



CSA News

CaribbeanStudiesAssociation.org

The Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Studies Association



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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.

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Issue: September 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Caribbean Radical Intellectual Tradition Today

The Caribbean Radical Intellectual Tradition has been defined by a range of scholars as having numbers which proportionately far outrank the size of the Caribbean. Just like our world class athletes reduce the meanings of space and speed, our scholars similarly take on the world beyond their particular island locations but with a much broader articulation of what I have called “Caribbean Space” (2013).



Carole Boyce-Davies

A recognizable pattern of the black radical intellectual tradition, which overlaps with the Caribbean radical intellectual tradition, as defined by several scholars, is that, it is marked by a diasporic sensibility, shaped by anti-racist and anti-imperialist politics; carries a commitment to using scholarship to clarify, ameliorate or advance the conditions of black populations worldwide. And importantly, “we recognize that scholar, artist, practitioner, activist, and community member are not mutually exclusive terms” (Allen, *GLQ* 18:2 – 3, 2012).

This Caribbean Radical Intellectual Tradition is visible in the presence of Professor Hilary Beckles an activist-intellectual, an administrator, a scholar who uses his education, intellect, professional position and location strategically for the benefit of communities which have been historically disadvantaged. Hilary Beckles deliberately situates his work in both of these traditions indicating intellectual influence from C.L.R. James, Michael Manley, Walter Rodney, Dudley Thompson, Earl Lovelace, George Lamming and several others. He indicates that he benefits substantially from the work of Eric E. Williams and his landmark *Capitalism and Slavery* (1944). But even more relevant for him is the knowledge passed down from great grandmothers and grandfathers about slavery and plantation barbarism. Unlike many intellectuals who rapidly want to distance themselves from that past, Hilary admits his family’s origins in a sugar cane plantation which bore all the legacies of the expropriation of labor under enslavement and colonialism.

If reparations discourse has a new life, as we witness recent moves from CARICOM, it is clearly with the benefit of the painstaking work and cogent arguments of Hilary Beckles and his uncompromising demand for justice and the means by which we can move into the future without continuing economic, intellectual, mental shackles. His fast becoming classic, *Britain’s Black Debt: Reparations for Caribbean Slavery and Native Genocide* (2013) is lancer-like work that deals directly with the British, including the Royal Family and current political leadership and their debt to the Caribbean. His vision is broad enough to include the genocide of the native peoples of the Caribbean, along

CALL FOR PAPERS

» [2016 CSA Conference Call for Papers](#)

» [WorkingUSA: Journal of Labor & Society](#)

» [Call for chapter proposals – Proposed book: Race, Religion, Culture and Education in the Caribbean](#)

CSA MEMBERSHIP FEEDBACK

"Congrats on the newsletter, enjoying the new format and frequency."

– Annie Paul, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus

"I am interested in participating in next year's annual Caribbean studies conference."

- Mtra. Christine Mc Coy, Universidad del Caribe

"A quick note to say thank you for a valuable newsletter - I am very glad that CSA is speaking out about both Charleston and the Dominican Republic. I especially liked the comments by our president and our vice-president. The crisp, logical layout of the newsletter invites a viewer to read the entire edition. I'll be sharing it with a few friends who may not yet be members."

- Ann Armstrong Scarboro, Mosaic Media

"Great to see this." (in reference to the CSA Statement on CSA Statement on the Denaturalization and Deportation of Dominicans of Haitian Descent

– Professor Rhoda Reddock, Deputy Principal, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Library of Congress Kislak Fellowship for the Study of the History and Cultures of the Early Americas

Please take a moment to consider applying for or sharing with colleagues this wonderful opportunity to use the Library of Congress' vast resources toward a study of the Early Americas with the Kislak Fellowship for the Study of the History and Cultures of the Early Americas. The Kislak collection contains some of the earliest records of indigenous peoples in North America and superb objects from the "discovery", contact, and colonial periods, especially for Florida, the Caribbean, and Mesoamerica. Sample items from the Jay I. Kislak collection can be viewed [online](#), with a fuller description available [here](#).

The application deadline is October 15, 2015. Read about fellowship application requirements on the [Kluge Center website](#).

Any questions regarding this fellowship, or other [fellowships](#) at The John W. Kluge Center, can be directed to scholarly@loc.gov.

with the enslavement of Africans as part of the debt owed the Caribbean as his subtitle indicates: *Reparations for Caribbean Slavery and Native Genocide*. And we are owed he demonstrates, not just for enslavement but also for the following years of the extraction of wealth via colonialism that he describes as "Europe's criminal enrichment project" with the concomitant "underdeveloping" of the Caribbean.

In recognizing Professor Hilary Beckles achievement, we also recognize that CSA still today has within its ranks several members who define themselves (or can be defined) within the Caribbean Radical Intellectual Tradition and who like our amazing track stars, musicians, artists, move beyond their particular island locations to become leaders in Caribbean global movement.

Carole Boyce-Davies
President, CSA-2015-2016

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIRS



Marie-Jose Nzengou-Tayo



Angelique V. Nixon

Report from CSA 2016 Program Co-Chairs

Since the CFP was made available early August, we have been receiving a lot of queries about the submission process. There is a lot of interest in the theme and location of our 41st annual conference in Haiti (5-11 June 2016). We shared the Call for Papers/Proposals early to give members time to work on proposals and be ready for the earlier submission deadline of 15th October. Please be reminded that we are not accepting any submissions yet as we are in the process of configuring our new conference management system. We are reiterating our request for your patience and understanding during this time. And we are reminding you to pay attention to email updates regarding the transition to the new system and for announcements about the submission process, which will be different than in previous years.

This month we would like to direct your attention to our main local partner for the organisation of the conference, FOKAL (Fondation Connaissance et Liberté ou Fondasyon Konesan ak Libète Foundation for Knowledge and Liberty). FOKAL is a non-profit organisation created in 1995, which is a member of the Open Society Foundation Network. For the past 20 years, the organisation has been providing institutional and financial support to various grassroots organisation and has played a pivotal role in the field of culture, arts, and education, as well as in civic engagement and development (for more information consult FOKAL's brochure and website at: <http://www.fokal.org/en/> or <http://www.fokal.org/fr/>).

The Chairperson of FOKAL's Executive Board, Mrs Michèle Pierre-Louis, is the chair of our Local Organizing Committee. She will be assisted by two other co-chairs, Dr Jhon Picard Byron, from the Faculty of Ethnology at the Université d'État d'Haïti, and Mr Philippe Dodard, the Director of ENARTS, the National School of Arts.

Next month, we will tell you more about our Local Organizing Committee and their respective institutions.

For all program-related inquires or suggestions, please contact us directly at:

program.chair@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org.

Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo
Angelique V. Nixon

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the Newsletter brings together several key features on matters of critical import to the Caribbean and our diasporic communities.

Our President Carole Boyce-Davies channels the mood of celebration with her segment which speaks to Caribbean excellence in our varying contributions as regional scholars, sportsmen, activists, radical development thinkers and the like.

In particular, she highlights the accomplishments of Professor Sir Hilary Beckles and the contribution which he has made to Caribbean intellectual thought in studies on Cricket, Reparations and the inequality and inequity which exists in the lives of the former subjects of the British Crown.

The Program Chairs generate excitement with their appeal for the membership to look forward with anticipation to the 2016 conference in Haiti. As a reminder please note that this year we have instituted earlier registration for our annual conference. As such, we urge you to remember to check the website for all updated information on the conference, membership, and registration. See link below for your ease of reference

<http://www.caribbeanstudiesassociation.org>



Meagan Sylvester

The Spanish, French and Martinican Creole sub-editors have placed focus on the state of the latest set of natural disasters which are plaguing the Caribbean region in the form of hurricanes. As a community, we express our deepest condolences to those whose lives have been compromised in Dominica and other island territories. The Caribbean Studies Association is committed to supporting our Caribbean brothers and sisters in their time of need.

Our membership news segment shines light on Professor Sir Hilary Beckles who was installed as the new Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies earlier this year in May. Looking forward to the future, the New Vice Chancellor stated in his inaugural address that "he viewed UWI as the institution that would provide its people with the skills and knowledge to reach this pinnacle of economic development and social justice, as it would create the space for each child to grow." Championed by those sentiments, the Caribbean Studies Association takes this opportunity to say congratulations to Professor Beckles on his appointment. Please join with us in wishing him every success in his new academic and administrative endeavour.

Graduate students are a critical part of our community. In our Graduate Student Corner, we share tidbits on graduate student life, challenges and paths to success. Be sure to read and share your with your fellow student populations at your campuses!

As part of our commitment to bring real time features to you, our members, we have decided to add the following new segments to the CSA Newsletter : (i) Membership Feedback, (ii) Film Track Updates and (iii) Links to Call for Papers. It is our intention that these additional segments will add value to our Newsletter and increase our outreach to our readership.

Remember, we want to hear from you! To keep in contact with us, please feel free to email the Newsletter Editor

directly at newseditor@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org to share your views, comments and the good news of your academic success with us.

Meagan Sylvester
Newsletter Editor, CSA

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS

Nouvèl (Martinican French Creole)

SEZON LAPLI 2015

Sezon lapli ka koumansé mwa jwen pou fini mwa novamn. Sé an sézon ki ka pòté an lo lapli, siklònn épi van. Sé pou sa ki sé moun Karayib-la ka pè lo déga la pli a kozé. Délè, moun pé jik pèd la vi-yo épi kay-yo. Klima twopikal, sé an klima ki plito cho épi imid. Ni dé sézon: ivènaj épi Kawèm. Ni an lo la pli pendan invènaj-la. Kawèm-la plito sèk é i ka koumansé mwa mas pou fini jwen. Mé, lo chanjman klimatik ki afekté tout sé péyi adan mon antié, ni chanjman adan kawèm épi invènaj-la. Délè, yo pé fini vit ou byen diré pli lontan.



Hélène Zamor

Lanné ta-la, sézon la pli a plito cho. Pa ni an pil la pli ki ka tonbé. Mwa jwiyèt épi mwa out-la té cho. Té ni ti brin lapli ki tonbé. Mè adan matiné 10 out-la, ni an fénomèn ki fòmé pa lwen di sé il Cap-Vert-la. Sé té an mas niyaj ki vit divini siklòn, yo bay an non é sé té Danny. Lè Danny vini koté Karayib-la, i té byen fòmé épi van de 65 kilomèt. Yo di ki siklòn-la té a 2.500 kilomèt di réyon nou an. Sé té Lagwadloup épi sé il dinò ki té asou vijilans jonn-la. Danny. Pli ta an jounen an, Danny pèd vitès-li épi i divini an déprésyon twopical. LaGwadloup épi sé zò il pasé asou vijilan vèt-la. Lapli tonbé Lagwadloup adan week-end-la mè i pa fè piès déga. Danny pati mè an lòt sistèm, tala né simèn le 25 out, yo té batizé-ï Erika. I pa té osi byen fòmé ki Danny. Silon sé prévizon an, Erika pa té samblé two fò. Mé i pasé asou Ladominik épi tchoué an lo moun. Sé rout-la épi sé kay-la krazé. Gwo lapli épi glisman teren ki kozé pwoblèm-la. Jòdi-a, Ladominik ka soufè anpil. Lbabad, Lagwadloup, Matinik, Trinidad épi sé zòt il-a ka esayé édé yo. Yo ka ba yo manjé, rad épi médikaman.

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

Español

LLamado de alerta a la conciencia ciudadana: ciclones tropicales y sequía en el Caribe actual

Desde la década de los ochenta del siglo XX, la historiadora Susy Castor en la revista "El Caribe contemporáneo" nos planteó la necesidad de valorar los estudios sociales a partir de múltiples factores económicos, políticos, sociales y medioambientales. Enfatizando en los huracanes que habían ocurrido a finales de los setenta y principios de los ochenta alertó a la comunidad caribeña sobre la necesidad de vincular a los programa de desarrollo de nuestras islas un proyecto de educación ambiental. Ante los retos del cambio climático, resulta imprescindible llamar la atención sobre la actual situación que vive la ciudadanía en la región insular. La peor sequía en cinco años y, a la vez, el paso de Danny y Erika, los más recientes ciclones de la actual temporada.



Vilma Diaz

En diferentes medios informativos se destaca que, desde Puerto Rico a Cuba, pasando por la isla oriental de Santa Lucía, los cultivos, los embalses y el ganado mueren. Debido al fenómeno El Niño y al calentamiento global, se esperaba que la temporada de huracanes fuese más tranquila de lo normal, lo que provocaría menos lluvias en el Caribe. A principios de julio, Norman Gibson, científico del Instituto de Investigación y Desarrollo Agrícola del Caribe, con sede en Trinidad indicó que los agricultores habían perdido más de un millón de dólares en cultivos resecos, así como decenas de miles de dólares en ganadería. La isla de Santa Lucía, es golpeada con especial dureza, los agricultores expresan que las plantaciones de cocos, de nueces de la India y de naranjas se están marchitando. Funcionarios en Cuba refieren que el 75% de la isla se encuentra en sequía, lo que ha causado mortandad del ganado y ha destruido miles de hectáreas de cultivos de plátano, cítricos, arroz y frijoles. Sólo ha caído un 68% de la precipitación promedio de enero a mayo y los 200 embalses de agua están operando a menos del 40% de capacidad. En la cercana República Dominicana se ha reportado casos extremos de escasez de agua en cientos de comunidades en las cuales no llueve hace meses.

Sin embargo, el paso de Danny más que la lluvia deseada, dejó a casi 4000 desplazados en República Dominicana, enormes pérdidas económicas en Martinica y lamentables muertes en Dominica. Y es que, la ciudadanía en el Caribe se ve afectada en ambas direcciones, debido a la sequía y al paso de huracanes. Nuevamente la solución está en los proyectos de organización y mitigación de los daños provocados por fenómenos naturales que, inevitablemente, continuarán azotando la región caribeña.

Es necesario que instituciones locales, municipales, gubernamentales y civiles preparen a la ciudadanía que reside en zonas vulnerables, cerca de ríos, arroyos, cañadas y las costas.

Vilma Diaz
Spanish Language Sub-editor
CSA Newsletter

Français

UNE SAISON PLUVIEUSE BIEN PARTICULIÈRE

Pendant la saison pluvieuse qui débute en juin et qui se termine en novembre, la Caraïbe est confrontée à des pluies diluviales et à une succession d'ondes tropicales et d'ouragans. Ces phénomènes naturels sont souvent redoutés par les populations pour les dégâts qu'ils engendrent.



Hélène Zamor

Généralement, le climat tropical des Antilles se caractérise par des températures élevées et un fort taux d'humidité tout au long de l'année. Le carême, comme on l'appelle souvent en Guadeloupe et en Martinique commence vers le mois de mars et prend vers la fin du mois de mai. Par contre, la saison pluvieuse connue sous le nom d'hivernage s'étend de juin à novembre. Elle est le plus souvent marquée par des pluies torrentielles, des orages et des ouragans. La chaleur peut être humide et lourde. Depuis quelque temps, le carême et l'hivernage subissent de grands changements dus aux bouleversements climatiques affectant le monde entier. Il n'est donc pas rare de voir ces deux saisons se raccourcir ou durer plus longtemps que prévu. Selon les météorologues, les pluies n'ont guère été abondantes depuis le commencement de l'hivernage. Une chaleur humide accablante s'est fait ressentir particulièrement pendant les mois de juillet et d'août.

Dans la matinée du 18 août 2015, un amas nuageux s'est formé près des îles du Cap-Vert. Il se trouvait à 2.500 kilomètres de l'archipel antillais. Ce phénomène accompagné de vents de 65 kilomètres s'est transformé en ouragan de catégorie 3. Selon le NHC, Danny s'est intensifié et il se localisait à 1390 km. des Petites-Antilles. La Guadeloupe ainsi que les îles étaient alors en vigilance jaune. On constate que Danny a perdu de la vitesse et qu'il est devenu un ouragan de catégorie 1. Malgré l'affaiblissement de l'ouragan, les populations devaient rester vigilantes. Les premières averses se sont produites en Guadeloupe dans le weekend du 23 août sans causer de dégâts majeurs. N'ayant rencontré de conditions favorables à son développement, Danny est devenu une dépression tropicale. Les îles concernées sont finalement passées sous vigilance verte.

Danny s'est progressivement éteint en se rapprochant de Puerto-Rico et de l'Hispaniola. A partir du 25 août, la "saga ouragan" a repris son cours avec la naissance d'Erika. Contrairement à Danny, la tempête Erika organisée ne semblait pas poser de danger. Le 27 août dernier, la Guadeloupe et la Martinique ont eu des pluies plus ou moins abondantes mais sans dégâts majeurs. Si ces îles ont été épargnées, la Dominique elle ne l'a pas été. Les pluies torrentielles associées à Erika se sont abattues sur ce pays avec acharnement en détruisant ses maisons, et son infrastructure. Aujourd'hui, plus de 20 personnes ont péri lors du passage d'Erika. Comme la situation de la Dominique est précaire, les autres îles de la Caraïbe se mobilisent pour venir en aide aux sinistrés meurtris par le phénomène. Erika a laissé la Dominique pour vers la République dominicaine et Haïti. Quoiqu'il ait beaucoup plu dans ces deux pays, les dégâts matériels et humains ont été moins importants qu'à la Dominique.

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

GRADUATE STUDENT CORNER

Speaking truth to power: Storytelling and owning your voice

This month I want to talk about something that I know plagues many of us budding intellectuals: confidence. Don't get me wrong, one of the most in-your-face struggles of academia can seem to be overly confident or even arrogant colleagues. But still, this may in fact stem from a lack of confidence (or at least humility).

My concern however, is with us grad students who don't always feel entitled to our own voice. For example, I remember during course work in my PhD a friend in one of my classes had to point out to me that I always said some variation of "I don't know if this makes sense but..." when I contributed to discussions. I remember being taken aback by this observation because I thought I had managed to rationalize and overcome my 'imposter syndrome' during the transition from my Masters.



Lauren Pragg

Alas, even today as I attempt to make progress on my dissertation, self-assurance in my own ability and analysis ebbs and flows. Granted I can endlessly comfort and support friends who are in similar positions. I tell them that they don't have to know it all and that institutions such as ours are built on the capitalist principles of hierarchy and competition.

The ways that I've attempted to mitigate and value my experiences within and outside of grad school are by being open to talking about them, and finding space for them within my work.

To start, I use auto ethnography as one of my qualitative methods in order to centralize the experience in my field work. Using feminist and queer theory foundations means I have created the framework to value affective and experiential knowledge while also situating my work within material realities. Another aspect of this process for me has been owning my position as a Caribbean person of the diaspora. I wasn't born in the region and even with frequent trips back to Trinidad it's been a long road to feeling confident in my contributions.

So, whatever your field, framework or focus - remember that your work is your own. It's a piece of you and your unique perspective has something to offer. Remember that academia is an institution like any other, one that's built on social hierarchies with mechanisms to maintain privilege and precariousness. Remember why you started this journey to begin with, and to whom you wish to be accountable. Trust your gut, and see my previous contributions to consider some means of support.

Good luck!

Lauren Pragg
CSA Graduate Student Representative 2015- 2016

MEMBERSHIP FORUM

FEATURED ACADEMIC: Professor Sir Hilary Beckles

Professor Sir Hilary Beckles is Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies. He is a distinguished university administrator, economic historian, and specialist in higher education and development thinking and practice; and an internationally reputed historian. Sir Hilary is Vice President of the International Task Force for the UNESCO Slave Route Project; a consultant for the UNESCO Cities for Peace Global Programme; an advisor to the UN World Culture Report; and member of Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, Science Advisory Board on sustainable development. He has received numerous awards, including Honorary Doctor of Letters from Brock University, the University of Glasgow, University of Hull, and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, in recognition of his major contribution to academic research into transatlantic slavery, popular culture, and sport. Sir Hilary has lectured extensively in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas and has published more than 10 academic books. He is Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Commission on Reparation and Social Justice. Sir Hilary is also founder and Director of the CLR James Centre for Cricket Research at Cave Hill Campus, and a former member of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB). He is founder and inaugural Chairman of the High Performance Cricket Academy of the WICB. He is also Vice President of the Commonwealth Sports Ministers advisory body on Sport and Development. Sir Hilary is an editor of the UNESCO General History of Africa series.



Link to online article
<http://www.uwi.edu/VCBiography.asp>

FILM TRACK

Symposium on Caribbean cinema to be held at film festival

Port of Spain, Trinidad: A group of regional and international scholars will converge in Port of Spain this September, to examine some of the core issues driving and impacting contemporary Caribbean cinema.

Organised by the trinidad+tobago film festival (ttff) in association with the Film Programme of the University of the West Indies, St Augustine campus, the Caribbean Cinema Now symposium will be held from Thursday 24–Saturday 26 September, at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad. The symposium takes place during the ttff/15, which runs from 15–29 September.

Caribbean Cinema Now will use the work of Caribbean filmmakers to explore issues such as the aesthetics of resistance, the politics of hunger, new Cuban cinema, Puerto Rican identity in the twenty-first century, and the use of folklore to take back and decolonise knowledge.

The presentation of papers includes: “My story is not a nice story: Raoul Peck’s African films”, by Professor Jane Bryce, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill; “Female directors and kinship in Caribbean cinema: An ongoing trend” by Norma Liz Rodríguez-Santiago, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras; and “Telling Caribbean stories: Storm Sautler’s place in the new Caribbean canon” by Rachel Moseley-Wood, University of the West Indies, Mona.

There will also be presentations by scholars from the University of the West Indies, St Augustine; University of Missouri; New York University; University of Kansas; the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry; and University of the French West Indies.

According to Bruce Paddington, Founder and Festival Director, ttff, “With the Festival marking its tenth anniversary this year, we felt it was important to formally acknowledge the place of Caribbean film in the canon of film studies. The symposium, with presentations by a renowned group of regional and international academics, marks an important stage in the validation and acceptance of Caribbean cinema.”

Caribbean Cinema Now takes place in the San Fernando room of the Hyatt Regency Trinidad, each day from 1.30pm–3.30pm. The symposium is free and open to the public. As there is limited space, pre-registration is recommended. Call [+1 \(868\) 621.0709](tel:+18686210709) or hello@ttfilmfestival.com to do so. For more information about the ttff, visit ttfilmfestival.com.

About the ttff

The ttff celebrates films from and about the Caribbean and its diaspora, as well as from world cinema, through an annual festival and year-round screenings. In addition, the ttff seeks to facilitate the growth of Caribbean cinema by offering a wide-ranging industry programme and networking opportunities.

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