



CONTENTS

Message from the Editor	1
Message from the President	3
Message from the Language Sub-Editors	9
Spanish	8
French	10
Dutch Caribbean Report	12
CSA Member Highlight	13
Caribbean Scholarship	14
New Book	15
Caribbean Cultural Expression	16
Your Commentary	17
Student Life	19
Training Opportunities	20
Calypso History Month Celebrations in Tobago	21
Special Announcements	22

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The Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Studies Association - October 2022 Edition

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Caribbean Cultural Expression

This month we celebrate with our Caribbean Community, the many and varying expressions of culture displayed across the archipelago. From the inaugural celebration of Carnival in Tobago and Trinidad's annual Calypso History Month to Dominica's World Creole Festival and all points in between, October has delivered on its promise to entertain and to inspire.

Two notable public academic engagement sessions held in October under the auspices of the Institute of Caribbean Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica led by Dr. Lisa Tomlinson were:

- DanceHall Queen 25th Anniversary Symposium
- Staff/Postgraduate Seminar Series



Meagan Sylvester

DANCEHALL QUEEN 25TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

Staff/Postgraduate Seminar Series

Meagan Sylvester

Hurricane Season

On other hand, the bittersweet reality of October in the Caribbean has been the hurricane season, which typically runs from June to November and includes major tropical storms in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and its surrounding areas. Given the ravages meted out by Hurricane Ian and several of the region's island territories, The Caribbean Studies Association takes this opportunity to express our solidarity with our Caribbean brothers and sisters as they take steps to get back to normalcy.

President's write

Dr. Chenzira Davis Kahina, the CSA President shares details about the upcoming conference in St. Croix 2023. Information is shared with regards to the conference's theme of *Transforming Our Caribbean: Sustainable Educational Research, Cultural Creatives, Sacred Traditions, Economic Development*

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Per Ankh Khamniversity Institute

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University of Alberta in Edmonton

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University of the West Indies

Program Chair:
Meagan Sylvester
Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies

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- Kristina Hinds
- L. Kaifa Roland
- Patricia Saunders

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR cont'd

and Environmental Solutions, call for papers, airline options, hotel options and duration and modality. Important update: **Due to logistics and the importance of resuming a traditional CSA physical conference, CSA2023 St. Croix is being organized as a five-day physical conference with select access to plenary presentations via digital media.**

Student Life

In our Student Life column this month, we feature the work of Caribbean scholars who share on the article entitled: *Predictors of Student Success in an Online Learning Environment in the English-Speaking Caribbean: Evidence from the University of the West Indies Open Campus*. Be sure to read this critical piece of scholarship as we as a region adjust to post-pandemic educational objectives.

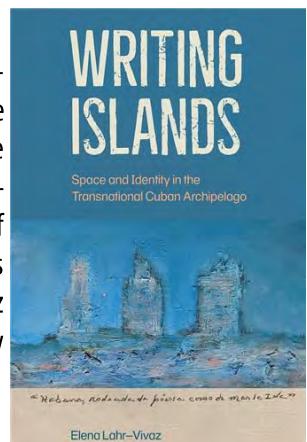
Member Highlight

We feature Agostinho Pinnock as our member in highlight this month. Agostinho is completing a transdisciplinary PhD in geography and art history in the department of Geography and the Environment at Loughborough University (LU). His research interrogates how visual and kinaesthetic cultures recover systematically excluded histories in modern Jamaica through monumentality, visual arts and street dance (dancehall). Agostinho's thesis is entitled: *Geographies of Struggle: History, Art and Nationhood in Post/colonial and Post-independence Jamaica, 2000-Present*.



New Book

In *Writing Islands*, Elena Lahr-Vivaz employs methods from archipelagic studies to analyze works of contemporary Cuban writers on the island alongside those in exile. Offering a new lens to explore the multiplicity of Cuban space and identity, she argues that these writers approach their nation as part of a larger, transnational network of islands. Introducing the term "arcubiénago" to describe the spaces created by Cuban writers, both on the ground and in print, Lahr-Vivaz illuminates how transnational communities are forged and how they function across space and time.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Chenzira Davis Kahina

CSA Members are you getting ready for CSA2023 St. Croix Virgin Islands? What would you like to see manifest during our first physical CSA Conference since 2019?

CSA welcomes our members, supporters and potential investors to join our celebration of 48 years of engaging existence from very humble academic beginnings in 1974! Beyond the C19 experiences of 2020

to present, beyond the active hurricane season of 2022, and in harmony with CSA preparing for our first physical conference since CSA2019 in Santa Marta, Columbia, CSA members are encouraged to prepare for a creative, sustainable and innovative CSA2023 Conference in the cultural capital of the Virgin Islands- the isle of St. Croix!

For those who may not be aware: St. Croix, Virgin Islands is looking forward to welcoming CSA Members, Supporters and Families in June 2023 for the 47th CSA Conference! CSA will be 49 years in existence in 2023- an achievement worthy of celebration and acknowledgment. Initial plans for CSA2023 St. Croix scheduled for June 5th to June 9th of 2023, have been to organize the conference in a physical and virtual (hybrid) format. Due to logistics and the importance of resuming a traditional CSA physical conference, CSA2023 St. Croix is being organized as a five-day physical conference with select access to plenary presentations via digital media.

Currently, there are several essential organizational logistics that are in progress to maximize the efficiency for planning, coordinating, and managing this first physical conference in St. Croix in many years. With our CSA2023 St. Croix conference theme of *Transforming Our Caribbean: Sustainable Educational Research, Cultural Creatives, Sacred Traditions, Economic Development and Environmental Solutions*, an interdisciplinary approach to exploring research-based solutions for contemporary affairs exchanging knowledge relevant to historic cultural restoration/preservation, economic/social management and comprehensive/sustainable development requires that CSA Members current and Caribbeanist practitioners globally share authentically, work together for the successful outcome of the June 2023 CSA Conference. CSA Members interested in providing creative insights and resourceful supper are invited to reach out

to the CSA Executive Council and CSA2023 Program Chair Meagan Sylvester programchair@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org

For those CSA Members who are eager to submit abstracts for review and consideration for CSA2023, your patience is appreciated as the Call for Papers is scheduled for distribution on or before November 30.2022. Based on inquiries regarding travel to St. Croix Virgin Islands for June 2023, as details for package arrangements are pending surrounding a major election period in the VIUS ending in November 8.2022, please note the following:

Airlines options for air transport to St. Croix:

- American
- Spirit
- Delta (via St. Thomas to St. Croix)
- United (via St. Thomas to St. Croix)
- JetBlue (via St. Thomas or San Juan to St. Croix)
- Silver Airways (via St. Thomas or San Juan to St. Croix)
- Cape Air (via St. Thomas or San Juan to St. Croix)

Hotels For Consideration on St. Croix:

- *Carambola Hotel (In Davis Bay- between Christiansted and Frederiksted)
- Caravelle Hotel (In Christiansted)
- Kings Alley Hotel (In Christiansted)
- Buccaneer Hotel (In Christiansted)
- Frederiksted Hotel (In Frederiksted)
- Sandcastle on the Beach Hotel (In Frederiksted)
- Cottages By The Sea (In Frederiksted)
- AirBnB options are available. Please request places close to
- Queen Mary Highway in Frederiksted or Christiansted
- *Confirmation pending as a main site for CSA2023

Car Rental Options:

- Avis
- Budget
- Hertz
- Other options for ground transport are available
- *Please note that select ground transport to and from CSA2023 programs/events are pending

St. Croix is regarded as the The Virgin Islands Department of Tourism promotes #StCroixAVibeLikeNoOther. For those CSA Members desiring to learn a little more about the Caribbean treasure island of AyAy (Taino name) St. Croix, please visit the following sites:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnNmKLS0AV4> St. Croix A Vibe Like No Other- Vi Tourism
- <https://youtu.be/1fdki213W6c> St. Croix A Vibe Like No Other- Vi Tourism
- <https://youtu.be/Xlub8I5Cuwl> Maroon Sanctuary Hike with Award Winning Environmentalist Prof. Olasee Davis
- <https://youtu.be/3Sa2UUMAvf8> St. Croix A Vibe Like No Other- Vi Tourism
- <https://youtu.be/C02A4tF7G0k> Flavours of the USA- St. Croix VI with Award Winning Chef Digby Stridiron
- <https://youtu.be/UQ-jXzHpXOU> Christiansted Historic Park- National Park Service – With Chalana Brown
- https://youtu.be/_KjciBBphg Quadrille Dancing by St. Croix Magazine
- <https://youtu.be/o3d1uRaZrFs> Bamboula Dance/Drum/ Cultural Tradition by Griot TV2
- <https://youtu.be/54aPmBnAj00> Official VI Nice by Award-winning Artist Pressure
- <https://youtu.be/tQesqHbuFZo> Beauty of St. Croix VI by Visit-StCroix.com
- <https://youtu.be/JhEaIWn6Be8> Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism (CHANT) of St. Croix

As a gentle reminder, CSA Members are encouraged to support the forthcoming launch of the inaugural CSA Journal 2022 published by UWI Press and scheduled for December 2022. Under the CSA President's former direction of the VI Caribbean Cultural Center at the University of the Virgin Islands, annual sponsorship with adequate funding for the CSA Journal (first two issues) has been provided to cover expenses with the intention of additional institutional, corporate, and philanthropic funding and resourceful support from CSA Members and supporters being welcomed and seriously encouraged. CSA Members are encouraged to invite their respective institutions, corporations and other Caribbeanist supporting entities to provide similar annual contributions and resources to sustain and

maintain the CSA Journal and CSA in general. A special invitation to CSA Lifetime Members, CSA Elders and CSA Past Presidents is being extended for planning a gathering for a 49th Anniversary Plenary proposed for the CSA2023 St. Croix Conference.

More updates on the CSA2023 St. Croix Conference are forthcoming. Your patience and professional understanding with this renewal of physical conference gatherings for CSA after the C19 journey which is not completely ended are appreciated.

Remain inspired.

ChenziRa Davis Kahina,
President CSA 2022-2023

Español

Mensaje del presidente de CSAOctubre de 2022 Miembros de CSA, ¿se están preparando para CSA2023, Islas Vírgenes de St. Croix?

¿Qué le gustaría ver manifestado durante nuestra primera conferencia física de CSA desde 2019? ¡CSA da la bienvenida a nuestros miembros, simpatizantes e inversores potenciales para que se unan a nuestra celebración de 48 años de existencia cautivadora desde comienzos académicos muy humildes en 1974! Más allá de las experiencias C19 de 2020 al presente, más allá de la temporada activa de huracanes de 2022, y en armonía con la preparación de CSA para nuestra primera conferencia física desde CSA2019 en Santa Marta, Columbia, se alienta a los miembros de CSA a prepararse para un CSA2023 creativo, sostenible e innovador. Conferencia en la capital cultural de las Islas Vírgenes: ¡la isla de St. Croix!

CSA cumplirá 49 años de existencia en 2023, un logro digno de celebración y reconocimiento. Los planes iniciales para CSA2023 St. Croix, programados del 5 al 9 de junio de 2023, han sido organizar la conferencia en un formato físico y virtual (híbrido). Debido a la



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

logística y la importancia de reanudar una conferencia física tradicional de CSA, CSA2023 St. Croix se está organizando como una conferencia física de cinco días con acceso selecto a presentaciones plenarias a través de medios digitales. Actualmente, hay varias logísticas organizativas esenciales que están en progreso para maximizar la eficiencia de la planificación, coordinación y gestión de esta primera conferencia física en St. Croix en muchos años. Con nuestro tema de la conferencia CSA2023 St. Croix de Transforming Our Caribbean: Sustainable Educational Research, Cultural Creatives, Sacred Traditions, Economic Development and Environmental Solutions, un enfoque interdisciplinario para explorar soluciones basadas en la investigación para asuntos contemporáneos intercambiando conocimientos relevantes para la restauración/preservación cultural histórica , la gestión económica/social y el desarrollo integral/sostenible requieren que los miembros actuales de CSA y los profesionales caribeños a nivel mundial compartan auténticamente, trabajen juntos para el resultado exitoso de la Conferencia CSA de junio de 2023. Se invita a los miembros de CSA interesados en brindar ideas creativas y una cena ingeniosa a comunicarse con el Consejo Ejecutivo de CSA y la presidenta del programa CSA2023, Meagan Sylvester programchair@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org.

Apreciado ya que la convocatoria de artículos está programada para su distribución el 30 de noviembre de 2022 o antes. Según las consultas sobre viajes a las Islas Vírgenes de St. Croix para junio de 2023, ya que los detalles de los arreglos de paquetes están pendientes en torno a un período electoral importante en el VIUS que finaliza el 8 de noviembre de 2022, tenga en cuenta lo siguiente:

Opciones de aerolíneas para el transporte aéreo a St. Croix:

- American
- Spirit
- Delta (via St. Thomas to St. Croix)
- United (via St. Thomas to St. Croix)
- JetBlue (via St. Thomas or San Juan to St. Croix)
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- Sandcastle on the Beach Hotel (In Frederiksted)
- Cottages By The Sea (In Frederiksted)
- AirBnB options are available. Please request places close to Queen Mary Highway in Frederiksted or Christiansted
- *Confirmation pending as a main site for CSA2023

Car Rental Options:

- Avis
- Budget
- Hertz
- Hay otras opciones de transporte terrestre disponibles.
*Tenga en cuenta que el transporte terrestre seleccionado hacia y desde los programas/eventos CSA2023 está pendiente

St. Croix es considerada como el Departamento de Turismo de las Islas Vírgenes que promueve #StCroixAVibeLikeNoOther. Para aquellos miembros de CSA que deseen aprender un poco más sobre la isla del tesoro caribeño de AyAy (nombre taíno) St. Croix, visite los siguientes sitios:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnNmKLS0AV4> St. Croix A Vibe Like No Other- Vi Tourism
- <https://youtu.be/1fdki213W6c> St. Croix A Vibe Like No Other-Vi Tourism
- <https://youtu.be/Xlub8I5Cuwl> Maroon Sanctuary Hike with Award Winning Environmentalist Prof. Olasee Davis
- <https://youtu.be/3Sa2UUMAvf8> St. Croix A Vibe Like No Other-Vi Tourism
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- <https://youtu.be/JhEaIWn6Be8> Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism (CHANT) of St. Croix

Como un amable recordatorio, se alienta a los miembros de CSA a apoyar el próximo lanzamiento del CSA Journal 2022 inaugural publicado por UWI Press y programado para diciembre de 2022.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

Bajo la dirección anterior del presidente de CSA del VI Caribbean Cultural Center en la Universidad de las Islas Vírgenes, Se ha brindado patrocinio anual con financiamiento adecuado para CSA Journal (los dos primeros números) para cubrir los gastos con la intención de obtener financiamiento institucional, corporativo y filantrópico adicional y el apoyo ingenioso de los miembros y simpatizantes de CSA es bienvenido y seriamente alentado. Se anima a los miembros de CSA a invitar a sus respectivas instituciones, corporaciones y otras entidades caribeñas de apoyo a proporcionar contribuciones y recursos anuales similares para sostener y mantener CSA Journal y CSA en general. Se extiende una invitación especial a los miembros vitalicios de CSA, los ancianos de CSA y los presidentes anteriores de CSA para planificar una reunión para una plenaria del 49.º aniversario propuesta para la Conferencia CSA2023 St. Croix.

Próximamente habrá más actualizaciones sobre la Conferencia CSA2023 St. Croix y otros programas previos a la conferencia. Agradecemos su paciencia y comprensión profesional con esta renovación de reuniones de conferencias físicas para CSA después del viaje C19 que no ha terminado por completo.

¡Manténgase inspirado!

ChenziRa Davis Kahina
Presidenta de la CSA 2022-2023

Français

Message du président de l'ASC October 2022 Membres de l'ASC, vous préparez-vous pour CSA2023 îles Vierges Sainte-Croix ? Qu'aimeriez -vous voir se manifester lors de notre première conférence physique de CSA depuis 2019 ?

CSA invite nos membres, sympathisants et investisseurs potentiels à se joindre à notre célébration de 48 ans d'existence engageante depuis des débuts académiques très modestes en 1974 ! Au-delà des expériences C19 de 2020 à aujourd'hui, au-delà de la saison active des ouragans de 2022, et en harmonie avec la préparation de la CSA pour notre première conférence physique depuis CSA2019 à Santa Marta, en Colombie, les membres de la CSA sont encouragés à se préparer à une CSA2023 créative, durable et innovante Conférence dans la capitale culturelle des îles Vierges - l'île de Sainte-Croix !

Pour ceux qui ne le savent peut-être pas : Sainte-Croix, les îles Vierges se réjouissent d'accueillir les membres, les sympathisants et

les familles de l'ASC en juin 2023 pour la 47e conférence de l'ASC ! CSA aura 49 ans d'existence en 2023 - une réalisation digne de célébration et de reconnaissance. Les plans initiaux pour CSA2023 St. Croix, prévu du 5 au 9 juin 2023, étaient d'organiser la conférence dans un format physique et virtuel (hybride). En raison de la logistique et de l'importance de reprendre une conférence physique CSA traditionnelle, CSA2023 St. Croix est organisée comme une conférence physique de cinq jours avec un accès sélectif aux présentations plénaires via les médias numériques. Actuellement, plusieurs logistiques organisationnelles essentielles sont en cours pour maximiser l'efficacité de la planification, de la coordination et de la gestion de cette première conférence physique à Sainte-Croix depuis de nombreuses années. Avec le thème de notre conférence CSA2023 St. Croix Transforming Our Caribbean : Sustainable Educational Research, Cultural Creatives, Sacred Traditions, Economic Development and Environmental Solutions, une approche interdisciplinaire pour explorer des solutions basées sur la recherche pour les affaires contemporaines en échangeant des connaissances pertinentes pour la restauration/préservation culturelle historique , la gestion économique/sociale et le développement global/durable exigent que les membres actuels de l'ASC et les praticiens caribéens du monde entier partagent authentiquement, travaillent ensemble pour le succès de la conférence de l'ASC de juin 2023. Les membres de la CSA intéressés à fournir des idées créatives et un souper ingénieux sont invités à contacter le conseil exécutif de la CSA et la présidente du programme CSA2023 Meagan Sylvester programchair@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org

Pour les membres de la CSA qui souhaitent soumettre des résumés pour examen et considération pour CSA2023, votre patience est apprécié car l'appel à contributions doit être distribué au plus tard le 30 novembre 2022. Sur la base des demandes de renseignements concernant les voyages vers les îles Vierges de Sainte-Croix pour juin 2023, étant donné que les détails des forfaits sont en attente autour d'une période électorale majeure dans le VIUS se terminant le 8 novembre 2022, veuillez noter ce qui suit :

Options des compagnies aériennes pour le transport aérien vers Sainte-Croix :

- American
- Spirit
- Delta (via St. Thomas to St. Croix)
- United (via St. Thomas to St. Croix)
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

Hôtels à considérer à Sainte-Croix :

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- Caravelle Hotel (In Christiansted)
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- Buccaneer Hotel (In Christiansted)
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- AirBnB options are available. Please request places close to Queen Mary Highway in Frederiksted or Christiansted
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Options de location de voiture :

- Avis
- Budget
- Hertz
- Other options for ground transport are available
- *Please note that select ground transport to and from CSA2023 programs/events are pending

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- <https://youtu.be/1fdki213W6c> St. Croix A Vibe Like No Other- Vi Tourism
- <https://youtu.be/Xlub8l5Cuwl> Maroon Sanctuary Hike with Award Winning Environmentalist Prof. Olasee Davis
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- <https://youtu.be/tQesqHbuFZo> Beauty of St. Croix VI by VisitStCroix.com

- <https://youtu.be/JhEaIWn6Be8> Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism (CHANT) of St. Croix

Pour rappel, les membres de l'ASC sont encouragés à soutenir le lancement prochain du premier CSA Journal 2022 publié par UWI Press et prévu pour décembre 2022. Sous l'ancienne direction du président de l'ASC du VI Caribbean Cultural Center de l'Université des îles Vierges, un parrainage annuel avec un financement adéquat pour le CSA Journal (deux premiers numéros) a été fourni pour couvrir les dépenses avec l'intention d'un financement institutionnel, corporatif et philanthropique supplémentaire et d'un soutien ingénieux des membres et des sympathisants de l'ASC qui sont accueillis et sérieusement encouragés. Les membres de la CSA sont encouragés à inviter leurs institutions, sociétés et autres entités de soutien caribéennes respectives à fournir des contributions annuelles et des ressources similaires pour soutenir et maintenir le CSA Journal et la CSA en général. Une invitation spéciale aux membres à vie de l'ASC, aux anciens de l'ASC et aux anciens présidents de l'ASC est lancée pour planifier un rassemblement pour une plénière du 49e anniversaire proposée pour la conférence de l'ASC2023 à Sainte-Croix.

D'autres mises à jour sur la conférence CSA2023 St. Croix et d'autres programmes pré-conférence sont à venir. Votre patience et votre compréhension professionnelle avec ce renouvellement des rassemblements de conférences physiques pour l'ASC après le voyage C19 qui n'est pas complètement terminé sont appréciées.

Restez Inspiré!

ChenziRa Davis Kahina
Président de l'ASC 2022-2023

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS



Vanesa Contreras Capó

Español

La lucha animalista- una propuesta radical de entender la vida en el planeta

En 1929, en un congreso celebrado en Viena, la Organización Mundial de Protección Animal, propuso que el 4 de octubre fuese el Día Mundial de los Animales, como una medida para seguir concientizando sobre la urgente necesidad de cambiar no solo nuestro trato a los animales sino también para empezar a verlos desde otras lógicas más allá de la instrumentalista. Es decir, acercarnos a estos o simplemente entenderlos desde sus propias lógicas de existencia y no para uso, consumo y beneficio de los seres humanos.

En Puerto Rico desde hace algunos años llevamos tratando de marcar esta fecha a nivel nacional para que, de la misma forma que el 8 de marzo recordamos las victorias y los retos de las mujeres en nuestra sociedad patriarcal, que en octubre mínimamente nos conscienticemos del maltrato que reciben millones de animales a diario en nuestro país. Si bien hablar de la lucha animalista puede ser un extenso tema porque prácticamente toda nuestra existencia depende del uso y consumo y, por lo tanto, opresión de los animales; creemos que enfocándonos en un tema particular, y tal vez el menos controversial, puede ser una estrategia para empezar a trabajar un tema que de alguna forma u otra incomodará. Es por eso que en Puerto Rico nos enfocamos en la lucha por el cierre del zoológico de Puerto Rico.

El origen de los zoológicos va de la mano con las prácticas y el pensamiento colonial racista y capitalista: el sometimiento de seres vivos para el uso, lucro y “deleite” del mundo moderno colonial. No hay más que mirar la historia de los primeros zoológicos de finales del siglo XIX y principios del siglo XX para entender este propósito. El primer zoológico se levantó en plena época de la ilustración en Viena, y en este no solo se mantuvieron encerrados a animales, sino también a aldeas completas de comunidades negras e indígenas. Esta práctica perduró hasta bien entrado el siglo XX, de hecho, el último secuestro de personas para encerrarlas en un zoológico se llevó a cabo en Bélgica en 1958, cuatro años después de la apertura del zoológico de Puerto Rico. Si a esta espantosa historia de opre-

sión colonial le sumamos las pésimas condiciones en las que sobreviven los animales nos sobran argumentos para cerrar de forma permanente el zoológico. Por ejemplo, en esa cárcel de animales está la elefanta Mundi que lleva 38 años en cautiverio y en solitario, cuando los elefantes siempre viven en manadas y recorren cientos de kilómetros al año. Los osos y las leonas viven estan hacinados en jaulas donde apenas pueden moverse y hace 2 años murió un león que vivió por décadas en un pasillo, entre otros horrores. En 2017, según datos del gobierno de Puerto Rico, había 800 animales, sin embargo, para enero de 2020 se estimaba que el número se había reducido a 280. Es debido a todo esto que el zoológico de Puerto Rico perdió todos sus permisos y lleva clausurado desde 2017. Sin embargo, todavía hay resistencia por parte del gobierno a enviar a los animales que allí sobreviven a santuarios para que, por lo menos, puedan disfrutar de sus últimos años de una vida digna.

La escritora y activista feminista Alice Walker explicó en una sola cita cómo la lucha animalista también es parte de la lucha en contra de la interseccionalidad de las opresiones: “Los animales del mundo existen por sus propias razones. No fueron hechos para los humanos, de la misma forma que los negros para los blancos ni las mujeres para los hombres”. Seguir impulsando la lucha por una vida libre de todas las violencias requiere no solo de cuestionarnos, y cambiar, cómo nos relacionamos con otras personas, sino de cambiar nuestra relación con todos los seres vivos que convivimos en este planeta. De este cuestionamiento y transformaciones es que depende la vida del mismo planeta.

English

The animalist struggle- a radical proposal to understand life on the planet

In 1929, at a congress held in Vienna, the World Organization for Animal Protection proposed October 4th to be the World Animal Day. This action was a measure to continue raising awareness about the urgent need to change not only our treatment of animals but also to begin to see them from other logics beyond the instrumentalist. That is, to approach them or simply understand them from their own logic of existence and not for the use, consumption and benefit for humans.

In Puerto Rico for some years we have been trying to mark this date at the national level so that, in the same way that on March 8th we remember the victories and challenges of women in our patriarchal society, in October we become minimally aware of the abuse that millions of animals receive daily in our country. Although talking

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd

about the animalist struggle can be an extensive topic, because practically our entire existence depends on the use and consumption of them, and, therefore, on the oppression of animals; We believe that focusing on a particular topic, and perhaps the least controversial, can be a strategy to start working on the topic that in one way or another will make us uncomfortable. That is why in Puerto Rico we focus on the struggle for the closure of the Zoo of Puerto Rico.

The origin of zoos goes along with racist and capitalist colonial thought and practices: the subjugation of beings for the use, profit and "delight" of the modern colonial world. One only need to look at the history of the first zoos in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to understand its purpose. The first zoo was built in the middle of the enlightenment age in Vienna, this place not only kept animals locked up, but also entire villages of black and indigenous communities. This practice lasted well into the 20th century, in fact, the last kidnapping of people to lock them up in a zoo took place in Belgium in 1958, four years after the opening of the Zoo of Puerto Rico. If we add to this horrific history of colonial oppression the terrible conditions in which animals survive in these prisons, we have plenty of arguments to permanently close all zoos. For example, in the animal prison of Puerto Rico "lives" Mundi, the elephant

who has been in captivity and alone for 38 years, when elephants live in herds and travel hundreds of kilometers a year. The bears and lionesses live in cramped cages where they can hardly move and two years ago a lion that lived for decades in a corridor died, among other horrors. In 2017, according to data from the government of Puerto Rico, there were 800 animals, however, by January 2020 it was estimated that the number had been reduced to 280. These are the reasons why the Zoo of Puerto Rico has lost all its permits and has been closed since 2017. However, there is still resistance from the government to send the animals that survive there to sanctuaries so that, at least, they can enjoy their last years of life.

The feminist writer and activist Alice Walker explained in a single quote how the animalist struggle is also part of the struggle against the intersectionality of oppressions: "The animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans, in the same way that blacks are for whites or women for men". The struggle for a life free of all violence requires not only questioning ourselves and changing how we relate to other people, but also changing our relationship with all beings that exists on this planet. The life of the planet itself depends on this questioning and transformations.

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd



Julien Merion

Français

LA CARAÏBE DANS LA TOURMENTE DES EVENEMENTS METEOROLOGIQUES QUELLES REPONSES ?

Le mois de septembre et le début du mois d'octobre 2022 auront été particulièrement agités pour de nombreux territoires de la région caraïbe.

Du 13 au 24 septembre la tempête Fiona, devenue par la suite ouragan va frapper successivement la Guadeloupe, Ste-Croix (BVI), Puerto-Rico, la République dominicaine, les Bermudes pour finir sa course au Canada.

Des pluies torrentielles se sont abattues dans ces pays provoquant, des morts, des dégâts considérables aux infrastructures, à l'agriculture et aux habitations.

Ce sont les populations les plus vulnérables qui ont été touchées. A ce jour l'électricité, l'eau potable ne sont pas entièrement rétablies en Guadeloupe et à Puerto-Rico.

Si on peut considérer le dérèglement climatique comme un accélérateur de la vulnérabilité de notre région, il convient aussi de s'interroger sur l'aménagement du territoire. Trop souvent, des constructions sont réalisées sur le passage de cours d'eau et on s'étonne que ces zones soient ensuite inondées.

Par ailleurs, les autorités publiques ne prennent pas en considération l'héritage de nos ancêtres dans leur rapport à la nature. Taïnos, Arawak, Kalina ont construit un art de vivre qui mariait subtilement les besoins de l'Homme et le respect de l'environnement. La culture coloniale et ses appétits ont ignoré cet héritage. Nous en subissons les conséquences aujourd'hui.

Du 27 septembre au 2 octobre ce fut au tour de l'ouragan Ian de semer la désolation dans l'Ouest de Cuba, en Floride (23 morts) et en Caroline du Sud. Si la stratégie cubaine de prévention des risques a permis d'éviter le pire, il n'en a pas été de même aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

Cet épisode nous rappelle combien il est important aujourd'hui de miser sur l'éducation et la préparation des populations.

Le 9 octobre, la tempête Julia s'est abattue sur l'Amérique Latine. Après la Colombie, elle s'est acharnée sur le Nicaragua qui recense de nombreux dommages. Mais le drame est survenu au Venezuela avec un glissement de terrain faisant suite aux pluies diluviales. 36 morts, 56 disparus qui ont provoqué 3 jours de deuil national. Une fois de plus, ce sont les populations les plus modestes qui ont été touchées. Vivant entassée sur le flanc de collines, ces populations sont les plus exposées aux risques.

Cette succession d'événements provoque un élan extraordinaire de solidarité. A titre d'exemple, la championne guadeloupéenne d'es-crime, Ysaora Thibus et le magazine anglais « Gauchoworld », se sont engagés avec l'association CO.RE.CA aux côtés de victimes. De nombreux gestes de solidarité avec Cuba se sont manifestés. La première et la plus importante réponse à cette situation réside dans la coopération régionale. C'est certainement dans ce domaine que les autorités publiques, le monde économique, les travailleurs sociaux, les intellectuels, les sociétés civiles doivent unir leurs efforts afin de faire émerger un modèle caribéen de prévention et de gestion du risque.

Cette coopération régionale nous invite à construire une résilience bien ancrée dans nos cultures et nos traditions afin de surmonter ensemble les défis du changement climatique. Car très certainement... le pire est à venir !



MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd



English

THE CARIBBEAN IN THE TURMOIL OF METEOROLOGICAL EVENTS WHAT ANSWERS?

The month of September and the beginning of October 2022 will have been particularly turbulent for many territories in the Caribbean region.

From September 13 to 24, storm Fiona, which later became a hurricane, successively hit Guadeloupe, Ste-Croix (BVI), Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Bermuda to end its course in Canada. Torrential rains fell in these countries causing deaths, considerable damage to infrastructure, agriculture and homes.

The most vulnerable populations have been affected. To date, electricity and drinking water have not been fully restored in Guadeloupe and Puerto Rico.

If we can consider climate change as an accelerator of the vulnerability of our region, it is also necessary to question the development

of the territory. Too often, constructions are carried out on the passage of watercourses and it is surprising that these areas are then flooded.

Moreover, the public authorities do not take into consideration the heritage of our ancestors in their relationship with nature. Taïnos, Arawak, Kalina have built an art of living that subtly combines human needs and respect for the environment. Colonial culture and its appetites ignored this heritage. We are suffering the consequences today.

From September 27 to October 2, it was the turn of Hurricane Ian to sow desolation in western Cuba, Florida (23 dead) and South Carolina. If the Cuban strategy of risk prevention has made it possible to avoid the worst, it has not been the same in the United States of America.

This episode reminds us how important it is today to focus on the education and preparation of populations.

On October 9, storm Julia hit Latin America. After Colombia, it went after Nicaragua, which has suffered a lot of damage. But the tragedy occurred in Venezuela with a landslide following torrential rains. 36 dead, 56 missing which caused 3 days of national mourning. Once again, it is the most modest populations that have been affected. Living piled up on the side of hills, these populations are the most exposed to risks.

This succession of events provokes an extraordinary outpouring of solidarity. For example, the Guadeloupe fencing champion, Ysaora Thibus and the English magazine "Gauchoworld", have made a commitment with the association CO.RE.CA alongside victims. There were many gestures of solidarity with Cuba.

The first and most important response to this situation lies in regional cooperation. It is certainly in this area that public authorities, the economic world, social workers, intellectuals and civil societies must unite their efforts in order to bring out a Caribbean model of risk prevention and management.

This regional cooperation invites us to build a resilience rooted in our cultures and traditions in order to overcome the challenges of climate change together.

Because most certainly... the worst is yet to come!

DUTCH CARIBBEAN REPORT



Six Caribbean islands make up the Dutch Caribbean of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

What is the Dutch Caribbean

Source: [WorldAtlas.com](https://www.worldatlas.com)

The Dutch Caribbean, otherwise referred to as the Dutch West Indies in the past, refers to the islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the former Dutch Empire that are geographically located in the Lesser Antilles region of the Caribbean Sea. This includes the six islands of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba. Out of the six, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten are constituent countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The other three are special municipalities of Netherlands, which is a constituent country of the Kingdom of Netherlands. The title Caribbean Netherlands is occasionally used to identify the three municipalities.

History

The islands of the Dutch Caribbean were part of the Curaçao and Dependencies in the years between 1815-1828. They were later amalgamated with the colony of Suriname, which is not considered part of the Dutch Caribbean. They were administrated by Paramaribo up to the year 1845 when all the islands became one colony under the name Curaçao and Dependencies.

In 1954, the island became Netherlands Antilles, a status that was upheld until the year 2010. The Netherland Antilles were autonomous powers as provided for in the Islands Regulation of the Netherlands Antilles. Initially, when the Netherlands Antilles was formed, it was made up of four island regions, which were the Windward Islands, Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao. In 1983 the Wind-

ward Islands divided into the Island Lands of Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten.

Of the islands, Aruba gained its independence the earliest. Aruba seceded in the year 1986 to become a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This secession left five islands as part of the Netherland Antilles. The five territories remained in this state until the year 2010 when the Netherland Antilles was dissolved in a very long and complex process from being a single political unit. The dissolution led to Curaçao and Sint Maarten gaining its autonomy as constituent countries while the Islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba changed their status to municipalities of the country, Netherlands.

Autonomy

There exist two partitions in the Dutch Caribbean; countries that are constituents of The Kingdom of the Netherlands, and municipalities to the country of the Netherlands itself, which is also a constituent country of the Kingdom.

In this regard, the islands that gained autonomy and became countries of the greater Kingdom of the Netherlands include Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten.

There are three islands that form special municipalities of the Netherlands country. These are Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba. Together they are referred to as BES Islands or the Caribbean Netherlands.

As of 2010, the Kingdom of the Netherlands was made up of four countries, namely Netherlands, Aruba, Curacao, and Sint Maarten.

Population

Curaçao is the largest island at 444 sq. km and with a population of 158,986 people. The smallest island is Saba which has a population of 1,991 people and measures 13 sq. km.

CSA MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Agostinho Pinnock

Agostinho is completing a transdisciplinary PhD in geography and art history in the department of Geography and the Environment at Loughborough University (LU). His research interrogates how visual and kin-aesthetic cultures recover systematically excluded histories in modern Jamaica through monumentality, visual arts and street dance (dancehall). Agostinho's thesis is entitled: *Geographies of Struggle: History, Art and Nationhood in Post/colonial and Post-independence Jamaica, 2000-Present*. His research is funded by an International Studentship from LU's Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT): Feminism, Sexual Politics and Visual Culture. He won the Antipode Foundation's *Right to the Discipline* grant, '[Refusing Violence: Creating Joy through Black Artmaking](#)', in collaboration with the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre (SLRC).



Agostinho was the recipient of a Loughborough University Open Programme grant and the [*Development Geographies Research Group \(DevGRG\) Travel Prize*](#) (2021). The DevGRG is a large and active research group of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers).

Agostinho is the co-convenor of the *Global Black Geographers' (GBG) Collective*, which is a transnational network of Black, early career researchers, independent scholars and artists based in Britain, Africa, the United States and Latin America. The Collective critiques global Black geographies beyond the global north through critically engaged scholarship and community. He has published in key international journals and has edited a soon-to-be published themed intervention about global Black geographies. Agostinho has contributed a book chapter on Jamaican dancehall popular culture and identity (UWI Press) and is an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA). He has taught modules in modern and contemporary art (LU), and reggae poetry, media and communications research, gender studies and academic writing.

In line with his previous training and work in development and environmental communications and public relations (in the Caribbean and South America), Agostinho was awarded an Organisation of American States (OAS) Scholarship for Fieldwork Training at Florida International University (2018). He received a United States Department of State (USDS) community development grant (2018) and an USDS International Visitor (IV) Grant. His short fiction is published in *Pree Caribbean Writings* (online magazine). He sings with the Curve Theatre Gospel Choir (Leicester). Agostinho tweets @AgostinhoP_2021.

CARIBBEAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Institute of Caribbean Studies at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in Kingston, Jamaica Staff/Postgraduate Seminar Series.

On October 13, 2022, Music Sociologist and Senior Lecturer Meagan Sylvester presented virtually at the Institute of Caribbean Studies (UWI, Mona Campus) bi-weekly Staff/Graduate Seminar Series. Sylvester's paper entitled "Unpacking the Connection & Disconnection of Kaisofusion in The Diaspora" spoke to how Calypso music has morphed into diverse sounds, fusing various diaspora musical genres. She also noted how Calypso had impacted diasporic music since the migration of Trinidadian musicians to the US. Additionally, Meagan stressed the significance of recognising the music's origins or 'roots' in understanding the genesis of the musical fusions. The presentation was accompanied by the different sounds of Calypso, from Jazz to R&B. The seminar was well-attended with a diverse audience from across the Caribbean and diaspora.



The poster features a green and white design with a floral pattern on the left side. At the top right is the ICS logo (a yellow circle with 'ICS' and 'INSTITUTE OF CARIBBEAN STUDIES' below it). The title 'Staff/Postgraduate Seminar Series' is in large, bold, black serif font. Below it is a dotted line and the speaker's name, 'Meagan Sylvester', in bold, black sans-serif font. Underneath her name is her title: 'Senior Lecturer, Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies, Trinidad & Tobago'. The date and time are listed as 'October 13, 2022 | 4pm | Zoom Meeting ID: 982 1619 8942 | Passcode:739819'. A circular portrait of Meagan Sylvester, a Black woman with short curly hair and glasses, wearing a colorful patterned top, is centered below the title. Her topic is listed as 'Topic: "Unpacking The Connections, Interconnections & Disconnections of Kaisofusion in The Diaspora"'. At the bottom right, contact information for Dr. Lisa Tomlinson is provided, including her name, title, institution, address, phone number, and social media links for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Dr. Lisa Tomlinson
Seminar Coordinator
Institute of Caribbean Studies
The Faculty of Humanities and Education
The University of the West Indies
Mona Campus, Kingston
(1876)977-1951|WWW.mona.uwi.edu/humed/ics/
Facebook: facebook.com/icsmona/ 
Instagram: instagram.com/icsmona/ 
Twitter: twitter.com/icsmona/ 

NEW BOOK

Writing Islands: Space and Identity in the Transnational Cuban Archipelago by Elena Lahr-Vivaz

List Price Hardcover: \$85.00

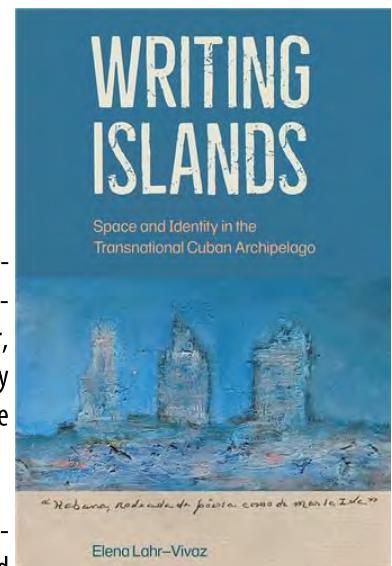
List Price Paper: \$30.00

In *Writing Islands*, Elena Lahr-Vivaz employs methods from archipelagic studies to analyze works of contemporary Cuban writers on the island alongside those in exile. Offering a new lens to explore the multiplicity of Cuban space and identity, she argues that these writers approach their nation as part of a larger, transnational network of islands. Introducing the term “arcubiénago” to describe the spaces created by Cuban writers, both on the ground and in print, Lahr-Vivaz illuminates how transnational communities are forged and how they function across space and time.

Lahr-Vivaz considers how poets, novelists, and essayists of the 1990s and 2000s built interconnected communities of readers through blogs, state-sponsored book fairs, informal methods of book circulation, and intertextual dialogues. Book chapters offer in-depth analyses of the works of writers as different as Reina María Rodríguez, known for lyrical poetry, and Zoé Valdés, known for strident critiques of Fidel Castro. Incorporating insights from on-site interviews in Cuba, Spain, and the United States, Lahr-Vivaz analyzes how writers maintained connections materially, through the distribution of works, and metaphorically, as their texts bridge spaces separated by geopolitics.

Through a decolonizing methodology that resists limiting Cuba to a distinct geographic space, *Writing Islands* investigates the nuances of Cuban identity, the creation of alternate spaces of identity, the potential of the Internet for artistic expression, and the transnational bonds that join far-flung communities.

To purchase a copy or for more information: [CLICK HERE](#)



CARIBBEAN CULTURAL EXPRESSION



Dancehall Queen 25th Anniversary Celebration

The Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) at The University of the West Indies and LCD EVENTS commemorated the 25th anniversary of the legendary film *Dancehall Queen*. The celebration commenced on October 10, 2022 (the day of the film's original release), with a screening of the film and a dancehall themed afterparty at Usain Bolt's Tracks and Records restaurant in Kingston, Jamaica. A virtual symposium was held the following day, on October 11, 2022, which featured an interview with the film's director, creators and cast members. The seminar also included a keynote presentation by Dr Rachel Moseley-Wood, author of the award-winning book, *Show Us as We Are: Place, Nation, and Identity in Jamaican Film*. The session ended with a panelist of graduate students discussing their perspectives on the varying dimensions of the film including its captivating cinematography of the city, mental health, gender issues, and its wide global reach to diverse audiences across the world.

YOUR COMMENTARY



A Carnival without roots

by Clyde Weatherhead

Source: [The Daily Express – Trinidad Express Newspapers](#)

It was interesting to read comments by Jemma Bedlow, Chair of the Tobago Carnival Bandleaders Association, herself a veteran bandleader, on the upcoming event labelled "Tobago Carnival".

Here is what she said, "Tobago Carnival is about feting. That is what it is all about. This was a rush. It was not sorted out properly. Is like a fete, because if you are telling us that you don't want a repeat of Trinidad Carnival in Tobago and to develop our own brand – it is not happening.

"It is a repeat of Trinidad Carnival with bathsuit and beads and thongs and all dem nonsense. This is not how I thought our Carnival was to be. We should have had our own style of carnival here".

I have refrained from commenting on the announced Tobago Carnival and wanted to hear what Tobagonians had to say.

The Tobago Bandleaders Association's comments point to what I consider the fundamental point about this Carnival in October, a standing suggestion of the Chairman of the National Carnival Committee.

Ms Bedlow's suggestion that it was rushed cannot explain the fundamental problem with this event which it is hoped will bring in tourist dollars for the Tobago economy.

Unlike Grenada's or Barbados's Spice Mas or Crop Over, this so-called Tobago Carnival has no roots in the history of Tobago. It is a tourist event.

If there was a longer time for preparation, the fundamental fact that this is an event without roots in history or the People's culture of Tobago. It is as lacking indigenous foundation as the Jamaican "Trinidad-style" carnival.

The Trinidad Carnival has deep roots in the history and culture of the people from the fight for Emancipation as a festival of Rituals of Power and Rebellion as Prof Hollis Liverpool describes it tracing its history from 1763.

There has always been two trends in the Trinidad Carnival – that of Canboulay and that of the Mardi Gras.

"This Carnival was born of a clash of two cultures in the firmament of the reclamation of their humanity in the culture of the ex-slaves at Emancipation and the cultural influence of the plantocracy." This is how I describe the two-line struggle of the Trinidad Carnival in my book titled, *The Trinidad Carnival: Not Just Carnival in Trinidad*.

What is now being rebranded as the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival is a far cry from the Carnival of its historical roots.

One commentator recently said our Carnival is unique because "it is not about the two days anymore; it is about a season of parties, an experience for the visitors". One NCC member describes Carnival as a fete experience from Boxing Day to Ash Wednesday.

The carnival of bathsuit and beads and thongs, as the Tobago bandleader describes it, is not the Trinidad Carnival of its Canboulay roots, it is the modern commercialised tourism product which some would have us believe is what the Trinidad Carnival.

There are many examples of the advertisement-driven consumerism that we all have experienced by which a commodity is presented repeatedly as "something we want" in order to condition us to consume that commodity which is not a need for the benefit of its producer's profits.

When Ms Bedlow says, "the mas fraternity cannot get away from the swimsuits and beads . . . because that is what the young people like" she is describing this "like" driven by consumerist advertising propaganda.

It is the Mardi Gras trend in the Carnival which is fighting to extinguish the Canboulay roots.

Ms Bedlow also complained about the absence of a competitive element to the mas. She said Trinidad bands are no longer coming to this "Tobago Carnival" because there is no competition.

YOUR COMMENTARY cont'd

This is yet another aspect of "the superficial, commercialised, over-competitive direction that is being promoted is the direction of converting The Trinidad Carnival into just another carnival in Trinidad".

I join with the Chair of the Tobago Bandleaders Association when she asks, "Where is the brand?"

As another product of the fete experience culture that is being pushed as the culture of this country for attracting tourists, this carnival in Tobago in October may attract some participants and even make some dollars.

Similarly, the rebranding of the Avenue in Port of Spain as a venue for tourists to have the "liming experience" may also attract some participants and make some dollars.

But, neither is the real culture of the people of this country.

As I have said in the introduction to *The Trinidad Carnival: Not Just Carnival in Trinidad*, "The defence of The Trinidad Carnival demands that its history be understood and preserved.

"It demands that unique and indigenous qualities of the Canboulay root of the Carnival must be preserved and given modern form and expression.

"The preservation of The Trinidad Carnival is part of the resistance to the indistinguishable culture that denies national character that is called 'world' culture or global culture that threatens national identity in the service of a world resembling the old order at the time of the Emancipation".

Predictors of Student Success in an Online Learning Environment in the English-Speaking Caribbean: Evidence from the University of the West Indies

Open Campus Authors: S. Joel Warrican, Coreen J. Leacock, Benita P. Thompson & Melissa L. Alleyne The University of the West Indies (Barbados)

Citation: Open Praxis, vol. 6 issue 4, October–December 2014, pp. 331–346 (ISSN 2304-070X)

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Source: <https://search.informit.org/doi/pdf/10.3316/informit.940714003081689>

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean (DAOC) is pleased to advise that registration continues for its online training module **Protocol and Diplomacy: A Guide for the Modern Professional**. This training will be held from **31st October - 4th November, 2022**.

For information on this certificate training opportunity, including on the course tuition fee and facilitators, please [click here](#) or copy and paste hyperlink into your Internet browser.

To download a copy of the **prospectus for this module**, please [click here](#) or copy and paste hyperlink into your Internet browser.

For the application form and detailed guidelines/information on registration, please [click here](#) or copy and paste hyperlink into your Internet browser.

The deadline for completion of registration, which includes tuition fee payment, is 21st October 2022.

Inquiries regarding registration should be directed to Dr. Nand C. Bardouille at Nand.Bardouille@sta.uwi.edu, CC: diplomaticacademy@sta.uwi.edu.

The advertisement features a large blue and white graphic on the right side. At the top left of the graphic are the logos for The UWI St. Augustine Campus and The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean, both associated with The University of the West Indies. To the right of the logos is a photograph of a man in a dark suit walking across a modern building with large glass windows. Below the photo, the title "PROTOCOL AND DIPLOMACY: A GUIDE FOR THE MODERN PROFESSIONAL" is displayed in large blue capital letters. Underneath the title is a blue button-like shape containing the text "ONLINE TRAINING MODULE". To the right of the title, the dates "31st Oct - 4th Nov, 2022" and time "9:00am – 4:00pm (AST) Daily" are listed. Below these details, the location "The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine" is mentioned. Further down, the cost "COST: USD\$750" is listed, along with discounts for returning learners, groups of 3 or more, and a special discount for UWI students and staff. At the bottom, there are sections for the "LEAD FACILITATOR" (Ms. Gail P. Guy, Retired Diplomat & Protocol Consultant) and "CO-FACILITATOR" (Ms. Marise Warner, Attorney-at-law and International Law Specialist). Contact information for registration is provided at the very bottom.

TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION:

1-868-662-2002 ext. 85360 | <https://sta.uwi.edu/daoc> | Nand.Bardouille@sta.uwi.edu | DiplomaticAcademy@sta.uwi.edu

CALYPSO HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS IN TOBAGO

Calypso Icon honored at TOMAC

Story and photos courtesy Overtime Media



The Plymouth Recreation Park in Tobago came alive recently to the electrifying sounds of music, alongside special representations of indigenous art and culture forms on the opening night of the Tobago Music and Culture Festival (TOMAC). Former Digicel Rising Star, Kay Allen opened the live performance action with her "golden honey voice", soothing melodies and expert harmonies serving to warm the initial assembly. Following a national announcement earlier that day that the cover charge for the general section had been waived, a sizeable crowd converged on the venue eager to claim their preferred spots and join in the tribute to Tobago's own, Robert "Lord Nelson".

Also performing on home soil, Tobago's very own, Shurwayne Winchester pumped the gathering up into a frenzy, before the "Aretha Franklin of Tobago", Sharon Phillip took the stage and spoke to the ladies, while delivering a performance fit for the world stage and sending audible sparks from her soulful voice resonating through Plymouth.

Trinbago's #1 trending band, Kes wasted no time in taking the stage and as the stage lights disappeared momentarily, the band struck up before the MC could introduce them and loud roars of approval from the crowd reverberated through the venue. True to form and their gradual evolution to superstardom, the red man and his brothers had enthusiastic fans eating out of their hands with their opening chords and before a word was even sung.

Running on stage, resume in hand and convincingly seeking "a wuk", Kes was hired by the majority of the female employers long before he could even be interviewed or his impressive and still growing resume could be presented. Hatched in rock and roll, Kes proceeded to rock the crowd from Plymouth to Charlottesville and back with limited pauses, expert timing and musical and visual accompaniment that spoke to the refinement conditioned by their recent North American tour.

"It's such an honor to be able to share the stage with this legend," said lead singer, Kees Dieffenthaller. "This is someone whose music literally helped raise us and who always transcended barriers and boundaries and did things his own way, so that inspired us to do things our own way and we feel so grateful to be able to share this stage with such a legend and an icon and we thank him and honor him and celebrate him tonight..."

Delivering also their Grammy-considered, Haitian collaboration, "Liki Tiki", KES inspired the masses to sing along word for word and by this time, the idea of it becoming the first Soca song to win a Grammy transcended beyond a mere dream into an actual possibility.

"It's just one of those things that you dream about," added Kees, "and for it to happen in any kind of way, for it to even be considered and become a possibility is so momentous that we have to celebrate it and talk about it because now it feels much closer to possibly becoming a reality and we give thanks for everyone who made this possible at every step of the journey and of course, the journey is the real prize, but this is definitely a step in the right direction and we hope, a sign of great things to come - not just for KES, but for Soca music and for Trinidad and Tobago!"

At this pivotal stage of the night, it was time for the true king of Tobago, the Disco Daddy himself to reign in at 91-plus years of age. Whilst moving like a mid-20 year old, the indomitable and incomparable, Lord Nelson graced the stage as welcomed by KES and the appreciative audience. Content to "let them do dey thing", while adorned in one of his signature one-piece suits, Papa Nelson inspired another resounding cheer and proved why he remains a king on the island - and a well-loved king at that.

Honoured onstage by the TOMAC festival committee, as KES brought the evening to a close, no one wanted the night to be over and expressed the honor and privilege of witnessing these representatives of the older and younger generations together on one stage for a truly mesmerizing event.

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