsis).

Michael Y. Cortés Bernard (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Divided by Oceans, Unified by Heritage: Trinidadian Calypso influence on Jamaican Ska.

Nickesha Dawkins (University of West Indies, Cape Hill) - Styling through Rhyming: Acoustic Variation of Vowels in Jamaican Dancehall Lyrics.

Jaydy Mir Sira (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - How the recent Puerto Rican Revolution impacted the Musical Culture on the Island.

3:20PM-3:50PM: Tea Break (Room: NWW 102-103)

3:50PM-5:30PM (THURSDAY): Parallel Sessions E & F

Session E (Room: Great Hall): LITERATURE IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN (Chair: Carlos Rodriguez Iglesias)

Ramón Soto-Crespo (University of Illinois) - Decapitalized Subjects in Eastern Caribbean Literature.

**SPECIAL PANEL: DAVID EDGEcombe AND EASTERN CARIBBEAN INSURRECTIONIST DRAMA OF RELATIONS:**  
Ari Alannah Hernández (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Punishing the Colonial Ghost Through Empathic Solidarity in the Present in Lady of Parham by David Edgecombe.



Frances Lee González Rosado (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Beyond the Vow: Gender Performativity in David Edgecombe's For Better, For Worse.

Sherean M. Shehada Hader (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Filling the Gaps of History: Hubert Henry Harrison and the struggle for African Diaspora Race Consciousness.

Frank Flanagan (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - The Land is Ours: Land Entitlement in David Edgecombe's Kirnon's Kingdom and Derek Walcott's "The Acacia Trees."

**Session F (Room EVC 401): SPECIAL PANELS ON RE-MEMBERING THE CARIBBEAN (Chair: Jason Siegel)**

**PANEL: LOST VOICES, FORGOTTEN VOYAGES:**

Jo Anne Harris and Rolando Márquez (Georgia Gwinnett College) – Virtual Voices – Digital Creoles in Caribbean Seas

Eva de Lourdes Edwards (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Indigenous Caribbean Sailing

Melinda Maxwell-Gibb (InterAmerican University, Metropolitan Campus) - The Migration of Native Americans from 'La Florida' into the Northern Caribbean.

**PANEL: GENEALOGIES OF SUBVERSION AND RESISTANCE: PROBLEMATIZING NARRATIVE REPRESENTATIONS OF GENDER, HISTORY, AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IN CARIBBEAN SPACES:**

Hector J. Mercado-Soucy (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Genealogies in Maryse Condé's Land of Many Colors and Nana-Ya: Truth, Past, History and Fiction.

Lilybeth Shields Cruz (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - "What Makes a Man a Man?": Masculinity in Willi Chen's Crossbones.

**7:00PM-9:00PM (THURSDAY): CULTURAL NIGHT** organized by UVI VICCC at the Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts (CMCA) in Frederiksted on Strand Street. Participants will arrange their own transport back to their hotels. Please indicate your attendance at the Registration Desk on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Cultural performances scheduled for presentation include:

- Kevin Williams, Jr., Kev's Pan Vibes— <http://kevspanvibes.com>
- Dr. ZAY, VI Griot & IIBC2019 Keynote
- TSK, Inc. –Stanley and The Ten Sleepless Knights -6-Pack- <https://www.facebook.com/tensleepless.knights>
- Edrimael Delgado Reyes (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) – "Rhythms in Between"
- Anumaat Davis Kahina, VI International Spoken Word Artist & Creatrix of LIVEUPP©
- WDY Cultural Dancers – <http://wdyculturaldancers.com/quadrille.html>
- Mada Nile, VI International Recording Artist- <https://www.facebook.com/MadaNile1/>
- Special Cultural Heritage Guests & You!



**FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER:**

**8:00AM-3:00PM:** Registration (In front of Room NWW 102-103)

**9:00AM-10:20AM (FRIDAY):** Parallel Sessions G & H:

**Session G (Room: NWW 102-103): VIRGIN ISLANDS SOCIETIES AND BEYOND (Chair: Cristal Heffelfinger)**

Jessica Shamida Samuel (Boston University) - Minding Land: Consumption and Education on the Island of St. John.

Tami Navarro (Barnard College) - Financial Services as 'Development' in the Caribbean: Dispatches from the USVI.

Hadiya Sewer (Brown University) - Climate Resilience and Its Implications for Conceptions of Sovereignty in the Virgin Islands of the United States.

Carlos Rodríguez Iglesias and Marushka Andrews (University of Aruba) - Tourism and Development in the Caribbean: San Nicolas (Aruba) as a case study.

**Session H (Room EVC 401): LITERATURE AND TRANSLATION IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS (Sally Delgado)**

Nagueyalti Warren (Emory University) - Ted Bundy and Elements of Greek Tragedy in Land of Love and Drowning.

**SPECIAL PANEL: TRANSLATION IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN:**

Patricia Harkins-Pierre (University of the Virgin Islands)- An Exercise in Translation I

Monica Oizumi (University of the Virgin Islands) - An Exercise in Translation II

Vincent Cooper (University of the Virgin Islands) - Writing Poetry as a Second Language: The Translation Process.

**10:20AM-10:50AM: Tea Break (Room: NWW 102-103)**

**10:50AM-12:10 PM (FRIDAY): Parallel Sessions I & J:**

**Session I (Room: NWW 102-103): SPECIAL ROUNDTABLE ON VI IDENTITIES (Chair: Cristal Heffelfinger)**

ISLAND IDENTITIES/NATIONAL IMAGINATIONS: EXPLORING SOCIAL JUSTICE INTERVENTIONS AROUND ISSUES OF COLONIALITY IN THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS AND THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS:

Tiphanie Yanique (Emory University)

Tami Navarro (Barnard Center for Research on Women)

Richard Georges (Writer)

Katherine A. Smith (H. Lavity Stoutt Community College)

LaVaughn Belle (Visual Artist)

Hadiya Sewer (Brown University)

**Session J (Room EVC 401): LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN PUERTO RICO AND BEYOND (Sally Delgado)**

Johanses N. Ríos Ghigliotti, Luis Daniel Acevedo Vélez, Tiffany Rodríguez Cruz, and Alexandra Román Irizarry (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Preferencia Sintáctica de Alternancia de Código en Estudiantes Universitarios Bilingües Puertorriqueños de la UPR.

Lorenice Reyes Sostre, Haydie Mora Lugo, and Astrid Salvá Rivera (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Estudio exploratorio: El Lenguaje Inclusivo en Puerto Rico.



Paul Lippert Figueroa (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Cuba and Puerto Rico: A Long Tradition of Shared History Viewed through Latina Literature.

Miguel A. de Jesús Colón (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Historical and Mythical Stereotypes of the Caribbean in Video Games.

9:00AM-12:00PM VIRGIN ISLANDS WRITING PROJECT (VIWP) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

9:00AM-9:15AM VIWP Conference Opening (Room: Great Hall)  
9:15AM-10:15AM: Interactive Session with Nick Faraclas (Room: Great Hall)  
10:15AM-10:30AM: VIWP Conference Break (Room: Great Hall)  
10:30AM-11:30AM: VIWP Workshop Sessions (Rooms: TBA)  
11:30AM-12:00PM: VIWP Lunch and Closing (Room: Great Hall)

12:10PM-1:20PM: Lunch (NWW 102-103 provided by the Virgin Islands Writing Project)

1:20PM-3:20PM (FRIDAY): Parallel Sessions K & L:

Session K (Room: NWW 102-103): SPECIAL POETRY PANELS (Chair: Cristal Heffelfinger)

PANEL: POETRY ACROSS THE AFRO-ATLANTIC:

Ana Portnoy Brimmer (Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey) - Giant Islands, Small Empire: Notes on Richard Georges' Poetry Collection, GIANT.

Essah Díaz (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Voices from the Outside Looking Within.

Michelle Ramos Rodríguez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - The Unreal Beauty of the Virgin Islands: An Examination of the Caribbean Landscape in the Poetry of Diana Stewart-Walker and Patricia G. Turnbull.

PANEL: WHERE I SEE THE SUN: CELEBRATING UPRISING POETS FROM ANGUILLA, ST. MARTIN, AND ST. CROIX:

José Belaval (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - "Every Gawling, Every Pelican, is We Own": Where I See the Sun: Contemporary Poetry in St. Martin and the Politics of Liberation.

Jacqueline Jiang (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Anguilla, Madre Isla: Patriarchy, Colony, and Pride in Where I See the Sun: Contemporary Poetry in Anguilla.

Dannabang Kuwabong (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Resetting the Fractured Laughter in Marvin E Williams' Echo of a Circle Closing.

Session L (Room EVC 401): CULTURE AND RESISTANCE IN THE AFRO-CARIBBEAN (Sally Delgado)

Myriam Moïse (Université des Antilles in Martinique) - Reimagining the Forbidden Fruit: A Caribbean Ecofeminist Poetics of Resistance.

Tayzhaun Glover (Duke University) - Theorizing Agency and Slave Resistance in the Colonial Caribbean.

Adriana De Persia Colón (University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez) - From Heroes to Villains: A New Perspective for Empowerment in the Caribbean.

Kevin Kelly-Cooke (University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo) - Decolonizing Spirits through an Examination of Caribbean Indigenous Oral Literature.



Krizzia Soto-Villanueva (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Material Culture of Santería and Other Afro-Caribbean Spiritual Traditions.

Anthony J. Núñez Benítez and Ariana C. Torres Meléndez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - St. Croix and French Guiana: Pluri-Lingual, Pluri-cultural, Similar.

3:20PM-3:50PM: Tea Break (Room: NWW 102-103)

3:50PM-5:30PM (FRIDAY): BUSINESS MEETING & BOOK LAUNCHES (Room EVC 401):

Moment of reflection on the life and work of:

Dr. Arnold R. Highfield

Dr. Gloria I. Joseph

Dr. Elizabeth Arbuckle Sanders

Venue for the 2020 conference

Book Launches

7:00PM (FRIDAY): DINNER in Christiansted town. Participants will pay for their own dinners and drinks and then will arrange their own transport back to their hotels. Please indicate your attendance at the Registration Desk.

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER:

9:30AM-10:30AM: Registration (In front of Room NWW 102-103)

9:30AM-11:30AM (SATURDAY): Parallel Sessions M & N:

Session M (Room: NWW 102-103): HUMANITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN AND BEYOND (Chair: Melinda Maxwell)

Sofía T. Lebrón Sepúlveda (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Un Análisis de Sentimiento del Discurso Mediático Sobre el Huracán María en el Caribe.

PANEL: EASTERN CARIBBEAN-BASED DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES:  
Mirerza González Vélez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Brief Introduction

Nadjah Ríos Villarini and Mirerza González Vélez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Caribbean Diasporas: Panorama of Carnival Practices, a Website Prototype.

Gabriela Rivera (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - The Cantazaro Collection : Digital Humanities and the Showcasing of Vieques' Past.

Rosadel Santos (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Community Archives: Archivo Digital de Fundación Culebra.

Faviola Martínez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) – Digital Humanities, Metadata and the Lowell Fiet Carnival Masks Collection.

Otis Alexander (Florida Memorial University) - Centering Négritude and the Harlem Renaissance.

Session N (Room: EVC 401): LANGUAGE IN THE CARIBBEAN AND BEYOND (Chair: Jo Anne Harris)

Alma Simounet and Erika Marrero (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - The Analysis of Requests or Directives in Puerto Rican Spanish: 30 Years Later.

Keishla M. González García, Hilda Silva Martínez, and Krystal Calero Asencio (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Midnight Robber: A Trickster's Power with Words.

Elena I Fadhel Alvarez and Virginia Burnett-Disdier (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - La Cortesía en el Ámbito Escolar en el Caribe.



Marina Martínez - The Use of Mouth Morphemes in Puerto Rican Sign Language.

Meagan Sylvester (University of West Indies, St. Augustine) – “Memorialising The Mighty Shadow” –Personal, Collective and Cultural Memory in Calypso.

Leroy Lashley (Miami Dade College) - Motherlands and Dominators in the History of the Calypso.

11:30AM-12:30PM: Lunch at participants' expense

1:00PM to Evening (SATURDAY): ISLAND TOUR at participants' expense. *Gather @12:45pm by Great Hall.*  
Pre-registration required by October 31<sup>st</sup> and details to be provided at Registration Desk.

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### **I'm A Cultural Man**

By Crucian Griot Dr. ZAY  
IIBC2019 Keynote Presenter

(Chorus) (2x)

Woi, yo, yo, yo, yo, yoy [3x] I'm a Cultural man

Born on St. Croix, you're a Crucian  
On St. Thomas, you're a Sin Tomian  
On St. John, you're a Sin Jonian  
Alla we is the United Virgin Islands

I'm a descendant of the Africans  
And my culture is Caribbean  
Citizen I'm American  
Any way you turn me  
I'm a callaloo man

When you see my skin  
I'm a natural black man  
When you look within  
I'm just like any man  
So why can't we all live as one  
This is the great Universal Plan

Oh the Quelbe that's we music  
And Caiso that's we lyrics  
And Bamboola that is we dance  
Laughing and limn at any chance



## **The Naked Truth**

By Crucian Griot Dr. ZAY  
IIBC2019 Keynote Presenter

(Chorus)

One morning I wake up (2x)  
I see the naked truth in front of me  
Then I realized to my big surprise  
Everybody bamboozling me.

I went to the preacher// saw he was a creature//  
Hiding the naked truth from me  
I didn't realize// to my big surprise//  
he was blind and he could not see.

I went to my teacher// saw she was a beast of// burden on my psyche.  
Spouting me her lies// right before my eyes  
Stealing// my youth away from me.

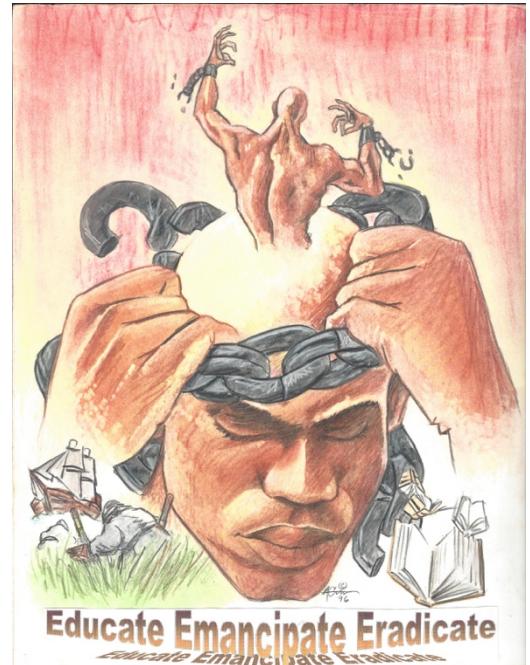
I went to the doctor// thought he could fix-a // all this// blindness in me  
I only realize// to my piercing eyes// PhD // was a zombie

I asked mother//I asked my father// tell the truth// mommy please.  
They say// they didn't know// it was a poppyshow.  
They learned it // from governor dummy.

So take// my advice// think once to trice//  
Don't believe// everything you see.  
Everything you hear// isn't always square.  
Question// their claim to authority.

Now I see // the truth// I reclaiming my youth  
Shame how// they bamboozled me.  
I will take my stand// be my own man.  
Only The Naked Truth// will set me free.

It's time we tell the youth// tell the truth// no more// lying please.  
We should apologies// for telling them our lies.



Creatives 1 Cover of The Naked Truth- Jan2020



*Launch of The Naked Truth – a new publication by Dr. ZAY in January 2020—Email: [imcalm@yahoo.com](mailto:imcalm@yahoo.com)*



22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Eastern Caribbean Island Cultures Conference/Islands In Between Conference- St. Croix 2019



## ISLANDS IN BETWEEN CONFERENCE ST. CROIX 2019, ABSTRACTS LIST

(Listed by the first name of the first author of each presentation, with panels and roundtables re-listed at the end of this document)

Keynote Presentation by Dr. George A. Franklin aka Dr. ZAY (CEO, CALM CARIBBEAN SEE): Why Is Understanding Our African-Caribbean Traditions, Context & Orality Important in Scripting our Text?

Bio: Dr. George A. Franklin aka Dr. ZAY is a native Virgin Islander of Frederiksted, St. Croix. Dr. Franklin is a VI Cultural GRIOT, shaman, natural mystic, spiritual healer, heyoka, coach, facilitator, mentor, author, publisher and composer. He is the CEO of CALM CARIBBEAN SEE: Love and Life Clarity Coaching established in 2005. He has taught in multiple higher education institutions including Xavier University (Louisiana) and the University of the Virgin Islands. His interdisciplinary and international renowned publications and compositions include: Heart Songs: Love Notes For Imperfect People (2017), Ah Jumbie On The Loose: Ah Bunch of Real Jumbie Stories (Book with Dr. Patricia Morris) and Companion Audio CD (2009); and Sankofa Preacher: The Conscientization of Preaching in the Caribbean Context (Dissertation-2000). A new publication entitled The Naked Truth is forthcoming in Spring 2020. Dr. Franklin earned a Doctorate of Divinity in Ministry/Preaching from Aquinas Institute of Theology (2000). Dr. Franklin is an active member of the VICCC@UVI Advisory Council. He lectures and provides inspirational presentations in the United States, Canada, Caribbean and other international destinations as a GRIOT who shares and lives cultural heritage traditions through education and beyond.

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Adriana De Persia Colón (University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez) - From Heroes to Villains: A New Perspective for Empowerment in the Caribbean. The USVI, just as Puerto Rico, is an archipelago under US rule. As US American citizens, we find ourselves trying to prove just how American we are, how human. We strive to be the heroes when we are perceived and categorized as villains; we are relegated to ideological nonhumanity. Conversations continue on better representation of people of color both in literature and film and we often long to see people who look like us or from our communities playing characters we so love. However, I turn instead to the villain as our source of empowerment and our own definition of heroiness. This presentation examines the origin of the word 'villain' and its intersections with the Devil from the Christian religion and with nature upon European contact with Indigenous people of the Americas. Finally, I assess the value of embracing villainy.

Bio: Adriana De Persia Colón is finishing her MA in English Education at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, where her research focuses on Caribbean re-imaginings of Shakespeare's The Tempest. She is a 2019-2020 Highlights Foundation Fellow. [adrianadepersial@upr.edu](mailto:adrianadepersial@upr.edu)

Alma Simounet and Erika Marrero (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - The Analysis of Requests or Directives in Puerto Rican Spanish: 30 Years Later. This study is a modified replica of Alma Simounet's 1990 study, "The analysis of some requests or directives in Puerto Rican Spanish." Its purpose is to explore the structure of and distribution of directives in Puerto Rican Spanish, their comparison to those of American English and the educational implications for the teaching of such structures in ESL Programs on the island some 30 years later. Our project follows the original study, with the addition of Brown and Levinson 1987 theoretical study of politeness as a framework and new questions that arose in the process. Data were collected in three different yet similar settings involving service encounters such as coffee shops, cafeterias and kiosks and the findings of the two studies were compared to shed light on language change in response to social and cultural changes within this speech community.

Bios:

Alma Simounet is a professor of English at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras. [asimounet2002@yahoo.com](mailto:asimounet2002@yahoo.com)

Erika Marrero is a graduate Student in the UPR's PGL Program in Linguistics. [erika.marrero@upr.edu](mailto:erika.marrero@upr.edu)

Amrey Mathurin (University of Pennsylvania) - Beyond the Frame: Transfer and the Rise of Virgin Islands Literature. Within local working-class newspapers, continental African-American journals, and books of poetry, Virgin Islands writers contested naval autocracy, white supremacist military violence, and the state of exception that transfer initiated. Their writings accompany the rise of an organized labor movement and a grassroots political movement circulating between the Virgin Islands and the continental United States. The Herald, a local labor newspaper, sought to transcend the empty promises and internal tyranny of liberal democracy through black working-class politics. In Harlem, Hubert Harrison and Casper Holstein centered the Virgin Islands to reveal the underlying logics of capitalism, racism, sexism and militarism that prompted American imperialism to always undo its own ideals. Poet J.P. Gimenez, traversed linguistic borders while putting forth a modern Virgin Islands political subject. I will argue that these Virgin Islands writers, grappling with the immediacy of a present dominated by naval occupation—similar to that experienced in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua and elsewhere—responded to their crisis of citizenship by establishing political visions that pushed American empire beyond its limits. Their writings did not necessarily envision political emancipation through the modern project of the independent nation-state, an end already interrupted by the event of transfer. Rather, they looked within and beyond empire, toward solidarities realized under American rule and the



possibilities of an autonomous local democracy for the black working-class majority. In doing so, they offered the region—working through complex and contingent ideas of what a shared future ought to look like—a grave glimpse into the rapidly encroaching imperialism of the United States. Virgin Islands writing, which captures the internal drama sounded in the quiet of the transfer ceremony, offers alternative paradigms to think through anglophone Caribbean literary history.

Bio: Amrey Mathurin is a Virgin Islander enrolled in the Africana Studies PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania.  
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Ana Portnoy Brimmer (Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey) - Giant Islands, Small Empire: Notes on Richard Georges' Poetry Collection, GIANT. As part of the colonial enterprise and its ideology, “smallness” has long been a concept—a quality—flung at island nations to determine and dominate everything from their geography to their people. This concept has existed as part of a larger colonial discourse aiming to diminish, subjugate and dehumanize these sea-cradled spaces. Richard Georges' second poetry collection, GIANT, defies and does away with oppressive notions of “smallness.” It dives into the complex geopolitics of the British Virgin Islands, and the Caribbean as a whole, drawing back the curtain and visibilizing the enormity of these landscapes, their (hi)stories, their people and struggles—countering myths of “smallness,” and therefore, insignificance—or rather, a narrow notion of significance determined by the dictates of colonialism. Georges' collection elegantly establishes a distinction between “imperial giantness” and “decolonial giantness,” how differently they are wielded, inhabited, experienced. As an epigraph to initiate and open his collection, the poet re-appropriates the words of empire: “O, it is excellent / To have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous / To use it like a giant,” driving home the book's title, and underscoring with an acute sharpness the largeness of island, of home. In this presentation, I will be engaging with Georges' poetry from a decolonial poetics and framework, contemplating the concepts of “giantness” and “smallness,” and noting how this collection fiercely inscribes the British Virgin Islands, and the Caribbean, onto global historical, cultural, and literary landscapes.

Bio: Ana Portnoy Brimmer is an MFA student at Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey. [anaportnoybrimmer@gmail.com](mailto:anaportnoybrimmer@gmail.com)

Angélica Hernández (Western University in Canada) and Christopher Plyley (University of the Virgin Islands) - Student attitudes towards use of Creole in education on the island of St. Croix. On the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, although English is the language used for official purposes, and the language of education, the majority of the population are native speakers of Crucian, an English-lexifier creole language. However, use of Creoles is often stigmatized in formal and educational contexts. This stigmatization of the language, which often carries over to the populations themselves, has been shown to have negative impacts on the academic achievement and personal self-esteem of Creole-speaking students (Lodge 2017, Wigglesworth et al. 2013). In some Creole communities, educational programs to address these negative effects have been put in place with varying levels of success (Wigglesworth et al. 2013). In this presentation, we focus on the population of students at the University of the Virgin Islands on the island of St. Croix, where 28 Crucian-speaking university students were given a questionnaire regarding their opinions and attitudes about being instructed in Crucian after having been presented a mathematics lesson in the language. In this presentation, we will discuss the results of our qualitative analysis, which could be instrumental in designing educational programs aimed at minimizing language barriers faced by Crucian creole speakers in education.

Bios:

Angelica Hernandez is currently a 3rd year Ph.D. candidate in French linguistics at Western University in Canada. Her research interests include language contact, minority languages, language variation, and morphosyntactic variation.  
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Christopher Plyley is a mathematics professor at the University of the Virgin Islands. After completing his Doctorate degree at Western University in Canada, he joined the faculty of the St. Croix campus of The University of the Virgin Islands.

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Anthony J. Núñez Benítez and Ariana C. Torres Meléndez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - St. Croix and French Guiana: Pluri-Lingual, Pluri-cultural, Similar. This project focuses on a common phenomenon: plurilingualism. It pays special attention to the cases of St. Croix and French Guiana as examples of how communities interact beyond their linguistic boundaries, what the dynamics and perceptions are on the languages involved, how and when each variety is used and the fluidity of identity that this interaction among languages generates. This is accomplished by doing a comparative reading of two articles: St. Croix: A Pluri-Lingual and Pluri-cultural Island by Susana C. DeJesús and Les Langues de Guyane by Isabelle Léglise. The goal is to have a look at the situation in both societies and to discuss how the Caribbean extends beyond its archipelago into South America in more ways than one. [anthony.nunez@upr.edu](mailto:anthony.nunez@upr.edu) [ariana.torres8@upr.edu](mailto:ariana.torres8@upr.edu)



Ari Alannah Hernández (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Punishing the Colonial Ghost Through Empathic Solidarity in the Present in *Lady of Parham* by David Edgecombe. David Edgecombe's play, *Lady of Parham*, explores the subtle ways in which the centuries-old dilemma and praxis of colonializing control and power in the Caribbean continue to taint the ways in which some members of our communities think and behave. This paper intends to analyze the phenomenon of human empathy and solidarity as a personal, interpersonal and sociological tool to overcome the temptation to fall back on the idea that colonial ties would somehow continue to benefit the postcolonial community, especially in the area of economic development. The figure of the ghost in the play is the metaphorical representation of the colonial past as it beckons and haunts the Caribbean landscape and psyche. This paper will examine it as a historic bridge that connects the islands' past to present-day attempts at neocolonialism by empires of the past. Since the ghost concretely represents colonial affluence, its irruption throughout history in this Caribbean locus creates multiple reactions, attracting and repelling, as it haunts. This analysis will specifically look at the reactions, attitudes, and behaviors of the contemporary characters to the possibility of attaining criminally tainted wealth –via submitting to the will of the ghost- in order to improve their island's cultural infrastructure, or working towards the betterment of their community's needs via a journey of interpersonal empathy and communal solidarity that would disassociate them entirely from the idea that the only models that work are those from the colonial past.

Bio: Ari Alannah Hernández is a PhD student at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, where she studies Literatures and Languages of the English-Speaking Caribbean. Her M.A. is in Comparative Literature (University of Illinois) in American and Latin American Literatures, and her B.A. is in English Literatures (English and American) from UPR-RP. Her interests are Caribbean and Latin American Gothic, Fantastic and Speculative narratives, and power structures and otherness in literature. Currently, she works on contemporary texts by Caribbean authors, in both Spanish and English, and in translation. She has taught Spanish and Literature (in English and Spanish) at several universities in the U.S. She has also taught at the University of Puerto Rico, University High School, and at the Smith Language Institute of San Juan. [ariad.hernandez@upr.edu](mailto:ariad.hernandez@upr.edu)

Caroline A. Browne (Independent Scholar) – Freedom is not Free. This presentation examines history from a perspective of using it for solutions to our challenges today. Since our region was “discovered” in 1492 by the invaders, we have been fighting for our freedom to BE. This place, the ground we are on now, called Ay Ay by the indigenous peoples, was set upon by Christopher Colon on 1493. There is a debate as to why history is important. If we look at it from an objective standpoint, it is a learning tool. While we cannot change the past, in our evolution to becoming whole, knowing from where we come is critical to the healing of our Souls. If we are to find and pursue freedom, Soulutions must also be presented that elevate this cause. In the cycle of life, many have been taken advantage of and continue to be exploited on various levels. This practice has taken on new masks using old tactics. Freedom is not free and it is only through the use of knowledge can it be accomplished. The experiences of our ancestors from 1493 to this present day run through our veins. We are being called to action and in order to proceed in an honorable way. It is up to us to bring truth to light. When we free our mind from fear, we become the masters of our destiny.

Bio: Caroline A. Browne was born and resides in the Virgin Islands of the United States. As a child of the 1960s, she was raised in the time of the Free Beach Protests and protests for equal rights of Native Virgin Islanders. As a media artist, she has had the opportunity to visit many countries around the world and has found many people in similar oppressive circumstances. The only person I can do anything about is myself, so here is my contribution to the process of Freedom. [calbrownie@aol.com](mailto:calbrownie@aol.com)

Carlos Rodríguez Iglesias and Marushka Andrews (University of Aruba) - Tourism and Development in the Caribbean: San Nicolas (Aruba) as a case study. In 2019, the Aruba Ministry of Tourism once again set in motion a plan to build an all-inclusive hotel in the area of San Nicolas, on the eastern coast of Aruba. It is not the first time that this idea has been advanced, stirring heated debate among different community sectors. Those in favor argue that the eastern coast of the island has not been able to reap the benefits of Aruba's economic development during the past few decades because all of the hotels, restaurants and other tourist attractions have been built on the northwestern part of the island, just north of the capital Oranjestad. The proportion of households living in poverty in San Nicolas is the highest for the island, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. On the other hand, strong opposition has been voiced by those who argue, among other things, that Aruba's economy is already overly dependent on hospitality (87% of all jobs are directly or indirectly supported by tourism). Environmental groups fiercely oppose building new large-scale hotels that will add to the already existing pressure on the environment including land and sea flora and fauna. Others fear that bringing mass tourism will transform San Nicolas, currently billed as the charming “cultural and artistic capital of Aruba”, into yet another generic, Americanized vacation destination. The San Nicolas debate will be presented as a case study that many small-island Caribbean nations and territories can relate to, as they seek to balance the needs of employment opportunities, public welfare, environmental protection, sustainable economic activity and guaranteed local participation.

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ChenziRa Davis-Kahina (University of the Virgin Islands) - Healing Race and Reparatory Justice Affairs in the Caribbean Global South. Healing Race and Reparatory Justice Affairs in the Caribbean Global South is an interdisciplinary transcultural and mixed media presentation. This praxis-based research provides historic heritage-driven approaches, principled sociocultural analysis and institutionalized perspectives investigating AfRaKan ancestral legacies beyond the 100-plus years of foreign sovereignty and remnants of institutional human rights violations within the Virgin Islands of the United States (VI-US) and dialectically within the Caribbean Global South. This cultural creative presentation examines and provides recommendations for healing the Culture, Heritage and Identity (CHI) and Culture, Heritage and Education (CHE) frameworks of the human spirit of Virgin Islands Caribbean persons obstructed by institutional terrorism, genocidal benevolence, forced tolerance, colonialism, neocolonialism, land invasions (disaster capitalism/gentrification), and acquiescence during decades of erasure of VI Caribbean American history, persons, ancestral sovereignty and human rights. Interactive enunciations of multidisciplinary analyses of diverse perspectives of race, reparatory justice and global relations among trailblazing leaders and stakeholders blended with preparatory summations of contemporary strategic actions and programs for collaborations, research, community empowerment, and heritage studies that use best practices in 21st century environments will be explored. Select chronological historical narratives of exploitation and revolutionary reparatory justice solutions to heal remnants of colonialism, enslavement and crimes against humanity for persons of AfRaKan ancestry within the Global Caribbean will be explicated. HEAL© strategies for intra-Caribbean American exchanges, discourse, authentic reconciliation, 21st century reparations in praxis, restoration of ancestral sovereignty and self-determination that heal traumatized Virgin Islands Caribbean persons, institutions and ancestral legacies will be investigated. Bio: ChenziRa Davis-Kahina is an educator, cultural griot artist, media technologist, ordained priestess and community developer. A founding director of Per Ankh—a UN ECOSOC Special Consultative NGO, Davis-Kahina serves as director of the Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center and teaches in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at the University of the Virgin Islands. [chenzira.daviskahina@uvi.edu](mailto:chenzira.daviskahina@uvi.edu) and [astspeaks@gmail.com](mailto:astspeaks@gmail.com)

Cristal R. Heffelfinger-Nieves (University of Puerto Rico, Utuado) - A Comparative Analysis of Politeness Strategies in the Radio Cultures of St. Eustatius, St. Croix, and Barbados. This paper is based on my doctoral dissertation, in which I explore the use of conversational strategies in a sample of 12:12:06 hours of spontaneous radio interactions from the islands of St. Eustatius, St. Croix, and Barbados. Following a theoretical framework grounded in Brown and Levinson's (1987) Politeness Theory and Anchimbe and Janney's (Anchimbe, 2011; Anchimbe & Janney, 2010; Janney, 2009) Postcolonial Pragmatics, I perform qualitative and quantitative analyses of the data, with attention to the frequencies, structures, and functions of positive and negative politeness strategies. My discussion also entails a careful examination of code choice (i.e., Standard English vis-à-vis non-standard forms), accommodation, and turn-taking patterns, as well as speakers' dynamic use of directness and indirectness. This study confirms the significant role of context in pragmatic behavior since most differences within and across communities are associated with the interplay of several extralinguistic variables. Similarly, my findings suggest commonalities between each of the islands' ethos and its particular sociopolitical and linguistic history, which includes multiple influences from European, African, and other sources. In general, speakers from Barbados were perceived as more formal than those from St. Eustatius, whereas Crucians utilized a combination of both positive and negative politeness, informality and formality. Despite such contrasts, my data ultimately reveal an overall tendency towards positive face and positive politeness, directness, solidarity, empathy, collectivism, and in-group membership, values which seem to characterize the Eastern Anglophone Caribbean as a region.

Bio: Cristal R. Heffelfinger-Nieves is a full-time professor at the University of Puerto Rico, Utuado Campus. She recently completed her PhD in Language and Literature of the Anglophone Caribbean at UPR, Rio Piedras. Her primary fields of research include pragmatics, ethnolinguistics, discourse analysis, politeness studies, interpersonal communication, and mass media. [cristal.heffelfinger@gmail.com](mailto:cristal.heffelfinger@gmail.com)

Dannabang Kuwabong (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Resetting the fractured laughter in Marvin E Williams' Echo of a Circle Closing. In this paper, I read Marvin E Williams' last collection of poetry, Echo of a Circle Closing published shortly before his untimely death, as reflexive-self-examination to reveal a deep understanding of the complicated nature of Crucian identities, the complex paradoxes of their beings. Williams describes himself therefore as "... a contradiction / wooing its selves . . . / . . . / a black whisper straining / to hear itself speak" (1). I argue that the struggle to speak through eroding culturescapes and Crucian eco-memory engineered by historical traumas rooted in slavery, racism, colonialism, and neo-cultural and economic imperialism that all impose restrictions on Cruzan aspirations and freedoms becomes the poetry. Thus the terrors of disarticulation that engendered the forces of conformity startle the poet into creative noises "to grasp, to record / X-ray moments that unravel / creams that pose / as laughter?" (1). Thus, my reading insists that Williams writes to right and reset through a recording of ancestral culturescapes and historical landscapes fast disappearing from St. Croix.

Bio: Dannabang Kuwabong teaches Caribbean literature at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras.

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David Lizardi Sierra (University of Puerto Rico, Cayey) - Calypso in the Caribbean and the Awareness of (the) Africa(n): Fictitious and Historical Portrayals of Africa in Calypso (A Synopsis). Calypso has been studied not only in terms of how it addresses situations and events in the Caribbean, but also in terms of how it reflects Africa and African themes. Despite many attempts to eradicate African connections during the histories of enslavement, colonization and the postcolonial Caribbean, Calypso has provided a space of resistance which maintains and reclaims African traditions, culture and heritage for both its artistes and the peoples of the region. This paper will present and discuss a brief catalogue of songs and performers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries who have included awareness of the importance of Africa for the region in their repertoires, depicting the continent from historical, cultural, or even fictional vantage points. Among the performers referenced in this discussion are The Growling Tiger, Lord Kitchener, Mighty Sparrow, Calypso Rose, Black Stalin, and David Rudder.

Bio: David Lizardi Sierra is an Associate Professor of English at University of Puerto Rico at Cayey, where he has worked since 2001 teaching courses in American, British, Latinx, Caribbean Literatures and Culture, and has held various administrative positions. His doctorate is in Caribbean Literature, Language and Culture from UPR at Rio Piedras. His dissertation is titled: "Jean Dinah, Dorothy and the Rest: Representations of Women in Calypso Literary Works of the Caribbean" (2009). [david.lizardil@upr.edu](mailto:david.lizardil@upr.edu)

Edrimael Delgado Reyes (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Rythms in Between. Rythms in Between es un performance de 10 minutos que sugiere el cuerpo como un lugar multidimensional y de intersecciones rítmicas. Es construido a través de la improvisación de diversos ritmos populares afrocariibeños del Caribe hispano y francófono. Parte de la realidad de un Caribe plural en todos sus aspectos culturales e históricos y apunta, no a una homogenización rítmica, si no a una integración y conversación entre los ritmos. Rythms in Between coloca a las islas en diálogo, generando un puente que los une a través del cuerpo, en vez de separarlos.

Bio: Edrimael Delgado es artista interdisciplinario y estudiante de la Facultad de Humanidades de la Universidad de Puerto Rico. Como bailarín explora temas de género y afrocariibeñidad en su trabajo. Se entrenó en ballet clásico y danza moderna en la Escuela de Ballet de San Juan (2014-2016), viajó a La Habana, Cuba (2016) a entrenarse con la Compañía Nacional de Danza Contemporánea y a Santo Domingo, República Dominicana (2017) a presentar su primer trabajo coreográfico en el Festival de Jóvenes Artistas. Actualmente entrena y colabora con una plataforma de danza experimental llamada PISO proyecto y es portavoz de la Escena del Ball Room (Vogue) en Puerto Rico.

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Elena I Fadhel Alvarez and Virginia Burnett-Disdier (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - La Cortesía en el Ámbito Escolar en el Caribe. Esta investigación estudia la cortesía dentro del ámbito escolar, analizando los cambios en el lenguaje formal e informal. Se estudia el desarrollo y los cambios del uso del tú/usted en la relación maestro/estudiante. De esta manera, se pregunta si un cambio en el uso del tú/usted ha provocado una jerarquía invertida o si, por lo contrario, una jerarquía invertida ha provocado un cambio en el uso del tú/usted. Como metodología, se recopilan conversaciones cotidianas entre maestros y alumnos de octavo grado. [elena.fadhel@upr.edu](mailto:elena.fadhel@upr.edu) [virginia.burnett@upr.edu](mailto:virginia.burnett@upr.edu)

Elizabeth Rezende (Independent Scholar) - D. Hamilton Jackson Meets the VI Diaspora of Harlem on the Brink of Political Activism in 1915. D. Hamilton Jackson disembarked after weeks of negotiation in Copenhagen. With several days' lay-over in New York City before returning to the islands, he stayed with his wife's Holstein/Joseph relatives. The purpose of his visit to his fellow Virgin Islanders was twofold. First, he wanted to inform his countrymen that he had been successful in arguing for the license to create the first free press in St. Croix. His vision was that Crucians would have a publication in which they would express their views without government interference. He knew his fellow countrymen would share his sense of accomplishment, and thus he was actively seeking funding and expertise from them in operating a printing press. Jackson's second reason for joining with Virgin Islanders in Harlem was to learn firsthand about the changes advocated by the numerous associations of which nearly every immigrant was a member. During the initial waves of migration to New York from the 1890s onward, the new migrants had created their own organizations to help them accommodate themselves to their new environment and to aid them in their struggles against low incomes, low employment status and discrimination. These self-help societies had become more influenced by humanistic thinking by the onset of World War I and began crafting political strategies to combat racism. A few of the lesser-known Crucian and Thomian activists that D. Hamilton Jackson met in Harlem were Frank Crosswaith, who was starting his own organizing activities inspired by Hubert Harrison's street corner speaking success, and Ashley Totten, who initially worked to unite railroad employees. Activists such as Elizabeth Hendrickson and Redalia Matthew had organized and led a number of women's aid groups which became tenants' rights societies advocating for rent control. All of these associations were drawing upon a new socialist political strategy. In turn, VI immigrants in Harlem heard firsthand from Jackson of the Social Democratic labor union which had staged a general strike in 1900 in Denmark. Securing Harlem's financial support for a printing press was one of the many developments that led to the declaration of November 1 as Liberty Day in the Virgin Islands.



Bio: Elizabeth Rezende is a researcher who has participated in a number of projects melding social history, anthropology and genealogy through the use of primary sources, such as censuses, passenger records, and newspapers to create a fuller picture of people and events in the US Virgin Islands. She is currently working with a team at the Carl and Marie Lawaetz Museum of Estate La Grange, which has been funded by a Danish foundation to identify, conserve, and exhibit thousands of photos taken by Marie Lawaetz from the mid-1920s to the 1970s. She is particularly interested in the images of the individuals of the workers' village, industrial site and the charitable organizations of Frederiksted, which were also the interests of the photographer. Rezende is a 2018 Oakley Fellow of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Williams College in Williamstown, MA and she serves as president of the Society of Virgin Islands Historians. [erezende576@gmail.com](mailto:erezende576@gmail.com)

Essah Diaz (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Voices from the Outside Looking Within. African Caribbean poets and scholars have consistently explored the roots of Caribbean cultural, historical, linguistic, and racial identification to Africa, formulated through the historical translocation of millions of Africans in the trans-Atlantic slave trade to work on plantations on Caribbean islands. However, very little attention has been paid to how some African poets respond to the presence of Africa in the Caribbean in their work. Some of these poets include three Ghanaian writers: Kofi Awoonor, Kofi Anyidoho, and Dannabang Kuwabong. My paper explores Kuwabong's perspective on the Eastern Caribbean as a Ghanaian in Caribbean Blues & Love's Genealogy and Voices from Kibuli Country. Kuwabong reveals his struggles as a Ghanaian with the realities the African diaspora in the Caribbean. His poems reflect his deep anxieties about the Caribbean and his own search for meaning as a Ghanaian in the relation to historical and cultural links between Ghana and the Caribbean, between his own diasporicity and homeland, and those between African Caribbean people and their imagined African homeland. I further explore Kuwabong's engagement of archival material to structure his work and tease out evidence of the cultural militancy and the spiritual resiliency of African Caribbean people dating back to plantation slavery days. Ultimately, I interpret how Kuwabong views the Caribbean as an outsider on the inside.

Bio: Essah Diaz is a doctoral student of literature and languages of the Caribbean in English at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus. Her academic interests include gender studies and African and African Diaspora cultures and literatures, etc. [essah.diaz@upr.edu](mailto:essah.diaz@upr.edu)

Eva de Lourdes Edwards (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Indigenous Caribbean Sailing

Bio: Eva de Lourdes Edwards, PhD, is associate professor of English at the College of General Studies, UPR, Rio Piedras. Her interdisciplinary work in Urban Studies has enabled her to teach the graduate course, Caribbean Cities in Spacetime, with the School of Architecture. She also teaches graduate online courses at Fairfield University in Connecticut, in Linguistics and Sociolinguistics. She has a doctorate in applied linguistics to education from the University of Connecticut. Her research areas include Caribbean Celts and other underrepresented cultures, linguistic landscape, and Caribbean literature in urban studies. [delourdes@mac.com](mailto:delourdes@mac.com) [eva.edwards@upr.edu](mailto:eva.edwards@upr.edu)

Faviola Martínez (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) – Digital Humanities, Metadata and the Lowell Fiet Carnival Masks Collection. This paper discusses how digital humanities tools provide for the effective showcasing of the Lowell Fiet Collection of Masks as a comparative display of the creative popular identities of the entire region. The creation of masks is a foundational element of Caribbean Festival Arts. The Collection includes photographs of the Fiestas of Santiago Apóstol in Loíza and of Carnival in Ponce in Puerto Rico, the masks of the “Shakespeare mas” players of Carriacou, and the carnivals of Port of Spain, Trinidad, San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic, Jacmel, Haiti and Roseau, Dominica. Jamaican “Jonkonnu” masks and the masks of the Corpus Christi celebrations in La Villa de los Santos, Panamá also form part of the collection. [faviola.martinez@upr.edu](mailto:faviola.martinez@upr.edu)

Frances Lee González Rosado (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Beyond the vow: Gender performativity in David Edgecombe's For Better, For Worse. In this paper, I discuss gender performativity in David Edgecombe's comedy For Better, For Worse. I argue that Edgecombe questions Caribbean social and cultural assumptions on sexual/gender roles. I reveal how the play stages contemporary debates on marriage/cohabitation, pregnancy, motherhood/ abortion, and parenthood in contemporary Caribbean societies within global politics of shifting sexual/gender roles performances. I explore Edgecombe's exposure and critique of contradictory class/social, sexual/gender, cultural/religious roles and limitations placed on the younger generations against the background of a changing dynamic of new gender roles. Finally, I examine how Edgecombe refuses to either sermonize on the issues or offer simplistic victor/vanquished solutions. Instead, I posit how he advocates for a complex web of inter-and-intra-generational understandings and negotiated compromises without sublimating the dangers of overly romantic sex/gender roles.

Bio: Frances Lee González Rosado is a doctoral student in Caribbean literature with a focus on Anglophone Caribbean drama by women. In 2015, she completed her MA thesis in English literature. She is the current Publications Chair for next year's Caribbean Without Borders conference. [francesl.gonzalez@upr.edu](mailto:francesl.gonzalez@upr.edu) [gonzalezrosado.fl@gmail.com](mailto:gonzalezrosado.fl@gmail.com)

Frank Flanagan (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - The Land is Ours: Land Entitlement in David Edgecombe's Kirnon's Kingdom and Derek Walcott's "The Acacia Trees." This paper will analyze the function of land entitlement in David Edgecombe's play Kirnon's kingdom and Derek Walcott's poem "The Acacia Trees." I will discuss how those who have legal title to the land, i.e.,



those of European descent, have used a historical and racial construct of 'entitlement' to reconstitute systems of post-emancipation oppression and exploitation against islanders with and without land rights. Entitlement in this sense means reflects how those who control the land feel that they have a God-given, racial or class right to control and exploit the land, often at the expense of local islanders. The land itself will also be discussed as a means of production, and economic and social self-sustenance. Finally, mention will be made of current trends in land rights, access, and usage in the Caribbean as these relate to this literature. Bio: Frank Flanagan is a faculty member of the College of General Studies, English Department at the University of Puerto Rico's Río Piedras campus. He is also a PhD candidate in the Department of English of the College of Humanities, where his research focus is on masculinities, the role of neocolonial globalism in Caribbean literature, and the use of politically coded language. Recently, he has published interviews with Marsha Douglas, Brandon O'Brien, and Tobias S. Buckell and has an interview with Kevin Adonis Browne pending. Frank has also taught in public and private secondary schools for over twenty-five years with a focus on using technology to reach curriculum objectives, and he is also a creative writer of plays, short stories, and poetry. [tropicalgardener@gmail.com](mailto:tropicalgardener@gmail.com)

Gabriela Rivera (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - The Cantazaro Collection : Digital Humanities and the Showcasing of Vieques' Past. The aim of this paper is to describe a research process aimed at preserving and digitizing the negatives of an original collection of photographs, The Catanzaro Photographic Collection. The paper also discusses the Catanzaro Collection as an example of a Digital Humanities project. The collection provides a unique look at the militarization process from 1942 onward on the island of Vieques, a municipality of Puerto Rico, and the American occupation of its territory during World War II. This paper seeks to contribute to the conservation of Puerto Rican cultural heritage and to provide an answer to the question of how to document, digitize and increase access to photographic collections. [gabriela.rivera35@upr.edu](mailto:gabriela.rivera35@upr.edu)

Gomatee Ramnarine and Leesha Roberts (University of Trinidad and Tobago) - Emoji, Text Messages and Social Media Influences on Classroom Language. In Trinidad and Tobago, the use of formal Standard English still exists in the professional environment and is the expected communication method, even though Creole is our native language. Creole has emerged from our past of enslavement and colonialism, where different peoples have communicated differently depending on their ethnicity, for example, Indo-Trinidadian varieties may differ from those used by Afro-Trinbagonians, thereby creating a diverse communication situation within the country. In recent times, however, communication methods have shifted to accommodate the use of text messaging and emoji. This new way of communicating conveys the message in an abbreviated and precise manner as opposed to fully constructed words and sentences. Prensky (2002) postulated that "Digital Natives" would change the way communication takes place, and at present, students' writing demonstrates a shift from formal Standard English to the frequent use of text messaging and emojis, which exemplifies how the rise and rapid spread of social networking has created an emergent paradigm shift in how students perceive writing, literacy and communication. Symbols, emojis and shorthand writing are now accepted as a mode of communication. However, unlike the print age, which promoted the sole use of alphabetic writing in most message-making media and domains of literacy, the Internet Age encourages different modes of writing (visual and audio) to be utilized in combination with alphabetic (and nonalphabetic) scripts in the composition of messages. This change can now be seen as a new kind of "blended writing" which has implications for print and its continuity in \ human communication systems and practices. Additionally, *wot iz d implication 4 teaching & learning @ d skul levL f such drastic changes R mAd 2 d way we communicate n RitN form<sup>11</sup>*

Reference: Prensky, M. (2001). Digital natives, digital immigrants part 1. *On the horizon*, 9(5), 1-6.

Bios:

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Dr. Leesha Roberts is a Senior Instructor in the Bachelor of Education, Center for Education Programmes (CEP) at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), Valsayn Campus, where she is actively involved in teaching and research in Educational Technology, Instructional Design, Technical Vocational Business and Practicum Courses. [Leesha.Roberts@utt.edu.tt](mailto:Leesha.Roberts@utt.edu.tt)

Hadiya Sewer (Brown University) - Climate Resilience and Its Implications for Conceptions of Sovereignty in the Virgin Islands of the United States. The U.S. Virgin Islands— namely, St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix, and several islets— is an unincorporated American territory comprised of small islands on the frontlines of climate change. In 2017, the territory was severely impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the two category five storms that left a great deal of devastation in their wake. In the aftermath of the 2017 Hurricane Season, initiatives aimed at increasing the territory's resilience in the face of climate change have proliferated. American corporate philanthropists and the U.S. federal government play a key role in hurricane relief efforts, which raises critical concerns about environmental racism, colonialism and disaster capitalism in the territory's recovery. This paper traces the discourses surrounding climate adaptation, resilience, political dependency and economic aid in the U.S. Virgin Islands' hurricane recovery efforts. Specifically, this work argues that climate adaptation and resilience strategies in the U.S. Virgin



Islands have implications for conceptions of sovereignty in the U.S. territory. Hegemonic conceptions of resilience frame the future of socio-political and economic development and, consequently, discourses on political status. This work blends Black existentialism, environmental justice research, and theories on socio-political and economic development to trace these discourses to pose the question, "How does the push for climate resilience in the U.S. Virgin Islands simultaneously function to facilitate and/or rupture colonial dependency in this part of the dependent Caribbean?"

Bio: Hadiya Sewer is a Visiting Scholar in the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice at Brown University. She earned her BA in Sociology from Spelman College and her MA and PhD in Africana Studies from Brown. Her work looks at Africana philosophy, Caribbean political theory, feminist theory, and environmental justice in the Caribbean. She is also the President and Co-Founder of St. JanCo: the St. John Heritage College, a land rights and cultural heritage preservation non-profit in St. John. [hadiya\\_sewer@brown.edu](mailto:hadiya_sewer@brown.edu)

Hector J. Mercado-Soucy (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Genealogies in Maryse Condé's Land of Many Colors and Nana-Ya: Truth, Past, History and Fiction. This paper focuses on how Maryse Condé uses the concept of genealogy as a narrative strategy to shed light on the lives and ancestries of the characters that inhabit her novellas Land of Many Colors and Nana-Ya. I argue that, by tracing her characters' ancestries, Condé problematizes the notions of truth, the past, history and fiction. Furthermore, the characters that carry out these endeavors have their own motivations. As such, I will discuss the characters' contexts in relation to their social class, race, gender and ethnicity. In order to analyze how truth, the past, history and fiction relate to one another throughout both novellas, I will contrast the aforementioned concepts with those in Michel Foucault's The Archeology of Knowledge and Roland Barthes' "Myth Today".

Bio: Héctor J. Mercado Soucy is a doctoral student in English at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. His interests include Caribbean speculative fiction, epic poetry, and Afro-futuristic fiction. He is a published author and is currently working on a Puerto Rican epic. [hector.mercadosoucy@upr.edu](mailto:hector.mercadosoucy@upr.edu) [hectorjms@yahoo.com](mailto:hectorjms@yahoo.com)

Iris Hewitt-Bradshaw, Hazel Ann Gibbs De Peza and Lynette Tyson-Noel (University of Trinidad and Tobago) - "We Jammin Still": The Calypsonian as Commentator on National Identity in Trinidad and Tobago. The Road March title for the calypso most played at official competition venues is one highlight of Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2017, 'Full extreme: We jammin still' by Ultimate Rejects broke the record for the highest number of times that a song was played. This calypso offers an analysis of the psyche of Trinidadians and Tobagonians (Trinbagonians) that suggests that in the face of adversity, citizens are carefree and respond nonchalantly with festivity: 'Oh God, the treasury could burn down; we jammin still...' Over the years, calypsonians, like other social commentators, have ascribed carefree nonchalance to the identity of Trinbagonians. Rohlehr (2016) includes social commentator and psychological analyst among the roles played by calypsonians. This paper uses critical discourse analysis and linguistic theory to analyse the lyrics of the most popular Road March winner in the history of Carnival, and to demonstrate how the assertions made therein are linked to a popular theme in discourses of identity in Trinidad and Tobago. For example, commentators continually reference locally organized curfew parties during the attempted coup in 1990, and videos of citizens enjoying themselves outdoors in the face of serious threats and hurricanes occasionally emerge. These are cited as typical behaviour of Trinbagonians. Although the image of the carefree Trinbagonian has been contested at times, it has gone largely unchallenged, and continues to be used as a frame when actions of individuals and groups are selected for analysis and discussion in national media. Our conference presentation addresses this issue of cultural representation.

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#### Bios:

Iris Hewitt-Bradshaw is an Assistant Professor in Language and Linguistics at the University of Trinidad and Tobago where she also mentors pre-service and in-service teachers on practicum field teaching and supervises post-graduate research. She possesses a PhD and an MPhil in Language Education and a BA in Language and Linguistics. [ihewbrad@gmail.com](mailto:ihewbrad@gmail.com)

Reverend Dr Gibbs De Peza is an ordained Spiritual Baptist Minister, Certified Life Coach, and Assistant Professor at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). She lectures in Linguistics, English Language and Leadership Studies, and mentors teachers in the teacher education faculty in the Centre for Education Programmes of the UTT. Rev. Dr. Gibbs De Peza is also an author, editor, poet, and presenter, and winner of prizes for short story writing and poetry. [teacherde@hotmail.com](mailto:teacherde@hotmail.com)

Lynette Tyson-Noel is a Senior Instructor in Reading at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), and holds an MEd (Literacy) from Mount Saint Vincent University. She collaborates with colleagues in different disciplines to facilitate workshops in primary and secondary schools in Trinidad and Tobago, and has co-authored journal articles and an e-chapter. Her commitment to teacher professional development has inspired her to present at Literacy and Education conferences in Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica, and the United States of America, both individually and with other experienced academics. This educator has served the Trinidad and Tobago Reading Association (TTRA) on three occasions as its president and was chairperson of the Caribbean section of the International Reading Association (IRA). She is the author of The Bus Stories (2018) and The Night Nopat Was Left Out (2011); co-author and co-editor of Kaleidoscope Skills Book Two (2004) and Kaleidoscope Teacher's



Guide (2005). Her research interests are: reading, writing and linguistic competence of struggling learners; adolescent literacy; and professional development for teachers. She is a doctoral student at UTT.

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Jacqueline Jiang (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Anguilla, Madre Isla: Patriarchy, Colony, and Pride in Where I See the Sun: Contemporary Poetry in Anguilla. Anguilla's successful withdrawal from an associated state together with St. Kitts and Nevis under British rule in 1967 forged a new conversation for artists throughout the island. In particular, poets used their voices to open spaces for discussion on what it means to be a colony, on family ties, and on Anguilla as a maternal land recovering from the patriarchal abuse that the UK has inculcated in Anguillan males as legitimate masculine ideology and practice. This paper focuses on the work of poets who, like the island, have matured and grown from the negative experiences of a patriarchal figure (or lack thereof), such as Sharleen I Gumbs' "Me," Maguida Jackson's "Sunlight and Rain: To My King," and others that critique negative hegemonic masculinity in order to create new paradigms in gender and sex relations on the island.

Bio: Jacqueline Jiang is a graduate student at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus pursuing her Master of Arts degree in English.  
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Janice Jules (The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados) - Caribbean Musical Movement: The Lyrical Bound of Bashment Soca. Since the 1970s, through the musical innovations of Lord Shorty, the Caribbean region, and in particular Trinidad and Tobago, has been associated with the musical genre of soca. While this expressive style of music labelled as the 'soul of calypso' can be used to highlight the beliefs and experiences of various social sectors in various social settings, the central purpose of soca is to heighten the enjoyment of the audience and to elevate individuals to a mood of happiness. As part of the dynamics linked to musical movement, in the late 1990's the emergence of 'bashment soca' in Barbados and some Eastern Caribbean islands signaled an innovation in the use of language. With this trend the emerging lyrical variation appeared to go beyond the traditional form characteristic of soca. This piece of research analyses the lyrics of bashment soca songs to determine the variety of language which predominates, the central message communicated and the typical language devices used to convey this message. Through the application of critical discourse analysis (CDA) with qualitative methods, the lyrics of a selection of bashment soca songs were analysed. The results revealed that the message was communicated primarily via the vernacular. In addition, while some lyrics dealt with cultural acts such as feting and wuking up, major focus was placed on presenting sexual overtures directed at the female solely while explicit reference to sex was evident. Such information was conveyed through the use of similes and metaphoric language to generate the desired images in the minds of the audience.

Bio: Dr. Janice E. Jules is lecturer and Coordinator in Linguistics in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. Her research interests include innovations in language teaching, strategies and methods in Teaching English as a Second and Foreign Language and teaching Standard English to non-standard speakers of the language.  
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Jason F. Siegel (The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados) - The Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage: The "Larger Work" Entries. By the late 1980s, the compilation of the Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage (DCEU) had been going in earnest for 15 years. The University of the West Indies was eager to see it finally reach print, and to have the project that it had long supported start to earn money. By this point, Jeannette Allsopp was leading the item-writing team, while Richard Allsopp occupied himself with the other aspects of the dictionary, particularly the most time-consuming task, etymologies. Because the project had to come to an end even as more and more words were being discovered, newer items were soon relegated to a collection of cards marked as the DCEU Larger Work, a planned second edition of the Dictionary. This larger work never came to fruition, as the publisher, Oxford University Press, rejected the idea. This presentation discusses in detail the contents of these cards, to examine the way that the coverage of the dictionary would have been altered. Among the lexical items inventoried for later inclusion figured more esoteric Indic items of Guyana and Trinidad, idiomatic expressions under common words like have, give and lick, and lower-frequency items like tools, dress, games and architectural features. This presentation also examines how the coverage of included items could change existing entries, adding or altering senses and providing new information beyond semantics, such as orthographic variants and geographic reach.

Uncovering the Lexique de Saint Barthélemy. In the early 1980s, Gilles Lefebvre of the University of Montreal completed a 400-page, two-tome glossary of the French dialect spoken in Saint-Barthélemy. This glossary therefore represents a major achievement in fieldwork with a secretive group. This achievement is magnified by the importance of Saint-Barthélemy French to the study of Creole linguistics. Because this island is one of the few in the Caribbean to have long had a vast majority of white residents, no Creole ever developed on the island. It is thought to be the best approximation available to Colonial French, the *koiné* that would have served as the source of French-language input into the French Creoles of the Caribbean (Chaudenson 2000). Having a record



as thorough as Lefebvre's glossary is thus crucial to understanding Creole language emergence. Yet Lefebvre declined to publish this glossary, and very few copies exist anywhere in the world. This presentation will be among the first public discussions of this work, currently only accessible at the National Overseas Archives of France. It will examine the lexicographic features of Lefebvre's glossary: the its macro- and microstructure, its orthographic choices, its intended audience, and characteristics of its lengthiest entries. It will also analyze some of the most important insights that Caribbean lexicographers and creolists alike can glean from its pages to shed light on how Saint-Barthélemy French relates to the modern Caribbean varieties of French Creole and of French itself. Lastly, it will present the moral and ethical questions that arise when deciding whether and how to publish lexicographic material from societies that value privacy yet worry about the disappearance of their local culture.

Jaydy Mir Sira (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - How the recent Puerto Rican Revolution impacted the Musical Culture on the Island. The recent political tensions in Puerto Rico inspired a wave of creativity on the island. But hashtag #RickyRenucia and the Calle de la Resistencia were not the only ways in which the Puerto Rican people expressed their disgust with the former governor Ricardo Rosselló. Musical artists and people alike chanted for the governor to resign his elected position, creating a historical moment on the island that not only revolutionized the political scene, but also the musical culture in the island.

Bio: Jaydy Mir Sira was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico to a Puerto Rican father and a Venezuelan mother. She is an undergraduate student at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus where she majors in Literature written in English. She aspires to continue graduate studies in Linguistics and Communication. She has published in the journal Tonguas and from June 2016 to August 2019 she worked at the Interdisciplinary and Multicultural Institute as an international undergraduate trip coordinator. [jaydy.mir@upr.edu](mailto:jaydy.mir@upr.edu)

Jessica Shamida Samuel (Boston University) - Minding Land: Consumption and Education on the Island of St. John. A major tourist destination, the island of St. John figures as what Mimi Sheller (2003) refers to as a "perpetual Garden of Eden." Since 1956, the Virgin Islands National Park has occupied two-thirds of the island conserving most of the its wildlife, coral reefs, woodlands and historical carvings. Since the 1970s, to no avail, Virgin Islands government officials and local activists have been in dialogue with administrators of the VI National Park as well as U.S. legislators regarding the leasing of a parcel of the Park's land for the construction of a public-school complex that would include a high school for the island. Drawing on Mimi Sheller's (2003) theory of consumption and Eve Tuck's framework for settler decolonization (2012), this paper problematizes Virgin Islanders' inability to secure an expanded educational facility on the island of St. John as a double-edged manifestation of colonization of the minds and bodies of Virgin Islanders, in general, and St. Johnians, in particular. It argues that the settlement and hoarding of land on the island operates as a structural mode of control insofar as it impedes emancipatory practice by precluding the degree to which locals can (1) physically exercise ownership of their learning environment and (2) imagine a radical decolonial experience as islanders. The physical consumption and hoarding of land has led to the physical and intellectual displacement of local residents. It has retarded educational sovereignty as well as made obvious a disinterest in cultivating what bell hooks (1994) identifies as a political commitment to educating (and liberating) black minds.

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Tuck, Eve and K. Wayne Yang. "Decolonization is not a Metaphor". *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education and Society* 1, no. 1 (2012): 1-40.

Bio: Jessica S. Samuel is a PhD candidate in the American and New England Studies Program at Boston University. She is a poet, author, and scholar-activist. Currently, Jessica serves on the board of the Racial Imbalance Advisory Council for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. [jssamuel@bu.edu](mailto:jssamuel@bu.edu)

Jo Anne Harris and Rolando Márquez (Georgia Gwinnett College) – Virtual Voices – Digital Creoles in Caribbean Seas. In this presentation, we will share information on the digital archive's development and redesign process with a focus on the need for systematic design to address the project's original mission and sustainability. We will also discuss pedagogy and the need to build a significant learning experience around the project as a model of interdisciplinary collaboration for Caribbean scholarship.

Bios:

Jo Anne Harris, PhD, Associate Professor of English at Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrenceville, Georgia holds a PhD in Literatures, Languages, and Cultures of the Anglophone Caribbean from the University of Puerto Rico. Her ongoing research projects are The Virtual Caribbean Library and "Lost Voices, Forgotten Voyages" – both initiatives focusing on digital representations of the Caribbean. [jharris9@ggc.edu](mailto:jharris9@ggc.edu)

Rolando Márquez, PhD, is the Assistant Director for the Center for Teaching Excellence at Georgia Gwinnett College. Roy holds a PhD in Instructional Technology from the University of Central Florida. His current interests include looking at the relationship between the choice of instructional technology and media, design of learning environments and student achievement. [rmarquez1@ggc.edu](mailto:rmarquez1@ggc.edu)



Johanses N. Ríos Ghigliotti, Luis Daniel Acevedo Vélez, Tiffany Rodriguez Cruz, and Alexandra Román Irizarry (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Preferencia Sintáctica de Alternancia de Código en Estudiantes Universitarios Bilingües Puertorriqueños de la UPR. Según Lipski (2011), desde el 1898, el inglés de los Estados Unidos ha sido la principal influencia lingüística en el español de Puerto Rico (EPR). Un fenómeno específico de dicha influencia ha sido la alternancia de código, o “code switching”, entre el español y el inglés. A pesar de que en Puerto Rico solo un 52% de la población es bilingüe en distintos niveles (*U.S. Census Bureau, 2014*), existe una gran cantidad de bilingües proficientes en el sector educado del país, especialmente en los jóvenes universitarios del área metropolitana. Es en esta población juvenil donde la alternancia de código es de alta frecuencia, razón por la cual se han llevado a cabo diversos estudios acerca del bilingüismo con esta población. Aunque estos estudios han examinado distintos aspectos relacionados al bilingüismo, no se han analizado sistemáticamente los distintos tipos de alternancia de código. Debido a que no hay muchos estudios acerca del bilingüismo que examinen los distintos tipos de alternancias introracionales, la presente investigación tiene como objetivo principal examinar qué tipo de sintagma (*i.e. verbal, nominal, adverbial, preposicional, complementante*) favorece la alternancia de código (*español-inglés o inglés-español*) en el habla de estudiantes universitarios bilingües. Se espera que: (1) los sintagmas que pertenecen a clases abiertas (*i.e. nominal, verbal y adverbial*) favorezcan mayor la alternancia de código que aquellos sintagmas que pertenecen a clases cerradas (*i.e. preposicional y complementante*); y (2) el orden de preferencia para la alternancia de código sea español-inglés.

Bios: Johanses Ríos Ghigliotti es estudiante Graduado de Lingüística en la Universidad de Puerto Rico. Ha realizado estudios subgraduados referente a la alternancia de código en poblaciones bilingües en Puerto Rico. Además, habiendo estudiado francés y mandarín a nivel subgraduado, le interesa estudiar más a fondo la adquisición de lenguas, la didáctica de lenguas, el bilingüismo, el translingüismo y llevar a cabo estudios comparativos entre lenguas sintácticas y lenguas analíticas.

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Luis Daniel Acevedo Vélez reside en Carolina, Puerto Rico. Estudia Relaciones Internacionales, Lenguas Modernas (Francés, Portugués y Alemán) y Lingüística Hispánica. En los veranos de 2018 y 2019 estudió en París y Viena, respectivamente, para experimentar alternancia de código en distintos lenguajes. Relacionado con esta área, trabajó la preferencia sintáctica en hablantes puertorriqueños de Spanglish. Otros intereses lingüísticos incluyen la diglosia en el mundo romance, fonética/fonología, Lingüística Histórica, documentación de lenguas minoritarias y la variante lingüística en el nacionalismo constructivo. [luis.acevedo16@upr.edu](mailto:luis.acevedo16@upr.edu)

Tiffany Rodríguez Cruz reside en San Juan, Puerto Rico. Es estudiante de Antropología, Lingüística Hispánica y Mandarin en la Universidad de Puerto Rico-Río Piedras. Entre sus intereses de investigación se encuentran multilingüismo, alternancia de código, desórdenes, procesamiento y producción del lenguaje, sintaxis y prosodia. Además, ha trabajado con la percepción de los tonos léxicos del mandarín a través de implantes cocleares y la preferencia sintáctica en hablantes de Spanglish en Puerto Rico. [tiffany.rodriguez5@upr.edu](mailto:tiffany.rodriguez5@upr.edu)

Alexandra Román Irizarry es estudiante de Lenguas Extranjeras -francés y mandarín- y Lingüística Hispánica en la Universidad de Puerto Rico-Río Piedras. Pertenece al Programa de Estudios de Honor y es becaria de la beca Mellon-Mays. Ha realizado estudios de percepción sociofonética, aunque actualmente investiga el efecto del lenguaje inclusivo en el procesamiento lingüístico como parte de su tesis de honor. Luego del bachillerato, realizará un doctorado en Lingüística que le permita ampliar el tema de su tesis subgraduada. [alexandra.roman4@upr.edu](mailto:alexandra.roman4@upr.edu)

José Belaval (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) – “Every Gawling, Every Pelican, is We Own”: Where I see the Sun: Contemporary Poetry in St. Martin and the politics of liberation. The interconnected histories of the Lesser Antilles have certain themes and issues that are reflected in Where I see the Sun: Contemporary Poetry from St Martin. The poets in this volume not only express the political and sociological complexities of their place in the divided island of St. Martin, but echo the equally complicated divisions and linkages of the Caribbean. In this paper, I focus on how the representations of St. Martin’s culture of resistance build on unique historical traditions, which nonetheless are familiar to other Caribbean islands. I explore how these new voices engage St. Martin language to demand accountability from their leaders in their struggle for liberation from multiple colonial locations toward true freedom where St. Martiners can assert that “Every gawling, every pelican, is we own.”

Bio: José Belaval is a graduate student at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus pursuing his Master of Arts degree in English. [josebelaval@hotmail.com](mailto:josebelaval@hotmail.com)

Kebrina Bailey and Micah Corum (InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico) - A cognitive grammar analysis of go for in Eastern Caribbean Creole: Focus on purposive, directional, and benefactive meanings in Crucian and Anguillan Creole. In this paper, we examine uses of the construction go + for in Crucian and Anguillan Creoles to gain insight on the verb/ preposition distinction in Eastern Caribbean English-lexifier Creole. We take a cognitive grammar approach to analyze uses of the construction and, based on preliminary findings, we argue that go for is employed when speakers want to profile a purposive meaning of the construction’s “composite semantic value” (Langacker, 1990, p. 12). If speakers were to use the verb get instead of for, an acquisition meaning would be profiled. In most cases, however, speakers who were recorded in gathering the St. Croix and Anguillan data used the morpheme for, which adds prominence to the purpose value. In addition to our comparative analysis of purposive meanings of go for in Crucian and Anguillan Creole, we discuss how the morpheme for adds aspectual content that provides directional and benefactive readings. This theoretical portion of the paper shows how go for is processed simultaneously



in relation to the other constituents that co-occur with it, not only syntactically, but also in terms of the semantic roles that those units convey in single motion and serial verb constructions.

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#### Bios:

Kebrina Bailey holds an MA with distinction in English from the University of the West Indies, Anguilla Open Campus and a BEd in English language teaching from UWI, Mona, Jamaica. She has been a teacher of English language and literature for over 10 years. Her academic interests lie in World Englishes, Creoles of the Caribbean, computer mediated discourse and literary criticism. [kebzy02@gmail.com](mailto:kebzy02@gmail.com)

Micah Corum is assistant professor of English at Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. He holds one doctorate in linguistics from Hamburg University and another doctorate in English from University of Puerto Rico. His research has been published in linguistics journals and edited volumes on Caribbean and postcolonial studies. [micahcorum@gmail.com](mailto:micahcorum@gmail.com)

Keishla M. González García, Hilda Silva Martínez, and Krystal Calero Asencio (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - *Midnight Robber: A Trickster's Power with Words*. *Midnight Robber*, one of Carnival's most intriguing characters, derives its power from oral tradition. A trickster similar to Anansi, he is in many cases the keeper of the stories that empower the community against the oppressors. The *Midnight Robber's* boastful and articulated speech is full of linguistic skill and nuances, and portrays him as the villain who has to be the better villain. This paper will do an analysis of the influence that the *Midnight Robber* and 'robber' talk has had in Trinidad and Tobago's culture, by considering the linguistic style and word choice of each *Midnight Robber* in their robber talk to empower themselves against the oppressor. Three contemporary 'robber' talk pieces will be analyzed and compared to show how they reflect Trinidad and Tobago's culture and how they help individuals express their feelings towards their country. [keishlagonzalez06@gmail.com](mailto:keishlagonzalez06@gmail.com) [hilda.l.silva@upr.edu](mailto:hilda.l.silva@upr.edu) [krys.tayca@gmail.com](mailto:krys.tayca@gmail.com)

Kevin Kelly-Cooke (University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo) - *Decolonizing Spirits through an Examination of Caribbean Aboriginal Oral Literature*. This paper utilizes a multidisciplinary approach in an exploration of the violent European ethnocentric epistemologies that gained momentum with the Reconquista, and eventually silenced Caribbean Aboriginal peoples, including their histories, cultures, religion, and oral literature. The main focus is an analysis of the Oral Literature of the Caribbean First peoples that inhabited the Greater Antilles at the time of Columbus 'arrival, with a special focus on how Spirituality is revealed in their oral folklore and mythology.

Bio: Kevin G. Kelly-Cooke holds an MA in TESL from Inter American University and a PhD in English from the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras. His current research includes Oral Literature and different forms of spirituality and how they are explored in Literature. Additional areas of interest include languages, indenture, and the history of the Caribbean. [kevin.kelly@upr.edu](mailto:kevin.kelly@upr.edu)

Krizzia Soto-Villanueva (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - *Material Culture of Santería and other Afro-Caribbean spiritual traditions*. The forced migration of African individuals to Puerto Rico during the first period of colonization on the island was a catalyst for religious and cultural syncretism amongst enslaved populations. While African influence led to the creation of Afro-Caribbean religions, blanketed by the previously derogatory (and now colloquial) term Santería, the geographic, climactic, and social conditions of practitioners required substitutions in the materials used to practice these religions. Due to this, Orisha worshippers in Puerto Rico employ diverse materials and sources for their religious practice.

Bio: Krizzia Soto-Villanueva was born in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. She is an undergraduate student at the University of Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras pursuing a degree in Anthropology and Archaeology with a second major in Foreign Languages. Her research interests include religions, mortuary practices, precolonial and postcolonial African history, anthropology, and archaeology, queer theory, and critical theory and methodology. [krizzia.soto@upr.edu](mailto:krizzia.soto@upr.edu)

Leroy Lashley (Miami Dade College) - *Motherlands and Dominators in the History of the Calypso*. One may view the history of the circulation of the calypso as having two major aspects. One is circulation in specific destinations that include the land of origin, that is the island of Trinidad; the other islands of the Caribbean; the "mother lands" of the kaisomasters, especially Africa, but also India and Europe; and sources of influence on the music, which include the above sources and add North America. Another way to view the history of the circulation of the calypso is in terms of the destinations that influence the calypso via consumption or their validation of the music. This allows us to create a hierarchy on the basis of how much the destinations influence the music through their consumption of it and their validation of it. The elaboration of this hierarchy seems to reveal the presence of a tug-of-war in the Caribbean between orientation to motherlands (Africa and India) and orientation to colonial or neo-colonial dominators (Europe and North America).

Bio: Leroy Lashley is an authority on the history of the calypso, the author of a highly commended and ground-breaking dissertation on the calypso as a form of mass communication, and professor in the Department of English at Miami Dade College. [krizzia.soto@upr.edu](mailto:krizzia.soto@upr.edu)



Lilybeth Shields Cruz (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - "What makes a man a man?": Masculinity in Willi Chen's Crossbones. Willi Chen's Crossbones is a collection of short fiction that comments on the social realities of life in the Caribbean. Chen uses metaphors as his narrative device to present moments of ordinary life and to reflect on cultural and societal realities of marginalized communities in Trinidad. He shows how individual actions impact both the individual and community. Several of the stories explore and critique gender performance, especially how masculinity is constructed and performed in Trinidadian society. In these short stories, Chen shows us the expectations placed upon men and the actions taken to fulfill those expectations. This paper engages masculinity theory to read "The Legend of Jhon Saroppa" and "Anita, Ahong and Acham" and explain Chen's exploration of masculinity and his critique of how it generates social and individual anxieties and problems in the community. Bio: Lilybeth Shields Cruz is a graduate student in English at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. Her area of interests include children's television programs as literature and literature and popular culture. [lilybeth.shields@upr.edu](mailto:lilybeth.shields@upr.edu)

Lorenice Reyes Sostre, Haydie Mora Lugo, and Astrid Salvá Rivera (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Estudio exploratorio: El lenguaje inclusivo en Puerto Rico. Nuestra forma de comunicarnos va evolucionando paulatinamente. La lengua española ha sufrido constantes modificaciones para convertirse en lo que conocemos hoy. Por ende, varias personas, principalmente de la comunidad LGBTIQ+ y movimientos feministas buscan implantar un lenguaje inclusivo en el que se reemplaza la letra 'o' y 'a' por la 'e', la 'x', la '@' y las 'os/as' y, asimismo, utilizan ciertas variaciones como: "los ciudadanos y las ciudadanas" o "les miembros." Es por esto que el objetivo de esta investigación es explorar el carácter del lenguaje inclusivo en Puerto Rico y sus variaciones. Para realizar este estudio, se llevó a cabo un cuestionario en forma electrónica sobre la aceptabilidad y utilización del lenguaje inclusivo en Puerto Rico. Algunos de los resultados fueron: 44% de los datos reportaron utilizar la 'x' inclusiva, el 83% de los datos reportaron el uso de la preferencia 'todos/todas' y el 60.2% de los datos prefirió utilizar la '@' en la palabra 'compañeros' (entiéndase, compañer@s).

Bio: Lorenice Reyes Sostre es estudiante de maestría en la Universidad de Puerto Rico, recinto de Río Piedras. Actualmente cursa su primer año de maestría con intereses en el feminismo, la ideología y la articulación fonética. Su bachillerato fue en Psicología con una segunda concentración en Lenguas Extranjeras, así que, su pasión por estudiar el lenguaje comenzó cuando tomó las clases de lenguas en Humanidades. Entonces, fue gracias a las humanidades que conoció el carácter dominante del lenguaje y sus consecuencias. Es importante establecer que, esta investigación se hizo en conjunto con dos compañeras, quienes le dieron el permiso de presentar la investigación. [lorenice.reyes@upr.edu](mailto:lorenice.reyes@upr.edu)

Marina Martínez - The use of Mouth Morphemes in Puerto Rican sign language. Although mouth morphemes (MM) in sign languages (SL) have been the object of multiple investigations (Bridges, 2007; Bridges & Metzger, 1996; Crasborn & et al. 2008; Liddell, 1980), no research has focused on the use of MM by native signers from Puerto Rico. One way to categorize MM diachronically in Puerto Rico is in terms of whether they can be traced back to a mouthing from spoken Spanish, or to mouth gestures of PRSL. In this study, we found the evidence of mouthing borrowed from Spanish NA (from nada) used with the sign meaning nothing. And while the mouth gesture PO (from poco) is related to 'really small' in some varieties, in PRSL it is used as a classifier that describes the process of giving birth. [marinamtzcora@gmail.com](mailto:marinamtzcora@gmail.com)

Meagan Sylvester (University of West Indies, St. Augustine) - "Memorialising The Mighty Shadow" -Personal, Collective and Cultural Memory in Calypso." Several scholars of Caribbean popular culture contend that Calypso music is a form of social and political expression. Towards this end, they have identified "historical memory" and "chronicle of current events" as the primary function of this musical genre. Using this analysis as a frame of reference, this paper focuses on the memorialisation of Calypsonians and the Calypso artform. Specifically, focus will be placed on the lyrical narratives of Calypsonian Shadow from Trinidad and Tobago, who recently passed away in October 2018. His work over the last 40 odd years has explained life lessons through the themes of poverty, pressure, friendship, honesty, jealousy, survival, truth, human rights, happiness and self-expression. Through an examination of his essential themes this work will examine how we can use personal, collective and cultural memory to re-interpret and re-imagine Shadow's lyrics as they speak to modern-day issues affecting Trinidadian society. Bio: Senior Lecturer, music sociologist and researcher, Meagan Sylvester is a published author of over fifteen book chapters and journal articles and is a well-known public academic in her native Trinidad and Tobago where she participates in both television and radio discussions on the Calypso and Soca musical artforms. Her research topics of interest are music and national identity in Calypso and Soca, music of diasporic carnivals, narratives of resistance in Calypso and Ragga Soca music, Steelpan and Kaiso Jazz musical identities, gender and identity in Calypso and Soca music and music and human rights in the Americas. She has presented academic papers and hosted scholarly workshops in several spaces across the globe including Europe, Latin America, South America, the United States and numerous islands in the Caribbean. She has recently completed her a Ph.D. in Sociology of Music at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago and holds memberships in professional organizations including the Society for Ethnomusicology, the International Association of the Study of Popular Music, Caribbean Studies Association and the Association of Black Sociologists. She is a member of the board of the Trinbago Unified Calypsonians Organisation and functions as the Chair of the Education and Research Committee. Added to that, she is an Executive Board member of the Caribbean Studies Association with additional responsibilities as the Newsletter Editor



<http://www.caribbeanstudiesassociation.org/csacommittees/newsletter-editorial-team/> Further, she is member of the Editorial Board for the Commentaries Journal, Dutch Sint Maarten <http://pearlfrmradio.sx/2016/03/17/university-of-st-martin-officially-launched-their-online-journalentitled-commentaries/> [drmasylvester@hotmail.com](mailto:drmasylvester@hotmail.com)

Melinda Maxwell-Gibb (InterAmerican University, Metropolitan Campus) - The Migration of Native Americans from 'La Florida' into the Northern Caribbean.

Bio: Melinda Maxwell-Gibb, PhD, is Assistant Professor of English at Inter American University, Metropolitan Campus, in San Juan, PR and teaches a Children's Literature course in the Department of Graduate Studies, Education Faculty, at UPR, Rio Piedras. She holds a doctorate in Anglophone Caribbean Literature, from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. As a Native American scholar, her academic interests include (re)construction of language, (re)construction of history, (re)presentation of oral tradition/ceremony and other facets of modern tribal identity. [wolfspirit\\_mm@yahoo.com](mailto:wolfspirit_mm@yahoo.com) [mmaxwell@intermetro.edu](mailto:mmaxwell@intermetro.edu)

Michael Y. Cortés Bernard (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Divided by Oceans, Unified by Heritage: Trinidadian Calypso influence on Jamaican Ska. Errol Montes Pizarro in his book "Más Ramas que Raíces: Diálogos Musicales Entre el Caribe y el Continente Africano" created a metaphorical tree which places its roots in the most influential ethnicity of our Caribbean musical heritage, that of Africa. Montes Pizarro does not leave this tree branchless, but adds branches and twigs which represent multidirectional musical genres and subgenres developed throughout its history. In the middle of this natural expansion, in Trinidad, calypso was born. Thanks to major artists such as The Mighty Sparrow and Lord Invader, this musical genre traveled across the sea and made its way to Jamaica, thus influencing lyrically and sonorously groups such as Byron Lee & the Dragonaires, and leading to the creation of a new genre known as ska. Artists from these two genres (calypso and ska) have at times worked on projects together, such as in the album, titled "The Mighty Sparrow with Byron Lee and the Dragonaires- Sparrow Meets the Dragon" (1969). Ska has traveled across the world because of Jamaican migration, adding fruits to the metaphorical tree, such as rocksteady, reggae, and ska-punk).

Bio: Michael Y. Cortés Bernard is a student in the Master of Arts program of the English Department at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. His interests in the field lean towards the impact artists exert through their musical compositions, both sonorously and lyrically. [michael.cortes@upr.edu](mailto:michael.cortes@upr.edu)

Michelle Ramos Rodríguez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - The Unreal Beauty of the Virgin Islands: An Examination of the Caribbean Landscape in the Poetry of Diana Stewart-Walker and Patricia G. Turnbull. The Caribbean islands' landscapes are essential elements in Caribbean poetry. The literary representations of these landscapes range from showcasing their natural beauty to showcasing their topographic traces of the traumatic historical experiences of slavery and colonialization. Caribbean poets hence conceptualize, contemplate and record their islands' spaces as contradictory locations of both extreme beauty and extreme suffering. In Where I See the Sun: Contemporary Poetry in the Virgin Islands, I examine how Diana Stewart-Walker and Patricia G. Turnbull represent the landscape and ecology of the British Virgin Islands through two diverging portrayals of nature. First, I show how they focus on the attractive aspects of the ecosystem of their archipelago. Second, I show how they highlight the hauntings of past and the uncertainties and abuses of the present that are recorded in both the landscape and its people.

Bio: Michelle Ramos-Rodríguez is a graduate student at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus pursuing her Master of Arts degree in English. Her major focus is Caribbean literature, particularly in the representation of violence, trauma, and nature. [michelleramrod@gmail.com](mailto:michelleramrod@gmail.com)

Miguel A. de Jesús Colón (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Historical and mythical stereotypes of the Caribbean in video games. The film franchise Pirates of the Caribbean was a worldwide success, set during the Golden Age of Piracy. This movie series produced several successful video games, such as, Lego: Pirates of the Caribbean. In fact, most video games do not portray the Caribbean of the present, but instead they are often set during the times of piracy and famous historical naval battles in the region. This presentation aims to explore the historical and mythical stereotypes portrayed in video games set in the Caribbean, paying particular attention to games such as Lego: Pirates of the Caribbean, Assassin's Creed 4 and Raven's Cry, in order to compare the recurring themes and stereotypes found in them. Also, we will analyze how these video games perpetuate stereotypes that might shape current perceptions of the Caribbean.

Bio: Miguel A. de Jesús Colón is an English (Linguistics) graduate student at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras and an English teacher in the Department of Education of Puerto Rico. His research interests include linguistic landscape, bilingualism, linguistic anthropology, discourse analysis, applied linguistics and TESL. He enjoys creative writing and acting. [madjc07@gmail.com](mailto:madjc07@gmail.com)

Monica Oizumi (University of the Virgin Islands) - An Exercise in Translation II. La traducción que hice del cuento corto "The Girl Who Hugged Trees", escrito por la Dra. Harkins-Pierre, es un ejercicio de traducción de una historia supuestamente narrada por una niña. La intención de la traducción es la de mantener la voz de la narradora como la de una niña, con coloquialismos



adecuados para su edad, sin darle una voz adulta. Por otro lado, la traducción del poema escrito por el Dr. Cooper, "Festivales de Santiago", tiene un sabor cubano y adulto, con mucho ritmo, como si la obra estuviese bailando. En este caso mantener ese son y fluidez ha sido la meta. Una traducción, dijo Nicanor Parra, es una "tradicción", porque el traductor tiene que interpretar la voz, para poder darle el mismo sonido en otro idioma. Escribí el micro cuento "Cumbiando huracanes", después de Irma y María. Trabajaba como profesora Ad Honorem de Español en un colegio católico. El colegio y la catedral comparten dos veredas con un par de bares, un sastrecillo, una peluquería, dos fritanguerías y un burdel. No había electricidad en buena parte de la vecindad. Algunos negocios tenían generadores de energía, uno de ellos el bar. El ejercicio de traducción del Dr. Cooper es una colaboración para compartir el sentimiento de confusión y angustia que cuenta en español, conservando la misma intención en inglés.

Bio: Ms. Mónica Oizumi earned her Master's Degree in Spanish and Latin American Literatures at the University of Oklahoma, and now teaches Spanish at UVI. Along with Clemen Starks, Laureate Poet of Oregon, she attended numerous academic conferences and seminars to present her work on Chilean writer Nicanor Parra's antipoetry. [monica.oizumi@uvi.edu](mailto:monica.oizumi@uvi.edu)

Myriam Moïse (Université des Antilles in Martinique) - Reimagining the Forbidden Fruit: A Caribbean Ecofeminist Poetics of Resistance. Jamaican poets Olive Senior and Opal Palmer Adisa both engage in a process of feminization of the Caribbean environment through its ability to reproduce and liberate itself from the constraints of hegemonic systems. As Édouard Glissant would put it, "releasing the relationship to the landscape by the poetic act, by the poetic word, is the work of liberation" (79). Thus Senior and Adisa's poetry focus on staging the hybridization of elements of Caribbean biodiversity that seem to merge freely with female bodies. This paper will explore selected excerpts so as to demonstrate how our two female eco-poets allegorize specific elements of Caribbean vegetation as intrinsically linked to black female sexuality. For instance, the bamboo is seen as the allegory of resistance and the phallic symbol of immortality. The two poets, however, offer a different vision of the bamboo and imagine a dialogic relationship between bamboo and female sexuality. Whether it is "bamboo love" or "bamboo fingers", natural components intermingle with female sexualities. As for the star-apple, it may represent the Caribbean version of the forbidden fruit that allows the liberation of Caribbean female subjectivities.

Bio: Myriam Moïse is an Associate Professor of English at the Université des Antilles in Martinique, and Secretary-General of Universities Caribbean, the Association of Universities and Research Institutes of the Caribbean. A permanent researcher at the Caribbean Social Sciences Research Lab (LC2S/CNRS-UMR 8053), she holds a Doctorate in Anglophone Studies from Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris, and a PhD in Literatures in English from the University of the West Indies in Trinidad. Her research fields include Postcolonial Studies, Gender Studies and Discourse Analysis, with a special focus on the literary and artistic productions by women of African Caribbean descent. Dr Moïse is very committed to developing research and educational projects in the Caribbean region and the Americas. She has been recently elected executive member of the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), and recruited as external French advisor at the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) in Barbados. In June 2019, she was awarded a Fulbright Research Fellowship and will thus spend 6 months at Emory University in Atlanta from January 2020. Myriam Moïse has published a number of book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals, including Commonwealth Essays and Studies, PoCo Pages, Vertigo and Routledge Atlantic Studies. She is an affiliated member of ACWWS (Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars) and an active member of SAES (Higher Education Society for Anglophone Studies) in France. [myriam\\_moise@hotmail.com](mailto:myriam_moise@hotmail.com)

Nadjah Ríos Villarini and Mirerza González Vélez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Caribbean Diasporas: Panorama of Carnival Practices, a Website Prototype. Caribbean Diasporas: Panorama of Carnival Practices is a Digital Humanities initiative by The Diaspora Project aiming to revitalize, reuse and recover primary and secondary sources, as well as artifacts, all related to carnival practices and mobility in the Caribbean. Recent discussions within both popular and scholarly circles have promoted conceptions of human movement or migration with negative valences; migration is understood as deviation, displacement, invasion, an exceptional state or problematic condition that requires remedies or interventions. This paper discusses the main features of this initiative and theoretically addresses mobility in the Caribbean as the norm, demonstrated through the analysis of an array of Caribbean carnival practices. [nadjah.rios@upr.edu](mailto:nadjah.rios@upr.edu) [mirerza.gonzalez1@upr.edu](mailto:mirerza.gonzalez1@upr.edu)

Nagueyalti Warren (Emory University) - Ted Bundy and Elements of Greek Tragedy in Land of Love and Drowning. Tiphanie Yanique's award-winning novel set in Saint Thomas, VIUS, Land of Love and Drowning, is a mirror of past and present attitudes capable of wreaking havoc on the future. Despite all the aphorisms regarding physical beauty: beauty is only skin deep, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and we follow the opinion of the hegemonic eye. There is a standard and society falls into lock step with those in power. The U.S. Virgin Islands offers a case in point. The egregious serial killer Ted Bundy is another example of humans being duped by external appearances. It was difficult to see Bundy as a murderer, not because he was male. No, most serial killers are men. Not because he was white, as most are also white. The unrecognizability of Bundy as killer lay in the fact that he was handsome. His good looks possessed beauty that charmed. Beauty functioned to dissipate accountability. A one-eyed cyclops or beast is easily blamed. Eeona the beautiful daughter in the novel reveals the absurdity of judging by physical appearances. Yanique engages elements of Sophocles' and Euripides' Electra as well as the Electra complex introduced by Jung



and found in the poetry of Sylvia Plath. This essay examines the novel considering these many layered elements of psychology and myth. Within the politics of the novel is the Island's physical beauty juxtaposed to the exploitative behavior of the US mainland. Bio: Nagueyalti Warren, Professor of Pedagogy Emerita African American Studies, Emory University, is a poet and academic. Her publications include "Margaret" winner of the Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award and "Braided Memory" winner of the Violet Reed Haas Poetry Award. She is editor of Temba Tupu! (Walking Naked) The Africana Women's Poetic Self-Portrait. Her poetry has appeared in Essence Magazine, Cave Canem Anthology, The Ringing Ear, Obsession, 44 on 44 and elsewhere. She is a Cave Canem graduate fellow. Warren also is author of W.E.B. Du Bois: Grandfather of Black Studies published by Africa World Press and Alice Walker's Metaphysics: Literature of Spirit published by Roman and Littlefield. [nwarren@emory.edu](mailto:nwarren@emory.edu)

Nicholas Faraclas (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) – Workshop: Bridging the Cultural Divide Part 2: Home Languages in the Classroom. It is easy to forget that the great majority of foreign language immersion classrooms worldwide are to be found in the formal education systems of the USVI and the rest of the Caribbean, Africa, the Pacific, and Asia, where more than 40 per cent of the world's primary and secondary school students are immersed daily in a colonial language that is not one of their home languages, and very often is not even one of their strong second languages. The less than optimal results of this colonial/neocolonial immersion approach have been well documented and the rights of children of all nations to home language education have been proclaimed, but communities across the globe who have taken the decision to remedy this situation face stiff opposition, not only because of the external ideological legacies of colonialism that continue to influence formal education policy and practice, but also because of the internalized ideological legacies of colonialism that continue to influence the attitudes of parents and teachers. This commonly results in an unproductive situation where home languages are pitted against colonial languages in a zero-sum game. In this workshop, we attempt to move beyond this exclusive binary toward inclusion to demonstrate how the replacement of a colonial/neocolonial monolithic conception of immersion by postcolonial understandings of immersion based on such concepts as plurilingualism and translanguaging can bring about more desirable outcomes in terms of students' skills in both home and colonial languages, as well as in areas such as critical thinking and linguistic creativity.

Bio:

Nicholas Faraclas is a Professor in Linguistics at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. Having received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley, he has published widely in theoretical, descriptive, social, and applied linguistics, promoted community based literacy projects, and conducted research on the languages of Africa, the South Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. [nickfaraclas@yahoo.com](mailto:nickfaraclas@yahoo.com)

Nickesha Dawkins (University of West Indies, Cave Hill) - Styling through Rhyming: Acoustic Variation of Vowels in Jamaican Dancehall Lyrics. The main purpose of this research is to investigate the phonetic variation of select vowels in the song lyrics of Jamaican Dancehall artists via acoustic measurements. Thus, it provides an insight into the study of vowel use by male and female artists in the Dancehall music genre. The acoustic manipulation of these dancehall artists' vowels as it pertains to vowel height (F1), vowel frontness (F2) and fundamental frequency (FO) can be influenced by social factors such as style, gender and identity. A feature such as pitch is "an unconscious yet socially and culturally constructed linguistic property" (Yuasa 2008, 1). Pitch can be roughly determined by anatomical differences of individuals; it can at the same time be an excellent linguistic resource which carries meaning such as gender identity and other socially salient categories (Yuasa 2008). As Foulkes & Docherty state "the socially constructed category of gender...overlaps considerably with the biological category of sex, and the phonetic cues for gender, such as relatively high FO, may be parasitic on phonetic differences derived from biological differences" (2006, 411). In Jamaican Dancehall, both men and women project different identities through their manipulation of acoustic and prosodic features on their vowels used in their rhyming syllables, and this is demonstrated with an intended audience in mind. After conducting the acoustic measurements, it was revealed that regardless of the type of vowel (high front, low and back, etc.), variation of the vowels' formant frequencies relating to pitch (FO), height (F1) and frontness (F2) are also impacted by gender. That is, both male and female artists raise the pitch of a vowel, the height of a vowel and produce their vowel more front than their average when targeting/addressing a female audience. On the other hand, a low pitch, the lowering of a vowel and the backing of a vowel is demonstrated when targeting/addressing a male audience.

Bio: Nickesha Dawkins completed her PhD degree at The University of the West Indies, Mona where she lectured in the Department of Language Linguistics and Philosophy part time for 9 years while writing her thesis. She currently lectures fulltime in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Barbados. [nickesha.dawkins@gmail.com](mailto:nickesha.dawkins@gmail.com)

Otis Alexander (Florida Memorial University) - Centering Négritude and the Harlem Renaissance. The Négritude, Negritsmo and Harlem Renaissance Movements are concepts and philosophical ideologies responding to the treatment and historical omission of Africans, the African in the Diaspora, and people of color by elite Europeans. These activities were necessary to express self-worth, self-identity, expression, and economic and psychological growth and development as human beings. Martinican, Jamaican, and the Virgin Islands intellectuals and artistic pioneers were on the frontline in redefining the existence of Africans and those in the Diaspora as part of these movements, and all of them were conscious of the fact that their true identity, their mission in



life, passion, humanity, pain, and agony stemmed from some aspect of the transatlantic slave trade and/ or oppressive colonization. These personalities were able to identify that their present and future were in the hands of the European who gained economically by their labor, insecurities, and who stripped them of their names, religions, languages, and indigenous ties. Négritude and the Harlem Renaissance brought about self-awareness, and constituted some of the most outstanding and remarkable cultural and literary movements embedded in the self-identity of Africans and the African in the Diaspora ever to appear on earth. The Négritude, Harlem Renaissance, and Negrismo Movements appear to have just sprung up like dandelions with, their seeds spreading globally. Some scholars place their origins somewhere in the 1920s while others indicate the 1930s. This paper will focus on contributors to the Négritude movement, such as Aimé Césaire, Franz Fanon, Léopold Sédar Senghor, Léon Damas, Paulette Nardal, Jane Nardal, Cheikh Anta Diop, and Paulette Nardal as well as on the West Indian contributions to the Harlem Renaissance, such as Hubert Harrison, Marcus Garvey, J.A. Rogers, and J. Antonio Jarvis.

Bio: Otis 'Sule' Alexander's research has appeared in *Virginia Libraries Journal*, *Scribner's Encyclopedia of American Lives*, *African-American National Biography*, *Virgin Islands Daily News*, the volume *Still not equal: expanding educational opportunity in society*, the *St. Croix Avis*, [ilovelibraries.org](http://ilovelibraries.org) and *Public Library Quarterly* as excerpts from his doctoral dissertation. Alexander is a retired music teacher from the Government of the Virgin Islands and now teaches Applied Music at Florida Memorial University. [oalexander@maufl.edu](mailto:oalexander@maufl.edu)

Patricia Harkins-Pierre (University of the Virgin Islands) - An Exercise in Translation I. In the fall of 2008, Mayapple Press published a volume of poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction titled *Greenhouse* in honor of Theodore Roethke, who referenced his father's greenhouse in several poems. This anthology, often featured during the year-long centennial celebration of the Pulitzer-Prize winner, showcases the work of twenty-one authors. All of them had participated in the highly competitive Rustbelt Roethke Writer's Workshop/ Retreat. I was the only writer from outside the mainland United States to be selected for the workshop. One of my short stories, "The Girl Who Hugged Trees," (written at the Retreat) was chosen for the *Greenhouse* anthology. The founder of the Retreat, Dr Judith Kerman, is also the founder and editor of Mayapple Press. She is fully bi-lingual and I was delighted when she proposed translating "The Girl Who Hugged Trees" into Spanish. Unfortunately, that project was never realized. However, ten years later the same story is finally being translated into Spanish, by my UVI colleague, Bolivian poet and short story writer, Monica Oizumi. In this presentation, we will share my short story, and her translation of it.

Bio: Dr. Patricia Harkins-Pierre teaches English and Creative Writing at UVI. She earned her PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she studied with Nobel Prize Winner Derek Walcott. She represented the USVI at the Parnassus Poetry Event at the 2012 Summer Olympics. Her poetry collection, *Prophets of Morning Light*, was published by Negative Capability Press. [pharkin@uvi.edu](mailto:pharkin@uvi.edu)

Paul Lippert Figueroa (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Cuba and Puerto Rico: A long tradition of shared history viewed through Latina literature. Cuba and Puerto Rico have a long tradition of shared history. Puerto Rican abolitionist and pro-independence activists aspired for the unification of the islands under an Antillean Confederation. Puerto Rican activist Lola Rodriguez de Tio called the islands "two wings of the same bird", and even their flags have the same design with their colors inverted, to express their mutual struggle for liberation. Despite centuries of joined struggle and a multitude of cultural similarities, their political destinies took radical turns in the Spanish-American War in 1898, the formation of the Estado Libre Asociado in 1952, and Castro's revolution in 1959. Concurrently thousands of Puerto Ricans and Cubans have relocated to the United States, where, because of the particularities of the United States' relationships with each island, Cuban-Americans and diasporic Puerto Ricans experiences are radically different, deepening the divide between the two sister nations. In this presentation, I show how these differences are exposed in Contemporary Latina Literature, notably through the character Lourdes in Cristina Garcia's *Dreaming in Cuban* and Marisol in Judith Ortiz Cofer's *Line of the Sun*.

Bio: Paul Lippert Figueroa is an MA student in English Literature at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, founder of the liberation education teacher training program *Proyecto Cordero Belpre*, and high school English teacher at Colegio San Antonio in Rio Piedras. [Paulo.Figueroa@gmail.com](mailto:Paulo.Figueroa@gmail.com)

Ramón Soto-Crespo (University of Illinois) - Decapitalized Subjects in Eastern Caribbean Literature. My presentation tackles contemporary ecological works in the Americas that depict the environmental conditions after the demise of the plantation complex. It analyzes tropes of obsolete market forces in postcolonial fiction. It addresses issues relevant to the growing field of the environmental humanities and humanistic studies of climate change. The presentation tackles concerns of the posthuman turn in the humanities. It explores the connections between human and non-human ecologies in literatures of the Americas. Post-plantation ecologies are saturated with decay and ghosts but also with new luminous vibrancies that intermingle the human and non-human in unexpected ways. My presentation discusses the post-plantation world of animated objects in terms of Jane Bennett's *Vibrant Matter* (2009) work on vibrancy in the non-human world, which she defines as a "vitality intrinsic to materiality" and as an "active, earthy, not-quite-human capaciousness" (Vibrant 3). Bennett's theory allows us to examine works by Rosario Ferré, Enrique Laguerre, Judith Ortiz Cofer, Christopher Nicole and Tiphanie Yanique in a new light.



Bio: Ramón E. Soto-Crespo is Associate Professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His essays have appeared in *Atlantic Studies*, *American Literary History*, *Modern Language Notes*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Contemporary Literature*, and *Textual Practice*. He is the author of *Mainland Passage: The Cultural Anomaly of Puerto Rico* (2009), which won honorable mention at the 2009 Modern Language Association Prize in the United States Latino and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies competition. His book *White Trash Menace and Hemispheric Fiction* is forthcoming in January 2020. [ramonsoto123@gmail.com](mailto:ramonsoto123@gmail.com)

Rikke Halberg (Lund University, Sweden) - The Nameless and the Named: Black Female Caretakers in the Danish West Indies 1848-1917. This presentation focuses on the representation of black, female caretakers in the Danish West Indies. It is based on empirical findings in Danish archives, libraries and museum collections, including paintings, photographs, artefacts, book excerpts and letters. The Black, female caretaker – nurse, nanny, nana – is abundantly represented in the archives. But names and other information about the women are rare. Central to the presentation are three letters, written by an African Caribbean woman in the early 1870s. The letters are sent from St. Croix to Europe, and are addressed to a white, Danish woman. They're simply signed "Nanna". The letters are a very rare record of the words of a working class African Caribbean woman in the Danish West Indies. Although only a few pages altogether, the letters are rich and enlightening. They provide a voice, a name and a biography and shed a sliver of light on the life, thoughts, hopes and worries of a Black, female caretaker. They also allow for new nuances, perspectives and understanding of the many nameless representations. The letters are kept in a personal file at the National Archives in Denmark. The author of each letter's real name has been obscured, and it was only possible to learn these important pieces of information by cooperating with USVI historians. The result of this investigative and collaborative work will be presented at the conference.

Bio: Rikke Lie Halberg is a historian and a doctoral student at Lund University in Sweden. Her research and work focus on the history of the Danish West Indies, especially on the cultural and social history of slavery and labour. [rikkehalberg@gmail.com](mailto:rikkehalberg@gmail.com)

Rosadel Santos (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Community archives: Archivo Digital de Fundación Culebra. Given the current economic hardships facing Puerto Rico in the aftermath of the financial crisis and the impact of Hurricane Maria, local communities are struggling with the finding of resources for acquisition, conservation and management of their collective memory. This paper describes how the Culebra Foundation through its partnership with UPR is actively engaged in the structuring of community archives through the Fundación Culebra Digital Community Archive. The paper proposes how this project could provide a model for how community members can engage in the management, cataloging and preservation of cultural artifacts using tools provided by digital humanities. [rosadel.santos@upr.edu](mailto:rosadel.santos@upr.edu)

Sally J. Delgado (University of Puerto Rico, Cayey) - The hurricane does not roar in academic recess: A call to share creative educational strategies in a Caribbean context. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports a total of 677 weather events from tropical storms to category 5 hurricanes that have passed through the Caribbean over the 165 years that their records cover, from 1852 to 2017 (NOAA, 2019). In 2017 alone, four hurricanes passed over the Eastern Caribbean (Harvey, Irma, Jose and Maria) two of which achieved category 5 intensity before or soon after making landfall during the academic year. For many, Maria tore the most damaging diagonal scar through the region, shredding already insufficient electrical grids, ripping apart homes, washing away belongings and leaving multitudes at risk with regard to food security, public safety and medical care during the semester. Just as Brathwaite recognized: "The hurricane does not roar in pentameter" (1984: 10) meaning that, just as imported literary forms are unsuitable to express Caribbean poetry, similarly, imported curricula and academic models often fail to serve Caribbean students who are impacted at regular points in the academic year as a result of increasingly extreme weather events. This paper presents some collective and creative approaches to educational adaptation that were effectively employed at the University of Puerto Rico and invites educators of the Eastern Caribbean to share their own creative strategies designed to mitigate academic setbacks and meet students' physical and emotional needs in hurricane-prone academic environments. Rather than sharing any one model of best practice, the aim of this paper is to create a bank of grassroots ideas and resources for publication and open access among Caribbean educators.

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Bio: Sally J. Delgado teaches linguistics and ESL at the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey. Her book, *Ship English: Sailors' speech in the early colonial Caribbean* (2019), aims to voice some of the hidden histories behind Caribbean dialectology. She has published several articles on maritime history, education, and sociolinguistics. [sallyj.delgado@upr.edu](mailto:sallyj.delgado@upr.edu)

Samantha Nordholt Aagaard (Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark) - 'Too Lazy as Captain': New Insights into the Organization of the Fireburn of 1878. On October 1, 1878, a labor uprising broke out in the town of Frederiksted on St. Croix in



the Danish West Indies, today the US Virgin Islands. Within four days hundreds of laborers destroyed and burned down a third of Frederiksted and more than half of the plantations on the island. This vast destruction by fire gave the uprising its name: Fireburn. Today, the uprising and its famous heroine leaders Queen Mary, Queen Agnes, Queen Mathilda and Queen Susanna are celebrated and commemorated every year. Though popular, Fireburn has not undergone much research and little is known about the organization of the riot and the rebel groups. In my presentation, I seek to address this research lacuna. Through an examination of the police records and court proceedings generated during the legal aftermath of Fireburn, this paper discusses the processes that influenced the organization of the rebel group referred to by the legal institutions as 'the North Side Gang'. I argue that the organization of and actions taken by this group during the riot was not entirely, as stated by the legal institutions, a result of a few designated leaders, as the four women mentioned above, but also, to a great extent, influenced by the collective actions and negotiations that unfolded among the so-called rebels as they set out to challenge the harsh labor regime established by the Danish colonial state and elite planters in St. Croix.

Bio: Samantha Nordholt Aagaard is a research assistant at the Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. She holds an MA in History from the University of Copenhagen and her thesis is titled One of the Worst Rebels: Leadership during the Labor Riot 'Fireburn' of 1878, Danish West Indies [in Danish]. [aagaard@hum.ku.dk](mailto:aagaard@hum.ku.dk)

Sherean M. Shehada Hader (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Filling the Gaps of History: Hubert Henry Harrison and the struggle for African Diaspora Race Consciousness. Hubert H. Harrison's revolutionary role as an Afro-Crucian-American advocate of human rights, especially his place in the Harlem Renaissance and the rise of Black race consciousness has remained largely unrecognized, if not silenced, in the history of African American struggles for racial equality in the United States of America. While names such as Arturo Alfonso Schomburg (Puerto Rico), Marcus Garvey (Jamaica), W.E.B Dubois, Malcolm X, Booker T. Washington (United States) etc., are always mentioned, Crucian Hubert Henry Harrison is hardly ever mentioned in this history. David Edgecombe's visionary play Hubert Harrison is, as I argue, a timely intervention and reminder of the role played by this Crucian thinker in the narratives about how Caribbean people helped shape African diaspora consciousness in the United States of America. As I show in this paper, Edgecombe does not romanticize and glorify Harrison. Rather he explores Harrison's complex nature and qualities, which often were misunderstood, especially in his ideological differences with other African American leaders of the time. I focus on how his rigid philosophy that higher education is the only path to the upliftment of African Diaspora peoples, ran at loggerheads with the accommodationist ideology held by the celebrated Booker T. Washington. These intra-black disagreements, as I show through Edgecombe's play, were further complicated by his Caribbean cultural origins that set him apart from the predominantly American origins of the leadership. I conclude that Edgecombe's play showcases Harrison as tragic figure through dramatic explorations of his lack of flexibility, and his isolation from, and final rejection by, the Black activist community in the U.S.

Bio: Sherean M Shehada Hader is a doctoral student in English at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. [sherean.shehada@upr.edu](mailto:sherean.shehada@upr.edu)

Sofía T. Lebrón Sepúlveda (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Un Análisis de Sentimiento del Discurso Mediático Sobre el Huracán María en el Caribe. Las expresiones lingüísticas más primitivas de los seres humanos se relacionan con la necesidad, los deseos, las emociones y las evaluaciones (Taboada, 2016). Estas últimas, las emociones y las evaluaciones, se estudian desde el Análisis de Sentimiento (AS), "un campo de estudio que analiza las opiniones de las personas, los sentimientos, las evaluaciones, la estimación, las actitudes y las emociones hacia entidades como productos, servicios, organizaciones, individuos, problemas, eventos, temas, y sus atributos" (Bing Liu, 2012, p. 7). Para establecer si un texto es positivo, negativo o neutral, es necesario descifrar la subjetividad de este. La subjetividad en el lenguaje natural se refiere a los aspectos del lenguaje que se utilizan para expresar opiniones y evaluaciones. En este estudio se explica el proceso de AS según los dos acercamientos principales básicos que existen para procesar en los niveles de documentos, frases y palabras a través del sistema de base léxica con diccionarios predeterminados o a través de aprendizaje en máquina. Este trabajo utiliza los comentarios relacionados con el huracán María, generados en las publicaciones del periódico El Nuevo Día y en la red social Facebook durante 15 días en el mes de septiembre de 2017 y 2018. El AS se realizó en dos niveles, frase y documento, para así explorar cuál sería el más efectivo para los comentarios. Según los resultados, el nivel más efectivo fue el de frase con el método de base léxica. Además, se presentan varias imágenes de tipo nube de las palabras más frecuentes de las cuatro publicaciones más comentadas, tanto en texto como en video, de ambos años. Estas nubes presentan un resumen temático de los comentarios generados. Estos resultados forman parte de los primeros resultados experimentales del AS con datos extraídos de Facebook relacionados con el huracán María. [sofia.lebron@upr.edu](mailto:sofia.lebron@upr.edu)

Tami Navarro (Barnard College) - Financial Services as 'Development' in the Caribbean: Dispatches from the USVI. This talk addresses the effects of a tax exemption program, the Economic Development Commission (EDC), operating in the US Virgin Islands, and engages primarily with the operation of this program on the largest and most economically troubled of these islands, St. Croix. St. Croix has long sought a way to stimulate its lagging economy. While its sister islands of St. Thomas and St. John



have both fared well economically, St. Croix has struggled for decades because tourism, the economic development avenue pursued by many Caribbean countries since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, has not been a significant growth industry on the island. In 2001, the local government of the USVI instituted the EDC program, which I situate in the long history of racialized capital accumulation in the Caribbean. Emerging out of an industrialization program, and beginning in earnest in the mid-2000s, this initiative encourages financial services companies to relocate to these American-owned islands and marks the emergence of the USVI as a node in global financial circuits. In exchange for generous tax holidays, including an exemption from 90% of US federal income taxes, EDC companies are expected to stimulate the local economy by hiring local workers and donating to charitable causes in the territory. In this paper, I trace the paradigm shifts in Latin America and the Caribbean that have led to initiatives such as the EDC program, which portray engagements with financial markets as the path toward 'development' for these historically-marginalized spaces.

Bio: Tami Navarro is the Associate Director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women and Editor of the journal Scholar and Feminist Online. She holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Duke University and is completing the manuscript, Virgin Capital: Financial Services as Development in the US Virgin Islands (State University of New York Press). [tnavarro@barnard.edu](mailto:tnavarro@barnard.edu)

Tayzhaun Glover (Duke University) - Theorizing Agency and Slave Resistance in the Colonial Caribbean. What is agency? What is resistance? How does our understanding of these terms inform our view of enslaved people as historical actors? This paper offers a critical analysis of the ways in which Caribbean historiography has engaged with the question of black women's agency. Written in 1974, Lucille Mathurin Mair's dissertation, titled A Historical Study of Women in Jamaica, 1655-1844, challenged scholars of Caribbean slavery to include race, class and gender in the on-going discussion of slave resistance and agency. Since then, historians including Barbara Bush, Hilary McD. Beckles, Bernard Moitt and Marisa Fuentes have produced scholarship that collectively explores enslaved black women's actions on the plantation, in the marketplace and in the urban sector. I emphasize the ways that this scholarship has demonstrated the multifaceted nature of slave resistance, notably the ways in which enslaved people resisted to create worlds of their own that could exist within the power structure in which they lived. I also emphasize the ways in which intellectual production stood at the center of enslaved people's acts of resistance in the Caribbean. The paper then lays out some ways in which I hope to apply these approaches to a developing project on the nature of slave resistance in 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century St. Lucia.

Bio: Tayzhaun Glover is a second year PhD student in History at Duke University. His work focuses on enslaved people's intellectual production, slave resistance and survival in 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century St. Lucia. [tayzhaun.glover@duke.edu](mailto:tayzhaun.glover@duke.edu)

Tiphanie Yanique (Emory University), Tami Navarro (Barnard Center for Research on Women), Richard Georges (Writer), Katherine A. Smith (H. Lavity Stoutt Community College), LaVaughn Belle (Visual Artist), and Hadiya Sewer (Brown University) - Island Identities/National Imaginations: Exploring Social Justice Interventions around Issues of Coloniality in the British Virgin Islands and the US Virgin Islands. The members of the Virgin Islands Studies Collective in the USVI, and the Virgin Islands Studies Institute in the BVI will convene to discuss our respective work around issues of heritage, identity and social justice in and about each Virgin Islands territory. We will present our successes and challenges particularly around the issues of neo-colonialism and settler colonialism, as it regards identifying, preserving, and studying the culture of the Virgin Islands. We will seek to consider our different but overlapping histories as Virgin Islanders. Our presentation will take the form of a round table conversation, with extensive opportunity for audience questions, concerns and guidance. In particular, we will address the issue of colonial naming of The Virgin Islands, histories that unite the two territories, colonial structures that differentiate the two territories, the roles of settler colonialism and tourism in each territory and current actions each territory is taking via Virgin Islands Studies to address these topics. We will close by clarifying common goals, and finally attempting to identify a collaborative project to address one (or more) of these goals.

Bios:

Tiphanie Yanique is Associate Professor of Creative Writing and Caribbean Studies in the English Department at Emory University. Prof. Yanique is the author of the novel Land of Love and Drowning, which has won national, regional, and international awards—including the First Novel Award from the Center for Fiction. She is also the author of Wife, which won the Flaherty-Dunنان Award for the best first collection of poetry to be published in the UK. [tiphanie.yanique@emory.edu](mailto:tiphanie.yanique@emory.edu)

Tami Navarro is the Associate Director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW) and Editor of the journal Scholar and Feminist Online. She holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Duke University. She is currently completing a manuscript entitled Virgin Capital: Neoliberal Development in the US Virgin Islands to be published by the State University of New York Press. [tnavarro@barnard.edu](mailto:tnavarro@barnard.edu)

Richard Georges is the author of three collections of poetry and the editor of Moko, a journal of Caribbean arts and letters. He holds a PhD in Critical and Creative Writing from the University of Sussex and is currently working on various works of fiction set in the Virgin Islands. [richardgeorges@gmail.com](mailto:richardgeorges@gmail.com)

Dr. Katherine A. Smith is the Acting Director of the Virgin Islands Studies Institute at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College in the British Virgin Islands, where she is responsible, among other things, for the development and coordination of certified training programs, and the



production of publications, in various areas. She is also a member of the territory's UNESCO Memory of the World Committee, the Virgin Islands Festivals and Fairs Committee, as well as the Afrikan Studies Klub. [katherine\\_alicia@hotmail.com](mailto:katherine_alicia@hotmail.com)

LaVaughn Belle is a visual artist working in a variety of disciplines; including painting, installation, photograph, video and public interventions. Borrowing from elements of architecture, history and archeology, Belle creates narratives that challenge coloniality, hierarchies and invisibility. She has exhibited her work in the Caribbean, the USA and Europe. Her art is in the collection of the National Photography Museum and the Vesrtjealland Museum in Denmark. She is co-creator of "I am Queen Mary", which was featured in over 100 media outlets around the world including the New York Times. Belle holds an MFA from Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, Cuba.

Hadiya Sewer recently received her PhD in Africana Studies with a methodological framework in the discipline of Philosophy, and a subject concentration in issues surrounding coloniality. Dr. Sewer is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Brown University, and works as an activist in St. John where she advocates for land rights for ancestral Virgin Islanders. [hadiya\\_sewer@brown.edu](mailto:hadiya_sewer@brown.edu)

Valerie Combie (University of the Virgin Islands) - The VIWP's Story: Teachers Teaching Teachers. The Virgin Islands Writing Project (VIWP) embraces the National Writing Project's (NWP) mission and goals that focus primarily on improving writing and learning in the nation's schools. Our specific focus is embarking on a rigorous and sustained program for the professional development of teachers as we promote writing across the curriculum. During this presentation, you will learn of the VIWP's work in the Territory for the past seventeen (17) years and its current struggle for financial security.

Bio: Valerie Combie is Director of The Virgin Islands Writing Project (VIWP) and the Writing Center at the University of the Virgin Islands. [vcombie@uvi.edu](mailto:vcombie@uvi.edu)

Vincent Cooper (University of the Virgin Islands) - Writing Poetry as a Second Language: The Translation Process. I have been translating prose and poetry from English to Spanish, and French, and vice versa since my high school years. However, I have never been satisfied with any of the translations I turned in to my Language instructor. I was always left with a sense of incompleteness. At times it felt as if one had to compromise the correct denotation in order to achieve the correct connotation or affective meaning. The art of poetry seems to dance around the edges of oral and scribal expression. The writing of poetry makes use of all higher level cognitive, associative faculties of the human mind. Writing poetry in the vernacular when that vernacular is a creole language is one kind of process. Writing poetry in a second language or standard dialect is another process. Writing poetry in English and then translating that scribal text into Spanish is yet another process. Translating from a West Germanic language into a Romance language is often a bewildering ordeal. For example, the English idiomatic expression "It is raining cats and dogs" translates incompletely into Spanish as: "Llueve a cántaros." The translation of the poem "Festival of Santiago" into Spanish is the end product of a process which began during my visit to Santiago de Cuba a few years ago. The poem was conceived during a 10-day period in which I spoke both English and Spanish on a daily basis. The cadences of the poem are different from those of other poems I have written in an English-speaking context. The collegial collaboration in translation demonstrated in this presentation promises to offer useful insights into the process of second language learning and writing.

Bio: Dr. Vincent Cooper was a Spanish Major at the College of the Virgin Islands. After earning his PhD at Princeton University, he returned to Saint Thomas to teach English and Linguistics at UVI. Dr. Cooper is a former Fulbright Scholar. His poetry and literary criticism has been widely published. [vcooper@uvi.edu](mailto:vcooper@uvi.edu)

## Panels for IIBC2019:

### Panel: Poetry Across the Afro-Atlantic

Scratching through trans-territorial landscapes to remold Caribbean futures.

"When those places, histories, experiences, and cultures that we find ourselves in have become prisons" . . . it is imperative "for us (I mean Virgin Islanders/Caribbean people) to avoid that mental trap, [so that we can] to begin to appreciate fully the parameters of [ . . . ] place, history, experience" (Richard Georges. "On Cultural Preservation and Local Arts," December 9, 2016).

In particular, I am deeply invested in words and what they mean, the various connotations that they contain when spoken that we are compelled to confront and the multitude of emotions and implications that may slip past us if we are not paying due attention. (Richard Georges. "Territory Day Keynote Address," July 5, 2017).

Ana Portnoy Brimmer (Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey) - Giant Islands, Small Empire: Notes on Richard Georges' Poetry Collection, GIANT.

Essah Diaz (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Voices from the Outside Looking Within.

Michelle Ramos Rodriguez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - The Unreal Beauty of the Virgin Islands: An Examination of the Caribbean Landscape in the Poetry of Diana Stewart-Walker and Patricia G. Turnbull.



### **Panel: Poetry from Anguilla, St. Martin, and St. Croix**

Where I see the Sun: Celebrating Uprising Poets from Anguilla, St. Martin, and St. Croix. In the introduction to *Yellow Cedars Blooming: An Anthology of Virgin Islands Poetry*, the late Crucian poet, Marvin E. Williams writes these words: "If the poetry is to reach full maturity, however, we need to develop a body of criticism to nurture it along. It is the paucity of critical assessment that in part accounts for the publication of numerous sophomoric books and chap books of poems" on these islands. Our writers need honest judgments, not the usual fare of deaf and blind encouragement that leads to mediocrity, nor the cloakroom snickers that show a lack of courage, [...] Criticism is invaluable—not for writers, but for consumers and teachers of literature as well" (24). This panel takes up Williams' challenge and offer critical explorations of contemporary poetry from Anguilla, St. Martin, and St. Croix. The collections are the fruits of exemplary poetry writing workshops sponsored by the House of Nehesi Publishers, St. Martin, and facilitated under the visionary leadership of Lasana Sekou, and Marvin E. Williams' last collection of poetry.

José Belaval (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) – "Every gawling, every pelican, is we own": Where I see the Sun: Contemporary Poetry of St, Martin and the politics of liberation.

Jacqueline Jiang (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Anguilla, Madre Isla: Patriarchy, Colony, and Pride in Where I See the Sun: Contemporary Poetry in Anguilla.

Dannabang Kuwabong (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Resetting the fractured laughter in Marvin E Williams' Echo of a Circle Closing.

### **Panel: Drama in the Eastern Caribbean**

David Edgecombe and Eastern Caribbean insurrectionist drama of relations. "The next thing [needed in the Eastern Caribbean] is a theatre, with all the ordinary travelling companies from England and America strictly kept out of it, for unless you do your own acting and write your own plays, your theatre will be of no use, it will in fact, vulgarize and degrade you" (George Bernard Shaw. Interview in *Daily Gleaner*, Jamaica, January 12, 1911, page 3). These comments have been echoed down the decades from Derek Walcott, Trevor Rhone, Errol Hill, Dennis Scott, through to David Edgecombe, Djanet Sears, Sistren Theatre Collective, and Eintou Springer, etc. However, unless the plays receive critical academic study, Caribbean drama will remain unknown. Our panel focuses on David Edgecombe's phenomenal work as playwright with over seven plays that cover different themes, from the historical and the folkloric, to multiple issues that contemporary Caribbean people face in both the private domestic and public political arenas. To read David Edgecombe's plays is to address Shaw's fear for a Caribbean without serious locally written drama and a vibrant theatre.

Ari Alannah Hernández (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - Punishing the Colonial Ghost Through Empathic Solidarity in the Present in *Lady of Parham* by David Edgecombe.

Frances Lee González Rosado (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Beyond the vow: Gender performativity in David Edgecombe's *For Better, For Worse*.

Sherean M. Shehada Hader (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Filling the Gaps of History: Hubert Henry Harrison and the struggle for African Diaspora Race Consciousness.

Frank Flanagan (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) - The Land is Ours: Land Entitlement in David Edgecombe's *Kirnon's Kingdom* and Derek Walcott's "The Acacia Trees."

### **Panel: Lost Voices, Forgotten Voyages**

Lost Voices, Forgotten Voyages. This project is a collaborative effort by faculty at three universities in Georgia and Puerto Rico. Our primary goal is to develop a digital archive challenging stereotypes of underrepresented groups in early Caribbean societies. Many marginalized groups of Caribbean workers, such as captured indigenous peoples from the North American colonies, Irish and Asian indentures, and others fleeing religious persecution shaped the economy and societies of the region; yet, their histories, migrations, settlement, and contributions remain largely footnotes to the histories of the islands. In response to that omission, this project provides a digital space designed to grow and accommodate future scholarship related to theirs and other lost voices in Caribbean history. In this panel, we will present two research projects centering on the indigenous Caribbean and discuss ways in which these projects can further interdisciplinary collaboration for Caribbean scholarship.



Jo Anne Harris and Rolando Márquez (Georgia Gwinnett College) – Virtual Voices – Digital Creoles in Caribbean Seas

Eva de Lourdes Edwards (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Indigenous Caribbean Sailing

Melinda Maxwell-Gibb (InterAmerican University, Metropolitan Campus) - The Migration of Native Americans from 'La Florida' into the Northern Caribbean.

### **Panel: Translation in the Eastern Caribbean**

Translation in the Eastern Caribbean

In this panel, we hope the discussion of our collaborative efforts will lead to a lively exchange with our audience about the art and craft of literary translation. In addition, we will share how our translation project will be incorporated into HUM 115: Introduction to the Humanities, an interdisciplinary General Education course taught at UVI every semester.

Patricia Harkins-Pierre (University of the Virgin Islands) - An Exercise in Translation I.

Monica Oizumi (University of the Virgin Islands) - An Exercise in Translation II.

Vincent Cooper (University of the Virgin Islands) - Writing Poetry as a Second Language: The Translation Process.

### **Panel: Digital Humanities**

Eastern Caribbean-Based Digital Humanities Projects: Challenges and Opportunities. This panel presents digital humanities projects that are taking place in the Eastern Caribbean. Papers explore the challenges and opportunities that Digital Humanities projects provide for sustainable, community-based, documentation and archiving processes.

Mirerza González Vélez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Brief Introduction

Schuylar Esprit (CREATE Dominica and Dominica and Dominica State College) - Environmental Humanities: the case of Carisealand.

Nadjah Ríos Villarini and Mirerza González Vélez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Caribbean Diasporas: Panorama of Carnival Practices, a Website Prototype.

Gabriela Rivera (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - The Cantazaro Collection : Digital Humanities and the Showcasing of Vieques' Past.

Rosadel Santos (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Community archives: Archivo Digital de Fundación Culebra.

Faviola Martínez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) – Digital Humanities, Metadata and the Lowell Fiet Carnival Masks Collection.

### **Panel: Caribbean Genealogies**

Genealogies of Subversion and Resistance: Problematising narrative representations of gender, history, and family relationships in Caribbean spaces.

Hector J. Mercado-Soucy (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - Genealogies in Maryse Condé's Land of Many Colors and Nana-Ya: Truth, Past, History and Fiction.

Lilybeth Shields Cruz (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) - "What makes a man a man?": Masculinity in Willi Chen's Crossbones.

### **Panel: Virgin Islands Identities Roundtable**

Island Identities/National Imaginations: Exploring Social Justice Interventions around Issues of Coloniality in the British Virgin Islands and the US Virgin Islands. In this roundtable panel session, the members of the Virgin Islands Studies Collective in the USVI, and the Virgin Islands Studies Institute in the BVI will convene to discuss our respective work around issues of heritage, identity and social justice in and about each Virgin Islands territory. We will present our successes and challenges particularly



around the issues of neo-colonialism and settler colonialism, as it regards identifying, preserving, and studying the culture of the Virgin Islands. We will seek to consider our different but overlapping histories as Virgin Islanders. Our presentation will take the form of a round table conversation, with extensive opportunity for audience questions, concerns and guidance. In specific, we will address the issue of colonial naming of The Virgin Islands, histories that unite the two territories, colonial structures that differentiate the two territories, the roles of settler colonialism and tourism in each territory and current actions each territory is taking via Virgin Islands Studies to address these topics. We will close by clarifying common goals, and finally by attempting to identify a collaborative project to address one (or more) of these goals.

Tiphanie Yanique (Emory University)

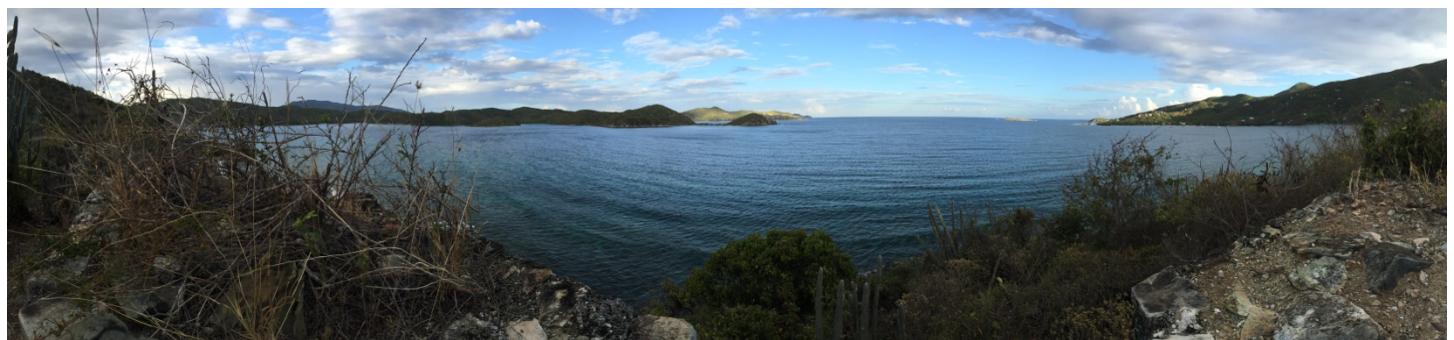
Tami Navarro (Barnard Center for Research on Women)

Richard Georges (Writer)

Katherine A. Smith (H. Lavity Stoutt Community College)

LaVaughn Belle (Visual artist)

Hadiya Sewer (Brown University)



Creatives 2 Fortsberg, St. John Post-IrMaria 2018



Creatives 3 United Virgin Islands' Natural Views



**THE 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL EASTERN CARIBBEAN ISLAND CULTURES CONFERENCE**  
**“ISLANDS IN BETWEEN”**  
**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, ST. CROIX CAMPUS**  
**31 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER, 2019**

Co-organized by the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras, the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados, and the University of the Virgin Islands—Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center, St. Croix

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**Puerto Rico**

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The University of Puerto Rico Conference Organizing Committee: Prof. Robert Dupey, Prof. Dannabang Kuwabong, Celia M. Ayala Lugo and Prof. Nicholas Faraclas

