



# CSA News

CaribbeanStudiesAssociation.org

The Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Studies Association



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**CSA**

**Issue: September 2016**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Why Caribbean Activism Matters

Beyond the regional triumphs of Caribbean athletes at the recently concluded summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, activists and allies from across the region have had much to celebrate in the last few weeks. The High Court of Belize and the Supreme Court of The Bahamas handed down two historic rulings on the constitutional rights of citizens to privacy in matters of sexual intimacy (in Belize) while setting limits to the unconstitutional overreach of elected officials in the exercise of their (perceived) unfettered Parliamentary Privilege (in The Bahamas).



Keithley Woolward

In the Case of Belize, Caleb Orozco, a gay man and Executive Director of the United Belize Advocacy Movement—a human rights and policy NGO—filed a constitutional challenge to Section 53 of the Criminal Code which criminalizes the sexual relations of consenting adults (particularly among LGBT Belizeans) in both the public and the private sphere. All forms of “carnal intercourse against the order of nature” including but not limited to anal sex are criminal offenses under Section 53 of the Criminal Code. Orozco and UNIBAM argued that the relevant sections of the Criminal Code violate an individual’s right to privacy and equality guaranteed by the Constitution of Belize. In a ruling by the Honorable Chief Justice of Belize Mr. Justice Kenneth Benjamin, the Court found that Orozco had the legal standing to bring this challenge to the existing law making it clear that Mr. Orozco did not need to establish having been a victim of the law to challenge its foundations. The Chief Justice further ruled that the relevant sections of the Criminal Code directly violate the right to “human dignity, privacy, freedom of expression and non-discrimination and equality” guaranteed by the Constitution of Belize. In making his ruling the Chief Justices referenced section S.16 (3) of the constitution which defines “sex” establishing that “sexual orientation” is indeed also included in the parameters of the constitutional definition thus rendering the constitution fully consistent with international human rights mandates. This ruling by the High Court in Belize is seen by many activists as an important step towards the full recognition of the fundamental human rights and equal protections under the law of LGBT communities across the region.

In another landmark ruling in jurisprudence, Madame Justice Indira Charles of the Supreme Court of the Bahamas ruled that “Cabinet ministers and or Members of Parliament in the conduct of the Parliamentary Affairs and the Government and under the protection of Parliamentary Privilege were not above the law.” The ruling stems from the tabling in a sitting of Parliament of private emails and financial records of three of the directors of the environmental NGO Save The Bays. The tabling of these records by the Minister of the Education Jerome Fitzgerald was intended to demonstrate that Save The Bays were a national security threat working to destabilize the sitting government of the Bahamas. The claims by the Cabinet Minister stem from Save The Bays filing of a motion for Judicial Review on the legality of a private beach front development project by Peter Nygard, a Canadian fashion mogul and major financial of the current Progressive Liberal Party administration. When questioned by the Honorable Speaker of the House of Assembly as to how the material came to be in his possession, the Minister’s response was that he found them in his “political garbage bin.”

Save The Bays director’s Fred Smith QC, Zachery Bacon and Philip Darville, filed an injunction against the Government, the Speaker of the House, and Minister Fitzgerald on the grounds that they had a constitutionally protected right to the privacy of their email correspondence and financial information; that those rights had been breached by the Government via the actions of the Parliament and the Cabinet Minister; and that the Constitution (as the highest Law of the Land) should prevail, in this instance, over Parliamentary Privilege. Madame Justice Indira Charles granted the injunction on the grounds that it (the Supreme Court) had “exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate on

## **CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CSA Nassau 2017**

Culture and Knowledge Economies: The future of Caribbean Development ?

Nassau, The Bahamas June 5th-10th 2017  
The Call for Papers will be open in September 2017. Stay tuned to the [CSA web site](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

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- [Conferencias Caribeñas 19](#)

and supervise breaches of the Constitution by the Executive and the “Legislative” branches of governance. Parliament cannot “cannot divest the Court of supervisory original jurisdiction of the Constitution” and adding further that it is for the Court and not for parliament to determine the scope and application of Parliamentary Privilege. The Court ordered the Government pay damages of \$150, 000 to the applicants in the case—the largest such award for breaches of Constitutional Rights ever made in Bahamian jurisprudence. This ruling will have far reaching consequences across the Caribbean region as well as the Commonwealth where the British Westminster system of parliament is still enforce.

In the above two cases, Caribbean activists and citizens were on the front lines pushing back against violations of constitutional and human rights; the overreach of Government power; political corruption; and the fight to protect our natural environment. The Caribbean Studies Association should be a key stakeholder in the debates surrounding the failure of Caribbean political leadership and governance, the constitutional rights of citizens and environmental protection. ). It is time for the CSA to leverage the intellectual capital of the organization to be an ally and supporter of Caribbean activist work. The Caribbean Studies Association should seize the opportunities offered through activism and civic engagement to help articulate deep, thoughtful and substantive policy initiatives to effect meaningful and substantive change.

Keithley P. Woolward  
President, CSA 2016-2017

## **Español**

### **MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE**

### **RAZONES PARA EL ACTIVISMO CARIBEÑO**

Más allá de los triunfos regionales de los atletas caribeños en los recién concluidos Juegos Olímpicos de Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, activistas y aliados de la región tienen motivos para celebrar en las últimas semanas.

La Corte Suprema de Belice y el Tribunal Supremo de Las Bahamas dictaron fallos históricos sobre los derechos constitucionales de los ciudadanos, relativos a la privacidad en cuestiones de intimidad sexual (en Belice) mientras establecieron restricciones a la extralimitación constitucional por parte de funcionarios electos, en el ejercicio de su Privilegio Parlamentario(percibido) (En Las Bahamas).

En el caso de Belice, Caleb Orozco, homosexual y Director Ejecutivo del United Belize Advocacy Movement -una ONG de política en materia de derechos humanos-entabló una impugnación constitucional a la Sección 53 del Código Penal que penaliza las relaciones sexuales de adultos por su propia y libre voluntad (particularmente entre beliceños LGTB) tanto en la esfera pública como privada.

Cualquier forma de “relación carnal en contra natura”, que incluye pero no está limitado al sexo anal, constituyen delitos penalizados conforme la Sección 53 del Código Penal. Orozco y el UNIBAM argumentaron que las secciones pertinentes del Código Penal violan los derechos del individuo a la privacidad y la igualdad que están garantizados por la Constitución de Belice. En un dictamen del Honorable Presidente de la Corte de Belice, el señor Juez Kenneth Benjamin, la Corte estableció que a Orozco le asistía el derecho legal de impugnar la ley existente y aclaró que el señor Orozco no necesitaba probar que él había sido víctima de la ley para impugnarla.

El Presidente del Tribunal, además dictaminó que las secciones pertinentes del Código Penal violan directamente el derecho a “la dignidad humana, la privacidad, la libertad de expresión y la no discriminación y la igualdad” garantizadas por la Constitución de Belice. Al dictar este fallo, los jueces del Tribunal Supremo hicieron referencia a la sección S.16 (3) de la Constitución que define el “sexo” al establecer que “la orientación sexual” está de hecho incluida en los parámetros de la definición constitucional y así la constitución es plenamente consistente con los mandatos de los derechos humanos internacionales. Ese fallo de la Corte Suprema de Belice es considerado por muchos activistas como un importante paso de avance hacia el pleno reconocimiento de los derechos humanos fundamentales y las protecciones equitativas legales de las comunidades LGTB en toda la región.

En otra histórico dictamen de la jurisprudencia, la señora Jueza Indira Charles del Tribunal Supremo de Bahamas dictaminó que “los ministros del Gabinete y/o Miembros del Parlamento en la conducción de los Asuntos Parlamentarios y el Gobierno y bajo la protección del Privilegio Parlamentario, no están por encima de la ley”. El dictamen es resultado de la presentación, en la sesión del Parlamento, de correos electrónicos personales y documentos financieros de tres de los directores de la ONG ecológica **Salven las Bahías**. La presentación de estos documentos por el Ministro de Educación Jerome Fitzgerald tenía el propósito de probar que **Salven las Bahías**

constituía una amenaza a la seguridad nacional al trabajar para desestabilizar el actual gobierno de Las Bahamas. Los alegatos del Ministro del Gabinete se basan en una presentación de una moción de **Salven las Bahías** para una Revisión Judicial sobre la legalidad de un proyecto de desarrollo de una playa privada presentado por Peter Nygard, un magnate canadiense de la moda y financiero principal del actual gobierno Partido Liberal Progresista. A la pregunta del Honorable Presidente de la Asamblea de cómo obtuvo la evidencia, la respuesta del Ministro fue que la encontró en su "recipiente de basura política".

Los directores de **Salven las Bahías**, Fred Smith QC, Zachery Bacon y Philip Darville, entablaron un mandamiento judicial en contra del Gobierno, el Presidente de la Camara y el Ministro Fitzgerald sobre la base de que ellos tenían un derecho de protección constitucional a la privacidad de su correspondencia por correo electrónico y su información financiera; que esos derechos habían sido violados por el Gobierno por medio de acciones del Parlamento y el Ministro de Estado; y que la Constitución (como Ley Suprema de la Nación) debía prevalecer, en esta instancia, por encima del Privilegio Parlamentario. La Señora Jueza Indira Charles hizo trizas el mandamiento judicial sobre la base de que (la Corte Suprema) poseía "jurisdicción exclusiva para adjudicar y supervisar las violaciones de la Constitución por parte de las ramas ejecutivas y legislativas del gobierno. El Parlamento no puede despojar a la Corte de la supervisión de la jurisdicción original de la Constitución y añadió que es la Corte y no el Parlamento quien determina el alcance y la aplicación del Privilegio Parlamentario. La Corte ordenó al Gobierno el pago de \$150,000 por daños a los demandantes del caso –la suma más alta que haya sido aplicada por violación a los Derechos Constitucionales en la jurisprudencia de Las Bahamas. Este fallo tendrá consecuencias de gran alcance para toda la región caribeña así como en la Mancomunidad Británica, donde el modelo parlamentario inglés de Westminster está todavía vigente.

En ambos casos referidos, activistas y ciudadanos caribeños se encontraban en la vanguardia, luchando en contra de las violaciones de los derechos humanos y constitucionales; el excesivo poder del Gobierno; la corrupción política; y la defensa por la protección de nuestro medio ambiente. La Asociación de Estudios del Caribe debería ser una de las primordiales partes interesadas en los debates sobre el fracaso del liderazgo político y la gobernanza caribeños, los derechos constitucionales de sus ciudadanos y la protección ambiental. Es el momento para que la AEC ponga su capital intelectual como un aliado y apoye el activismo caribeño. La Asociación de Estudios del Caribe debería sacar partido de las oportunidades que ofrece el activismo y el compromiso cívico para contribuir a articular iniciativas sustanciales y profundas con el propósito de lograr cambios esenciales y significativos.

Keithley P. Woolward  
Presidente, CSA 2016-2017

## MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIRS



Guido Rojer, Jr.



Okama Ekpe Brook

### Innovating the CSA

The organization of an annual conference is no easy task, for it is the management of expectations. In our world we manage the divergent expectations of our members which is rooted in our diversity of disciplines. With this in mind we believe that these are the most exciting times to be a member of this organization.

One of the main points of discussion in our first meeting after our appointments as program chairs, we spoke about the experience members and attendees had at the conferences and finding ways to improve these. We reflected on both our own experiences, and that of others, at the CSA conferences to reveal the value people see in attending our conference. It is our mission to improve the experience for both graduate students, faculty, policy makers and field practitioners.

Some ideas have already been discussed with some of you and have been remodeled as a result of your observations. Often times we wait a year to share our thoughts about how best to organize the event. Our mission this time around is to engage with you from an early stage, in an effort to consciously co-create the right ambience for our conference. We plan to facilitate your insights, perspectives and contributions through varying online platforms including webinars, zoombrowser meetings, our website, Twitter, Facebook page, google hangout and even Whatsapp application. All of these in efforts to ensure an efficient and effective preparation for the conference to ensure that you come out of the Bahamas conference hyped up and looking for more. It is with this in mind that we ask you to think about your experiences and share these with us so we can better meet your expectations.

We look forward to hearing your opinion. Feel free to email us at: [program.chair@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org](mailto:program.chair@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org) or check out the online medium.

Guido Rojer, Jr.  
Okama Ekpe Brook  
Program Chairs, CSA 2016-2017

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Excited to be sharing this issue with you!

The Caribbean Studies Association welcomes a brand new year and looks forward to the varying intersections of culture, community and academic successes from across the Caribbean and our diaspora.

Our new President is repositioning the organisation to become more involved in activism and the challenge is on for us as academics in our own university and college spaces to distance ourselves from academia as an ivory tower concept and become more public intellectuals.

CSA's new Vice-President, Yolanda Wood is from Cuba! This is good news for improved interactions with the island given the responsibility of our Caribbean institution to be inclusive of all spaces within our Caribbean consciousness. The recent change in Cuban-American diplomatic relations which was restored and re-established on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 is paving the way for more Cuban academics to attend the CSA's annual conferences. In the past, our fellow scholars from Cuba had great difficulty acquiring US VISAs and other legal documents needed to travel overseas. From CSA's perspective, we are eager to welcome Cuban intellectuals to our annual conference to share with us and the region, the wealth and breadth of their scholastic traditions.



Meagan Sylvester

In this issue we present to you the work and contribution of CSA life member, Dr. S. B. Jones-Hendrickson, a former CSA President. One of Dr. Jones-Hendrickson's publications focused on the sterling contribution of CSA's first 10 Presidents in the book entitled *Caribbean Visions*. This 1991 publication provided a retrospective on the ten Presidential Addresses of Ten Presidents of the Caribbean Studies Association. See the link below to access this book on Amazon. [https://www.amazon.com/Caribbean-Visions-Presidential-Presidents-Association/dp/0932831060/ref=sr\\_1\\_fkmr0\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1473612707&sr=1-1-fkmr0&keywords=caribbean+visions+by+simon+jones-hendrickson](https://www.amazon.com/Caribbean-Visions-Presidential-Presidents-Association/dp/0932831060/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1473612707&sr=1-1-fkmr0&keywords=caribbean+visions+by+simon+jones-hendrickson)

Our academic in focus for this month is Dr. Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw, Senior Lecturer at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago. Her specialisation is Francophone Caribbean and French nineteenth century writers. Check out the featured column to get to know all about her work and passion!

The Caribbean Studies Association is a multi-lingual entity. Upcoming in our successive issues will be exposure to perspectives about the Dutch Caribbean from language sub-editors from Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten. We also sought out scholars from the US Virgin islands who intend to share the experiences of their Danish-American-Caribbean sensibilities with us. Our French, Spanish and Martinican Creole segments will continue to be a staple while the major communication language remains English.

Here's looking forward to exciting new academic journeys at the Caribbean Studies Association.

Please feel free to email the Newsletter Editor directly at [newseditor@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org](mailto:newseditor@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org) to share your views, comments and the good news of your academic success with us.

Meagan Sylvester  
Newsletter Editor  
Caribbean Studies Association

## MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS

### **Nouvèl** (Martinican French Creole)

#### **DEBITS DE LA REGIE ET «RUM SHOPS »**

Té ni fwa boutik katyé ki yo té ka kryé «Débi Laréji ». Sé boutik tala koumansé egzisté pandant ané 30. Mé yo pétèt déjà la byen avan sa panan Kinzyèm sièk-la pisk an Fwans té ni tavern ki nèt an périòd médiéval-la. Pa ni an pil infòmasyon a sou sé tavern Matinik mé nou pé pansé ki yo parèt adan péyi-a lè sé pwemyé fwansé rivé. Lababad, ni Rum Shop ki sé ékivalan Débi Laréji. Yo dévelopé apwè sé Anglé a rivé adan teritwa-a. an lisans té nésèsè pou vann alkol é sa té an lwa ki té ja voté dépi 1688. Sé té an mannyé di kontwolé tout vant é konsomasyon alkol.



Hélène Zamor

Fòk pa blyié ki Débi Laréji épi Rum Shop fondé a sous pwinsip di espwi kominoté ki té an bagay impòtan an péyi-a. Sé la ke nou ka wè an pwen similè ant Lababad épi Matinik. Systèm krédi sé té sa ki té priorité sé comersan-an. Yo té ka vann prodwi ki té ésansyèl. Sa té ka édé fanmi ki té pli démní. Pandan périòd post colonial, vwazen épi paran té ka antann byen. Apwézan sa disparèt. Chak mou ka pwan bò yo. Si Rum Shop koumansé adan Bridgetown, Débi Laréji wè jou asou abitasyon kann. Sé té jérè abitasyon ki té ni sé ti boutik tala. Yo té ka vann bas é twavayè yo épi coupè kann yo tou.

Bridgetown té an vil Lababa koté sé pwèmyé Rum Shop sòti. Mé vil pwinsipal Matinik Fòt Fwans té ni environ 550 Débi Laréji. Adan sé zòt komin-la, té ni an lo boutik kon sa. Yo té plasé adan bour épi la kanpann osi. Mé koté ané 60 épi 70, tout bagay koumansé chanjé dépi gwann sufus, lib sèvis, stasyon sèvis koumansé miltiplié é sé pou sa ki an lo Débi Laréji

pan rivé résisté. Té ni twop konkirans. Lababad konnèt mèm évolusyon tala. Mé Jodi-a ni plis Rum Shop ki Débi larejì.

Helene Zamor

French & Martinican Creole Language Sub-editor

CSA Newsletter

## Español

### José Martí en la obra de Roberto Fernández Retamar



Vilma Diaz

Foto tomada de: <https://literartevueltabajero.wordpress.com>

Entre los jóvenes intelectuales de la llamada Generación del 50, que recogen el legado martiano y origenista<sup>[1]</sup> de la poesía como elemento fundacional de la nación cubana, se encuentra Roberto Fernández Retamar. Su obra literaria y de pensamiento transitó paulatinamente, y al compás del momento histórico, desde una concepción letrada de la cultura y de la autonomía estética del arte hacia una visión revolucionaria y orgánica de la historia y el arte. Para Fernández Retamar, Martí no es sólo un revolucionario esencial, sino “nuestro escritor mayor”. No es casual entonces que la obra revolucionaria como liberación del ser humano y la labor creativa dentro de la Modernidad literaria hispanoamericana, en forma general, vayan en él de la mano.



Con la Revolución “el tiempo de Martí ha llegado de nuevo” nos enseña Retamar. Sería inmensa la relación de textos, conferencias, ensayos, artículos y libros en los cuales Roberto Fernández destaca el espíritu martiano de la cultura cubana. Solamente ahora “la lectura de Martí es completamente posible: al fin estamos leyendo realmente el inmenso documento textual que es la obra de José Martí”. De esta manera, Roberto Fernández Retamar captó toda la dimensión continental y la trascendencia de la obra de Martí: su impronta descolonizadora. A propósito,

su obra *Ensayo de otro mundo* es un libro, donde se abordan cuestiones culturales con una gran coherencia y perspectiva revolucionaria, “plenamente deudora de la Revolución Cubana, del pensamiento de Fidel, del pensamiento del Che”.

El ensayo con que comienza el libro, “Martí en su (tercer) mundo”, puede ser considerado como matriz del conjunto de textos, puesto que la perspectiva intelectual y social del proceso cultural hizo posible entender a Martí. En otras palabras, la Revolución Cubana abrió, para Fernández Retamar, la posibilidad de hacer una lectura otra del pensamiento y la acción martiana en su contexto colonial. Por esta razón, Martí, “primer gigante y vocero de otro mundo”, es un revolucionario con plena conciencia de pertenecer a un país subdesarrollado y al mundo colonial, un hombre cuyo centro vital estuvo marcado, más que por el arte, por la política y la moral. Según el ensayista, Martí fue capaz de renunciar a sus grandes dotes de escritor para transformarse en un revolucionario, en un fundador de pueblos y en un liberador de hombres y de conciencias. Una correcta interpretación de Martí y de su pensamiento descolonizador implicará, entonces, una interpretación correcta de la cultura y la historia de Nuestra América.

Con esta sencilla introducción invito a los lectores a acercarse a la obra de R. F. Retamar. Iniciar con Martí y concluir en Calibán es multiplicar nuestras raíces identitarias y repensar nuestra cultura caribeña, latinoamericana y universal.

[1] La búsqueda de esencias nacionales por parte del grupo Orígenes tuvo, entre sus puntos más altos, ensayos como Secularidad de José Martí (1953), del poeta José Lezama Lima, y el libro Lo cubano en la poesía (1958), del crítico y también poeta Cintio Vitier.

Vilma Diaz  
Spanish Language Sub-editor  
CSA Newsletter

## Français

### DEBITS DE LA REGIE ET «RUM SHOPS »

Autrefois, il y avait des boutiques de quartier que l'on appelait "Débit de la Régie ». Ces commerces ont fait leur apparition en Martinique dans les années 30 semble-t-il. Cependant, leur existence peut remonter au XIXème vu qu'en France les tavernes



Hélène Zamor

sont nées pendant l'époque médiévale. Quoique nous ayons peu d'informations sur les premières tavernes martiniquaises, nous serons tentés de penser qu'elles pourraient avoir été introduites dans l'île pendant la colonisation. Par contre à la Barbade, les boutiques désignées sous le nom de «Rum Shop » semble avoir vu le jour peu de temps après l'arrivée des Anglais en 1627. En effet, l'historien Peter Laurie<sup>[1]</sup> nous informe que les Rum Shops seraient apparentés aux tavernes que l'on appelait en France, la législation de 1688 a été imposée aux propriétaires des tavernes pour que ceux-ci ne vendent pas ou vendent peu leurs alcools. Une licence était obligatoire lorsqu'il s'agissait de vendre des boissons alcoolisées. Bien-entendu, l'intention était de laisser les planteurs et les négociants de continuer à vendre leurs spiritueux. Malgré cela, les tavernes et les « Rum Shops » se développaient dans la ville de Bridgetown.

Même si les Débits de la Régie des Rum Shops n'ont émergé à la même époque selon nos chercheurs, le but des propriétaires de ces petits commerces était de vendre au détail les articles de première nécessité aux habitants résidant dans les quartiers ou les «villages » à la Barbade. Le concept de « quartier » ou de «villages » est très important car il est souvent lié à l'esprit de communauté qui a longtemps existé aux Antilles surtout durant la période post coloniale. L'esprit de communauté correspondait fort souvent à l'entraide et la bonne entente entre voisins et parents. Sur ce point, les Débits de la Régie et les Rum Shops » ont aidé de nombreuses familles grâce à leur système de crédit.

Si les Rum Shops ont bourgeonné dans la ville de Bridgetown, les Débits de la Régie se sont établis sur les habitations. Au départ, les Débits de la Régie appartenaient aux gérants des habitations qui vendaient les produits de base à leurs coupeurs de canne et à leurs ouvriers.

Peu à peu, les Débits de la Régie se sont multipliés dans les campagnes et en milieu urbain. La ville de Fort-de-France à elle seule comptait environ 550 petites boutiques. Ce n'est pas seulement Fort-de-France qui disposait de Débits de la Régie, les autres communes en regorgeaient. A partir des années 60 et 70, de nombreux Débits de la Régie se sont progressivement éteints pour céder leur place aux libres-services, aux grandes surfaces et aux stations-services. Les propriétaires n'ont pas tous pu résister à la concurrence et au modernisme. Quelquefois, leurs enfants n'ont pas voulu prendre la relève. Les Rum Shops barbadiens ont connu des bouleversements semblables à ceux des Débits de la Régie.

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[1] Peter Laurie. *The Barbadian Rum Shop. The Other Watering Hole*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Mac Millan (2011)

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Helene Zamor  
French & Martinican Creole Language Sub-editor  
CSA Newsletter

## GRADUATE STUDENT CORNER

*We're back to our feature series of CSA grad students. Please get in touch at [lpragg@yorku.ca](mailto:lpragg@yorku.ca) if you're interested in being featured!*

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My name is Caitlin O'Neill and I am a fourth year PhD candidate in the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. I received my BA in Africana Studies at a small liberal arts college outside of Cleveland, Ohio where the chair of my department—who was also my advisor—was the only other child of Barbadian immigrants on campus. It was the very first week of my undergraduate studies when, after I had casually mentioned my Bajan family that she laughed before reaching for The Broken Trident and waving it above her head. The registrar's office had made a very good match between us indeed. I would soon abandon my desire to major in Pre-Med. In Summer 2016, nine years later, for the first time ever we would present together on a panel about Caribbean fabulist and speculative fiction at the CSA conference in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.



Lauren Pragg

As a fat black, queer, Caribbean, and feminist scholar, I am invested in the rich and generative potential of black women's diasporic speculative fiction, music, and art to not only imagine but also begin to manifest spaces where our bodies are valued and safe from violence. In traveling through the streets of Port-Au-Prince and later the beach road through the mountains en route to Jacmel, never had “the great game of hide-and-seek that Martinican surrealist Suzanne Césaire writes of in “The Grand Camouflage” been so clear to me. Amidst great beauty lay the jagged and indelible markings of hundreds of years of struggle with coloniality, Haiti, like so many other islands of the Caribbean, is a land seemingly full of contradictions where freedom is never perfect.

By now, my research has taught me that the act of imagining a world in which current balances of power are mutable and structures of oppression can be dismantled does not always ensure that they will be. There are many projects, fictional and otherwise, that cannot realize our utopic desires of projecting beyond human suffering. Not because of a failure of the human imagination, but perhaps because of a failure of human experience. This failure does not mean, however, that we should ever stop trying.

One Summer in Haiti, a country that the American imagination often casts as the unsafest country in the Caribbean in the American imagination, I formed a dynamic community of international visitors, Haitian immigrants momentarily returned from overseas, and Haitians living on the island. In Port-Au-Prince surrounded by throngs of people spilling in and out of the Marriott hotel, we spent our days dreaming of what a new world could look like. At night, we did the same. Our final night together, we engaged bodies more than minds, swinging and swaying on a rooftop bar, turning into and away from offers of dances and drinks. These moments, I assure you, mark the presences of the slippery, hard earned utopias that thus far we have only theorized on paper.

That same early morning I had tasted such freedom and expansiveness in Haiti, I would alight from a plane at the Miami International Airport only to find that queer friends and family I had never met had been held hostage and gunned down in a gay club in Orlando, Florida. Later that evening I lay in a bed in South Florida while sleep evaded me, trying to reconcile the contradictions of such an affirming experience with an experience of such inescapable violence. Months later, I am still trying. But I am also still texting, calling, and connecting with those brilliant minds and spirits who have already made it much easier to begin the new school year and this new journey of writing my dissertation. Together we count down the days until we'll meet again, smiling at each other across conference tables, hotel lobbies, and crowded balconies and bars.

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Lauren Pragg  
Graduate Student Representative  
CSA 2015- 2017

## ACADEMIC IN FOCUS

### Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw

Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw left her home in Trinidad at 18 to study at Boston University. She would graduate with honors with a Bachelor's degree in French and English Literature and a doctorate in French. While pursuing her graduate work in French Literature, specializing in the nineteenth century and Francophone Caribbean writers, she also took several courses at Boston University's esteemed Creative Writing Programme. She did several workshops with renowned writers including Sue Miller, Leslie Epstein, and Rosanna Penn Warren. Her first short story was published when she was 23 in the journal *Spazio Umano*, an International Review of Art and Literature.

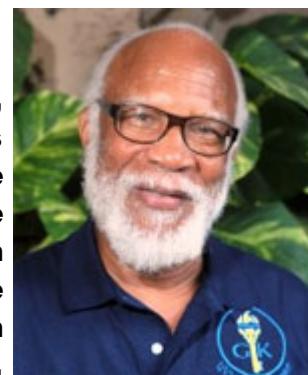


After completing her PhD degree, she returned to Trinidad in 1992, married and began a family. In 1999 she was awarded a full-time post in the French Literature Section at the Trinidad campus of the University of the West Indies, where she still lectures on Francophone Caribbean and French nineteenth century writers. As a Senior Lecturer in the Modern Languages Department, she has published several works including *Border Crossings: A Trilingual Anthology of Caribbean Women Writers*, *Echoes of the Haitian Revolution 1804-2004* and *Reinterpreting the Haitian Revolution and its Cultural Aftershocks (1804-2004)*. Apart from her scholarly books and articles she has also published creative works; *Four Taxis Facing North*, her first collection of short stories, was published in 2007 and translated into Italian in 2010. *Four Taxis* was considered one of the best works of 2007 by the Caribbean Review of Books. Her first novel, *Mrs. B* was published by Peepal Tree Press in 2014. *Mrs B*, was short listed for the "Best Book Fiction" in The Guyana Prize for Literature Award for 2014. Her short stories have been translated and anthologized. Walcott-Hackshaw presently lives in the beautiful Santa Cruz Valley with her family; she is currently working on another collection of short stories and a scholarly work on trauma in Caribbean fiction.

## CSA MEMBER HIGHLIGHT - PAST CSA PRESIDENT

### Simon Hendrickson

**Dr. S. B. Jones-Hendrickson, Professor of Economics, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix campus, was born in Sandy Point, St. Kitts. He is an alumnus of the College of the Virgin Islands, now the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI). He graduated with an A.A. in business administration in 1967. In 1969 and 1970, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, and in 1976 he earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Exeter, Devon, England.**



**Professor Jones-Hendrickson was a lecturer in Economics at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica. He joined the faculty of the UVI in 1976 as an Assistant Professor of Economics and, in 1990, he attained the rank of full Professor of Economics. He has held a number of Administrative positions at UVI, and has gained a number of honors. He was a two-term Chairman of the Faculty of UVI, 1986-1988; Chairman of the Division of Social Sciences, 1993-1996, the first UVI graduate to be so honored; a three-time student-awarded Faculty of the Year (once on St. Thomas campus and twice on St. Croix); and is a former member of UVI Board of Trustees.**

**Professor Jones-Hendrickson has served as External Examiner for the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad in economic theory, quantitative economics, health economics and specialized readings. He has served as External Examiner in Public Finance for UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados and Mona, Jamaica. Since 1985 he has been involved with the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), first as Assistant Chief Examiner and then Chief Examiner in Principles of Business. He is now involved with CXC at the level of CAPE in Economics.**

**Professor Jones-Hendrickson has served as a consultant to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, to UNESCO, to the Office of Management and Budget Office of the USVI, to UN, to the Government of Montserrat, and has served as Commissioner on the Task Force to resolve the economic and political issues between St. Kitts and Nevis. He is a member of the OECS Tax Reform and Administration Commission with the remit of evaluating and recommending procedures of tax reform and administration in the OECS. Currently he served on the Board of the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) of St. Kitts, the St. Croix Foundation Board; he is Chairman of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis; is a member of the Executive Committee of the Public Planning Development Unit (PPDU) of St. Kitts and Nevis, and is a member of the Competitiveness Council of St. Kitts, and advisory council to the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis.**

**Professor Jones-Hendrickson is a prolific writer/scholar having written and or published more than 100 articles (see <http://library.uvi.edu>). He has presented several original works in economics at regional and international conferences covering public finance, monetary economics, public choice policy, immigration, and labor market economics. Among his books are Readings in Caribbean Public Sector Economics (1981), (co-authored with Fuat Andic, formerly of the University of Puerto Rico); Public Finance and Monetary Policy in Open Economies (1985), and [Caribbean Visions](#) (1990, Editor). Dr. Jones-Hendrickson has also published two volumes of poetry and four novels: his first novel is Sonny Jim of Sandy Point (1991). His second novel is Death on the Pasture (1994), and his third entitled Andy Browne's Departure (2007). His most recent novel is Dana, Steven & Brenda (2009). Dr. Jones-Hendrickson's most recent book in economics is a compilation entitled Essays on the Organization of Eastern Caribbean Economies, (2006), iUniverse.com. A Weekend in Paradise and Essays on the Economies of St. Kitts and Nevis are his two most recent works of non-fiction.**

**From January 2001 to September 2005, Professor Jones-Hendrickson was the Ambassador of St. Kitts and Nevis to CARICOM, the OECS, and the ACS. Among his other honors are his being honored as President of the Caribbean Studies Association, 1983-84; honored for his creative works at CARIFESTA in St. Kitts, 2000 for his contribution to arts and culture; recognized for distinguished service to UVI, 2001; recognized as alumnus of Achievement from Illinois State University, 2002; awarded a 25-year service award from UVI, 2004. And in May, 2008, he received the first UVI Presidential Award for distinguished service to the University of the Virgin Islands.**

