



## The Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Studies Association - June 2024 Edition

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### MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

#### Meet the New Executive Council of the Caribbean Studies Association

We at the Caribbean Studies Association take this opportunity to welcome all new and continuing members to the organisation as we plan and work together over the next year towards the success of our every endeavour. Following elections at our AGM at our June 2024 conference, we have a new Executive Council (EC) and team ready and raring to work for you!

CSA 2024-2025 Get to know your team!



*Rhoda Arrindell*  
President



*Raymond Laureano-Ortiz*  
Vice President

### COUNCIL MEMBERS



*Rita Keresztesi*



*Geneve Philip-Durham*



*Maya Freeman*

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## CSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2023-2024

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*Howard University*

**Vice President:** Raymond Laureano-Ortiz  
*Center for Advanced Studies on Puerto Rico and the Caribbean*

**Immediate Past CSA President:**  
Okama Ekpe Brook  
*Africa Caribbean Heritage Alliance*

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*Queens College, CUNY*

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**Secretary:** Mala Jokhan  
*Ministry of Health, Trinidad and Tobago*

**Editor, Newsletter:** Meagan Sylvester  
*Queens College, CUNY*

**Graduate Student Representative:**  
Maya Freeman  
*Goddard Graduate Institute*

### Executive Council

- Oneil Hall
- Donna Hope
- Rita Keresztesi
- Geneve Phillip-Durham
- Maggie Shrimpton Masson

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR cont'd



*Oneil Hall*



*Donna Hope*



*Maggie  
Shrimpton\_Masson*

### APPOINTED MEMBERS



*Mala Jokhan  
Secretariat*



*Dwaine Plaza  
Treasurer*



*Meagan Sylvester  
Newsletter Editor &  
Managing Editor CSA  
Journal*



*Kiah Akosua Asabea  
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I.T. Consultant*



*Opal Palmer Adisa  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Rhoda Arrindell

Dear CSA Family,

It is good to connect with you again since the conference in St. Lucia and wish that those of you in attendance were able to travel back without much incident. I am honored for the privilege to lead this great organization over the next year.

As you may have heard, next year's conference will be held in St. Martin, June 1 – 8, in collaboration with the annual St. Martin Book Fair under the theme "Reparations: Resistance, Resilience, Reproduction, and Rehabilitation."

CSA's strength is its membership, which we are striving to expand in the coming year, and we are counting on you to help us do that. Feel free to share with us all your ideas, along with ways you can actively assist us in this goal.

We have already started meeting with accommodation properties in St. Martin to secure special rates for conference participants, and, within short, the call for abstracts will go out, so stay tuned for regular updates.

Warmly,

Rhoda Arrindell  
*President CSA 2024-2025*

### **Español**

Estimada familia de la CSA:

Es un placer volver a comunicarme con ustedes desde la conferencia en Santa Lucía y deseo que los asistentes hayan podido viajar de regreso sin mayores inconvenientes. Me siento honrada por el privilegio de dirigir esta gran organización durante el próximo año.

Como habrán oído, la conferencia del próximo año se llevará a cabo en San Martín, del 1 al 8 de junio, en colaboración con la Feria del Libro anual de San Martín, bajo el tema "Reparaciones: resistencia, resiliencia, reproducción y rehabilitación".

La fortaleza de la CSA es su membresía, que nos estamos esforzando por ampliar el próximo año, y contamos con su ayuda para lograrlo. No duden en compartir con nosotros todas sus ideas, junto con las formas en que pueden ayudarnos activamente a lograr este objetivo.

Ya hemos comenzado a reunirnos con propiedades de alojamiento en San Martín para asegurar tarifas especiales para los participantes de la conferencia y, en breve, se enviará la convocatoria de resúmenes, así que estén atentos para recibir actualizaciones periódicas.

Cordialmente,

Rhoda Arrindell  
*Presidenta de la CSA 2024-2025*

### **Français**

Chère famille de la CSA,

C'est un plaisir de vous retrouver depuis la conférence de Sainte-Lucie et je souhaite que ceux d'entre vous qui étaient présents aient pu rentrer sans trop d'incidents. Je suis honoré d'avoir le privilège de diriger cette grande organisation au cours de l'année prochaine.

Comme vous l'avez peut-être entendu, la conférence de l'année prochaine se tiendra à Saint-Martin, du 1er au 8 juin, en collaboration avec la foire annuelle du livre de Saint-Martin sous le thème « Réparations : résistance, résilience, reproduction et réhabilitation ».

La force de la CSA réside dans son adhésion, que nous nous efforçons d'élargir au cours de l'année à venir, et nous comptons sur vous pour nous aider à y parvenir. N'hésitez pas à partager avec nous toutes vos idées, ainsi que les moyens par lesquels vous pouvez nous aider activement à atteindre cet objectif.

Nous avons déjà commencé à rencontrer des établissements d'hébergement à Saint-Martin pour obtenir des tarifs spéciaux pour les participants à la conférence, et, sous peu, l'appel à résumés sera lancé, alors restez à l'écoute pour des mises à jour régulières.

Cordialement,

Rhoda Arrindell  
*Président de l'ASC 2024-2025*

## MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



Okama Ekpe Brook

Esteemed Members,

I am thankful for the successful conclusion of our 48th Annual Conference and Golden Anniversary celebrations in Saint Lucia. As your president for the 2023-2024 season and chairperson of the conference, my plan was to give space to every participating delegate to present their ideas, research, and strategies that will positively

impact Caribbean people, spaces, culture, economy, education, health, etc. Having lived and worked in the Caribbean with my family, the decolonization of people's mindsets and spaces are very dear to me. Besides, given our collective body of knowledge and the number of Nobel Laureates that Saint Lucia has produced, I was hopeful for a rich exchange. For as Sir Arthur Lewis noted, 'The fundamental cure to poverty is not money but knowledge'. That is exactly what we had. Held on the beautiful island of Saint Lucia, an only country named after a woman, a space whose ownership was fought over and changed hands 14 times between Britain and France. It was truly a wonderful experience to host over 400 delegates, representing 25 countries, bringing together the young and older, the new and veterans.

As a visionary leader with lived practical development experience on Small Island Developing States, I fully understand the diaspora experience as a key contributor to SIDS development. Our conference for a small part showed that these opportunities definitely exist within our diaspora and friends. We just need to be more intentional on adequately channeling across the Caribbean Basin. For those of you who were present, you would have witnessed the range of mixed activities to showcase the diversity of the renewed CSA brand as we returned fully to physical conferencing post Covid 19. For those who could not join us, you truly missed an inspiring event. But that notwithstanding, I am hopeful that you will stay engaged with our post conference dialogues in order to find a meaningful role for yourself. For you are not merely participants, but stewards of the passion of our organization. As CSA is poised at this juncture to support the work of new president Dr. Rhoda Arrindell in her preparations for the 2025 conference in St. Maarten, we need your help. Please ask where your assistance would be utilized.



## THANK YOU

to all sponsors, partners and participants who made the 2024 CSA Conference a success!

Here is a synopsis of the 2024 conference program deliverables:

- 320 Abstracts-programmed
- 117 sessions
- 65 panels
- 16 Fully constituted sessions
- 5 round tables
- 5 plenaries
- 3 workshops
- 2 luncheons- Association of Caribbean Writers Society and Grad students luncheon
- 1 - graduate students breakfast
- 2- Literary Salons
- 2- Author Celebrations
- 2- Nobel Laureate sessions
- 1- French fully constituted panel
- 1- Spanish fully constituted panel
- 1- poster presentation
- 1 - entrepreneurship showcase
- 3 - tour options
- 2 - film screenings of Shantaye's World (locally produced) and Choke Hold (international)
- 1 - fisheries tour to Anse La Raye & Soufriere
- 1 - cultural night
- 1 - gala night
- Daily business exhibitors

My gratitude to our program co-chairs, secretariat, local organizing committee and subcommittees, CSA Executive Council Members,

## MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT cont'd

CSA committees, award committees, working groups, affiliated groups, presenters, keynote speakers, friends, sponsors, advocates and volunteers.

To all our past presidents, on whose path I trod and shoulders leaned on, I truly thank you and hope you received your presidential plaques of honor. Deepest appreciation to my mentor, past president, Godfrey St. Bernard for all the support in achieving this hefty goal.



As I move forward as immediate past president, a couple of activities I will be engaged in include establishing a strategy for the implementation of the CSA-UWI Memorandum of Understanding 2024-2029 which was signed on May 1, 2024. I will also be providing a gateway to positive reconnections with Africa through an initiative to host scholarly in-between conferences in African countries. The first will start with my home country of Nigeria, taking place in Cross River State, from December 17-23, 2024. The Africa Caribbean Heritage Alliance in partnership with the Cross River State Government awaits to welcome you home to a scholarly journey of return intermingled with socio-economic and cultural exploration! You do not want to miss this opportunity to experience the homeland. I invite you to watch this space for the call for abstracts coming out soon.

It has been a tremendous pleasure serving you and I look forward to walking alongside you, our members, in pursuit of sustainability of the academy, research, public policy and holistic human developments.

Amb. Okama Ekpe Brook  
*Immediate Past President, CSA 2023-2024*

# LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE REPORT



Tracy George

## 2024 Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) Conference Feedback from the Local Organizing Committee (LOC)

The 2024 CSA Conference was an impressive gathering of Caribbean people, showcasing the region's vast intellectual tradition. The diverse topics and presenters highlighted Caribbean excellence.

The LOC crafted a program that beautifully integrated Saint Lucian culture, including local artwork, film screenings, book exhibitions, author celebrations, and tours, offering a multifaceted experience of Saint Lucia. Regular meetings with stakeholders, site visits, and consultations with various stakeholders ensured a collaborative approach in organizing the conference.

### Logistics and Venue

The Harbor Club was chosen for its versatility, central location, and easy access to public transportation, successfully accommodating the 250 registered attendees and facilitating six concurrent breakout rooms. The Harbor Club team was responsive and supportive, holding weekly meetings with the LOC. Additionally, the nearby food spots were vital as the conference did not provide food for attendees.

### Conference Event Organization

The conference was well-organized, with no major incidents or medical emergencies reported. Despite being undermanned, the support staff managed to resolve most issues efficiently.

### Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was well-attended, with strong representation from all stakeholders, including the Saint Lucian Government and foreign embassies. The event showcased unity and diversity, with presentations in various languages and representation from lesser-known Caribbean countries. The space was beautifully decorated with local artwork, a digital display of sponsors, colors of the Flag of Saint Lucia, and madras. The linguistic diversity included in the program and the engaging, warm MC set a positive tone for the conference.

### Screening of \*Shantaye's World\*

The screening of \*Shantaye's World\* attracted both foreign attendees and locals, including dignitaries. Ms. Rhyesa Joseph's excellent moderation effectively engaged the audience, and the cocktail hour with drinks and a relaxed environment post-screening was well-received.

### Literary Salon

The literary salon was well-attended, drawing a good turnout, including students. The crowd was attentive and responsive during readings and Q&A sessions. Biographical slideshows complemented the readings well, and a wonderful display of local and international books added to the event's success.

### Cultural Night

Cultural night featured excellent performances that highlighted Saint Lucia's culture, with performers interacting well with the audience. The inviting atmosphere of Maury's was conducive to enjoyment, making it a memorable evening.

### Closing Ceremony and Gala

The closing ceremony and gala were well-attended despite the extra cost. The presentation of plaques to past presidents was a touching moment. The event featured excellent entertainment, including performances by a saxophonist, singer, and DJ, providing a fitting end to the conference.

The LOC executed a comprehensive marketing strategy to ensure local awareness of the conference. A virtual launch event was conducted and disseminated via YouTube. Promotional videos were regularly posted on SALCC social media platforms. A concise CSA One-Pager was designed and distributed, and a condensed version of the conference program was created. Monthly contributions by UWI to the CSA Newsletter and a newspaper article titled "Saint Lucia to Host Historic CSA Conference" in *The Voice* helped spread the word. Radio interviews, branded conference bags, pull-up banners, feather banners, on-site attendee interviews, and a dedicated landing page on the SALCC website further supported the marketing efforts. Letters of invitation for the Opening Ceremony and other key events were sent to key stakeholders. A digital backdrop featuring sponsors and key partners, as well as the design of all conference programs and thank-you flyers, were also part of the promotional efforts.

The 2024 Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) Conference was a significant and memorable event that underscored the intellectual

# LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE REPORT cont'd

richness and cultural vibrancy of the Caribbean region. The diverse range of topics, engaging presentations, and special events highlighted the excellence within the Caribbean community. Despite some challenges, the conference successfully brought together a diverse group of participants who shared knowledge, celebrated Caribbean culture, and built valuable connections. The dedication and resilience of the support staff and volunteers were commendable, ensuring that the conference proceeded smoothly despite the hurdles faced. Looking forward, the insights gained from this year's conference can serve as a foundation for better planning and execution in the future. By addressing the highlighted shortcomings and implementing the suggested improvements, the CSA can enhance the overall experience for attendees and continue to showcase the best of Caribbean scholarship and culture.

## **Español**

Comentarios del Comité Organizador Local (LOC) sobre la Conferencia de la Asociación de Estudios del Caribe (CSA) de 2024

La Conferencia de la CSA de 2024 fue una reunión impresionante de personas del Caribe, que mostró la vasta tradición intelectual de la región. Los diversos temas y presentadores resaltaron la excelencia caribeña.

El LOC diseñó un programa que integró maravillosamente la cultura de Santa Lucía, que incluyó obras de arte locales, proyecciones de películas, exhibiciones de libros, celebraciones de autores y recorridos, ofreciendo una experiencia multifacética de Santa Lucía. Las reuniones periódicas con las partes interesadas, las visitas al sitio y las consultas con varias partes interesadas garantizaron un enfoque colaborativo en la organización de la conferencia.

## **Logística y lugar**

Se eligió el Harbor Club por su versatilidad, ubicación central y fácil acceso al transporte público, lo que permitió acomodar con éxito a los 250 asistentes registrados y facilitar seis salas de reuniones simultáneas. El equipo del Harbor Club fue receptivo y solidario, y realizó reuniones semanales con el LOC. Además, los lugares de comida cercanos fueron vitales ya que la conferencia no proporcionó comida a los asistentes.

## **Organización del evento de la conferencia**

La conferencia estuvo bien organizada y no se reportaron incidentes importantes ni emergencias médicas. A pesar de no contar con el personal suficiente, el personal de apoyo logró resolver la mayoría de los problemas de manera eficiente.

## **Ceremonia de apertura**

La ceremonia de apertura tuvo una buena asistencia y una sólida representación de todas las partes interesadas, incluido el gobierno de Santa Lucía y las embajadas extranjeras. El evento mostró unidad y diversidad, con presentaciones en varios idiomas y representación de países caribeños menos conocidos. El espacio estaba bellamente decorado con obras de arte locales, una exhibición digital de patrocinadores, los colores de la bandera de Santa Lucía y Madrás. La diversidad lingüística incluida en el programa y el presentador cálido y atractivo establecieron un tono positivo para la conferencia.

## **Proyección de \*Shantaye's World\***

La proyección de \*Shantaye's World\* atrajo tanto a asistentes extranjeros como locales, incluidos dignatarios. La excelente moderación de la Sra. Rhyesa Joseph involucró eficazmente a la audiencia, y la hora del cóctel con bebidas y un ambiente relajado después de la proyección fue bien recibida.

## **Salón literario**

El salón literario tuvo una buena concurrencia, que incluyó a estudiantes. El público estuvo atento y receptivo durante las lecturas y las sesiones de preguntas y respuestas. Las presentaciones de diapositivas biográficas complementaron bien las lecturas, y una maravillosa exhibición de libros locales e internacionales contribuyó al éxito del evento.

## **Noche cultural**

La noche cultural contó con excelentes actuaciones que resaltaron la cultura de Santa Lucía, con artistas que interactuaron bien con el público. El ambiente acogedor de Maury's fue propicio para el disfrute, lo que la convirtió en una velada memorable.

## **Ceremonia de clausura y gala**

La ceremonia de clausura y la gala tuvieron una buena asistencia a pesar del costo adicional. La presentación de placas a los expresidentes fue un momento emotivo. El evento contó con un excelente entretenimiento, incluidas las actuaciones de un saxofonista, un cantante y un DJ, lo que proporcionó un final apropiado para la conferencia.

El COL ejecutó una estrategia de marketing integral para garantizar el conocimiento local de la conferencia. Se realizó un evento de lanzamiento virtual y se difundió a través de YouTube. Se publicaron videos promocionales regularmente en las plataformas de redes sociales de SALCC. Se diseñó y distribuyó un resumen breve de la

# LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE REPORT cont'd

CSA y se creó una versión condensada del programa de la conferencia. Las contribuciones mensuales de la UWI al boletín de la CSA y un artículo de periódico titulado "Santa Lucía será sede de una histórica conferencia de la CSA" en The Voice ayudaron a difundir la información. Las entrevistas de radio, las bolsas de la conferencia con la marca, las pancartas desplegadas, las pancartas con plumas, las entrevistas a los asistentes en el lugar y una página de destino dedicada en el sitio web de SALCC respaldaron aún más los esfuerzos de marketing. Se enviaron cartas de invitación para la ceremonia de apertura y otros eventos clave a las partes interesadas clave. Un fondo digital con patrocinadores y socios clave, así como el diseño de todos los programas de la conferencia y volantes de agradecimiento, también fueron parte de los esfuerzos de promoción.

La Conferencia de la Asociación de Estudios del Caribe (CSA) de 2024 fue un evento significativo y memorable que subrayó la riqueza intelectual y la vitalidad cultural de la región del Caribe. La diversa gama de temas, las presentaciones interesantes y los eventos especiales resaltaron la excelencia dentro de la comunidad caribeña. A pesar de algunos desafíos, la conferencia reunió con éxito a un grupo diverso de participantes que compartieron conocimientos, celebraron la cultura caribeña y establecieron conexiones valiosas. La dedicación y la resiliencia del personal de apoyo y los voluntarios fueron encomiables, lo que aseguró que la conferencia se desarrollara sin problemas a pesar de los obstáculos enfrentados. De cara al futuro, los conocimientos adquiridos en la conferencia de este año pueden servir como base para una mejor planificación y ejecución en el futuro. Al abordar las deficiencias destacadas e implementar las mejoras sugeridas, la CSA puede mejorar la experiencia general para los asistentes y continuar mostrando lo mejor de la cultura y los estudios del Caribe.

## **Français**

Commentaires du comité d'organisation local (COL) sur la conférence 2024 de la Caribbean Studies Association (CSA)

La conférence 2024 de la CSA a été un rassemblement impressionnant de personnes des Caraïbes, mettant en valeur la vaste tradition intellectuelle de la région. Les divers sujets et présentateurs ont mis en valeur l'excellence caribéenne.

Le COL a élaboré un programme qui intégrait magnifiquement la culture de Sainte-Lucie, notamment des œuvres d'art locales, des projections de films, des expositions de livres, des célébrations d'auteurs et des visites, offrant une expérience multiforme de Sainte-Lucie. Des réunions régulières avec les parties prenantes, des

visites de sites et des consultations avec diverses parties prenantes ont assuré une approche collaborative dans l'organisation de la conférence.

## **Logistique et lieu**

Le Harbor Club a été choisi pour sa polyvalence, son emplacement central et son accès facile aux transports en commun, accueillant avec succès les 250 participants inscrits et facilitant six salles de réunion simultanées. L'équipe du Harbor Club a été réactive et solidaire, organisant des réunions hebdomadaires avec le COL. De plus, les points de restauration à proximité étaient essentiels car la conférence ne fournissait pas de nourriture aux participants.

## **Organisation de l'événement de la conférence**

La conférence était bien organisée, aucun incident majeur ni urgence médicale n'ayant été signalé. Malgré le manque de personnel, le personnel de soutien a réussi à résoudre la plupart des problèmes de manière efficace.

## **Cérémonie d'ouverture**

La cérémonie d'ouverture a attiré beaucoup de monde, avec une forte représentation de toutes les parties prenantes, y compris le gouvernement de Sainte-Lucie et les ambassades étrangères. L'événement a mis en valeur l'unité et la diversité, avec des présentations dans diverses langues et des représentants de pays des Caraïbes moins connus. L'espace était magnifiquement décoré d'œuvres d'art locales, d'un affichage numérique des sponsors, des couleurs du drapeau de Sainte-Lucie et du madras. La diversité linguistique incluse dans le programme et le MC engageant et chaleureux ont donné le ton positif à la conférence.

## **Projection de \*Shantaye's World\***

La projection de \*Shantaye's World\* a attiré à la fois des participants étrangers et locaux, y compris des dignitaires. L'excellente modération de Mme Rhyesa Joseph a efficacement engagé le public, et l'heure du cocktail avec des boissons et une ambiance détendue après la projection a été bien accueillie.

## **Salon littéraire**

Le salon littéraire a attiré beaucoup de monde, attirant une bonne participation, y compris des étudiants. La foule était attentive et réactive pendant les lectures et les séances de questions-réponses. Des diaporamas biographiques ont bien complété les lectures, et une magnifique exposition de livres locaux et internationaux a contribué au succès de l'événement.

# LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE REPORT cont'd

## Nuit culturelle

La soirée culturelle a été marquée par d'excellentes performances mettant en valeur la culture de Sainte-Lucie, les artistes interagissant bien avec le public. L'atmosphère chaleureuse de Maury's était propice au plaisir, ce qui en a fait une soirée mémorable.

## Cérémonie de clôture et gala

La cérémonie de clôture et le gala ont attiré beaucoup de monde malgré le coût supplémentaire. La remise des plaques aux anciens présidents a été un moment émouvant. L'événement a été agrémenté d'un excellent divertissement, notamment des performances d'un saxophoniste, d'un chanteur et d'un DJ, offrant une fin appropriée à la conférence.

Le COL a exécuté une stratégie marketing complète pour assurer la notoriété locale de la conférence. Un événement de lancement virtuel a été organisé et diffusé via YouTube. Des vidéos promotionnelles ont été régulièrement publiées sur les plateformes de médias sociaux du SALCC. Un document concis sur la CSA a été conçu et distribué, et une version condensée du programme de la conférence a été créée. Les contributions mensuelles de l'UWI au bulletin d'information de la CSA et un article de journal intitulé « Sainte-Lucie accueillera la conférence historique de la CSA » dans The Voice ont contribué à faire passer le message. Des interviews radio, des sacs de conférence de marque, des bannières déroulantes, des bannières à plumes, des interviews des participants sur place et une page de destination dédiée sur le site Web du SALCC ont également soutenu les efforts de marketing. Des lettres d'invitation pour la cérémonie d'ouverture et d'autres événements clés ont été envoyées aux principales parties prenantes. Une toile de fond numérique mettant en vedette les sponsors et les principaux partenaires, ainsi que la conception de tous les programmes de conférence et des dépliants de remerciement, faisaient également partie des efforts promotionnels.

La conférence 2024 de la Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) a été un événement important et mémorable qui a souligné la richesse intellectuelle et le dynamisme culturel de la région des Caraïbes. La diversité des sujets, les présentations engageantes et les événements spéciaux ont mis en évidence l'excellence au sein de la communauté caribéenne. Malgré certains défis, la conférence a réussi à réunir un groupe diversifié de participants qui ont partagé leurs connaissances, célébré la culture caribéenne et établi des liens précieux. Le dévouement et la résilience du personnel de soutien et des bénévoles ont été louables, garantissant que la conférence s'est déroulée sans heurts malgré les obstacles rencontrés. À l'avenir, les

enseignements tirés de la conférence de cette année peuvent servir de base à une meilleure planification et exécution à l'avenir. En remédiant aux lacunes mises en évidence et en mettant en œuvre les améliorations suggérées, la CSA peut améliorer l'expérience globale des participants et continuer à mettre en valeur le meilleur de l'érudition et de la culture caribéennes.

## LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE LEAD FOR CSA 2024-2025



Joy Arnell

Joy Arnell has dedicated her career to serving the community through various roles in government and social services. She began her professional journey as a youth and cultural worker, where her passion for empowering young people and promoting cultural awareness quickly became evident.

Throughout her career, she has held numerous key positions within the government. As the Head of the Youth Office, she focused on developing programs that supported and nurtured the potential of the island's youth. Her leadership skills and commitment to cultural enrichment led her to become the Department Head of the Culture Department, where she championed initiatives that celebrated and preserved the rich cultural heritage of the community.

Joy's dedication to social causes saw her taking on the role of Head of the Women's Desk, advocating for gender equality and providing support for women's issues. She further extended her impact as the Department Head of Social Development, where she worked on comprehensive strategies to improve the welfare and quality of life for all residents.

Currently, she serves as the Acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development, and Labor. In this role, she continues to demonstrate her unwavering commitment to public service and social welfare, overseeing critical programs and initiatives that benefit the community.

In addition to her extensive work within the government, Joy is also a key figure in the St. Maarten Emergency Operation Center. As the coordinator of Emergency Support Function 7 (ESF7), she plays a crucial role in managing shelter operations, coordinating evacuations, and ensuring population care and registration during emergencies. Her leadership in ESF7 highlights her ability to respond effectively to crises and her dedication to safeguarding the well-being of the population.

Joy's career is a testament to her passion for social development and her tireless efforts to make a positive impact on her communi-

ty. Her diverse experiences and leadership roles reflect her deep commitment to public service and her ongoing mission to enhance the lives of those she serves.

She is an avid practitioner of Nichiren Daishonin Buddhism, as well as yoga and Pilates.

## MEMBERSHIP



Donna Hope

**THE CARIBBEAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION IS 50 ESTABLISHED 1974-2024  
2024 CSA GOLDEN JUBILEE, THE 50TH YEAR – IS ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!  
MEMBERSHIP OPEN NOW!**



**Join the CARIBBEAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION for connections in the academy and beyond!**  
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# CARIBBEAN SCHOLARSHIP

## 4th Annual Conference of the Caribbean Sociological Association CALL FOR PAPERS

**DATE:** September 26-27, 2024

**VENUE:** UWI Regional Headquarters, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica

**THEME:** Decolonizing Development: Re-imagining Development for a Sustainable and Just Global Community

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Inviting abstracts of maximum 150 words in length, the conference seeks submissions aligned with the theme of re-imagining global development through a de-colonial lens. Abstract submissions are open to all interested parties, including sociologists, academicians, students, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. The conference encourages exploration of various sub-themes such as decolonial theory, social justice, migration, and governance. While there is a focus on the Caribbean, submissions relevant to the theme from all regions are welcomed. Accepted abstracts will be considered for oral presentation at the conference.

**Deadline for Abstract Submission:** July 2, 2024

**Acceptance of abstracts:** July 12, 2024

**Deadline for early bird payment:** July 31, 2024

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CARIBBEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CARIBBEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

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## NEW BOOK

### Tropical Time Machines: Science Fiction in the Contemporary Hispanic Caribbean

Emily A. Maguire

#### How writers and artists use science fiction to speak to the current moment in the Caribbean

“A necessary, groundbreaking book. A comprehensive map of contemporary science fiction in the Spanish Caribbean.”—Odette Casamayor-Cisneros, author of *Utopía, distopía e ingravidez: reconfiguraciones cosmológicas en la narrativa postsoviética cubana*

“Maguire’s pioneering book makes a valuable contribution to the study of Caribbean science fiction in literature, film, and video production.”—M. Elizabeth Ginway, coeditor of *Latin American Science Fiction: Theory and Practice*

Exploring the remarkable recent increase in works of science fiction originating in Spanish-speaking parts of the Caribbean and their diasporas, *Tropical Time Machines* shows how writers, filmmakers, musicians, and artists are using the language of the genre to comment on the region’s history and present-day realities.

Discussing how previous Caribbean literature and film has characterized places including Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic as “out of sync” with Western time, occupying a repeating or static space, Emily Maguire argues that science fiction breaks these cycles and resituates the region temporally and spatially. In chapters on cyberpunk, zombies, post-apocalyptic narratives, and the ab-real, Maguire shows how recent cultural production analyzes and critiques the ways globalization and national leadership have reinforced the region’s marginalization amid economic and climate crises.

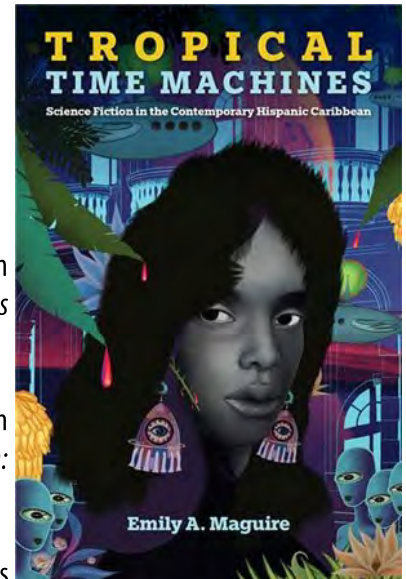
Art that employs the science fictional mode makes room for a new vision of the Caribbean, Maguire demonstrates—an alternate perspective in which the region has agency in shaping its own narratives and trajectories. The texts themselves are time machines, enabling creators to protest inequalities of the present from the point of view of an imagined, transformed future.

**Emily A. Maguire** is associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese studies at Northwestern University. She is the author of *Racial Experiments in Cuban Literature and Ethnography* and coeditor of *Posthumanism and Latin(x) American Science Fiction*.

A volume in the series *Reframing Media, Technology, and Culture in Latin/o America*, edited by Héctor Fernández L’Hoeste and Juan Carlos Rodríguez

Publication of this work made possible by a Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS



Gabriela Quijano

### **Español**

En las columnas de este pasado año, Vanesa y yo intentamos capturar algunos de los eventos políticos más significativos en Puerto Rico. Nuestro objetivo es apoyar la reflexión crítica de las experiencias de “normalidad”, “recuperación” y “desarrollo” que se manifiestan en lo que Hilda Lloréns denomina un “estado

continuo de turbulencia.” Esto es, un modo de “inestabilidad” que “se manifiesta en todas las áreas de nuestra vida humana,” debido a las experiencias vividas del colonialismo, neoliberalismo y la aceleración del cambio climático. Esta “turbulencia” revela un profundo estado de vulnerabilidad entre las personas que viven en Puerto Rico.

En columnas anteriores, Vanesa reflexionó sobre una marcha que se realizó en contra de los aumentos en los servicios públicos. Cientos de personas se movilizaron el pasado junio de 2023 para exigir “ni un centavo más de aumento en el costo de la energía eléctrica.” Vanesa explicó que esta movilización conectó la lucha contra la austeridad promulgada por el pago de la deuda con la retirada del estado de la administración de la recuperación y preparación de Puerto Rico ante futuros desastres.

Vanesa también escribió sobre una marcha organizada en contra del genocidio palestino por parte del estado israelí. En esa columna, Vanesa describió la lucha palestina como una lucha paralela a la experiencia puertorriqueña ya que ambos territorios enfrentan el desplazamiento causado por colonizadores y capitalistas del extranjero.

Por mi parte, he escrito sobre los usos de la cultura para combatir el desplazamiento. Por ejemplo, la creación de la Casa de la Plena en el centro comunitario La Goyco para luchar contra el desplazamiento físico, cultural y económico de las comunidades aledañas al centro.

Más recientemente, escribí sobre los intentos de desalojo de Ramona, una mujer cuya familia ha sido propietaria de la casa donde vive hace unos 140 años. Los intentos de desalojo fueron provocados por una corporación de desarrollo inmobiliario que reclama el terreno

donde se encuentra la propiedad de Ramona. En abril de 2024, el Tribunal Supremo de Puerto Rico denegó por tercera vez la petición de Ramona de detener el desalojo. Así, el estado la dejó en abandono y negó su derecho a permanecer, existir y disfrutar de su lugar en el mundo.

Repasando estas columnas, queda claro que los modos de desplazamiento son la razón de gran parte de la resistencia actual en Puerto Rico. Queda claro, también, que el estado no ha logrado articular una recuperación ni un desarrollo que beneficie a les ciudadanes puertorriqueños. En cambio, este “continuo estado de turbulencia” se exacerba para beneficiar la acumulación de capital a través de la retirada del estado. Hablo de “recuperación” porque aún no hemos podido restablecer la “normalidad” después del Huracán María (2017). Sin embargo, muchos de nosotres tenemos claro que lo que Puerto Rico realmente necesita es una transformación radical del sistema y los valores políticos. Y que esta transformación debe promover y centrarse en el desarrollo sostenible y democrático del archipiélago.

### **English**

Through last year’s columns, colleague Vanesa Contreras Capó and I aimed to capture some of the most significant political events taking place in Puerto Rico. We did so to support a critical account of “normalcy,” “recovery,” and “development” happening in a territory that operates in what scholar Hilda Lloréns calls a “turbulent ongoingness.” This concept captures a continuous mode of “instability” that “manifests in all areas of our human lives,” due to the lived experiences of colonialism, neoliberalism, and the acceleration of climate change. This turbulent ongoingness reveals a profound state of vulnerability among the people living in Puerto Rico.

In earlier columns, Vanesa accounted for a multisectoral march against the cost increases of public services. People gathered last June 2023 to demand “not one more cent of increase in the cost of electricity.” Vanesa explained that this mobilization connected the battle against austerity—promulgated by the forceful pay of the state’s irresponsible accumulation of a public debt—to its own retreat from the administration of Puerto Rico’s recovery and preparedness for future disasters.

Vanesa also wrote of a march organized against the Palestinian genocide by the Israeli state. In that column, she connected the Palestinian struggle to the Puerto Rican experience by emphasizing how both nations currently face displacement caused by foreign colonizers and capitalists.

## MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd

I, on the other hand, have discussed how Puerto Ricans maneuver cultural distinctiveness to combat displacement. For instance, a community center in San Juan called La Goyco has established a *House of Plena* to fight the physical, cultural, and economic displacement of people from the Loíza Street and Machuchal communities.

More recently, I wrote about the eviction attempts of Ramona, an elderly woman whose family has owned the house where she currently lives for about 140 years. Her eviction was triggered by a real estate development corporation claiming the land where Ramona's property sits. She has fought the eviction, but in April 2024 the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico denied for the third time Ramona's plea to stop her displacement. Through this determination, the state abandoned Ramona and denied her right to remain, exist and enjoy her place in the world.

Looking back at what Vanesa and I have captured here, modes of displacement appear as a main development issue for people in Puerto Rico. It becomes clear that the state has failed to articulate and sustain a recovery that benefits Puerto Rican citizens. Instead, this turbulent ongoingness is created and aggravated to benefit capital accumulation through the state's retreat. I speak of "recovery" as we have not yet been able to restore "normalcy" after Hurricane María (2017). However, for many of us it is clear that Puerto Rico is in urgent need of a radical transformation of its political system and values. And that this transformation needs to center the sustainable and democratic development of the archipelago. Moving forward, I will continue to examine issues such as these and point towards the need of systemic change.

## MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd



Julien Merion

### Français

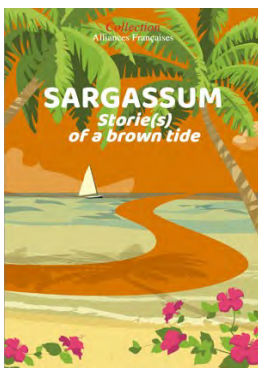
#### FAIRE FACE AU DEFI DES SARGASSES DANS LES CARAIBES

Depuis 2011, les côtes des territoires de la Caraïbe sont régulièrement envahies par une véritable marée d'algues flottantes appelées sargasse.

Si cette masse peut servir d'abri pour certaines espèces comme les tortues, la surabondance met en péril les écosystèmes marins les sargasses se transformant en piège pour certaines espèces et asphyxie les coraux et la végétation sous-marine.

En plus de cet impact écologique, les sargasses posent un vrai problème sanitaire lorsqu'elles échouent sur le littoral. En effet la décomposition entraîne l'émission d'arsenic et d'hydrogène sulfuré, un gaz particulièrement toxique.

Le 07 juin, le CO.RE.CA a proposé un panel « La Caraïbe face à l'invasion des sargasses » à la 48<sup>ème</sup> Conférence de la CSA qui s'est tenue à Ste-Lucie avec 4 interventions et le support du livre de l'Alliance Française « SARGASSIUM – Storie(s) of a brown tide »



Tout d'abord Myriam Eluther, secrétaire du CO.RE.CA, du Groupe Développement Durable et Changement Climatique a présenté un travail sur les réponses de la société civile en Guadeloupe face à la question des sargasses. Elle a montré comment plusieurs associations avaient vu le jour et mené des actions pour nettoyer les plages, informer la population et interpeller les autorités.



Ce fut ensuite le tour d'Hélène Zamor, de l'Universités des West Indies (Cave Hill) de présenter les actions menées à Barbade. Elle a surtout mis en avant l'implication forte des autorités. Plusieurs initiatives ont été prises pour étudier le phénomène et envisager des solutions de recyclage des algues. C'est le cas notamment du projet porté par UWI et le National Oceanography Center visant à comprendre les effets potentiels de l'utilisation d'algues pour stocker du dioxyde de carbone de l'atmosphère.



La troisième communication été faite par le Dr Sarra Gaspard de l'Université des Antilles en Guadeloupe. Dans le laboratoire de chimie qu'elle dirige, CAVACHIM-M2E, elle a entrepris d'explorer une piste inédite. Cette recherche vise à utiliser les sargasses pour dépolluer les sols de Guadeloupe. La Guadeloupe et la Martinique ont été lourdement impactées par l'utilisation massive d'un pesticide, le chlordécone, dans les plantations de banane. L'idée est de transformer les sargasses en charbon actif. En effet des études récentes ont démontré que le charbon actif était efficace pour détruire les molécules de chlordécone.



La quatrième communication sera faite par Julien Méron, Politologue, membre du CAGI de l'université des Antilles et Vice-président du CO.RE.CA sur « La société internationale face à la crise des sargasses » Après avoir montré en quoi cette question devait nécessairement être prise en charge par la société internationale, il a fait part des initiatives régionales pour lutter contre les sargasses et ensuite exploré les possibilités offertes par les outils existants comme la les Conventions de Montego Bay (1982) et de Carthagène (1983) sur les risques en mer.

## MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd



Il a rappelé que la 4<sup>ème</sup> conférence des PIED à Antigua et Barbuda a abordé la question et que les pays de la Caraïbe se retrouveront à Grenade en septembre pour une grande conférence sur les sargasses.

### **English**

#### **ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF SARGASSUMS IN THE CARIBBEAN**

Since 2011, the coasts of the Caribbean territories have been regularly invaded by a veritable tide of floating algae called sargassum. While this mass can serve as a shelter for certain species such as turtles, the overabundance endangers marine ecosystems, with sargassum turning into a trap for certain species and suffocating corals and underwater vegetation.

In addition to this ecological impact, Sargassum poses a real health problem when it washes up on the coast. Indeed, decomposition leads to the emission of arsenic and hydrogen sulfide, a particularly toxic gas.

On June 7, CO.RE.CA proposed a panel "The Caribbean facing the invasion of sargassum" at the 48th CSA Conference held in St. Lucia with 4 interventions and the support of the book of the Alliance Française "SARGASSIUM - Storie(s) of a brown tide".

First of all, Myriam Eluther, secretary of CO.RE.CA, of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Group presented a work on the responses of civil society in Guadeloupe to the issue of sargassum. She showed how several associations had emerged and carried out actions to clean the beaches, inform the population and challenge the authorities.

It was then the turn of Hélène Zamor, from the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill) to present the actions carried out in Barbados. She especially highlighted the strong involvement of the authorities. Several initiatives have been taken to study the phenome-

non and consider solutions for recycling algae. This is particularly the case for the project led by UWI and the National Oceanography Center aimed at understanding the potential effects of using algae to store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The third communication was made by Dr. Sarra Gaspard from the University of the Antilles in Guadeloupe. In the chemistry laboratory that she directs, CAVACHIM-M2E, she has undertaken to explore a new avenue. This research aims to use sargassum to depollute the soils of Guadeloupe. Guadeloupe and Martinique have been heavily impacted by the massive use of a pesticide, chlordecone, in banana plantations. The idea is to transform sargassum into activated carbon. Indeed, recent studies have shown that activated carbon is effective in destroying chlordecone molecules.

The fourth communication will be made by Julien Méron, Political Scientist, member of the CAGI of the University of the Antilles and Vice-President of the CO.RE.CA on "International society facing the Sargassum crisis" After showing how this issue must necessarily be taken care of by international society, he shared regional initiatives to fight against Sargassum and then explored the possibilities offered by existing tools such as the Montego Bay (1982) and Cartagena (1983) Conventions on risks at sea. He recalled that the 4th PIED conference in Antigua and Barbuda addressed the issue and that the Caribbean countries will meet in Grenada in September for a major conference on Sargassum.

# VIRGIN ISLANDER REPORT



Chenzira Davis Kahina

Designated annually in June, Caribbean American Heritage Month observances and commemorations in the Virgin Islands highlighted many achievements shared in the executive proclamation issued by the U.S. White House. The U.S. President extended honors to “the diverse and significant contributions of Caribbean-Americans to the fabric of the United States. This month serves as a tribute to

the rich history, culture, and achievements of the Caribbean-American community, reflecting on their invaluable role in shaping the nation's identity.” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/05/31/a-proclamation-on-national-caribbean-american-heritage-month-2024/> The Virgin Islands of the United States (VI-US) boasts a wealth of family genealogy histories, traditions, and cultural narratives essential for enhancing the accuracy of American history. The inclusion of these narratives enriches the broader American legacy and acknowledges the profound impact of Caribbean-Americans on national development.



Initiatives for Virgin Islands cultural heritage education and creative arts preservation projects have involved partnerships with esteemed institutions such as the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Park Service (including Christiansted Heritage Park, Salt River Bay, and St. John's VI National Park), Society of VI Historians, Society of Black Archaeologists, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development – Non Profit Consortium (20+ community based organizations), and other complimentary institutions. Scholars and faculty of the University of the Vir-

gin Islands' College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Dr. Molly Perry (CSA member) and Denise Blanchette have continued to conduct workshops expanding social science and literature oral history offer-



ings for students. Since early December 2023, plans for this partnership with the wider VI community, cultural tradition bearers, creative arts professionals, and scholars have exchanged and engaged in work sessions focused on developing instructional tools for conducting and transcribing interviews, researching archival records, and utilizing oral history research in creative productions. These resources will benefit the university's library and online database, as well as public libraries, museums, and classrooms within the Caribbean Americas. (Marin: 2024) From 2012 to present, this continuum of collaborations aims to integrate genealogy and family history research into educational curricula and community programs, benefiting students, educators, families, and the broader Virgin Islands Caribbean community and beyond.

An integral part of oral traditions, historical narratives, and cultural celebrations in the Virgin Islands are linked to the annual observance of VI Freedom Week, established by VI Legislative Act 8002 during the VI Centennial year in June 2017. <https://ltg.gov.vi/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/8002.pdf>



From June 26th to July 3rd, the Virgin Islands commemorates the emancipation of enslaved persons in the former Danish West Indies (now VI of the U.S.) with activities that include public ceremonies, programs, and educational events highlighting the historical narratives of freedom, liberation, self-determination, reparations, emancipation and healing. Annual observances of Juneteenth 2024 <https://shorturl.at/XDfqD>, a U.S. holiday observed beyond the shores of the 48 contiguous U.S., folds in to VI Freedom Week and VI Emancipation of July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1848. <https://ltg.gov.vi/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/8002.pdf> The VI community and academic scholars are strengthening collaborative partnerships that continue to be

# VIRGIN ISLANDER REPORT cont'd

shared in CSA annual conferences, publications, research projects, and higher education institutions within the Caribbean, the Americas and internationally. #Remain inspired #CSAMatters #CaribbeanStudies365 #VIHEAL

## Español

Designado anualmente en junio, las celebraciones y conmemoraciones del Mes de la Herencia Caribeña Americana en las Islas Vírgenes resaltaron muchos logros compartidos en la proclamación ejecutiva emitida por la Casa Blanca de los Estados Unidos. El Presidente de los Estados Unidos extendió honores a “las diversas y significativas contribuciones de los caribeños-estadounidenses al tejido de los Estados Unidos. Este mes sirve como tributo a la rica historia, cultura y logros de la comunidad caribeña-estadounidense, reflexionando sobre su invaluable papel en la configuración de la identidad de la nación”. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/05/31/a-proclamation-on-national-caribbean-american-heritage-month-2024/> Las Islas Vírgenes de los Estados Unidos (VI-US) cuenta con una gran cantidad de historias, tradiciones y narrativas culturales de genealogía familiar esenciales para mejorar la precisión de la historia estadounidense. La inclusión de estas narrativas enriquece el legado estadounidense más amplio y reconoce el profundo impacto de los caribeños estadounidenses en el desarrollo nacional.

Las iniciativas para proyectos de educación del patrimonio cultural y preservación de las artes creativas de las Islas Vírgenes han involucrado asociaciones con instituciones estimadas como el Museo Nacional de Historia y Cultura Afroamericana, el Servicio de Parques Nacionales (incluido Christiansted Heritage Park, Salt River Bay y St. John's VI National Park), Sociedad de Historiadores VI, Sociedad de Arqueólogos Negros, Fundación St. Croix para el Desarrollo Comunitario - Consorcio sin fines de lucro (más de 20 organizaciones comunitarias) y otras instituciones complementarias. Los académicos y profesores de la Facultad de Artes Liberales y Ciencias Sociales de la Universidad de las Islas Vírgenes, la Dra. Molly Perry (miembro de CSA) y Denise Blanchette han continuado realizando talleres que amplían la oferta de historia oral de ciencias sociales y literatura para los estudiantes. Desde principios de diciembre de 2023, los planes para esta asociación con la comunidad VI en general, portadores de tradiciones culturales, profesionales de las artes creativas y académicos han intercambiado y participado en sesiones de trabajo centradas en el desarrollo de herramientas instructivas para realizar y transcribir entrevistas, investigar registros de archivo y utilizar la comunicación oral. investigación histórica en producciones creativas. Estos recursos beneficiarán a la biblioteca y la base de datos

en línea de la universidad, así como a las bibliotecas públicas, museos y aulas del Caribe americano. (Marin: 2024) Desde 2012 hasta el presente, esta continuidad de colaboraciones tiene como objetivo integrar la investigación de genealogía e historia familiar en los planes de estudio educativos y programas comunitarios, beneficiando a estudiantes, educadores, familias y a la comunidad más amplia del Caribe de las Islas Vírgenes y más allá.

Una parte integral de las tradiciones orales, narrativas históricas y celebraciones culturales en las Islas Vírgenes están vinculadas a la celebración anual de la VI Semana de la Libertad, establecida por el VI Acto Legislativo 8002 durante el año del VI Centenario en junio de 2017. <https://ltg.gov.vi/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/8002.pdf> Del 26 de junio al 3 de julio, las Islas Vírgenes conmemoran la emancipación de personas esclavizadas en las antiguas Indias Occidentales Danesas (ahora VI de EE.UU.) con actividades que incluyen actividades públicas. ceremonias, programas y eventos educativos que destacan las narrativas históricas de libertad, liberación, autodeterminación, reparaciones, emancipación y curación. Celebraciones anuales del 16 de junio de 2024 <https://shorturl.at/XDfqD>, un feriado estadounidense que se observa más allá de las costas de los 48 Estados Unidos contiguos, se suma a la VI Semana de la Libertad y la VI Emancipación del 3 de julio de 1848. <https://ltg.gov.vi/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/8002.pdf> La comunidad VI y los académicos están fortaleciendo asociaciones de colaboración que continúan compartiéndose en conferencias anuales, publicaciones, proyectos de investigación e instituciones de educación superior de CSA dentro del Caribe, el Américas e internacionalmente. #Mantente inspirado #CSAMatters #CaribbeanStudies365 #VIHEAL

## Français

Désignées chaque année en juin, les célébrations et commémorations du Mois du patrimoine caribéen américain dans les îles Vierges ont mis en lumière de nombreuses réalisations partagées dans la proclamation exécutive publiée par la Maison Blanche des États-Unis. Le président américain a rendu hommage aux « contributions diverses et significatives des Américains caribéens au tissu social des États-Unis ». Ce mois-ci rend hommage à la riche histoire, à la culture et aux réalisations de la communauté caribéenne américaine, reflétant son rôle inestimable dans la formation de l'identité de la nation. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/05/31/a-proclamation-on-national-caribbean-american-heritage-month-2024/> Les îles Vierges des États-Unis (VI-US) possède une richesse d'histoires généalogiques familiales, de traditions et de récits culturels essentiels pour

## VIRGIN ISLANDER REPORT cont'd

améliorer l'exactitude de l'histoire américaine. L'inclusion de ces récits enrichit l'héritage américain plus large et reconnaît l'impact profond des Américains caribéens sur le développement national.

Les initiatives en faveur de projets d'éducation au patrimoine culturel et de préservation des arts créatifs des Îles Vierges ont impliqué des partenariats avec des institutions réputées telles que le Musée national de l'histoire et de la culture afro-américaines, le National Park Service (y compris le Christiansted Heritage Park, Salt River Bay et le St. John's VI National Park), Society of VI Historians, Society of Black Archaeologists, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development – Non Profit Consortium (plus de 20 organisations communautaires) et d'autres institutions complémentaires. Les chercheuses et professeurs du Collège des arts libéraux et des sciences sociales de l'Université des Îles Vierges, la Dre Molly Perry (membre de l'ASC) et Denise Blanchette, ont continué à animer des ateliers élargissant l'offre d'histoire orale en sciences sociales et en littérature pour les étudiants. Depuis début décembre 2023, les plans de ce partenariat avec la communauté VI au sens large, les détenteurs de traditions culturelles, les professionnels des arts créatifs et les universitaires ont échangé et participé à des séances de travail axées sur le développement d'outils pédagogiques pour mener et transcrire des entretiens, rechercher des documents d'archives et utiliser l'oral. recherche historique dans les productions créatives. Ces ressources profiteront à la bibliothèque et à la base de données en ligne de l'université, ainsi qu'aux bibliothèques publiques, aux musées et aux salles de classe des Amériques caribéennes. (Marin : 2024) De 2012 à aujourd'hui, ce continuum de collaborations vise à intégrer la recherche sur la généalogie et l'histoire familiale dans les programmes éducatifs et les programmes communautaires, au profit des étudiants, des éducateurs, des familles et de la communauté caribéenne des îles Vierges au sens large et au-delà.

Une partie intégrante des traditions orales, des récits historiques et des célébrations culturelles dans les îles Vierges est liée à la célébration annuelle de la VIe Semaine de la liberté, établie par la loi législative 8002 de la VIe au cours de l'année du VIe centenaire en juin 2017. <https://ltg.gov.vi/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/8002.pdf> Du 26 juin au 3 juillet, les Îles Vierges commémorent l'émancipation des esclaves dans les anciennes Antilles danoises (aujourd'hui VI des États-Unis) avec des activités qui incluent des activités publiques des cérémonies, des programmes et des événements éducatifs mettant en lumière les récits historiques de liberté, de libération, d'autodétermination, de réparations, d'émancipation et de guérison. Les célébrations annuelles du

16 juin 2024 <https://shorturl.at/XDfqD>, un jour férié américain observé au-delà des côtes des 48 États-Unis contigus, s'intègrent à la VI Semaine de la Liberté et à la VI Émancipation du 3 juillet 1848. <https://ltg.gov.vi/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/8002.pdf> La communauté VI et les universitaires renforcent les partenariats de collaboration qui continuent d'être partagés dans les conférences annuelles, les publications, les projets de recherche et les établissements d'enseignement supérieur de l'ASC dans les Caraïbes, les Amériques et à l'international. #Restez inspiré #CSAMatters #CaribbeanStudies365 #VIHEAL



**Island(er)s  
at the Helm**



**Presentation by  
dr. Linden Lewis**



**Discussion with  
dr. Alissa Trotz and  
dr. Anton Allahar**

**Book Presentation  
Forbes Burnham: The Life and Times of the  
Comrade Leader**

*Linden Lewis will present his book **Forbes Burnham: The Life and Times of the Comrade Leader** (Rutgers University Press, 2024) in St. Maarten for the first time. It is virtually impossible to understand the history of modern Guyana without understanding the role played by Forbes Burnham. As premier of British Guiana, he led the country to independence in 1966 and spent two decades as its head of state until his death in 1985. An intensely charismatic politician, Burnham helped steer a new course for the former colony, but he was also a quintessential strongman leader, venerated by some of his citizens yet feared and despised by others.*

**Linden Lewis** (Bucknell University) works on topics of gender, sexuality, labor, globalization, politics and culture. Lewis is also the co-author of the book *Caribbean Masala: Indian Identity in Guyana*.

**Alissa Trotz** (University of Toronto) is the author of *The Point is to Change the World Selected Writings of Andaiye* (2020). Trotz focuses on feminist studies, radical intellectual traditions, political violence and Caribbean geopolitics.

**Anton Allahar's** (University of Western Ontario) research focuses on sociology, education, race relations, Caribbean identity, politics and sovereignty. Most recently, Allahar has written on ideas of democracy in the US and 'Trumpism'.

**Date and time:** 24 June 2024, 6.30pm to 9pm  
**Location:** Lecture Hall - Room 202, University of St. Martin  
**Registration:** [events@usm.sx](mailto:events@usm.sx)



## Join Us for an Unforgettable Evening of Insight and Discussion!

Delve into the captivating life and legacy of Forbes Burnham with renowned sociologist Linden Lewis and esteemed scholars Alissa Trotz and Anton Allahar. Discover the complexities of Caribbean political history and the enduring impact of Burnham's leadership.

**Date:** June 24th

**Time:** 6:30 PM–9:00 PM

**Location:** USM Lecture Hall (Room 202)

Don't miss this exclusive event organized by Island(er)s at the Helm. Join us for an enlightening exploration of postcolonial leadership and its challenges.

# BEST DISSERTATION AWARD

## CSA BEST DISSERTATION AWARD 2024

The Best Dissertation Award is granted every other year by the Caribbean Studies Association, a valuable institution lending moral support and recognition of the work of the newest researchers as they embark on their scholarly careers. The BDA Committee is very grateful for the assistance of those faculty who nominate their students or encourage them to nominate themselves, and to the many readers who evaluate the dissertations. It is usually a very difficult decision and this year, 2024, is no exception.

The Best Dissertation Award will have one winner this year, and two other dissertations will receive honorable mention.

**The winner of the 2024 Best Dissertation Award is Matthew Robert Plishka** for his thesis entitled, "Cycles of Crisis and Adaptation: A Multispecies Political Ecology of Late-Colonial Jamaica, 1870-1960." Dr. Plishka defended the thesis in the Department of History at the University of Pittsburgh in 2022.

Dr Plishka argues "that the constant interactions between multi-species assemblages of people, plants, and microbes resulted in a near-continuous reshaping of late-colonial Jamaica's political ecology". He adds "At its heart, it is a story of a constantly changing political ecology in late-nineteenth and twentieth century colonial Jamaica and how inhabitants of the colony, along with other-than-human species such as plants and microbes, affected and were affected by these transformations". Reader's assessments of Dr Plishka's work highlight that "He radically advances our understanding of tropical agro-ecosystems and shows us concretely how political inequality systematically undermines environmental resilience"; furthermore, "This dissertation also provides insights into the operations and impacts of extractive industries, which are an ongoing reality in the Caribbean". This innovative and effective research demonstrates the importance of intersectional approaches to political ecology as Dr. Plishka tells a "story of rural agriculture, of commodity extraction, the impacts of disease, and Imperialism all within the specific historical context of local, circum-Caribbean, and global events and processes". These interwoven voices reshape our understanding of the dynamics of crisis in the Caribbean region, against a recent backdrop of Covid-19, and provide an excellent framework for future studies across the region.

## The Best Dissertation Award Committee wants to award honorable mention to two dissertations.

The first is **Ingrid Brioso Rieumont's** "Posthumous Representations in Cuba and Brazil, 1870-1910." Dr. Brioso Rieumont defended the thesis in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Cultures at Princeton University in 2022.

Through a literary analysis of two novels, *Memórias póstumas de Brás Cubas* (1881) by Afro-Brazilian writer Machado de Assis and *Cecilia Valdés o la loma del Ángel* (1882) by White Cuban writer Cirilo Villaverde, as well as 19th century photographs of enslaved people taken in Cuba and Brazil, Dr. Brioso studies "how the corpses of the enslaved and the portraits of enslaved persons have political force specifically through their literality and their poses." As one reviewer said, "Brioso Rieumont engages with great mastery across two of the key texts of Cuban and Brazilian C19th fiction in this thesis, not only with an impressive command of the texts themselves and the substantial and influential criticism on them, but by bringing a startlingly fresh perspective that contributes to the growing, very recent, and key scholarship in African American and Atlantic studies of enslavement ranging from cultural histories and anthropologies to economic and psychoanalytical approaches."

The second honorable mention goes to **Julian Isenia's** "Queer Sovereignities: Cultural Practices of Sexual Citizenship in the Dutch Caribbean." Dr. Isenia defended the thesis at the University of Amsterdam in 2022.

Through interdisciplinary, qualitative methods plus cultural analysis, Dr. Isenia studies "the concept of 'queer sovereignities,' which encapsulates the strategies and positions adopted by same-sex desiring and trans\* individuals as they navigate and negotiate their collective autonomy within the non-independent islands of the Dutch Caribbean." According to one evaluator, Dr. Isenia achieves his goal: "The author weaves an intricate history of class, gender, space and power, through various figures (like the kambrada and the mariku) through a concept of 'queer sovereignty' across the twentieth century tracing global, colonial and trans-regional relationalities that produce and reinforce these social identities."

The Best Dissertation Award Committee wishes to express its deepest appreciation for a host of reviewers who took the time in these past months to read and evaluate young scholars' work. They are contributing to the quality and sustainability of Caribbean studies across the generations. Thank you.

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS cont'd

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