



The Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Studies Association: June 2025 Edition

CONTENTS

Message from the Editor	1
Message from the Immediate Past President	3
Message from the Program Chair	5
New Executive Council Members	8
New Graduate Student Representative	9
Virgin Island Perspective	12
CSA Member Highlight	13
Barbara T. Christian Literary Award Winner	14
Caribbean Scholarship	17
New Book	18
Special Announcements	19

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

New Beginnings!

For the last eleven years (2014 – 2025), I have had the distinct pleasure to be the Caribbean Studies Association’s Newsletter Editor and it has been my absolute delight to serve this august Caribbean organization within this portfolio. I want to thank Past President Godfrey St. Bernard (Grenada) for showing confidence in me and asking me to take on this responsibility as a CSA member and particularly past president Jan De Cosmos (New Orleans) who I worked with closely to upgrade the digital communications portfolio at the CSA. In my sojourn as a CSA Newsletter Editor, I thoroughly enjoyed working with past presidents Professors Carole Boyce-Davies (Haiti) and Chenzira Davis Kahina (St. Croix) whose professionalism and commitment to Caribbean



Meagan Sylvester

Diasporic Development were stellar and deserves high commendation. Under my watch, the Newsletter moved from a once a year publication to a staple of news about you, the membership, the wider Caribbean and the diaspora, every single month of the year.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To the CSA Newsletter Team for working with me twelve months a year to achieve our goal every month, to every scholar who sent contributions and every stakeholder who shared our Newsletter far and wide to expand our readership. It has been my pleasure to serve.

As the organization moves into its 50th Year of conference meetings, let’s take a moment to celebrate our wins and look forward with hope and positivity for the next 50 years. In the next months, look out for changes with the production element of the Newsletter. Wishing the organization the very best!

Conference Re-cap

This issue of the CSA Newsletter focuses in the main on a retrospective of the 2025 Conference. Make sure to check out the column of the Immediate Past President, Dr. Rhoda Arrindell as she presents her overview of the St. Martin conference and the first ever joint Caribbean Studies Association conference held in partnership with the St. Martin Book Fair.

The new Graduate Student Representative, Ms. Semone Armorgan attended this year’s conference and provides her views on her first ever CSA conference.

Long time contributor of the CSA Newsletter Dr. Chenzira Davis Kahina provides her perspective of the both the 2025 CSA conference as well as celebrates the winner of the Barbara T. Christian Prize in her column.

STAY CONNECTED

CaribbeanStudiesAssociation

@CaribbeanSAssoc

Caribbean Studies Association

Website: CaribbeanStudiesAssociation.org

CSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2025-2026

President: Donna P. Hope
University of the West Indies, Mona Campus

Vice President: Patricia Saunders
University of Miami

Immediate Past CSA President:
Rhoda Arrindell
Howard University

Program Co-Chairs:
Nickesha T. Dawkins
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus

Rashana Vikara Lydner
Georgia State University

Treasurer: Dwaine Plaza
Oregon State University

Secretary: Mala Jokhan
Ministry of Health, Trinidad and Tobago

Editor, Newsletter: TBA

Graduate Student Representative:
Semone Armorgan
University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Executive Council

- Oneil Hall
- Maggie Shrimpton Masson
- Angelique V. Nixon
- Janelle Rodrigues

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR cont'd

CSA Communications - You can find us at:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CaribbeanStudiesAssociation

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/caribbean-studies-association

Twitter/X: x.com/CaribbeanSAssoc

Website: www.caribbeanstudiesassociation.org

Archived copies of our Newsletters at: www.caribbeanstudiesassociation.org/e-newsletter-archive/

Share your feedback at: newseditor@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org

MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



Rhoda Arrindell

I take this opportunity again to express my gratitude for the honor and privilege to have served as the president for 2024 – 2025, and I thank Dr. Chenzira Davis Kahina for the confidence when she asked me to consider running for an open post on the Executive Committee. I am also grateful to the members who gave me

their confidence as vice president in 2023 and the rest of the Executive Committee team and my “Council of Elders” for their embrace, guidance, and support during the past year.

When then President Okama Epke Brook passed me the baton in St. Lucia, I had already taken notes for the St. Martin conference. Along with the team, I set out to accomplish three objectives for the year: (1) increased membership and conference participation; (2) get CSA members to interact with the local community during the conference; (3) create a Procedural Manual for more transparent and improved functioning of the organization.

I chose the theme of Reparations because of my profound belief that it is a critical issue to address if we are going to be more intentional about Caribbean people’s development. I also remain convinced that CSA—through individual members and as a professional organization—can play a more active leadership role in the Reparations discourse.

By collaborating with the annual St. Martin Book Fair, we set out to give everyone the best of both worlds and a unique and enjoyable conference experience of healthy engagement between CSA members, Book Fair authors, and the St. Martin community. I trust that we were able to accomplish that and look forward to seeing you in Jamaica next year. I also encourage especially young scholars to get more actively involved in the Executive Committee and other working groups.

Rhoda Arrindell

Immediate Past President CSA 2024-2025

Español

Aprovecho esta oportunidad nuevamente para expresar mi gratitud por el honor y el privilegio de haber servido como presidente durante el período 2024-2025, y agradezco a la Dra. Chenzira Davis Kahina la confianza depositada cuando me pidió que considerara postularme para un puesto vacante en el Comité Ejecutivo. También agradezco a los miembros que confiaron en mí como vicepresidente en 2023, al resto del equipo del Comité Ejecutivo y a mi Consejo de Ancianos por su apoyo, guía y cariño durante el último año.

Cuando el entonces presidente Okama Epke Brook me entregó el testigo en Santa Lucía, ya había tomado notas para la conferencia de San Martín. Junto con el equipo, me propuse lograr tres objetivos para el año: (1) aumentar la membresía y la participación en la conferencia; (2) lograr que los miembros de la CSA interactuaran con la comunidad local durante la conferencia; (3) crear un Manual de Procedimientos para un funcionamiento más transparente y mejorado de la organización.

Elegí el tema de las Reparaciones porque creo firmemente que es un tema crucial que debemos abordar si queremos ser más conscientes del desarrollo de los caribeños. Sigo convencido de que CSA, a través de sus miembros individuales y como organización profesional, puede desempeñar un papel de liderazgo más activo en el discurso sobre las Reparaciones.

Al colaborar con la Feria del Libro anual de San Martín, nos propusimos ofrecer a todos lo mejor de ambos mundos y una experiencia única y agradable en la conferencia, con una sana interacción entre los miembros de CSA, los autores de la Feria del Libro y la comunidad de San Martín. Confío en que lo hayamos logrado y espero verlos en Jamaica el próximo año. También animo, especialmente a los jóvenes académicos, a participar más activamente en el Comité Ejecutivo y otros grupos de trabajo.

Rhoda Arrindell

Ex presidenta inmediata de la CSA 2024-2025

MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT cont'd

Français

Je profite de cette occasion pour exprimer à nouveau ma gratitude pour l'honneur et le privilège d'avoir été président pour 2024-2025, et je remercie le Dr Chenzira Davis Kahina pour la confiance qu'elle m'a témoignée lorsqu'elle m'a proposé de me présenter à un poste vacant au sein du Comité exécutif. Je suis également reconnaissant aux membres qui m'ont accordé leur confiance en tant que vice-président en 2023, ainsi qu'au reste de l'équipe du Comité exécutif et à mon Conseil des sages pour leur soutien, leurs conseils et leur soutien tout au long de l'année écoulée.

Lorsque le président Okama Epke Brook m'a passé le relais à Sainte-Lucie, j'avais déjà pris des notes pour la conférence de Saint-Martin. Avec l'équipe, je me suis fixé trois objectifs pour l'année : (1) augmenter le nombre d'adhérents et la participation à la conférence ; (2) encourager les membres de l'ASC à interagir avec la communauté locale pendant la conférence ; (3) créer un manuel de procédure pour un fonctionnement plus transparent et amélioré de l'organisation.

J'ai choisi le thème des Réparations car je suis profondément convaincu qu'il s'agit d'une question cruciale à aborder si nous voulons être plus résolu en faveur du développement des peuples caribéens. Je reste également convaincu que la CSA, par l'intermédiaire de ses membres individuels et en tant qu'organisation professionnelle, peut jouer un rôle de premier plan dans le débat sur les Réparations.

En collaborant avec la Foire du livre annuelle de Saint-Martin, nous souhaitons offrir à tous le meilleur des deux mondes et une expérience de conférence unique et agréable, propice à un dialogue constructif entre les membres de la CSA, les auteurs de la Foire du livre et la communauté de Saint-Martin. Je suis convaincu que nous y sommes parvenus et j'ai hâte de vous retrouver en Jamaïque l'année prochaine. J'encourage également, en particulier les jeunes chercheurs, à s'impliquer davantage au sein du Comité exécutif et des autres groupes de travail.

Rhoda Arrindell

Président sortant de l'ASC 2024-2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR



Meagan Sylvester

CSA 2025 is here!

It was my esteemed pleasure to welcome this year's delegates to St. Martin. This year we had a bevy of events especially designed for you our membership, which was inclusive of academic dialogue, camaraderie and insightful and engaging scholarship and for the local St. Martin community and attendees, a CSA conference in collaboration with the St. Martin Book Fair.

The dates for this year were June 1 – June 7 as the CSA Executive Council took the decision to extend the usual five (5) day conference to include the St. Martin Book Fair. In addition to that, attendees were treated to panels, workshops, film screenings and myriad opportunities to network with colleagues, literary events, celebration of authors and book exhibits.

Our usual CSA weekly activities ranged from our signature cultural night event, young scholar panels, the annual general membership meeting, culminating with the CSA Night Awards and Gala. Our signature event for graduate students the CSA Aunties and Uncles Mentorship Program continues with the intention to provide an opportunity for academic and work-based mentoring for our young scholars by connecting seasoned scholars and higher education professionals with graduate students.

The conference theme this year: Theme: Reparations: Resistance, Resilience, Reproduction, and Rehabilitation which was set against the backdrop of critically challenging movements in the social and economic fabric the world over. Our statistical review of our conference numbers were as follows:

Registrations: 383 (participants and non-participants)

- 344 submissions (fully constituted and individual)
- 48 fully constituted sessions

114 sessions

- 23 - Reparations
- 154 - Resistance
- 99 - Resilience

- 35 - Reproduction
- 31 - Rehabilitation
- 13 - Film, Visual
- 4 - Literary Salon
- 6 - Poster Presentations
- 11 - Author Celebration
- 7 - Multi-lingual presentations 4 Spanish and 3 French
- 8 - Video Presentations for remote participants

Finally, special mention goes out to my Program Team which consisted of over forty abstract panel reviewers, CSA Website Manager, Kiah Akosua Asabea and Program Chair Assistant, Jewel Nicome.

It has been my pleasure to serve you all and thanks again for making it CSA!

Meagan A. Sylvester, Ph.D.

CSA Program Chair 2025

Español

¡CSA 2025 ya está aquí!

Fue un placer dar la bienvenida a los delegados de este año a St. Martin. Este año, contamos con una gran variedad de eventos especialmente diseñados para ustedes, nuestros miembros, que incluyeron diálogo académico, camaradería y una investigación profunda y atractiva. Además, para la comunidad local de St. Martin y los asistentes, una conferencia de CSA en colaboración con la Feria del Libro de St. Martin.

Las fechas de este año fueron del 1 al 7 de junio, ya que el Consejo Ejecutivo de CSA decidió extender la conferencia habitual de cinco (5) días para incluir la Feria del Libro de St. Martin. Además, los asistentes disfrutaron de paneles, talleres, proyecciones de películas y numerosas oportunidades para conectar con colegas, eventos literarios, homenajes a autores y exposiciones de libros.

Nuestras actividades semanales habituales de CSA incluyeron nuestra noche cultural, paneles de jóvenes académicos, la reunión general anual de miembros, y la Gala y Premios de la Noche de CSA. Nuestro evento insignia para estudiantes de posgrado, el Programa de Mentoría Tías y Tíos de la CSA, continúa con la intención de brindar una oportunidad de mentoría académica y laboral a nuestros jóvenes académicos, conectando a académicos experimentados y profesionales de la educación superior con estudiantes de posgrado.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR cont'd

El tema de la conferencia de este año: Reparaciones: Resistencia, Resiliencia, Reproducción y Rehabilitación, se enmarcó en el contexto de movimientos que cuestionan críticamente el tejido social y económico mundial. Nuestra revisión estadística de las cifras de nuestra conferencia fue la siguiente:

Inscripciones: 383 (participantes y no participantes)

- 344 presentaciones (completamente constituidas e individuales)
- 48 sesiones completamente constituidas

114 sesiones

- 23 - Reparaciones
- 154 - Resistencia
- 99 - Resiliencia
- 35 - Reproducción
- 31 - Rehabilitación
- 13 - Cine, Visual
- 4 - Salón Literario
- 6 - Presentaciones de Pósters
- 11 - Celebración del Autor
- 7 - Presentaciones multilingües: 4 en español y 3 en francés
- 8 - Presentaciones de video para participantes remotos

Finalmente, quiero expresar una mención especial a mi Equipo de Programa, compuesto por más de cuarenta revisores de resúmenes, la Administradora del Sitio Web de CSA, Kiah Akosua Asabea, y la Asistente de la Coordinadora de Programa, Jewel Nicome.

Ha sido un placer servirles a todos y ¡gracias nuevamente por hacer posible que CSA sea un éxito!

Meagan A. Sylvester, Ph.D.

Jefa de Programa de CSA 2025

Français

¡CSA 2025 ya está aquí!

Fue un placer dar la bienvenida a los delegados de este año a St. Martin. Este año, contamos con una gran variedad de eventos especialmente diseñados para ustedes, nuestros miembros, que incluyeron diálogo académico, camaradería y una investigación profunda y atractiva. Además, para la comunidad local de St. Martin y los asistentes, una conferencia de CSA en colaboración con la Feria del Libro de St. Martin.

Las fechas de este año fueron del 1 al 7 de junio, ya que el Consejo Ejecutivo de CSA decidió extender la conferencia habitual de cinco (5) días para incluir la Feria del Libro de St. Martin. Además, los asistentes disfrutaron de paneles, talleres, proyecciones de películas y numerosas oportunidades para conectar con colegas, eventos literarios, homenajes a autores y exposiciones de libros.

Nuestras actividades semanales habituales de CSA incluyeron nuestra noche cultural, paneles de jóvenes académicos, la reunión general anual de miembros, y la Gala y Premios de la Noche de CSA. Nuestro evento insignia para estudiantes de posgrado, el Programa de Mentoría Tías y Tíos de la CSA, continúa con la intención de brindar una oportunidad de mentoría académica y laboral a nuestros jóvenes académicos, conectando a académicos experimentados y profesionales de la educación superior con estudiantes de posgrado.

El tema de la conferencia de este año: Reparaciones: Resistencia, Resiliencia, Reproducción y Rehabilitación, se enmarcó en el contexto de movimientos que cuestionan críticamente el tejido social y económico mundial. Nuestra revisión estadística de las cifras de nuestra conferencia fue la siguiente:

Inscripciones: 383 (participantes y no participantes)

- 344 presentaciones (completamente constituidas e individuales)
- 48 sesiones completamente constituidas

114 sesiones

- 23 - Reparaciones
- 154 - Resistencia
- 99 - Resiliencia
- 35 - Reproducción
- 31 - Rehabilitación
- 13 - Cine, Visual
- 4 - Salón Literario
- 6 - Presentaciones de Pósters
- 11 - Celebración del Autor
- 7 - Presentaciones multilingües: 4 en español y 3 en francés
- 8 - Presentaciones de video para participantes remotos

Finalmente, quiero expresar una mención especial a mi Equipo de Programa, compuesto por más de cuarenta revisores de resúmenes, la Administradora del Sitio Web de CSA, Kiah Akosua Asabea, y la Asistente de la Coordinadora de Programa, Jewel Nicome.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR cont'd

Ha sido un placer servirles a todos y ¡gracias nuevamente por hacer posible que CSA sea un éxito!

Meagan A. Sylvester, Ph.D.

Présidente du programme de l'ASC 2025

NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS



Donna P. Hope
President



Patricia Saunders
Vice President



Rhoda Arrindell
Immediate Past President

Council Members



Oneil Hall
(2024-2026)



**Maggie Shrimpton
Masson**
(2024-2026)



Angelique V. Nixon
(2025-2027)



Janelle Rodrigues
(2025-2027)



Semone Armorgan
Graduate Student
Representative
(2025-2027)

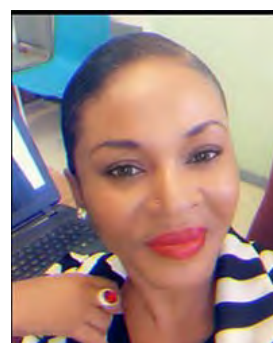
Appointed Members



Mala Jokhan
Secretary



Dwaine Plaza
Treasurer



Nickesha Dawkins
Program Committee Co-Chair
(2025 - 2026)



Rashana Vikara Lydner
Program Committee Co-Chair
(2025 - 2026)

NEW GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE



Semone Armorgan

As a new member and first-time attendee at the Caribbean Studies Association, the conference held in the beautiful island of St. Martin was an explosive experience to say the least. The breathtaking views, friendly locals and the island's cuisine provided a sense of familiarity yet a curiosity to discover a place I had never visited before.

While unfortunate, my arrival to the island mid-week did not grant me the opportunity to attend the much anticipated Welcome and Opening Ceremony, and earlier conference proceedings. The scheduled days that followed were however riveting, compact with a wealth of information and fruitful discussions. It was truly an honor to present amidst individuals whose work has championed and acknowledged the impact of resistance. I remain in awe at the powerful connections spanning across geographic locations, languages and illustrations. All of which were utilized as meaningful and impactful forms of expression.

The days flew by quickly. Notwithstanding this, they did not fall short of being eventful. The conference in its adequacy, seamlessly melded professional and leisure activities. The opportunity to casually meet past and present CSA presidents, lecturers with whom I've only interacted with virtually throughout my course of study and others who have contributed to Caribbean development are included among the event's highlights. Each interaction has been invaluable and thus served as an inspiration, answering many questions that arise while pursuing higher education.

At this year's conference, I was introduced to an environment I had only vividly imagined. A space where our differences were our individual and collective strengths. Apart from being members of or having strong ties to the Caribbean, we are further categorized as observers in our respective fields and interests.

Adding another layered perspective was the gathering of this academic family at the Membership Meeting. The matters and areas of concern, successes and challenges faced, in addition to those who have and continue to offer their time and service in addressing these issues were observed. I thank those who have invested and

sustained the association to date, affording me this worthwhile experience. I also congratulate those entrusted to preserve and expand the essence of this academic family. I am humbled and grateful to be included among those names. Within this new role as your elected Graduate Student Representative, I endeavour not only to uphold the sentiments received but to also share this gem that is revealed for one week annually, on one of the pillars that stand watch along the Caribbean Sea.

In closing, I leave you with one of my favourite quotes that continues to fuel my every pursuit, "Everything that is real was once imagined". For those of you who have attended/participated in this year's Conference, it is my hope that the beauty and splendour of this gem transcends for years thereafter. I look forward to working with this esteemed group, as we imagine and actualize these realities, by moving thought into action for the year 2026 and beyond!

Semone Armorgan

Graduate Student Representative 2025-2027

Español

Como nuevo miembro y asistente por primera vez a la Asociación de Estudios del Caribe, la conferencia celebrada en la hermosa isla de San Martín fue, como mínimo, una experiencia explosiva. Las impresionantes vistas, la amabilidad de los lugareños y la gastronomía isleña me brindaron una sensación de familiaridad, pero también de curiosidad por descubrir un lugar que nunca antes había visitado.

Aunque desafortunadamente, mi llegada a la isla a mitad de semana no me permitió asistir a la tan esperada Ceremonia de Bienvenida y Apertura, ni a las actas previas de la conferencia. Sin embargo, los días programados que siguieron fueron fascinantes, con una gran cantidad de información y debates fructíferos. Fue un verdadero honor presentarme entre personas cuyo trabajo ha defendido y reconocido el impacto de la resistencia. Sigo asombrado por las poderosas conexiones que abarcan diferentes ubicaciones geográficas, idiomas e ilustraciones.

Todo ello se utilizó como formas de expresión significativas e impactantes. Los días pasaron volando. A pesar de esto, no dejaron de ser memorables. La conferencia, en su idoneidad, integró a la perfección actividades profesionales y de ocio. La oportunidad de conocer casualmente a presidentes y expresidentes de la CSA, profesores con quienes solo he interactuado virtualmente a lo largo

NEW GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE cont'd

de mis estudios y otras personas que han contribuido al desarrollo del Caribe se encuentra entre los aspectos más destacados del evento. Cada interacción ha sido invaluable y, por lo tanto, ha servido de inspiración, respondiendo a muchas preguntas que surgen al cursar estudios superiores.

En la conferencia de este año, conocí un entorno que solo había imaginado vívidamente. Un espacio donde nuestras diferencias eran nuestras fortalezas individuales y colectivas. Además de ser miembros o tener fuertes vínculos con el Caribe, nos consideramos observadores en nuestros respectivos campos e intereses.

La reunión de esta familia académica en la Reunión de Miembros añadió otra perspectiva multifacética. Se observaron los asuntos y áreas de preocupación, los éxitos y los desafíos enfrentados, así como a quienes han ofrecido y continúan ofreciendo su tiempo y servicio para abordar estos problemas. Agradezco a quienes han invertido y apoyado la asociación hasta la fecha, brindándome esta valiosa experiencia. También felicito a quienes se han encargado de preservar y expandir la esencia de esta familia académica. Me siento honrado y agradecido de estar entre ellos. En mi nuevo rol como su Representante de Estudiantes de Posgrado electos, me esfuerzo no solo por defender los sentimientos recibidos, sino también por compartir esta joya que se revela durante una semana al año, en uno de los pilares que vigilan el Mar Caribe.

Para concluir, les dejo con una de mis citas favoritas que sigue impulsando cada una de mis búsquedas: "Todo lo que es real alguna vez fue imaginado". Para quienes han asistido o participado en la Conferencia de este año, espero que la belleza y el esplendor de esta joya perduren por muchos años. Espero con interés trabajar con este estimado grupo, mientras imaginamos y materializamos estas realidades, convirtiendo el pensamiento en acción para el año 2026 y más allá.

Semone Armorgan

Representante de estudiantes de posgrado 2025-2027

Français

En tant que nouveau membre et participant pour la première fois à la Caribbean Studies Association, la conférence qui s'est tenue sur la magnifique île de Saint-Martin a été pour le moins une expérience explosive. Les vues à couper le souffle, la gentillesse des habitants et la cuisine de l'île m'ont donné un sentiment de familiarité, tout en suscitant la curiosité de découvrir un lieu que je n'avais jamais visité auparavant.

Malheureusement, mon arrivée sur l'île en milieu de semaine ne m'a pas permis d'assister à la cérémonie d'ouverture et de bienvenue tant attendue, ni aux actes de la conférence. Les journées qui ont suivi ont cependant été passionnantes, riches en informations et en discussions fructueuses. Ce fut un véritable honneur de présenter cette conférence au milieu de personnes dont le travail a défendu et reconnu l'impact de la résistance. Je reste émerveillé par les liens puissants qui unissent les lieux géographiques, les langues et les illustrations.

Tous ces éléments ont été utilisés comme des formes d'expression significatives et percutantes.

Les journées ont filé à toute vitesse, mais elles n'en ont pas moins été riches en événements. La conférence, dans sa pertinence, a su allier harmonieusement activités professionnelles et loisirs. L'occasion de rencontrer en toute convivialité les présidents, anciens et actuels, de la CSA, les conférenciers avec lesquels je n'ai eu d'échanges que virtuellement tout au long de mes études et d'autres personnes ayant contribué au développement des Caraïbes compte parmi les moments forts de l'événement. Chaque interaction a été précieuse et a été une source d'inspiration, répondant à de nombreuses questions que l'on se pose au cours de mes études supérieures.

Lors de la conférence de cette année, j'ai découvert un environnement que j'avais à peine imaginé. Un espace où nos différences étaient nos forces individuelles et collectives. Outre notre appartenance aux Caraïbes ou nos liens étroits avec elles, nous sommes également considérés comme des observateurs dans nos domaines et centres d'intérêt respectifs.

Le rassemblement de cette famille universitaire lors de la réunion des membres a apporté une perspective plus nuancée. Les sujets et les préoccupations, les réussites et les défis rencontrés, ainsi que ceux qui ont consacré et continuent de consacrer leur temps et leurs services à la résolution de ces problèmes, ont été abordés. Je remercie ceux qui ont investi et soutenu l'association jusqu'à présent, me permettant ainsi de vivre cette expérience enrichissante. Je félicite également ceux qui ont été chargés de préserver et de développer l'essence de cette famille universitaire. Je suis honoré et reconnaissant d'être parmi eux. Dans ce nouveau rôle de représentant élu des étudiants diplômés, je m'efforce non seulement de faire écho aux sentiments exprimés, mais aussi de partager ce joyau qui se dévoile une semaine par an, sur l'un des piliers qui veillent sur la mer des Caraïbes.

NEW GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE cont'd

Pour conclure, je vous laisse avec l'une de mes citations préférées, qui continue d'alimenter toutes mes recherches : « Tout ce qui est réel a été imaginé. » Pour ceux d'entre vous qui ont assisté ou participé à la conférence de cette année, j'espère que la beauté et la splendeur de ce joyau se perpétueront pendant des années. Je me réjouis de travailler avec ce groupe estimé, pour imaginer et concrétiser ces réalités, en traduisant la pensée en action pour 2026 et au-delà !

Semone Armorgan

Représentante des étudiants diplômés 2025-2027

VIRGIN ISLAND PERSPECTIVE



Caribbean Studies in Action: Virgin Islands Heritage and Historical Struggle for Freedom – Blow the Conch Shell!

Virgin Islanders of Afrakan ascent are proactively engaged in research, teaching, publishing, exhibiting and elevating beyond the institutional erasure of ancestry legacy, culture, heritage and tradition. Annual commemorations in June and

July emphasizes ways for the Virgin Islands of the United States (VIUS) to reaffirm collective cultural heritage and ancestral linkages to Afraka and the Global Afrakan Diaspora. Our Virgin Islands Caribbean ancestors fought for their freedom from the time they were captured and never stopped planning organizing and fighting; whether overtly or covertly. Our ancestors were treated harshly on plantations, where some of the worst atrocities known to man or woman occurred, while the treasuries of Denmark, England, France, Holland, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Portugal benefitted from their free labor. This is a season of honoring the legacy of freedom in arts, sciences, intelligence technologies, cultural heritage, social justice and spirituality. CSA scholars, past presidents, graduate students, retirees, and supporters are encouraged to explore these and similar Caribbean research themes, institutions, linguistic constructs, cultural heritage and freedom liberation histories.

This call to restore ancestral memory aligns with a broader commemorative framework recognizing the transition from Danish to American rule (financial purchase in August 1916 and transferred ceremoniously in March 1917) in colonial territorial rule for more than 108 years. The narrative aims to empower and celebrate the contributions of African-descended individuals in shaping global civilization and multicultural legacies. The annual observance of VI Freedom Week, from June 26 to July 3, highlights the ongoing efforts of Caribbeanists, Pan-Africanists and community supporters in championing events that honor freedom, emancipation and liberation in these Virgin Islands and globally. These initiatives focus on acknowledging the unique cultural tapestry that characterizes

the Virgin Islands, including the interconnectedness of Caribbean, Afrakan, Indigenous, Eurasian and global identities. Historically, Caribbean ancestors experienced self-determination and fought for freedom prior to European colonization, genocidal terrorism, and extractive industrialization. While enduring severe oppression on plantations and industrial corporate agencies, Virgin Islanders documented their knowledge and accomplishments spanning navigation, science, arts, culture and philosophy. The accounts of Governor General Peter Von Scholten's efforts towards emancipation, culminating in the significant uprising on July 3, 1848, Emancipation Day, serve as a powerful moment of liberation for enslaved Afrakans in the former Danish West Indies now known as VIUS. It marks a commemorative era honoring intentionally organized liberation, celebrating resilience, self-determination, and agency against the backdrop of historical injustices. This legacy narrative for VI Emancipation (July 3rd) and VI Freedom Week (June 26th -July 3rd per VI Legislative Act) honors past struggles but also highlights the contemporary significance of Afrakan heritage, encouraging recognition and respect for a diverse cultural legacy that spans Afraka, the Caribbean, the Americas, and beyond.

An example of commemorative observances initiated by nongovernmental community organizations, civil society networks, and the Government of the Virgin Islands (US), include this executive proclamation of 2019:

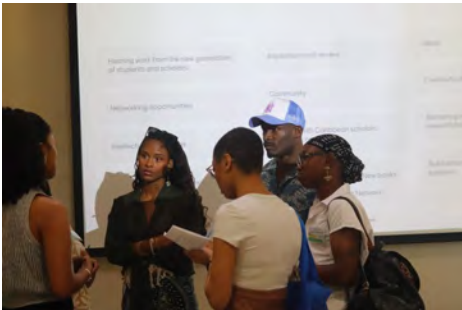
<https://www.vi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Proclamation-VI-National-Caribbean-American-Heritage-Month-and-VI-Freedom-Week-2019-executed.pdf>

Remain inspired!

Dr. Chenzira Davis Kahina

CSA MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Highlights from the CSA Conference Graduate Student Mentorship Breakfast



[\[CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS \]](#)

BARBARA T. CHRISTIAN LITERARY AWARD WINNER



Chenzira Davis Kahina

Congratulatory Announcement for the Winner of the Caribbean Studies Association's Barbara T. Christian Literary Award for 2025

With great pleasure, the CSA Barbara T. Christian Literary Award Committee is honored to announce the June 2025 winner as presented during the CSA2025 Gala and Awards Ceremony hosted by joint representation of

the CSA2025 Conference and the St. Martin Book Fair Committees at the Simpson Bay Resort Hotel in St. Martin on Saturday, June 7th, 2025.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2025 Winner of the CSA Barbara T. Christian Literary Book Award:

Dr. Merle Collins, Professor Emerita



Author of the CSA award-winning publication: [Ocean Stirrings: A Work of Fiction in Tribute to Louise Langdon Norton Little, Working Mother and Activist, Mother of Malcolm X and Seven Siblings](#)

Publisher: Peepal Tree Press Limited (September 2023)

Genre: Caribbean Studies, Historical Fiction, Poetry, Biographical Fiction, Novel



CSA extends congratulations to Peepal Tree Press Limited for having one of their 2023 publications represented by one of their authors with this prestigious CSA award. CSA celebrates Dr. Merle Collins' name and book being added to the growing list of prestigious authors' winning the CSA Barbara T. Christian Literary Book Award.

Words of Award-Winning Author Dr. Merle Collins read at the CSA2025 Awards & Gala Ceremony on June 7th

"What a tremendous honor! Thank you to the Caribbean Studies Association for such affirmation not only of my work but - in my estimation - of the inspiration of Louise Langdon Little. I'm particularly pleased to be awarded a prize named for Barbara Christian, who was a powerful academic, writer and scholar concerned about the lives and contributions of writing women. I am proud to make the connection. Thank you. Thank you."

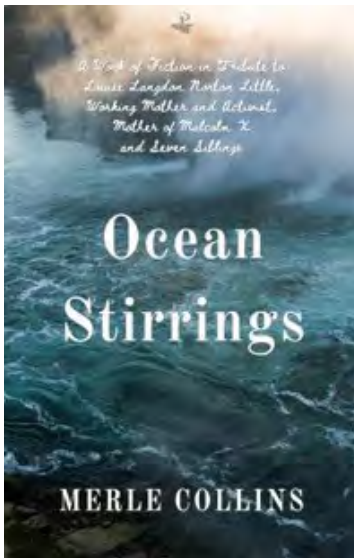
Concise overview of CSA2025 award-winning book [Ocean Stirrings: A Work of Fiction in Tribute to Louise Langdon Norton Little, Working Mother and Activist, Mother of Malcolm X and Seven Siblings](#)

"A mix of fictive narrative, letters and poetry, with episodes of great warmth, exuberant humour, drama, and heartbreak, telling a story of Louise Little. The mother of the revolutionary firebrand Malcolm X was a Grenadian woman born at the turn of the 20th century in a small rural community in a deeply colonial society where access to education had only just begun for the children of working people. She emigrated to Canada and then the USA, where she became involved in the struggle for Black civil rights led by Marcus Garvey. Within the sparse facts of Louise Langdon Norton Little's biography, Merle Collins, the distinguished Grenadian novelist, has created a moving and deeply feminist work that gives vivid inwardness to both the heroism and tragedy of a life that involved fighting the Ku Klux Klan, discovering that male comrades in the struggle could be abusers at home, recognition of her skills as an organiser, but also a period of mental collapse that saw her incarcerated in a mental hospital until her family fought for her release." (Source: Peepal. Tree Press, Ltd.)

Concise Bio of Dr. Merle Collins, Professor Emerita

Dr. Merle Collins was born in Aruba to Grenadian parents who returned to Grenada soon after her birth. She was deeply involved in the Grenadian Revolution and served as a coordinator for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean for the Government of Grenada.

BARBARA T. CHRISTIAN LITERARY AWARD WINNER cont'd



She left Grenada in 1983. Merle Collins is a writer of fiction, poetry, and critical essays. Her publications include novels *Angel* and *The Colour of Forgetting*, short story collections *Rain Darling* and *The Ladies are Upstairs*, poetry collections *Because the Dawn Breaks*, *Rotten Pomerack* and *Lady in a Boat*, and an Authorized Biography of Dame Hilda Bynoe - one of the first local governors in the Anglophone Caribbean in the late 1960s. She has published several articles on politics and society in Grenada. She recently retired from teaching Caribbean Literature at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Merle Collins holds a B.A. from the University of the West Indies, an M.A. Latin American Studies and Certificate in Translation (Spanish into English) from Georgetown University, and a Ph.D., Government, from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Dr. Collins founded the Maryland-based Carivision Community Theatre in 2005. For a number of years, she has devised courses aimed at encouraging university students to work with a Washington Metropolitan area-based community organization, the Cultural Academy for Excellence (CAFE) and continues to share her skills, talents and expertise.

CSA2025 Barbara T. Christian Literary Award 2025 Honorable Mention
Mae Mallory, the Monroe Defense Committee, and World Revolutions authored by Paula Marie Seniors and published by the University of Georgia Press in 2024.

This publication earning honorable mention examines critical dimensions of Black radicalism, focusing particularly on the often-overlooked contributions of Black women in the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. The work serves as a valuable academic resource for understanding the complexities of race, gender, and activism in both historical and contemporary contexts that delve into several interrelated themes that underscore the intersection of domestic struggles for Black liberation, gender equity, and their broader implications of social justice within Caribbean, American, African and global movements.

Concise History of the Dr. Barbara T. Christian Literary Book Award

“What I write and how I write is done in order to save my life... Literature is a way of knowing that I am not hallucinating, that whatever I feel is. It is an affirmation that sensuality is intelligence, that sensual language is language that makes sense.”

– Dr. Barbara T. Christian

Born and raised in the Virgin Islands of the United States (VI-US), Dr. Barbara T. Christian dedicated her life to researching, elucidating, and challenging ideas about race, gender, class, and epistemology – rejecting the belief that critical theory emanated solely from the West and that African diaspora and Caribbean ways of theorizing were somehow inferior to Eurocentric philosophical concepts. A committed feminist, educator and published author, Dr. Barbara T. Christian pioneered the birth of black women’s literary criticism and theory. This CSA literary award was established in 2001 to honor the memory of distinguished Caribbean-American black feminist and womanist theorist Dr. Barbara T. Christian, continues to commemorate and celebrate her intellectual legacy and is given to the best book published within the most recent two-year period (2023 to present) which creatively examines innovative research themes of gender, ethnicity, race, sexuality, class, and intersectionality.

The Barbara T. Christian Literary Award is sponsored by the sole living founder of CSA- Dr. Simon B. Jones Hendrickson, Ph. D., and his beloved wife, Dr. Cora Christian, M.D. - the brother-in-law and sister respectively of ancestress Dr. Barbara T. Christian - both CSA Past Presidents (1983-1984 and 2000-2001) who support arrangements for the \$500.00 USD monetary award and gifts provided to awardees. CSA continues to work collaboratively with the Christian and Hendrickson family and are appreciative of their exceptional resourceful support and consistent philanthropic funding provided for the Barbara T. Christian Literary Award organized within CSA. The scholarly review and vetting process implemented gleans from our Caribbean and global communities for extraordinary, creative, and innovative literary standards with great respect in alignment with the scholarly achievements, social gender justice empowerment, quests for gender equity, and analytical research contributions of Dr. Barbara T. Christian.

BARBARA T. CHRISTIAN LITERARY AWARD WINNER cont'd



It remains an honorable joy to have announced Dr. Merle Collins' as the recipient of the CSA2025 Barbara T. Christian Literary Book Award in St. Martin following CSA's 49th Conference on June 7th, 2025 to a full house of Caribbeanist scholars, authors, graduate students and community supporters with the special opportunity to share the award certificate, plaque and gifts to her in person follow-

ing her excellent keynote address at the 17th Biennial Conference of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars – the long-standing Affiliated Group of CSA— hosted and organized by the University College of the Cayman Islands on June 12th, 2025.



On behalf of the CSA Barbara T. Christian Literary Book Award Committee, we wish Dr. Merle Collins, Professor Emerita, the honorable winner of the CSA Barbara T. Christian Literary Book Award 2025,

continued success with present and future scholarly publications, book tours, teaching exchanges, productions, and beyond. Thanks are extended to Dr. Merle Collins, Professor Emerita, for sharing a Caribbean global tapestry in words of the intersectionality and true-to-life realism embedded throughout the creative literary scholarship shared in [Ocean Stirrings: A Work of Fiction in Tribute to Louise Langdon Norton Little, Working Mother and Activist, Mother of Malcolm X and Seven Siblings](#) that are exceptionally explicated in your CSA 2025 award-winning publication. Congratulations!

Dr. Chenzira Davis Kahina

CSA Barbara T. Christian Literary Award Committee Chair

CSA Past President 2022-2023

CSA Newsletter Contributing Subeditor – Virgin Islands

CARIBBEAN SCHOLARSHIP

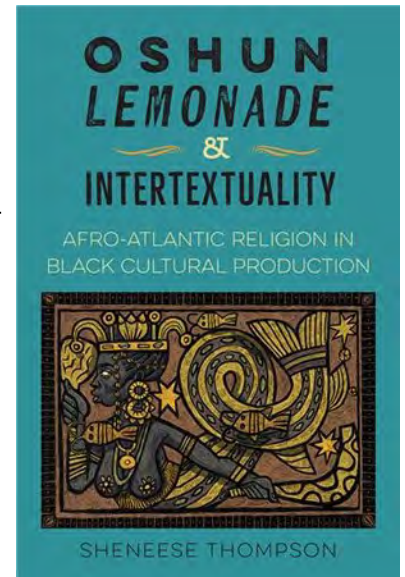
Oshun, Lemonade, and Intertextuality Afro-Atlantic Religion in Black Cultural Production

In this book, Sheneese Thompson analyzes works of film and literature to explore how Afro-Atlantic religion intersects with themes of resilience in Black femininity and womanhood. Focusing on Beyoncé's visual album *Lemonade*, Thompson examines iconography of the Yoruba goddess Oshun, represented by rivers, the color yellow, and other symbols. Thompson argues that Beyoncé's tribute to Oshun creates a narrative of self-repossession amid external definitions, generational trauma, and emotional violence and draws connections to other works that feature similar religious references.

Oshun, "*Lemonade*," and *Intertextuality* also explores Beyoncé's album *Black Is King*, the television series *She's Gotta Have It*, Julie Dash's movie *Daughters of the Dust*, Ntozake Shange's novel *Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo*, and Jamaica Kincaid's stories in *At the Bottom of the River*. These works highlight the significance of African traditional religions for the healing and transformation of their characters. Thompson discusses the ways in which Yoruba and Lucumí imagery and practices such as *oriki*, or praise poetry, have long been incorporated into Black cultural texts such as these to tell stories of racial and gender-based injustices. In looking at *Lemonade* together with influential older texts created by Black women, Thompson establishes the use of Afro-Atlantic religion—to think through Black womanhood, to explore self-defined sexuality—as a central tenet of Black women's literature, one that these artists and writers have brought to the global stage.

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

» To learn more or to purchase a copy: [CLICK HERE](#)



NEW BOOK

Otras iluminaciones. Narrativa, cultura y psicodélicos

Ribas-Casasayas, Alberto & Luengo, Ana (eds.) (2025): *Otras iluminaciones. Narrativa, cultura y psicodélicos*. Gainesville: Almenara [ISBN: 978-1-966932-02-4 | tapa blanda | 392 páginas | \$52.00] [Hacer pedido](#)

Desde diferentes ángulos y perspectivas críticas, los ensayos que conforman *Otras iluminaciones* se ocupan de la representación de la experiencia psicodélica en la producción cultural de habla hispana, con particular énfasis en su recepción contemporánea. Desde ese denominador común se abordan cuestiones afines como el giro reciente —en lo que se ha dado en llamar el «renacimiento psicodélico»— en los discursos sobre los enteógenos y su consumo, las relaciones asimétricas que organizan su circulación global, o su relevancia simbólica —tanto para la identidad comunitaria de pueblos ancestrales como para la conformación de nuevos imaginarios culturales.

Iván Eusebio Aguirre Darancou · Andrés Cota Hiriart · Iván Díez de la Pava · Pedro Favaron Peyón · Bárbara Xavier França · José Emiliano Garibaldi Toledo · Ana Luengo · Lauren Mehfoud · Daniella Prieto · Alberto Ribas-Casasayas · Sergi Rivero-Navarro · Alfonso Romaniello · Juan Carlos Usó · Raimundo Viejo Viñas

Para otros títulos de Almenara, [véase Catálogo](#) | Para próximos títulos, véase [En preparación](#)



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR PAPERS

- [Call for Chapters: CSA's Edited Book on "Reparations and Developments in the Caribbean"](#)
- [Caribbean Sociological Association Conference \(CASA\) 2025](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- [2026-27 Berlin Prize Fellowship Application](#)

SEMINARS, EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

- [Education Working Group – Zoom Meeting](#)

CSA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, [membership payments](#) that are sent via regular mail are not being delivered or received in a timely manner. The safest, fastest and most efficient payment mode at this time is online, using the CSA payment portal.

WIRE TRANSFER

If you prefer doing a wire transfer, [click here](#) for the transfer details.

ONLINE PAYMENTS

[Click here](#) to make an online payment with a debit or credit card using PayPal.

IN-PERSON

For persons residing in T&T, the TTD equivalent can be made at the UWI Bursary, St. Augustine, to account number 18087-1851-5405-1. Please also email a copy of the payment receipt to secretariat@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org.

» [CLICK HERE](#) for more details about CSA Membership

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS cont'd

Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) Online Store - Now Open

Get your paraphernalia today and show your support for CSA!

The proceeds from the sales go to support the CSA Conference Travel Grants and other initiatives to support the annual conference.

[[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE ONLINE STORE](#)]

