

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

The Time of the “Bruggadung”: States of EmUrgency

‘but leh murder start an’ bruggalungdung/ yu cahn fine a man to hole up de side’ (Kamau Brathwaite)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

Newman Alumni Center, University of Miami

8:30am – 4:00 PM

Registration Open

9:00am – 10:00am

**Workshop #1 (ACADEMIC BOOK PUBLISHING)
Newman Alumni Center (ROOM A)**

**Workshop #2 “Understanding Ourselves: Caribbean
Literature as Data” (DIGITAL HUMANITIES)
Newman Alumni Center (ROOM B)**

10:30 – 11:30am

**Workshop #3 (Research & Teaching with Archival Materials)
University of Miami Libraries, Kislak Center**

**(Participants: Follow graduate students to the UM Shuttle
Stop. The Shuttle will take you to Newman Alumni Center).**

**Workshop #4 (Journal Publishing in Caribbean Literature)
(*Journal of West Indian Literature* and *Anthurium*)
Executive Conference Room, Newman Alumni Center**

11:45am - 12:00pm

Break (Light Refreshments)

12:15pm - 12:30pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks

12:30pm - 1:00pm

**Women of the Word: Remembering Velma Pollard, Maryse
Condé, Elizabeth Nunez, and Danielle Legros-Georges and
their Literary Legacies**

1:15pm - 2:15pm

Plantation Bruggadung

Session 1

Chair and Moderator:

ROOM A

**Kim Evelyn (Bowie State University)
“Bruggadung Braps: Heritage Site Demolition in Jasmine Sealy’s
The Island of Forgetting”**

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Anne Castro (Florida International University)
“Ghosts, Duppies, and Colonial Violence in The White Witch of Rosehall”

Isabel Guzzardo (Seton Hall University)
“Boricua (Anti)futurisms”

Session 2

Bruggadung in the City

ROOM B

Chair and Moderator:

Alexis Samuel (UWI, Mona)
“It is a dangerous thing to be where you not supposed to be”:
Reckoning with Spatial Colonial Legacies in Kingston Noir”

Karen Sanderson Cole (UWI, St Augustine)
“Measuring Courage”- Autobiography as Trauma and Testimony
in the Coup d’etat: Raoul Pantin’s Days of Wrath: The 1990 Coup
in Trinidad and Tobago

Tohru Nakamura (Chiba Institute of Technology)
“You carry so much feeling in you”: Feelings, Memories, and
Political Uncertainty in Margaret Cezair-Thompson’s The True
History of Paradise

Kathleen DeGuzman (San Francisco State University)
“The City Is History: Gentrification and Sam Selvon’s London
Fiction”

Session 3

Poinciana Paper Press: Integrity, Intention, & Strategy in Independent Publishing

ROOM C

Stephen Narain (University of Miami)
Sonia Farmer (Poinciana Press)
Rhys Knowles (Writer)

2:15pm 3:15pm

LUNCH

3:30pm – 4:30pm

The Cambridge Companion to Mary Prince

Session 4

Chair and Moderator: Nicole Aljoe (Northeastern University)

ROOM A

Gelien Matthews (University of the West Indies, St. Augustine)
“Mary Prince: An Economic Life Beyond Slavery”

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Elizabeth Polcha (Drexel University)
“Mary Prince’s Environmental History”

Kerry Sinanan (University of Winnipeg)
“*The History of Mary Prince* and the web of Black Atlantic
Print Culture”

Session 5

How to Survive the Apocalypse

ROOM B

Chair and Moderator: Kelly Baker Josephs (University of Miami)

Nardia Lipman (University of Miami)
Reimagining EmUrgency and Resistance in Tobias Buckell’s
“Spurn Babylon” and “Category Six”

Carol Bailey (Amherst College)
“Triumphant Renditions in Caribbean Diasporic Writing”

Rachel Mordecai (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
“The Caribbean Eco-Feminist Wayfinding of Alexis Pauline
Gumbs”

Session 6

The Digital Caribbean

ROOM C

Chair and Moderator: Schuyler Esprit
(University of the West Indies, Mona, Create Caribbean Research
Institute)

Ra Bacchus (University of Miami)
“Measure by Measure: Reflections on Building a Quiz Map
for Critical Caribbean Digital Pedagogy”

Soham Das (English and Foreign Languages Univ., Hyderabad, India)
“Bruggadung Digitised: A Study of *Assassin’s Creed IV: Black
Flag*’s Mytho-Poetic World through the Lens of Poetics of
Relation”

Nicolas Gerardi Rousset (University of Miami)
“Techno Poetics in the Caribbean: The Sycorax Community”

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Keynote Conversations I

ROOM A

Diana McCaulay
(Founder, Jamaican Environment Trust and Author)
In conversation with Kei Miller (University of Miami)

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

Pérez Art Museum Miami

(See Previous Page for Directions to Museum)

9:00am – 11:00pm

Registration Open: Pérez Art Museum Miami

10:00am – 11:15

Critical Dialogues in Caribbean Literature

Moderator: Carol Bailey (Amherst College)

PAMM Auditorium

Faith Smith (Brandeis University)

Strolling in the Ruins (Duke University Press, 2023)

Kezia Page (Colgate University)

Inside Tenement Time (Rutgers University Press, 2024)

11:30am – 12:30pm

The Dangers of Resiliency in States of EmUrgency

Session 7

Chair and Moderator: Lia Bascomb (Georgia State University)

Hoffman Board Room

Donna Hope (UWI, Mona)

Emergency!: Narrating Alternative Modes of Resilience and Survival in Brysco's "Where I'm From" and Jamal's "Ballandor"

Stephanie Fullerton-Cooper (University College of the Cayman Islands)

A Storm of Words: Cataclysmic Cayman Concerns and the Writers' Response

Erin Fehskens (Towson University)

Merle Collins's "Tout Moun ka Plewé": Critical Resilience and Deep Listening in the Eye of the Hurricane

Adlai Murdoch (Penn State University)

"Grafting a Geopolitics of Caribbean Identity out of a State of Nature"

Session 8

The Ugly Sides of Paradise

**Jane and Gerald Katcher
Studio Classroom A**

Moderator: Jennifer Thorington Springer (Indiana University)

Ian Bethel Bennet (University of the Bahamas)

"Decadence and Destruction: The Crises in the Face of Erasure"

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Arnab Das (Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India)
"Sun, Sand, and Systemic Oppression: Ecofeminist Readings of
Tourism and Trauma in Cherie Jones' *How the One-Armed Sister
Sweeps Her House* and Contemporary Caribbean Literature"

Tobi Brown (Syracuse University)
"Neglected Infrastructure, Ravaged Ecologies: Images of
(Dis)pleasure in *A Small Place*"

Session 9

ROSS Classroom

The Queer Bruggadung

Chair and Moderator: Nikoli Attai (Binghamton University)

Savita Maharaj (Brandeis University)
"Technologies of Resistance in *Cereus Blooms at Night*, *Antiman*,
and *These Ghosts Are Family*"

Geraldine Skeete (UWI St Augustine)
"Ranger and Conservator: Un-Preserving the Forest"

Ide Thompson (Forbes Library)
"On Dis-Placement & Anti-Rhythms: Queer Bahamian Writers and
the Mytho-poetic"

Rashana Vikara Lydner (Georgia State University)
"Creole as *bruggadung*: Queer Caribbean resistance in song"

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Guided Tour: Selected Works from PAMM's Permanent
Collection

1:30 – 2:45

L U N C H – Joy Terrace

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Session 10

Hoffman Boardroom

Visual Reckonings

Chair and Moderator: Patricia Saunders (University of Miami)

Kezia Page (Colgate University)
"The Watching Chorus: Recitations of Empire and Emergency in
Locke and the Literary"

Meredith Eget (University of Miami)
"Aquatic Reckonings: Caribbean Literature and Visual Art as
Excavators of Submerged Histories"

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Petal Samuel (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
“On Black Cyber-Aesthetics: Black Women’s Technophilia & Afro-Caribbean Experiments in New Media

Session 11

Post-Indentureship Responses to States of EmUrgency I: Literary and Artistic Imaginaries

Jane and Gerald Katcher
Studio Classroom A

Chair and Moderator: Lisa Outar (Independent Scholar)

Anita Baksh (LaGuardia Community College at CUNY)
“Human and Marine Mammal Kinship in the Literature of Alexis Pauline Gumbs and Rajiv Mohabir”

Suzanne Persard (American University)
“From Chutney to Kitsch: Indo-Caribbean Camp Aesthetics in the Work of Renluka Maharaj”

Lisa Outar (Independent Scholar)
“Visualizing Violette: Feminist Futures in Recent Work of Indo-Guadeloupean Artist Kelly Sinnaph Mary”

Session 12

Tuning In to the Sound Sensations of the Bruggadung

ROSS Classroom

Chair and Moderator: Michael Bucknor (University of Alberta)

Michele Adams (UWI St. Augustine)
Jazz and the Chronotope: Space-time in *Louisiana* by Erna Brodber and *Half-Blood Blues* by Esi Edugyan

Michael Bucknor (University of Alberta)
‘Living in the Wake’: Affective Epistemologies and Sound Technologies in Lillian Allen’s Decolonial Dub Poetry”

Michael Grafals (Florida International University)
“Samuel Selvon's West Indian Comedic Narrative Voice and Jennine Capó Crucet's *Say Hello to My Little Friend*”

4:15PM – 5:30PM

Creative Conversations 2: The Sense of Urgency

Moderator: Kelly Baker Josephs (University of Miami)

East Portico &
Terrace Platform

Fabienne Josaphat (*No Kingdom of Tomorrow*)
Anthony Joseph (*Precious and Impossible*)

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6:00PM– 7:30PM

Hurricane Stories

PAMM Auditorium

Keynote Conversations 2: From the “I” of the Storm

Tiphonie Yanique (Emory University)

Erica James (University of Miami)

Angelique Nixon (University of the West Indies, St. Augustine)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10th

Newman Alumni Center, University of Miami

8:30am – 10:00am

Registration Open

9:00am – 10:00am

T. Urayoán Noel (New York University)

ROOM A

10:15am -11:15am

Refuge and Repair: Poetics of Resistance

Session 13

Chair and Moderator: Antonia MacDonald
(St. George’s University, Grenada)

***Executive
Conference Room***

Barbara Gfoellner (University of Vienna)
“Suspending Wor(l)ds: Abyssal Poetics in Caribbean Writing”

Antonia MacDonald (St. George’s University, Grenada)
“Lavi wèd, mé tjembé fò”: A Kwéyòl Poetics of Resistance in
Ocean Stirrings.

Warren Harding (Binghamton University– SUNY)
“Reading Notes: Practices of Refuge in the Works of Dionne
Brand, Edwidge Danticat, and Soleida Rios”

Session 14

***WILC X CDSC: Bridging Caribbean Literature and
Digital Humanities***

Chair and Moderator: Gabrielle M. Jean-Louis
(University of Miami)

ROOM B

Linzey Corridon (McMaster University)
“Anansi Web: Digital and Narrative Ecologies and the Storytelling
Worlds of Cliff Lashley”

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Tzarina Prater (Bentley University)
“From Wax to Stacks: Learning (in) the Digital Yard”

Marie Larose (Dartmouth College)
“Creole archiving: Bridging Generations Through Folktales”

Anaridia Ramona Molina (University of Michigan)
“Digital Archiving and Data Visualization for the
Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars”

Session 15 ROOM A

Caribbean Feminisms and the Body Politic

Chair and Moderator: Simone Alexander (Seton Hall University)

Dasharah Green (The Graduate Centre, CUNY)
“Sacred Grounds: Gardening as a Site for Self-Reckoning in
Michelle Cliff’s Claiming an Identity They Taught Me to Despise”

Yutaka Yoshida (Chuo University)
“Beyond ‘an Infinite Rehearsal’: Shame and the Feminist
Revolution in Merle Collins’s Angel”

Rose Poku (University of Pennsylvania)
“Black Women Translators: Early Black Feminist Advocates,
1920-1950”

11:30am -12:45pm

ROOM A

Keynote Conversation III

***Deborah Thomas (University of Pennsylvania)
R. Jean Brownlee Professor of Anthropology; Director,
Center for Experimental Ethnography***

“Embodying Repair and Recovery”

***Moderators: Kei Miller and Patricia Saunders
(University of Miami)***

1:00pm -2:00pm

***L U N C H
(WIACLALS Business Meeting)***

2:15pm - 3:15pm

A Country for Old Men: The Urgency of Aging

Session 16

Laurence Breiner (Boston University)
“A Poet’s Reckoning: How Kendel Hippolyte Addresses Urgency.”

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Kei Miller (University of Miami)
“‘Ghosts and Demons and the Longest Dead’: Brathwaite’s Many Hauntings”

Travis Weekes (UWI St Augustine)
“Men, Old Age and Poetry”

Emily Taylor (Presbyterian College)
“Translating Velma Pollard: *Karl* and Cuba’s Casa de las Américas”

Session 17

Post-Indentureship Responses to States of EmUrgency II: Challenging Narratives of Trauma and Immobility

ROOM B

Chair and Moderator: Lisa Outar (Independent Scholar)

Kerry-Ann Abdool (UWI-St. Augustine)
“Shamans, Storms and Simi-Dimi in San Souci: Colonial Legacies in Samuel Selvon’s *Those Who Eat the Cascadura*”

Jocelyn Stitt (University of California, Santa Barbara)
“Tracing Our Roots: A Guyanese Genealogical Archival Restoration Project”

Tarika Sankar (Brown University)
“Digital Diasporic Consciousness: Indo-Caribbean Social Media Networks”

Aliyah Khan (University of Michigan)
“Post-Plantation Economies of Grief: Memorializing the Indo-Caribbean Patriarch”

Session 18

Sea, Sky & Other EmerUrgent Spaces

ROOM A

Chair and Moderator: Prishanti Pathak (University of Miami)

Sade Gordon (University of Miami)
“Space, radical geographies, Afro-diasporic feminisms and the environmental humanities.”

Dannabang Kuwabong (University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras)
“Eco-Dreaming as embodied nationalist landscaping: Toward a ‘topistic’ reading of Lasana Sekou’s *Nativity*”

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Jarrel De Matas (The University of Texas Medical Branch)
“Douen Medicine: *Brown Girl in the Ring* as a Novel Approach to Integrating Caribbean Ancestral Healing into Healthcare”

3:30 – 4:30

Imagining in the Space of the Fantastic

Session 19
Bahamas)

Chair and Moderator: A. Marie Sairsingh (University of the

ROOM B

Shivangi Singh (Indian Institute of Technology, Madras)
“New Waves in West Indian Literature: Eco-Feminism and Myth in Monique Roffey’s *The Mermaid of Black Conch* (2020)”

Nicola Hunte (UWI)
“Unsettling the Anthropocene in the Cross-Cultural Imaginary of Caribbean Speculative Fiction”

Jeannine Murray-Roman (Florida State University)
“Thinking by Hand with the Pingwing Macca: Erna Broder's Extended Cognition”

Session 20

Focus on Puerto Rico

Miami)
**Executive
Conference
Room**

Chair/Moderator: Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel (University of

Alejandro Beas Murillo (UMass Amherst)
“Intergenerational Afro-Boricua Feminist Survival in Mayra Santos Febres’s “La otra Julia””

Wilfredo Santiago Hernandez (University of Puerto Rico)
“The Cyclonic Inability to Adapt in Xavier Navarro Aquino’s *Velorio*”

Joseph David Berrios Diaz (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras)
“Between the Womb and the Grave: Water as an Icon of Decay and Renewal in Caribbean Identity”

4:45pm–6:00pm

Manchineel + Seagrape presents:
A staged reading of *Woman Tongue*, by Tanya Batson-Savage

ROOM A

Sponsored by the Caribbean Digital Scholarship Collective

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

8:30am – 9:30am **Registration Opens**

9:00am -10:00am ***Keynote Conversation IV***

***Deon Edwards-Kerr, University of the West Indies, Mona
(Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Education)***

***In Conversation with:
Antonia MacDonald (St. George's University, Grenada)
Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies***

10:15am -11:15am

***Workshop #5
(Journalism to Creative Writing: Narration, Social
Justice and the Art of Perspective)***

10:15am -11:15am

Mythopoetics and the Caribbean Canon

**Session 21
ROOM A**

Chair and Moderator:

Sabrina Bramwell (Howard University)
“Caribbean Mythopoetics: Mapping through Space Towards
Freedom”

J. Dillon Brown (Washington University, St. Louis)
“Transcending America: The Mythopoetics of Derek Walcott’s *The
Fortunate Traveler*”

Carlotta Pisano (NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal)
“Mythopoetics of Renewal: History, Memory, and Transformation
in Ayanna Lloyd Banwo’s *When We Were Birds*”

Session 22

Focus on Haiti

ROOM B

Chair and Moderator: MariVi Madieto (University of Miami)

Catheline Desire (University of Miami)
“Exile and return- Diasporic discourse in the contemporary Haitian
context.”

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Arthur Ortiz (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras)
The hauntings of Tante Atie in *Breath, Eyes, Memory* by Edwidge Danticat

Tikkun Bambara (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)
“The Marvelous, the Sacred, and the Haitian Imaginary Code:
Suzanne Césaire, René Depestre, and Astrid Roemer”

Session 23

On Confinement and Freedom

ROOM C

Chair and Moderator:

Don Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras)
“Full Freedom Still to Come in Caribbean Diasporic Poetry”

Caroline M Suares Rodriguez (University of Puerto Rico)
“Disrupted Freedom/Space: Narratives of Home and Confinement
in Guantánamo Memoirs”

Michael R. Soriano (University of Miami)
“emUrgency, Seclusion, and Serial Emigration in *Blake;
or, The Huts of America*”

11:30am -12:30pm

LUNCH

12:45pm - 1:45pm

**Roundtable Discussion: "Withering Heights?
Research, Scholarship, and Publishing During the
War Against Knowledge"**

ROOM A

Chair and Moderator: Yolanda M. Martinez-San Miguel

Kimberly Guinta
(American Philosophical Society Press)

Yolanda Martinez San Miguel
(Rutgers University Press, Critical Caribbean Studies, Series
Editor)

Christine Randle
(Director, University of the West Indies Press)

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2:00pm – 3:00pm

Caribbean Humanism

Session 24

Chair and Moderator:

ROOM A

Janelle Rodriques (University of Washington)
"A paper doll. A silhouette:" Reading the Rastaman in John Hearne's *Land of the Living*."

Raphael Dalleo (Bucknell University)
"Orlando Patterson's *Die the Long Day* and the Caribbean Human"

Alexandria Smith (University of Virginia)
"Virtuosity or Despair: Dionne Brand's Poetics of (Dis)orientation"

Session 25

Representing Women: A Different Kinda "Dread"

ROOM B

Chair and Moderator:

Leah Rosenberg (University of Florida)
"After the Thrall: Utopian Futures"

Arselyne Chery (University of Virginia)
"Dreadful Kinship and the Black Female Body in Safiya Sinclair's *How to Say Babylon* (2023)"

Frances Botkin (Towson University)
"Reckoning with Disaster: Higglering in Nicole Dennis-Benn's *Here Comes the Sun*"

Session 26

Caribbean Women Rewriting Time

ROOM C

Chair and Moderator: Angeletta KM Gouridine (Louisiana State University)

KV Bailey (University of Virginia)
"The Black womb is a maw": Sexual Crisis and Autopoietic Slackness in the Novels of Erna Brodber

Annabelle Haynes (Hofstra University)
"Poetics of Underdevelopment in Erna Brodber's *The Rainmaker's Mistake*"

Emily Taylor (Presbyterian College)
"Translating Velma Pollard: Karl and Cuba's Casa de las Américas"

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3:00- 4:00

***Keynote Conversation: “Cultivating Creativity:
Funding the Future of Caribbean Literature”***

ROOM A

Kellie Magnus (Caribbean Culture Fund)

4:00pm

CLOSING RECEPTION

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