



CSA News

CaribbeanStudiesAssociation.org

The Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Studies Association - September 2023 Edition

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This month, we focus on strategic alliances with diasporic partners across the globe.

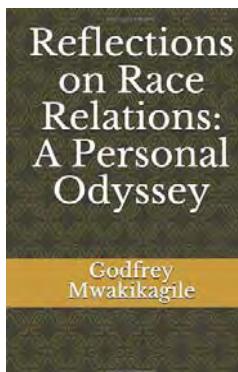


As indicated by President Ekpe-Brook, the suitability of the 2024 CSA annual conference theme on **Caribbean Development Sustainability: Convergence of Technology People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnerships (T5P)** is quite strategic

and opportune where the vision is premised on deepening dialogue and research on avenues for developments that are socially, economically, environmentally, politically, and culturally sound and take into consideration an inclusive lens through T5P for sustainability. **August 31, 2023 is designated the United Nations International Day for People of African Descent.** This Resolution strengthens the **Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024 on Development Justice and Recognition.** As the Decade comes to an end in 2024, conversations have reignited between the High-Level Forum of the United Nations, regional organizations, and activists on the next Agenda.



Meagan Sylvester



New Book - (Africa)

In keeping with the theme of celebrating Caribbean/African partnerships, our new book this month is from an African Book Series. It is entitled **Reflections on Race Relations: A Personal Odyssey** by Godfrey Mwakikagile. The author looks at race relations when he was growing up in Africa and his experiences in the United States. It is a work of comparative analysis in terms of race relations and draws heavily on the author's personal experience. He not only addresses the subject from a personal perspective but also in the broader context of society as a whole.



Obituary - (Guadeloupe) Tribute to Jean-Pierre Sainton - Caribbean Historian

The news of the sudden death of the Guadeloupean historian Jean-Pierre Sainton on Monday, August 21, shocked his friends, academic circles and more generally public opinion. Aged 68, he had been professor of contemporary history at the University of the West Indies until 2022. He was part of the young generation of historians who, from the 1980s, decided to scrutinize the history of post-slavery societies both in the French-speaking Caribbean and in the rest of the regional space.

CONTENTS

Message from the Editor	1
Message from the President	3
Message from the Program Chair	8
Caribbean Scholarship	10
Call for Papers	11
New Book	13
Message from the Language Sub-Editors	14
Spanish	14
French	16
Dutch Caribbean Report	18
Graduate Student Representative	19
CSA Member Highlight	20
Caribbean Media	21
Your Commentary	22
Special Announcements	25

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR cont'd



Dutch Caribbean News

We at the CSA applaud the efforts of the six Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten known collectively as the ABCSSS islands which are part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands islands to interrogate the relationship between science communication and public engagement and its benefit to non-White and, non-Dutch or English-speaking audiences.

Caribbean Tales International Film Festival

Be sure to check out
September 6 - 22, 2023
7PM @ Harbourfront Centre
235 Queens Quay W, Toronto
The 18th Annual Caribbean Tales International Film Festival



Your Commentary - (Barbados)

Contributor Alicia Nicholls addresses the contemporary Caribbean issues in a piece entitled **Latin America and Caribbean Tax Summit in Cartagena: A Caribbean Perspective**.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Okama Ekpe Brook

Dear Members,

The suitability of the 2024 CSA annual conference theme on Caribbean Development Sustainability: Convergence of Technology People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnerships (T5P) is quite strategic and opportune. With the vision premised on deepening dialogue and research on avenues for developments that are socially, economically, environmentally, politically, and culturally sound and take into consideration an inclusive lens through T5P for sustainability.

Reflecting upon this theme, I reimagine the impact that can be made through our membership, communities of practice and collaborators for Caribbean people at home and in the diaspora. August 31, 2023 is designated the United Nations International Day for People of African Descent. This Resolution strengthens the Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024 on Development Justice and Recognition. As the Decade comes to an end in 2024, conversations have reignited between the High-Level Forum of the United Nations, regional organizations, and activists on the next Agenda.

Having spent a significant aspect of my professional career working within the United Nations and still maintaining a certain level of advocacy role for the equitable implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals (which still has another seven years to go), I reflect on the failures of inequity in the development agenda for People of African Descent. Development from a rights-based approach was grounded in my orientation during my early days in the United Nations. My colleagues and I were always encouraged to incorporate an equity based inclusive lens to our work. As I managed the United Nations Volunteer programme in Sri Lanka, I often had at the back of my mind the need to ensure the interpretation of the policies and procedures from an equity-based perspective. We asked the questions, are we being inclusive of gender orientations, good governance practices, indigenous peoples knowledge, cultural diversity, etc. In programming, we asked who the right holders and duty bearers were with emphasis on why, what, when, where, whom and how. We believed that an intentional approach to the implementation of policies, plans and

programmes were derived from a wholistic methodology that will contribute to greater impact on humanity within their interactions in the environment. Consistent progress that is culturally appropriate eventually improves development benchmarks. Maintaining such performance over time and with dedicated resources leads to socio-economic and environmental sustainability.

When we critique Caribbean developments over the decades, from this lens, we observe failures and gaps. Moreover, when we critique our own institutions, we recognize the need to reflect on a few drivers for change through planning and policy development that should mirror evidence based frameworks that apply specific, measurable, achievable, result oriented and time bound logical frameworks. For such will provide a basis for transparent and accountable measurement indicators in the next five years, as an example. This is what excites me about the theme for this year and as our Caribbean Studies Association celebrates 50th year anniversary.

Our CSA members are central to the growth and sustainability of the organization, interacting within the humanities, sciences and social sciences to provide a balanced study of Caribbean people. With our membership originating from all over the world, we are bound by a common interest of the study of Caribbean issues from a multidisciplinary approach and the subsequent application of such knowledge for policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation with the desired outcome for the betterment of the average Caribbean person within a safe and secure environment. However, we all witnessed the onslaught of the Covid 19 pandemic and the huge impact it had on all our lives. But Covid 19 also brought a positive aspect to development practice and our lives, opening up opportunities for the utilization of technology. It is within this context that I am encouraging the use of technology through virtually organized dialogue series to feel the pulse of our memberships and partners and in preparations for the 2024 conference. How fantastic it would be to celebrate our 50th anniversary in St. Lucia with our full membership participation physically in St. Lucia and building on the knowledges gathered through the virtual dialogues. The 2024 CSA conference in St. Lucia will be a physical conference to bring us all together to celebrate our organizations achievements over the years. We seek people, institutions and organizations interested in establishing partnerships with the CSA for the 2024 conference as well as for dissertations and educational programmes that help to advance Caribbean developments along the thematic pillars for this year.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

In closing, I want to reiterate that the 2024 conference will be a physical one but that I am cognizant of the fact that some members may face challenges at the last moment that may prevent them from physical participation. In such rare circumstances and with prior planning, we will explore technology use and integration in a balanced approach to ensure that no one who wants to be part of the process will be left behind. My ask for this year is the active participation and engagement of our full membership and as the Call for Papers open up soon by the Programme Co-Chairs, I encourage you to register early. Kindly also reach out to our Membership Director, Kaifa Roland and Graduate Student Representative, Maya Freeman to offer support or learn where your voluntary efforts could be utilized. I am gratitude to all the members who are already involved with different working groups and committees. It is through you and our partners that CSA will thrive in the next decade.

For our special recognition corner, Jessica S. Samuel, an Interdisciplinary Scholar and Founder at Radical Education & Advocacy League LLC benefited from the CSA young scholars fellowship and mentorship. Now, as a young professional and education equity, diversity and inclusion strategist, she uses her scholarship to implement innovative approaches to raise awareness of the importance of this work in education and real life practice. As you will read in this Op-Ed piece, she challenges deep rooted colonial practice in land use. <https://stthomassource.com/content/2023/07/14/opinion-we-keep-minimizing-st-johnians-contention-with-the-v-i-national-park-and-its-time-we-stop/>



She is one of the CSA Young Professionals who shared her passion in the recently concluded CSA Dialogue Series and will be presenting at the upcoming annual conference of the CSA in St. Lucia, June 3-7, 2024. Reserve your spot soon.

Yours in scholarship,

Okama Ekpe Brook
President CSA 2023-2024

Español

Queridos miembros,

La idoneidad del tema de la conferencia anual de la CSA de 2024 sobre la sostenibilidad del desarrollo del Caribe: convergencia de la tecnología, las personas, el planeta, la paz, la prosperidad y las asociaciones (T5P) es bastante estratégica y oportuna. Con la visión basada en profundizar el diálogo y la investigación sobre vías para lograr desarrollos que sean social, económica, ambiental, política y culturalmente sólidos y que tomen en consideración una lente inclusiva a través del T5P para la sostenibilidad. Al reflexionar sobre este tema, reimagino el impacto que se puede lograr a través de nuestra membresía, comunidades de práctica y colaboradores para los caribeños en casa y en la diáspora. El 31 de agosto de 2023 es designado por las Naciones Unidas el Día Internacional de los Afrodescendientes. Esta Resolución fortalece el Decenio de los Afrodescendientes 2015-2024 sobre Justicia y Reconocimiento para el Desarrollo. A medida que el Decenio llega a su fin en 2024, se han reavivado las conversaciones entre el Foro de Alto Nivel de las Naciones Unidas, organizaciones regionales y activistas sobre la próxima Agenda.

Después de haber pasado una parte importante de mi carrera profesional trabajando dentro de las Naciones Unidas y aún manteniendo un cierto nivel de papel de defensa de la implementación, el seguimiento y la evaluación equitativos de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (al que todavía le quedan otros siete años), reflexiono sobre los fracasos de la inequidad en la agenda de desarrollo para los Afrodescendientes. El desarrollo desde un enfoque basado en los derechos se basó en mi orientación durante mis primeros días en las Naciones Unidas. A mis colegas y a mí siempre nos animaron a incorporar a nuestro trabajo una perspectiva inclusiva basada en la equidad. Mientras gestionaba el programa de Voluntarios de las Naciones Unidas en Sri Lanka, a menudo tenía en mente la necesidad de garantizar la interpretación de las políticas y procedimientos desde una perspectiva basada en la equidad. Hicimos las preguntas: ¿estamos siendo inclusivos en cuanto a orientaciones de género, prácticas de buena gobernanza, conocimiento de los pueblos indígenas, diversidad cultural, etc.? En la programación, preguntamos quiénes eran los titulares de derechos y los garantes de deberes, con énfasis en por qué, qué, cuándo, dónde, quién y cómo. Creímos que un enfoque intencional para la implementación de políticas, planes y programas se derivaba de una metodología holística que contribuiría a un mayor impacto en la humanidad dentro de sus interacciones en el medio ambiente. El progreso constante que sea culturalmente apropiado

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

eventualmente mejora los puntos de referencia del desarrollo. Mantener ese desempeño a lo largo del tiempo y con recursos dedicados conduce a la sostenibilidad socioeconómica y ambiental.

Cuando criticamos los acontecimientos caribeños a lo largo de décadas, desde esta perspectiva, observamos fracasos y lagunas. Además, cuando criticamos nuestras propias instituciones, reconocemos la necesidad de reflexionar sobre algunos impulsores del cambio a través de la planificación y el desarrollo de políticas que deberían reflejar marcos basados en evidencia que apliquen marcos lógicos específicos, mensurables, alcanzables, orientados a resultados y con plazos determinados. Esto proporcionará una base para indicadores de medición transparentes y responsables en los próximos cinco años, por ejemplo. Esto es lo que me emociona sobre el tema de este año y mientras nuestra Asociación de Estudios del Caribe celebra su 50 aniversario.

Nuestros miembros de CSA son fundamentales para el crecimiento y la sostenibilidad de la organización, interactuando dentro de las humanidades, las ciencias y las ciencias sociales para proporcionar un estudio equilibrado de los caribeños. Dado que nuestros miembros provienen de todo el mundo, estamos unidos por el interés común del estudio de las cuestiones caribeñas desde un enfoque multidisciplinario y la posterior aplicación de dicho conocimiento para el desarrollo, implementación, monitoreo y evaluación de políticas con el resultado deseado para el mejoramiento. del caribeño promedio dentro de un entorno seguro y protegido. Sin embargo, todos fuimos testigos del embate de la pandemia de Covid 19 y del enorme impacto que tuvo en todas nuestras vidas. Pero Covid 19 también trajo un aspecto positivo a la práctica del desarrollo y a nuestras vidas, abriendo oportunidades para la utilización de la tecnología. Es en este contexto que alienta el uso de la tecnología a través de series de diálogos organizados virtualmente para tomar el pulso a nuestros miembros y socios y en los preparativos para la conferencia de 2024. Qué fantástico sería celebrar nuestro 50 aniversario en Santa Lucía con la participación de todos nuestros miembros físicamente en Santa Lucía y aprovechando los conocimientos adquiridos a través de los diálogos virtuales. La conferencia CSA de 2024 en Santa Lucía será una conferencia física que nos reunirá a todos para celebrar los logros de nuestras organizaciones a lo largo de los años. Buscamos personas, instituciones y organizaciones interesadas en establecer asociaciones con la CSA para la conferencia de 2024, así como para disertaciones y programas educativos que ayuden a avanzar en los desarrollos del Caribe a lo largo de los pilares temáticos de este año.

Para terminar, quiero reiterar que la conferencia de 2024 será uno físico, pero soy consciente del hecho de que algunos miembros pueden enfrentar desafíos en el último momento que pueden impedirles la participación física. En circunstancias tan raras y con una planificación previa, exploraremos el uso y la integración de la tecnología con un enfoque equilibrado para garantizar que nadie que quiera ser parte del proceso se quede atrás. Mi petición para este año es la participación activa y el compromiso de todos nuestros miembros y, dado que los copresidentes del programa abrirán pronto la convocatoria de ponencias, les insto a que se registren con anticipación. Comuníquese también con nuestra directora de membresía, Kaifa Roland, y con la representante de estudiantes graduados, Maya Freeman, para ofrecer apoyo o saber dónde se podrían utilizar sus esfuerzos voluntarios. Agradezco a todos los miembros que ya están involucrados en diferentes grupos de trabajo y comités. Es a través de usted y de nuestros socios que CSA prosperará en la próxima década.

Para nuestro rincón de reconocimiento especial, Jessica S. Samuel, académica interdisciplinaria y fundadora de Radical Education & Advocacy League LLC, se benefició de la beca y tutoría para jóvenes académicos de CSA. Ahora, como joven profesional y estratega de equidad, diversidad e inclusión educativa, utiliza su beca para implementar enfoques innovadores para crear conciencia sobre la importancia de este trabajo en la educación y la práctica de la vida real. Como leerá en este artículo de opinión, ella desafía las prácticas coloniales profundamente arraigadas en el uso de la tierra.
<https://stthomassource.com/content/2023/07/14/opinion-we-keep-minimizing-st-johnians-contention-with-the-v-i-national-park-and-its-time-we-stop/>

Ella es una de los jóvenes profesionales de CSA que compartió su pasión en la Serie de Diálogos de CSA recientemente concluida y presentará en la próxima conferencia anual de CSA en Santa Lucía, del 3 al 7 de junio de 2024. Reserve su lugar pronto.

Tuyo en beca,

Okama Ekpe Brook
Presidenta de la CSA 2023-2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

Français

Chers membres,

La pertinence du thème de la conférence annuelle 2024 de l'ASC sur le développement durable des Caraïbes : convergence des technologies, des personnes, de la planète, de la paix, de la prospérité et des partenariats (T5P) est tout à fait stratégique et opportune. Avec une vision fondée sur l'approfondissement du dialogue et de la recherche sur des pistes de développement qui soient socialement, économiquement, écologiquement, politiquement et culturellement saines et prenant en considération une optique inclusive à travers le T5P pour la durabilité. En réfléchissant sur ce thème, je réimagine l'impact que peuvent avoir nos membres, nos communautés de pratique et nos collaborateurs pour les Caribéens au pays et dans la diaspora. Le 31 août 2023 est désigné Journée internationale des Nations Unies pour les personnes d'ascendance africaine. Cette résolution renforce la Décennie des personnes d'ascendance africaine 2015-2024 pour le développement, la justice et la reconnaissance. Alors que la Décennie touche à sa fin en 2024, les discussions ont repris entre le Forum de haut niveau des Nations Unies, les organisations régionales et les militants sur le prochain programme.

Ayant passé une partie importante de ma carrière professionnelle à travailler au sein des Nations Unies et conservant toujours un certain niveau de rôle de plaidoyer pour la mise en œuvre, le suivi et l'évaluation équitables des objectifs de développement durable (il reste encore sept ans à parcourir), je réfléchis à les échecs de l'inéquité dans le programme de développement pour les personnes d'ascendance africaine. Le développement à partir d'une approche fondée sur les droits était ancré dans mon orientation au cours de mes premiers jours aux Nations Unies. Mes collègues et moi avons toujours été encouragés à intégrer une perspective inclusive basée sur l'équité à notre travail. Lorsque je dirigeais le programme des Volontaires des Nations Unies au Sri Lanka, j'avais souvent à l'esprit la nécessité de garantir l'interprétation des politiques et des procédures dans une perspective fondée sur l'équité. Nous avons posé des questions : tenons-nous compte des orientations de genre, des pratiques de bonne gouvernance, des connaissances des peuples autochtones, de la diversité culturelle, etc. Dans la programmation, nous avons demandé qui étaient les détenteurs de droits et les détenteurs d'obligations en mettant l'accent sur pourquoi, quoi, quand, où, qui et comment. Nous pensions qu'une approche intentionnelle de la mise en œuvre des politiques, des plans et des programmes découlait d'une méthodologie holistique qui contribuerait à un plus grand impact sur l'humanité dans ses interactions avec l'environnement. Des progrès constants et cul-

turellement appropriés améliorent en fin de compte les critères de développement. Le maintien de ces performances dans le temps et avec des ressources dédiées conduit à la durabilité socio-économique et environnementale.

C'est dans cette optique que nous critiquons l'évolution des Caraïbes au fil des décennies. nous observons des échecs et des lacunes. De plus, lorsque nous critiquons nos propres institutions, nous reconnaissons la nécessité de réfléchir à quelques moteurs de changement à travers la planification et l'élaboration de politiques qui devraient refléter des cadres fondés sur des preuves qui appliquent des cadres logiques spécifiques, mesurables, réalisables, axés sur les résultats et limités dans le temps. Cela fournira par exemple une base pour des indicateurs de mesure transparents et responsables au cours des cinq prochaines années. C'est ce qui me passionne dans le thème de cette année et alors que notre Association d'études caribéennes célèbre son 50e anniversaire.

Nos membres de l'ASC jouent un rôle central dans la croissance et la durabilité de l'organisation, interagissant au sein des sciences humaines, des sciences et des sciences sociales pour proposer une étude équilibrée des peuples caribéens. Avec nos membres originaires du monde entier, nous sommes liés par un intérêt commun pour l'étude des questions caribéennes à partir d'une approche multidisciplinaire et l'application ultérieure de ces connaissances pour l'élaboration, la mise en œuvre, le suivi et l'évaluation de politiques avec le résultat souhaité pour l'amélioration. de la personne caribéenne moyenne dans un environnement sûr et sécurisé. Cependant, nous avons tous été témoins de l'assaut de la pandémie de Covid 19 et de l'énorme impact qu'elle a eu sur nos vies. Mais le Covid 19 a également apporté un aspect positif aux pratiques de développement et à nos vies, ouvrant des opportunités d'utilisation de la technologie. C'est dans ce contexte que j'encourage l'utilisation de la technologie à travers des séries de dialogues virtuellement organisés pour prendre le pouls de nos membres et partenaires et dans le cadre des préparatifs de la conférence de 2024. Comme il serait fantastique de célébrer notre 50e anniversaire à Sainte-Lucie avec la participation physique de tous nos membres à Sainte-Lucie et en s'appuyant sur les connaissances acquises grâce aux dialogues virtuels. La conférence CSA 2024 à Sainte-Lucie sera une conférence physique qui nous réunira tous pour célébrer les réalisations de notre organisation au fil des ans. Nous recherchons des personnes, des institutions et des organisations intéressées à établir des partenariats avec le CSA pour la conférence de 2024 ainsi que pour des mémoires et des programmes éducatifs qui contribuent à faire progresser le développement des Caraïbes selon les piliers thématiques de cette année.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

En conclusion, je tiens à réitérer que la conférence de 2024 sera une question physique, mais que je suis conscient du fait que certains membres peuvent être confrontés à des difficultés au dernier moment qui peuvent les empêcher de participer physiquement. Dans des circonstances aussi rares et avec une planification préalable, nous explorerons l'utilisation et l'intégration de la technologie selon une approche équilibrée afin de garantir que personne souhaitant faire partie du processus ne soit laissé pour compte. Ma demande cette année est la participation active et l'engagement de tous nos membres et comme l'appel à communications sera bientôt ouvert par les coprésidents du programme, je vous encourage à vous inscrire tôt. Veuillez également contacter notre directrice des adhésions, Kaifa Roland, et la représentante des étudiants diplômés, Maya Freeman, pour offrir votre soutien ou savoir où vos efforts bénévoles pourraient être utilisés. Je remercie tous les membres qui sont déjà impliqués dans différents groupes de travail et comités. C'est grâce à vous et à nos partenaires que l'ASC prospérera au cours de la prochaine décennie.

Pour notre coin de reconnaissance spécial, Jessica S. Samuel, chercheuse interdisciplinaire et fondatrice de Radical Education & Advocacy League LLC, a bénéficié de la bourse et du mentorat des jeunes

chercheurs de l'ASC. Aujourd'hui, en tant que jeune professionnelle et stratégique en matière d'équité en éducation, de diversité et d'inclusion, elle utilise sa bourse pour mettre en œuvre des approches innovantes visant à sensibiliser à l'importance de ce travail dans l'éducation et la pratique réelle. Comme vous le lirez dans cet article d'opinion, elle remet en question les pratiques coloniales profondément enracinées en matière d'utilisation des terres. <https://stthomassource.com/content/2023/07/14/opinion-we-keep-minimizing-st-johnians-contention-with-the-v-i-national-park-and-its-time-we-stop/>

Elle fait partie des jeunes professionnels de l'ASC qui ont partagé sa passion dans le cadre de la série de dialogues de l'ASC récemment conclue et fera une présentation lors de la prochaine conférence annuelle de l'ASC à Sainte-Lucie, du 3 au 7 juin 2024. Réservez votre place bientôt.

Bien à vous en bourse,

Okama Ekpe Brook
Président de l'ASC 2023-2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR



Guido Rojer, Jr.

Practitioners play an instrumental role in translating academic insights into meaningful, practical outcomes in the Caribbean region. The CSA recognizes them as a special audience that enriches research, enhances relevance, and amplifies impact. Collaboration between academics and practitioners fosters interdisciplinary understanding, supports participatory development, and ensures that academic research

resonates with the real-world challenges and aspirations of Caribbean communities. This partnership embodies the true spirit of knowledge sharing and collaborative problem-solving, driving holistic and sustainable development across the Caribbean.

The CSA holds a unique responsibility of bridging the gap between scholarly research and real-world applications in the dynamic context of the Caribbean region. In this pursuit, practitioners emerge as a special and indispensable audience for such associations. These practitioners, encompassing government officials, NGO workers, community leaders, educators, healthcare professionals, and more, are the driving force behind the implementation of development initiatives and policies on the ground. Recognizing their role as a special audience provides academic associations with an opportunity to foster collaboration, maximize impact, and create holistic solutions tailored to the diverse needs of the Caribbean communities.

It is for this reason that we are particularly inviting our members to help us craft a 2024 CSA conference where these collaborations take center stage. Are you desirous of joining to Program Committee?

Are you keenly interested in being a part of the team that would review abstracts and other conference submissions?

Are you yearning for an opportunity to be part of CSA leadership to assist with decision-making about programming for the conference?

If you answered yes to any or all of the above questions, we would love to have you join our programming team for the CSA 2024 conference. For follow up info please send an email to programchair@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org and we will get back to you!

*Guido Rojer, Jr.
CSA Program Chair 2023-2024*

Español

Los profesionales desempeñan un papel fundamental a la hora de traducir los conocimientos académicos en resultados prácticos y significativos en la región del Caribe. La CSA los reconoce como una audiencia especial que enriquece la investigación, mejora la relevancia y amplifica el impacto. La colaboración entre académicos y profesionales fomenta el entendimiento interdisciplinario, apoya el desarrollo participativo y garantiza que la investigación académica resuene con los desafíos y aspiraciones del mundo real de las comunidades caribeñas. Esta asociación encarna el verdadero espíritu de intercambio de conocimientos y resolución colaborativa de problemas, impulsando un desarrollo holístico y sostenible en todo el Caribe.

La CSA tiene la responsabilidad única de cerrar la brecha entre la investigación académica y las aplicaciones del mundo real en el contexto dinámico de la región del Caribe. En esta búsqueda, los profesionales emergen como una audiencia especial e indispensable para dichas asociaciones. Estos profesionales, que incluyen funcionarios gubernamentales, trabajadores de ONG, líderes comunitarios, educadores, profesionales de la salud y más, son la fuerza impulsora detrás de la implementación de iniciativas y políticas de desarrollo sobre el terreno. Reconocer su papel como audiencia especial brinda a las asociaciones académicas la oportunidad de fomentar la colaboración, maximizar el impacto y crear soluciones holísticas adaptadas a las diversas necesidades de las comunidades caribeñas.

Es por esta razón que estamos invitando especialmente a nuestros miembros a que nos ayuden a diseñar una conferencia CSA para 2024 donde estas colaboraciones ocupen un lugar central. ¿Está interesado en unirse al Comité del Programa?

¿Está muy interesado en ser parte del equipo que revisaría resúmenes y otras presentaciones de conferencias?

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR cont'd

¿Anhela la oportunidad de ser parte del liderazgo de CSA para ayudar con la toma de decisiones sobre la programación de la conferencia?

Si respondió afirmativamente a alguna o todas las preguntas anteriores, nos encantaría que se una a nuestro equipo de programación para la conferencia CSA 2024. Para obtener información de seguimiento, envíe un correo electrónico a program-chair@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org y nos comunicaremos con usted.

*Guido Rojer, Jr.
Presidente del Programa CSA 2023-2024*

Français

Les praticiens jouent un rôle déterminant dans la traduction des connaissances académiques en résultats pratiques et significatifs dans la région des Caraïbes. L'ASC les reconnaît comme un public particulier qui enrichit la recherche, en accroît la pertinence et amplifie l'impact. La collaboration entre universitaires et praticiens favorise la compréhension interdisciplinaire, soutient le développement participatif et garantit que la recherche universitaire est en résonance avec les défis et les aspirations du monde réel des communautés caribéennes. Ce partenariat incarne le véritable esprit de partage des connaissances et de résolution collaborative des problèmes, favorisant un développement holistique et durable dans les Caraïbes.

L'ASC a la responsabilité unique de combler le fossé entre la recherche universitaire et les applications concrètes dans le contexte dynamique de la région des Caraïbes. Dans cette quête, les praticiens apparaissent comme un public spécial et indispensable pour de telles associations. Ces praticiens, comprenant des représentants du gouvernement, des travailleurs d'ONG, des dirigeants communautaires, des éducateurs, des professionnels de la santé et bien d'autres encore, sont la force motrice de la mise en œuvre d'initiatives et de politiques de développement sur le terrain. Reconnaître leur rôle en tant que public spécial offre aux associations universitaires l'opportunité de favoriser la collaboration, de maximiser l'impact et de créer des solutions holistiques adaptées aux divers besoins des communautés caribéennes.

C'est pour cette raison que nous invitons particulièrement nos membres à nous aider à élaborer une conférence de l'ASC 2024 où ces collaborations occuperont une place centrale. Désirez-vous vous joindre au comité de programme ?

Êtes-vous vivement intéressé à faire partie de l'équipe chargée d'examiner les résumés et autres soumissions à la conférence ?

Souhaitez-vous avoir l'opportunité de faire partie de la direction de l'ASC pour aider à la prise de décision concernant la programmation de la conférence ?

Si vous avez répondu oui à l'une ou à toutes les questions ci-dessus, nous serions ravis que vous rejoigniez notre équipe de programmation pour la conférence CSA 2024. Pour des informations de suivi, veuillez envoyer un e-mail à program-chair@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org et nous vous répondrons !

*Guido Rojer, Jr.
Président du programme ASC 2023-2024*

The Caribbean Community *and* Contemporary International Affairs

A Collection of Three
Volumes of Essays

Published over the period:
September 2022 to August 2023

August 30, 2023

By
Nand C. Bardouille

The Caribbean Community and Contemporary International Affairs

authored by the Manager of The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean (DAOC)

Published over the period September 2022 to August 2023 and segmented into three volumes, the essays in question are a resource for students, academics and practitioners in the fields of international politics and development.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

10th International Conference of Carnival and Masquerade Arts Tradition, Connection, Innovation and Decolonisation 4th – 8th December 2023 taking place at the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana

Following Lynda Rosenior-Patten's announcement at last year's **9th International Conference on Carnival Arts and Culture** at Oxford Brookes University, UK in 2022, we are extremely delighted to formally confirm that this year's conference will be hosted by the **University of Education, Winneba (UEW)**, School of Creative Arts, (SCA) Ghana.



This international, multi-platform, interdisciplinary conference will be an historic first staging of the event on African soil, both in person and hybrid form. The conference will also feature contributions from the Peace and Conflict Department, Faculties of Cultural Affairs and History & Cultural Studies, **Fourah Bay College (FBC)**, **University of Sierra Leone**, Freetown, the second oldest university in Sub Saharan Africa.



Established in September 1992 the UEW brought together seven diploma awarding colleges located in different towns under one umbrella institution. The Winneba Campus, the

main campus of the UEW has three sub-campuses: The North, Central and South Campuses and is the seat of the Vice-Chancellor with a satellite campus at Ajumako.

Entitled ***Rhythm of a People: Tradition, Connection, Innovation and Decolonisation*** the **10th International Conference of Carnival and Masquerade Arts** will be a landmark gathering of academics, practitioners and artists from across the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, North America and South America. This unique three-day conference and five-day Carnival and Masquerade Arts making workshop events will explore the meanings and value of Carnival and Masquerade Arts, knowledge exchange, and shared experiences and practices across a range of themes, towards the establishment of a unique, co-designed, sustainable global platform.



Professor Emmanuel Obed Acquah, Dean, School of Creative Arts (SCA) states "I would like to express our enthusiasm and commitment to hosting the program at the University of Education, Winneba. We value the opportunity to collaborate with your team and are dedicated to fulfilling our responsibilities and playing our assigned roles effectively ... We look forward to working closely with you to ensure a productive and rewarding experience for all involved".

This year's conference has been generously supported by the **Open University's (UK) Decolonising Education for Peace in Africa (DEPA)** project and the **New Venture Fund**, on behalf of the Public Interest Technology University Network Fund.



Photo Credits: Department of Publishing and Web Development, UEW

CALL FOR PAPERS cont'd

The Conference Organising Team is looking forward to working with our Ghanaian and Sierra Leonean colleagues to deliver a world class conference with global appeal that has the pursuit for new knowledge, knowledge exchange, inclusivity, decolonised educational approaches, environmental sustainability, collaboration and connectivity at its heart. For further information on the Conference programme email info@maestro7.co.uk

Akwaaba! (welcome) - See you there!

NOTE TO EDITORS: For further information, images and interviews please email Lynda at info@maestro7.co.uk

NEW BOOK

Reflections on Race Relations: A Personal Odyssey

Godfrey
Mwakikagile

Reflections on Race Relations: A Personal Odyssey

by Godfrey Mwakikagile

The author looks at race relations when he was growing up in Africa and his experiences in the United States. He grew up when his home country was under white minority rule. He later lived for many years in another country, the United States, that was also dominated by whites. He examines similarities between the two white-dominated societies and looks at how life was for non-whites in his home country during those years. It is a work of comparative analysis in terms of race relations and draws heavily on the author's personal experience. He not only addresses the subject from a personal perspective but also in the broader context of society as a whole. A lot of what he has written is based on what he has observed and experienced through the years, amounting to a personal journey through life in colonial Africa and in the United States. He also looks at his life with African Americans including those who were members of an organisation that sponsored African students to study in the United States. He was one of those sponsored by the organisation. His reflections on race relations have been partly shaped by the existence of racism in the United States as a major problem in contemporary times. The malignancy of racism in the United

States was underscored by massive protests across the country by people of all races – the largest since the civil rights movement – following the brutal murder of a black man, George Floyd, by a white police officer in May 2020, an execution that sent shock waves round the globe where there were also protests in many countries in support of racial equality in America; protests the author says could have been the beginning of the second civil rights movement. Never before had so many whites in every city and every state participated in such demonstrations alongside blacks demanding racial justice. And never before had such demonstrations been organised and carried on, on sustained basis, throughout the country for several months. The status of black people in the United States with whom he interacted for many years, prospects for racial harmony and reconciliation and the quest for racial justice are some of the subjects he has addressed in the book, drawing on his experiences as someone who has firsthand knowledge of the subject because of what he went through when he was growing up as a colonial subject in Africa and when he lived in the United States as someone who was not spared the agony and the anguish of being a victim of racism. It is an odyssey that is reflected in the lives of many other people, making the book more than just an account of the experiences of the author alone. It is a reflection of other lives as well, especially of those whose collective identity is also shared by the author.

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MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS



Vanesa Contreras Capó

Español

AdocPR- Una apuesta a un cine descolonizador

Este año la Asociación de cine de documentalistas de Puerto Rico, AdocPR, cumple 10 años. Una década intensa y combativa porque AdocPR ha estado en las calles y en las pantallas. Desde su fundación las compañeras y compañeros han tenido una

visión del cine que va más allá de impulsar el cine documental puertorriqueño, esta ha sido abrir el espacio para que las comunidades, los activistas y los artistas, entre otros, sean los narradores de sus propias historias. El cine ha sido uno de los espacios que, o bien han sido censurados y/o manipulados por los gobiernos, o han sido cooptados por el mercado que se ha apoderado de estos gentrificando y blanqueando las historias y las estéticas para seguir fomentando una forma particular de hacer cine. Competir con la maquinaria de las grandes empresas de cine y apostar a otras formas de narrar, con estéticas descolonizadas, y sin los 20 anuncios escondidos entre las escenas, es una forma de resistencia que requiere del mismo compromiso político y personal como cualquier otro movimiento social. Hay una intención de generar nuevas ideas y estrategias para confrontar lo que vemos en la pantalla.

Recuerdo que cuando empecé a tomar algunos cursos de cine se hablaba del 1er cine, del cine de autor y el movimiento del 3er cine latinoamericano que nació en los revueltos años 60 y 70. Si bien tengo problemas con seguir utilizando los términos de 1er y 3er mundo/cine no me cabe duda que es el cine del sur global el que tiene el bagaje político y cultural para proponer otros cines, con otras miradas y otros espectadorxs. Así pasó con el teatro del opri-mido, el boom latinoamericano literario e incluso los mismos movimientos sociales. Todavía recuerdo la historia de Patricio Guzmán, el cineasta chileno que junto con otros compañeros lograron recopilar, arriesgando e incluso perdiendo sus vidas, los primeros años de la dictadura chilena de Augusto Pinochet en el documental *La batalla de Chile*. Porque lo cierto es que documentar desde y para el sur global en muchas ocasiones se ha convertido en un peligroso acto de denuncia.

Han habido muchos debates en torno a la relación entre el arte y el activismo, el *artivismo*; si el arte debe siempre tener un compromiso político o si, por el contrario, como impulsaban los modernistas debe ser “el arte por el arte”, es decir, el distanciamiento entre la creación artística y la vida social. No voy a entrar en ese debate pero me pregunto, ¿qué sería de nuestras luchas sin contar con los compañeros que se tiran a las calles con sus cámaras y micrófonos en mano no solo para hacernos protagonistas de nuestras propias historias sino para poder contarlas desde nuestras experiencias? La perspectiva de lo que se cuenta y cómo se cuenta se convierten en herramientas poderosas para fortalecer o debilitar el sistema. Es por eso, que este año celebramos la década de los y las documentalistas puertorriqueñas que narran y muestran las historias con el propósito de lograr un cambio en el país.

English

AdocPR- A commitment to a decolonizing cinema

This year the Asociación de documentalistas de Puerto Rico (Documentary Film makers Association of Puerto Rico), AdocPR, celebrates its 10th anniversary. An intense and combative decade because AdocPR has been in the streets and on the screens. Since its foundation, our comrades have had a vision of cinema that goes beyond promoting Puerto Rican documentary film, this has been to open the space for communities, activists and artists, among others, to be the narrators of their own stories. Cinema has been one of the spaces that have either been censored and/or manipulated by governments, or have been co-opted by the market that has taken over these spaces, gentrifying and whitewashing stories and aesthetics to continue promoting a particular form of filmmaking. Competing with the machinery of the big film companies and betting on other forms of storytelling, with decolonized aesthetics, and without the 20 ads hidden between the scenes, is a form of resistance that requires the same political and personal commitment as any other social movement. There is an intention to generate new ideas and strategies to confront what we see on the screen.

I remember that when I started taking some film courses, the 1st world cinema, auteur cinema and the 3rd world cinema movement that was born in the turbulent 60's and 70's. I have no doubt that it is the cinema of the global south that has the political and cultural baggage to propose other cinemas, with other points of view and or cinema of the global south. Although I have problems with continuing to use the terms 1st and 3rd world/cinema, I have no doubt that it is the cinema of the global south that has the political and

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd

cultural baggage to propose other cinemas, with other gazes and other spectators. This is what happened with the theater of the oppressed, the Latin American literary boom and even the social movements themselves. I still remember the story of Patricio Guzmán, the Chilean filmmaker who together with other colleagues managed to compile, risking and even losing their lives, the first years of the Chilean dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in the documentary *The Battle of Chile*. Because the truth is that documenting from and for the global south has often become a dangerous act of denunciation.

There have been many debates about the relationship between art and activism, artivism; whether art should always have a political commitment or whether, on the contrary, as the modernists urged, it should be "art for art's sake", that is, the distancing between artistic creation and social life. I am not going to enter into this debate but I wonder, what would our struggles be without the compas who take to the streets with their cameras and microphones in hand not only to make us protagonists of our own stories but also to be able to tell them from our experiences? The perspective of what is told and how it is told become powerful tools to strengthen or weaken the system. That is why this year we celebrate the decade of Puerto Rican documentary filmmakers who narrate and present the stories with the main purpose of achieving change in the country.

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd



Julien Merion

Français

HOMMAGE A JEAN-PIERRE SAINTON HISTORIEN CARIBEEN

La nouvelle du décès brutal de l'historien guadeloupéen Jean-Pierre Sainton ce lundi 21 août a saisi d'effroi ses amis, les milieux universitaires et plus généralement l'opinion publique.



Agé de 68 ans, il avait été professeur d'histoire contemporaine à l'Université des Antilles jusqu'à 2022.

Il a fait partie de la jeune génération d'historiens qui, à partir des années 80, décide de scruter l'histoire des sociétés post-esclavagistes aussi bien dans la Caraïbe francophone que dans le reste de l'espace régional.

Ses premiers travaux vont porter en 1985 sur l'analyse de la tuerie de Mai 1967 en Guadeloupe (« *Mé 67* » avec Raymond Gama) Il soutient sa thèse de doctorat à Paris sur le thème « **Les nègres en politique** » en 1993. C'est l'occasion pour lui de montrer les conditions particulières de l'irruption des descendants d'esclaves sur la scène politique face aux résistances de l'oligarchie blanche et des atermoiements des mulâtres.

Il publie ensuite successivement : « *Rosan Girard, chronique d'une vie politique* » en 1995, « *Couleurs et société en contexte post-esclavagiste* » en 2009, « *La décolonisation improbable* » en 2012 et « *Histoire et Société de la Caraïbe* » Tome 1 en 2012 et Tome 2 en 2015.

Il faut ajouter à cette bibliographie les nombreuses contributions qu'il a faite dans des publications collectives et sa participation à de dizaines de symposiums, colloques et rencontres sur l'Histoire politique et sociale contemporaine des Caraïbes.

Tous ces écrits sont empreints de la même rigueur scientifique et de la même passion pour la découverte de nous-mêmes.

Jean-Pierre Sainton aura été un intellectuel engagé qui s'est toujours rangé sous la bannière de l'émancipation de nos sociétés. Dans les mouvements étudiants d'abord et plus tard avec les mouvements sociaux et politiques anticolonialistes, il a porté sa contribution inestimable d'historien pour la compréhension des phénomènes sociaux à partir de l'expérience historiques des luttes contre toutes les formes d'oppression.

Comme il le disait souvent il s'est attaché à mettre son savoir au service de la noble cause de la Libération de l'Homme et de la Société.

Jean-Pierre Sainton était de puis 2019, président de l'Association des Historiens de la Caraïbe. Cette association qui a vu le jour en 1974, rassemble les historiens de la Caraïbe et du monde qui s'intéressent à l'évolution de nos sociétés caribéennes.

A ce titre Jean-Pierre Sainton est un grand intellectuel caribéen, par sa connaissance de l'histoire régionale, mais surtout par sa volonté de contribuer à l'émergence d'une véritable coopération entre chercheurs en libérant l'Histoire des pesanteurs de l'idéologie coloniale. Dès la nouvelle de son décès, les réactions se sont succédées pour saluer l'Homme affable, modeste, le chercheur qui n'a pas ménagé son temps et ses efforts pour le triomphe d'une historiographie caribéenne.

De Guadeloupe, de Guyane, de Martinique, de France, de Puerto-Rico, d'Afrique, des milieux universitaires et académiques, les hommages reconnaissent l'apport de ce chercheur émérite qui avait encore de nombreux projets qui, nous l'espérons, ne s'arrêteront pas avec sa mort.

A la veillée mortuaire organisée le 30 août, selon la tradition populaire, après les hommages des parents, amis, étudiants, camarades de lutte, la musique qu'il aimait tant, rythmé son départ jusqu'au petit matin.

English

TRIBUTE TO JEAN-PIERRE SAINTON CARIBBEAN HISTORIAN

The news of the sudden death of the Guadeloupean historian Jean-Pierre Sainton this Monday, August 21, shocked his friends, academic circles and more generally public opinion. Aged 68, he had been professor of contemporary history at the University of the West Indies until 2022.

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd

He was part of the young generation of historians who, from the 1980s, decided to scrutinize the history of post-slavery societies both in the French-speaking Caribbean and in the rest of the regional space.

His first works will focus in 1985 on the analysis of the May 1967 massacre in Guadeloupe ("Mé 67" with Raymond Gama) He defended his doctoral thesis in Paris on the theme "Les nègres en politique" in 1993. It was an opportunity for him to show the particular conditions of the irruption of the descendants of slaves on the political scene in the face of resistance from the white oligarchy and the procrastination of the mulattoes.

He then published successively: "Rosan Girard, chronicle of a political life" in 1995, "Colours and society in a post-slavery context" in 2009, "The improbable decolonization" in 2012 and "History and Society of the Caribbean" Volume 1 in 2012 and Volume 2 in 2015. We must add to this bibliography the numerous contributions he has made in collective publications and his participation in dozens of symposia, colloquia and meetings on the contemporary political and social history of the Caribbean.

All these writings are imbued with the same scientific rigor and the same passion for the discovery of ourselves.

Jean-Pierre Sainton will have been a committed intellectual who has always lined up under the banner of the emancipation of our societies. In the student movements first and later with the anti-colonialist social and political movements, he made his invaluable contribution as a historian for the understanding of social phenomena from the historical experience of struggles against all forms of oppression.

As he often said, he endeavored to put his knowledge at the service of the noble cause of the Liberation of Man and Society. Jean-Pierre Sainton was since 2019, president of the Association of Historians of the Caribbean. This association, which was created in 1974, brings together historians from the Caribbean and the world who are interested in the evolution of our Caribbean societies. As such, Jean-Pierre Sainton is a great Caribbean intellectual, through his knowledge of regional history, but above all through his desire to contribute to the emergence of genuine cooperation between researchers by freeing History from the constraints of colonial ideology.

From the news of his death, reactions followed one another to sa-

lute the affable, modest man, the researcher who spared no time and effort for the triumph of a Caribbean historiography. From Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, France, Puerto Rico, Africa, university and academic circles, the tributes recognize the contribution of this emeritus researcher who still had many projects which, we hope, will not end with his death.

At the wake organized on August 30, according to popular tradition, after the tributes of parents, friends, students, comrades in the fight, the music he loved so much, punctuated his departure until the early morning.

DUTCH CARIBBEAN REPORT



Science communication and public engagement in the ABCSSS islands

The six Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten are part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The islands are collectively referred to as the ABCSSS islands. In the ABCSSS islands, contemporary science communication initiatives of STEM research mainly engage White, highly educated, Dutch- or English-speaking audiences. This chapter interrogates these anomalies and points towards the future of science communication.

» To Learn More: [CLICK HERE](#)

GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE



Maya I. Freeman

HAPPY SEPTEMBER 2023
CSA GRADUATE STUDENTS
AND SCHOLARS!

CSA is growing and improving as we prepare for the 50th Golden Anniversary of CSA in 2024 in St. Lucia!

CSA Graduate Student Members are encouraged to be actively engaged in as many celebratory and commemorative programs as possible during this historic year and beyond.

During the CSA2023 St. Croix Conference, the CSA Graduate Student Mentoring Program (CSA GSMP) was reintroduced. Experienced, retired, and seasoned CSA scholars were paired with CSA young and new scholars to streamline their transition into the "CSA Family."

For those CSA Graduate Student Members who attended the CSA GSMP at the CSA2023 St. Croix Conference, you are invited to share a concise testimony for future issues of the CSA Newsletter that will be of benefit to all of our CSA members.

The CSA GSMP session conducted during the CSA2023 St. Croix Conference on Day 2 on Tuesday, June 6.2023, facilitated by Dr. Dwaine Plaza [CSA Treasurer and Professor at the University of Oregon]. CSA GSMP established face-to-face opportunities among CSA faculty and scholars (seasoned CSA members) with graduate student members of CSA (individuals working on Masters or Doctoral Degrees) at institutions from around the world. Mentors provided advice on how mentees should utilize the CSA conference framework with practical outcomes and the organization with best practices and tips for networking which extended to the multiple social and alliance events hosted throughout CSA2023 St. Croix.

A central intention of the CSA GSMP was to encourage continued post-conference communication among mentors and mentees with supportive discourse and active advice on how best "to conduct research specifically on the Caribbean or how to navigate graduate school as a Caribbeanist.

We want newcomers/graduate students to build a relationship

where they can have someone they can go to, to ask questions or for clarification during and after the conference.

If you are interested in learning more about the CSA GSMP, send an email with your name, current institution you are attending for masters or doctoral studies, your email, and contact number to MAYA I. FREEMAN, GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE EMAIL: maya.freeman@goddard.edu or gradstudentrep@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org

CSA Graduate Student Members, what exciting news do you have to share about your graduate student experiences? As your CSA Graduate Student Representative, I welcome your reflections, suggestions, and innovative ideas for keeping CSA relevant for our graduate student members now and in the future. Our multitude of intergenerational perspectives are all part of the African diaspora and its people.

I appreciate all constructive feedback and want to make this next conference's Graduate Student Mentorship Breakfast even more dynamic. Please contact me with any suggestions or comments, I would love to hear from you!



CSA MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



Genève Phillip-Durham

Dr. Genève Phillip-Durham is the Principal Consultant of REACH Global; a Caribbean-based research, education, and career consulting firm. She holds a Bsc. in Public Sector Management, Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations, Msc. in Global Studies, and PhD. in International Relations. Over the past ten (10) years, Genève has served in management and leadership roles both regionally and internationally, inter alia; as Administrative Manager at the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, the Dean of Academics at the University of St. Martin and the Supervisory Committee of Eastern Credit Union. She is currently the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University College of Cayman Islands. Genève also serves as an Academic Board Member of the Accreditation Agency of Curaçao, the Book Reviews Editor for the Island Studies Journal- an international peer reviewed journal, and Secretary of the Board of Directors for Solar Head of State- an international NGO which focuses on sustainability and renewable energy.

Genève has a keen interest in contributing to the political economy of development, specifically in Caribbean small island states and non-independent territories and as such, much of her academic work focuses on generating indigenous and innovative policy solutions for island-nominated challenges. She has published peer reviewed articles and book chapters on topics such as; capacity and institution building, policy practice, good governance, diversification and resilience, and has presented her academic research at several Conferences throughout the Caribbean, North America and Europe.

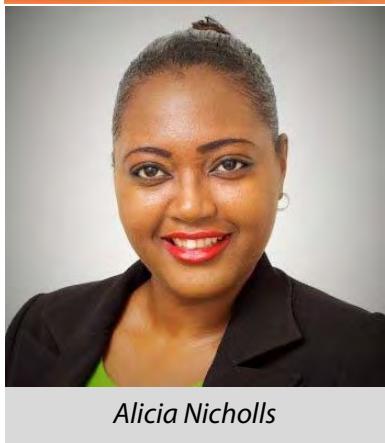


One week away!

**September 6 - 22, 2023
7PM @ Harbourfront Centre
235 Queens Quay W, Toronto**

The 18th Annual Caribbean Tales International Film Festival,
is on this September 6 – 22nd in Toronto and online. Join us as we dive into the urgent narratives on climate change plus a multitude of diverse stories from the Caribbean and African diaspora. Films, premieres, events and Q&A's!

YOUR COMMENTARY



Alicia Nicholls

Latin America and Caribbean Tax Summit in Cartagena: A Caribbean Perspective

On July 27-28, 2023, sixteen countries from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) participated in a historic LAC Ministerial Summit for a more "Inclusive, Sustainable and Equitable Global Tax

Order" held in Cartagena, Colombia. It was jointly hosted by the Governments of Colombia, Brazil and Chile and was the first occasion on which finance ministers and other officials of these countries have met to discuss tax issues as a regional grouping at this high-level. As an academic, I had the fortune of participating in the civil society meetings held in Panama City (Panama) and Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) in the lead up to the Summit, respectively. In this article, I share my initial reflections on this initiative for greater LAC cooperation on national and international tax matters.

Background

Countries of the global South, including LAC countries, are predominantly rule-takers in the global financial system. In recognition of the need for LAC countries to come together to fight for a more equitable and inclusive global tax order, Jose Antonio Ocampo, Colombia's then Minister of Finance and Public Credit, announced in January 2023 the Colombia government's intention to host this high-level summit. Colombia's efforts were later supported by the Governments of Brazil and Chile, and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC). An invitation to participate in the summit was extended to all LAC countries, while African and other G24 leaders were invited as observers.

Hosting this meeting in the port city of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia's fifth largest city, was symbolic for at least three main reasons. First, the city bears the nickname 'La Heroica' as on November 11, 1811, it was the first Colombian territory and the second in the whole of Latin America to declare independence from the Spanish Empire. Second, in 1815, the city also valiantly resisted Spanish forces for 105 days in what is known as the Siege of Cartagena. Third, it is also one of the most 'Caribbean-esque' of Colombia's major cities and with a large noticeable Afro-Colombian population. As both a Barbadian and Caribbean national, there were many aspects of Cartagena that felt familiar in terms of the warmth and

friendliness of the people, the colorful buildings and the food, in particular. Now in 2023, this beautiful city was the setting for what is hoped to be the dawn of an era of south-south cooperation among LAC countries on tax matters.

Summit Outcomes

First, the summit outcome included a joint declaration signed by the delegates from the 16 participating countries establishing the Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean. This proposed platform would promote dialogue and knowledge exchange to develop national and global tax policies that help the region to more adequately confront the mounting crises faced.

Second, it was also agreed that Colombia would hold the Pro Tempore Presidency of this Regional Platform for the next twelve months and that ECLAC will be the technical secretariat of the platform. Third, the Pro Tempore Presidency is tasked with creating an Annual Work Plan, with ECLAC support, and prioritizing the most pressing themes regarding an inclusive, equitable and sustainable taxation agenda within a period of 6 months.

A positive aspect of this LAC initiative is that development is a central component of this effort, acknowledging that countries' tax policy must support, advance and not undermine their development imperatives and that international tax initiatives must do likewise. Many LAC countries do not feel that the current OECD-led tax discussions, including the BEPs two-pillar solution, will redound to their benefit and have argued that a unified LAC voice is needed to ensure global tax rule-making takes into account the region's interests and not simply those of the world's richest countries.

Civil society had a critical role to play in the discussions, and the effort has received tremendous support from civil society groups and think tanks globally as well as from the United Nations. As such, there was explicit mention of the link between tax and gender and women's empowerment, the environment, education and public health, for example. To this end, there was a strong argument made that the growing shift in LAC countries towards largely regressive taxes was anti-developmental as they shifted the tax burden away from the wealthy towards the most vulnerable segments of society.

YOUR COMMENTARY cont'd

Limited Caribbean Participation

The initiative appears to be a good faith attempt to build a LAC coalition not only for regional coordination on tax issues but one that would also help to strengthen the region's impact on global tax policy making, recognizing that the global South remains on the periphery of global financial rule-making. However, attendance at the summit was quite muted as only 16 countries of the 33 countries which are CELAC members attended. Moreover, despite being hailed as a 'LAC' summit, only two Caribbean countries (Haiti and Dominican Republic) participated in the Summit. None of the English-speaking Caribbean governments participated in the Summit although representatives of civil society groups from some Caribbean countries were present at the civil society meetings in Panama City and Cartagena. It is not publicly known why this is the case as the Summit has barely received any media coverage in the English-speaking Caribbean nor is it clear whether it was discussed at the CARICOM Heads of Governments meeting in early July. However, I can speculate on a few possible reasons for the lack of any widespread Caribbean appetite so far for the initiative.

One reason could be that tax is an area of policy-making which countries guard closely. The right to tax has always been linked to the exercise of a State's sovereignty. As small open economies with limited natural resources in most cases, many Caribbean countries have developed international business and financial sectors as a diversification strategy to grow their economies and provide for their people. Among other things, they use their favourable tax rates and offer sophisticated corporate tools and tax incentives as central planks of their investment attraction strategies to promote sustainable economic growth and to create jobs for their workers. Their ability to do this is being increasingly circumscribed by the need to meet global regulatory demands and they might see this still nebulous LAC platform as yet another fetter on their sovereign right to set their own tax policies for their development purposes. Second, there might be some discomfort among Caribbean governments with creating a new platform for tax issues outside of an existing and familiar architecture like the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). On that front, it is curious why CELAC was not the chosen venue for this discussion.

Third, it is unclear to what extent this new platform takes into account existing sub-regional cooperation mechanisms. CARICOM countries usually approach foreign policy matters as a bloc as the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas calls for coordination of foreign policy. Moreover, CARICOM countries discuss tax and other finance matters in their Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP). Another

fear among Caribbean countries could be that their voice in this regional space might still be drowned out by more powerful LAC countries. This fear is not unfounded. While there is much to be gained from greater LAC cooperation and there are, of course, similarities, there are also important differences which any proposed LAC-wide regional cooperation must take into account. These differences include size, economic structure, social structure and tax structure. Among Latin American countries, only Panama could really be considered an international financial centre (IFC), while IFCs are more predominant in Caribbean countries.

Additionally, many Caribbean countries face accusations of being tax havens, including by some Latin American countries despite the fact that Caribbean countries are often among the first adopters of global tax initiatives despite their capacity constraints. Therefore, while blacklisting for tax and AML/CFT/PF issues is not a major issue for Latin American countries, for Caribbean countries it is. It is for this very reason that Caribbean representatives present at both the Panama and Cartagena civil society meetings were insistent that the final civil society outcome document handed over to the Ministers at the Summit needed to include some reference to this issue. Indeed, recommendation nine of the final civil society document calls for decolonization of the global tax order and specifically condemns biased blacklisting which unfairly targets Caribbean countries while ignoring large countries of the Global North where most of the tax evasion occurs.

I am sure many persons reading this article are probably hearing about this summit for the first time. Indeed, the Summit received very little media coverage in the anglophone Caribbean, compared to the press coverage in well-known newspapers like Colombia's *El Espectador*. This is just a symptom of a longstanding problem facing us in the LAC region, that is, that in many ways, we in LAC often know more about what is happening in the countries of the Global North than what is happening in our own sub-region or neighbouring regions.

A major reason for this is, of course, the language barrier. Even though technologies such as simultaneous interpretation during meetings, Google translate and the like may mitigate these barriers somewhat, they do not replace the utility of learning another language, learning about the culture in order to foster understanding and meaningful exchange. In many ways, and despite existing (mainly partial scope) trade agreements between CARICOM and some Latin American countries, and increased airlift, there is still much we need to learn about each other. As someone who speaks

YOUR COMMENTARY

several languages including Spanish, I know that it is only when we truly get to know each other that we can build that trust needed to turn the LAC as a cohesive negotiating bloc on these issues on a global scale.

Concluding Thoughts

I am thankful to the organisers, Latindadd and Public Services International (PSI) and to the rest of the Caribbean contingent who attended, for the opportunity to have participated in these meetings not just for the opportunity to have presented a Caribbean perspective on the discussions as an academic, but to build links with some truly amazing people in LAC who are working on these and other global economic issues.

In theory, south-south cooperation among LAC countries on tax justice matters could be mutually beneficial. After all, in much the same way that G7 and G20 countries use their collective might to set the rules of global finance, LAC countries could leverage their collective voices to press for a fairer global financial system which takes into account their development imperatives. It could provide opportunities for sharing best practices and providing technical assistance on these matters.

It is commendable that this initiative is seeking to incorporate a Caribbean voice as many Caribbean countries often feel that LAC discussions usually are limited to the experiences of Latin American

countries without acknowledging Caribbean realities which in some cases could be quite different. LAC cooperation must bear in mind the region's heterogeneity and as such, Caribbean issues should be given the same weight as issues affecting other LAC countries.

Additionally, this cooperation should seek to use already existing regional cooperation structures such as CELAC and also respect and bear in mind that CARICOM already has its own processes for functional cooperation on this issue. In other words, any LAC cooperation should complement not seek to replace CARICOM's own structures. It is also time for LAC countries to leverage their collective voices to support the African Group proposal for a UN Tax Convention and for the UN to be the official forum for the development of global tax rules as opposed to the status quo where the OECD, a club for the world's wealthiest countries, has sought to arrogate on to itself this power. If done on the basis of mutual respect and communication, south-south cooperation among LAC countries, including possibly on tax justice issues, could be beneficial to Caribbean countries but this is something which Caribbean countries would need to carefully consider.

Alicia D. Nicholls, B.Sc., M.Sc., LL.B is an international trade specialist and founder of the Caribbeantradelaw.com Blog. She attended and participated in the civil society meetings in Panama and Cartagena as an academic and thanks the organizers for the opportunity.

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