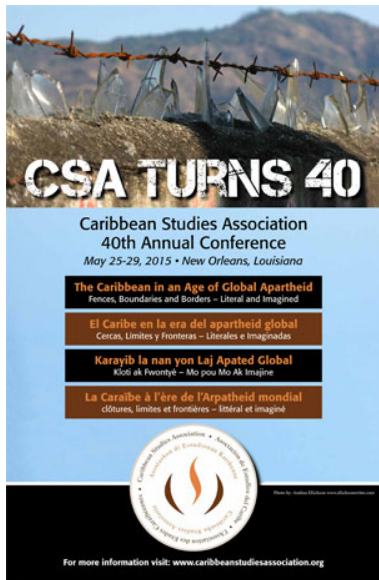




CSA News

CaribbeanStudiesAssociation.org

The Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Studies Association



Upcoming Events

Especially for CSA members from the New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau:
[CLICK HERE](#)

CSA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

All participants (attendees, presenters) must register for the conference. The pre-registration rates are at a special, lower rate. These special rates end on May 20, 2015.

» [CLICK HERE to register](#)

Join/Renew Membership

Please join CSA if you are not a member or if you have not paid your dues for 2015. You may also make a donation to CSA - all donations go directly to our programs.

» [JOIN TODAY](#)
» [UPDATE MEMBER INFO.](#)

Upcoming Deadlines

CALL FOR PAPERS DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JANUARY 15th

The deadline for submission of paper and panel proposals has been **extended to January 15, 2015.**

» [CLICK HERE to submit](#)

Issue: January 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings CSA members. Arrangements are progressing smoothly for those planning to attend our 40th annual conference in New Orleans from May 25th to 29th. Many academic paper and panel proposals have been submitted and we look forward to receiving more before the extended deadline of January 15th.

We assure you that you'll not want to miss the opportunity to engage in academic discussion of the conference theme (global apartheid) as it relates to the Caribbean, but also to discover--through film, visual art, music, performance and even a New Orleans Second Line--the abundant cultural expressions of a little-known group of Creoles residing in the Southwestern Louisiana-East Texas area.

We are planning a wealth of cultural activities to coincide with the academic conference sessions. Participants are encouraged to arrive a weekend early, not only because our conference hotel (Hilton Riverside) has good availability then at discounted rates, but also because we are planning full-day "Hidden History 1811" excursions to the newly opened Whitney Plantation site. Tour guides describe America's largest slave revolt (occurring in Louisiana in 1811) and focus in a truly revolutionary way on the black experience (see www.whitneyplantation.com).

[CLICK HERE](#) to Make your hotel reservations.

- Jan DeCosmo, *President*

FROM THE LOCAL COMMITTEE

The local host committee looks forward to CSA 2015 in New Orleans. Faculty, staff, and students from a number of universities (Loyola, Louisiana State University campuses, Tulane, Xavier) and local cultural workers and activists are involved in coordinating and planning events, speakers, translation services, and funding. Because the city is such a rich cultural resource, we expect to have a number of sites, archives, and activities that will enhance the conference experience. Conference participants will be provided with a list of museums that illuminate the Creole character of the city and its location as a nexus for the multiple cultures which link it to the Caribbean. Let the good times roll!

- Supriya Nair, *Local Committee Chair*

GRADUATE STUDENT CORNER



Graduates I hope that you are looking forward to this year's CSA Conference 2015. As a team we are working hard to ensure that we reach you with initiatives and opportunities which will make a difference to you!

Student Breakfast

As part of our usual fare, we will be hosting our graduate student breakfast. This activity is meant to create face to face interactions between students and faculty. This session is meant to be one of mentorship where students receive invaluable information about the

graduate student experience, how and where to publish and the intricacies of obtaining tenure, just to name a few.

Congratulations on achieving Ph.D. status

We want to take this opportunity to say congratulations to one of

Programming inquiries should be directed to the [Program Committee Co-chairs](#).

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in serving on the newsletter committee, please [contact us](#). A volunteer is also needed to coordinate the visual arts component of the Film & Visual Arts Committee.

A New Generation of Leadership for CSA

Nominations for the Executive Council and Vice Presidency of CSA are being encouraged up until March 15th. We are developing a new team of leadership that can take the organization confidently into the future and we look forward to working with you to this end.

According to the CSA Constitution, *"Each of the six (6) elected council members will have a two-year term of office, with the possibility of only one additional consecutive term"*

If you would like to serve, or would want to nominate a member you believe has a lot to contribute, feel free to indicate this to the Vice President, Carole Boyce Davies at ceb278@cornell.edu

CSA's regular student attendee Stefan Walcott. He attained his Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from the CaveHill Campus of The University of the West Indies in Barbados. We wish him all the best in his academic career.

Words of encouragement to current graduate students

The road is arduous and we often face what seems like endless tests and trials. Even so, we want to send out positive vibes to all of our continuing Masters and Ph.D. candidates. Keep striving to reach your goal and finish well!

- Meagan Sylvester, *Graduate Student Representative*

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POSTER SESSION

In order to disseminate the work of our young researchers, CSA invites undergraduate researchers to participate in a unique opportunity to present data and have a substantive discussion with a large number of conference participants. The undergraduate constructed posters will be on display throughout the duration of the conference. Posters will be formally judged as part of a competition, and prizes will be awarded to the top three posters as determined by a committee of three judges. The deadline for poster proposals is March 15th. For more information contact Dr. Maggie Shrimpton at maggieshrimpton@yahoo.com.mx.

» [CLICK HERE for details](#)

CONFERENCE ROOM SHARING

Interested in Sharing a Room at the CSA Conference?

This year, as in the past, we are offering the opportunity to reduce cost, meet new people, and make it easier to attend our conference. If you are interested in sharing a room for the Annual Conference, we ask you to complete and submit the form listed on the following link: [CLICK HERE](#)

THE LITERARY SALON



Marlon James



Fred D'Aguiar

The 2015 CSA Literary Salon committee is chaired by Andrea Shaw, an English studies scholar and creative writer. She is joined on the committee by Rita Keresztesi, Wesley Crichlow, and Dennis Howard. The team has selected its invited writers, Marlon James and Fred D'Aguiar, who are tentatively scheduled to participate in the salon. These authors promise to deliver an excellent reading. Both have recently published highly acclaimed novels. The New York Times review of James' *A Brief History of Seven Killings* describes it as a "Tarantino remake of *The Harder They Come* but with a soundtrack by Bob Marley and a script by Oliver Stone and William Faulkner, with maybe a little creative boost from some primo ganja." The review further describes the novel as "a testament to Mr. James's vaulting ambition and prodigious talent." D'Aguiar's novel, *Children of Paradise*, has also received critical acclaim. Inspired by the infamous and tragic mass murder-suicides in Jonestown, Guyana in 1978, D'Aguiar has penned a novel that focuses on the children who lived and died in Jonestown. The New York Times review comments that "D'Aguiar seeks to reanimate them, fleshing out a group of imagined Jonestown children in a way only fiction can." It further explains that he "depicts the plight of Trina and the other children with heartbreaking immediacy." For 2015, the submission requirements to participate have been reduced, and writers will have ten minutes each. If you are interested in taking part in the Salon, please send an email to Andrea Shaw at csaliterarysalon@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE FOR TRANSLINGUISTIC EXCHANGE AND TRANSLATION (CTET)

The aim of CTET is to promote multilingual exchange and to create a CSA that is not only more inclusive and collegial but also academically stronger and truly representative of the diversity of Caribbean people, society and culture. Our duties include making recommendations to CSA members and leaders and advocating policies that connect and

enrich the transnational and interdisciplinary scholarship that CSA is proud to foster. Continuous assessment of our initiatives, including a survey answered by about 200 members in 2013, allowed us to establish that a significant number of our members are multilingual, and that an overwhelming majority of our total membership is willing to engage in multilingual practices as a permanent feature of CSA. However, a culture of multilingual exchange is far from being engrained in the CSA. We hope for the engagement of more of our members so they can enjoy the benefits of a broader projection of our scholarship and collegiality. CTET will continue to work with the executive council and the president to make CSA an inclusive home beyond linguistic "fences."



- Nadia Celis, *Chair*

LOUISIANA CREOLES

After absorbing refugees from the revolutionary West Indies between 1805 and 1810, blacks (including slaves and free people of color) comprised the majority (64%) of New Orleans' population. Despite the inevitable pressures of assimilation since those early years, the influence of Creole culture still resonates in New Orleans and communities throughout Southwestern Louisiana. Vestiges of Creole language, religious practices, cuisine, music, dance, visual arts, architecture, and festival traditions are easily found throughout the city and region by those who know where to look. Extremely proud of their heritage and ethnic identity, Louisiana Creoles are understandably puzzled about why they have been largely neglected by scholars in their studies of the Caribbean/Circum-Caribbean.



Given the similarity of their colonial history and racial oppression - and their Catholic roots thanks to their first two European colonizers as well as later migrations of Catholics (Sicilians comprised 90% of the local population of the French Quarter by the turn of the 20th century) - they make a strong case that their heritage deserves more attention.

(Photo: Marie Lassus, free woman of color of New Orleans, 1860)

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