

The 43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference



Installation view: Hew Locke: *For Those in Peril on the Sea*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, 2013. Photo: Oriol Tarridas. © Hew Locke. 2025 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / DACS, London

The Time of the “Bruggadung”: States of EmUrgency

OCTOBER 8—11, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI | CORAL GABLES, FL
NEWMAN ALUMNI CENTER



October 8, 2025

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the University of Miami and to the 43rd West Indian Literature Conference. While the University of Miami has been home to numerous international conferences, we take particular pride in our longstanding partnerships with the University of the West Indies, the University of Puerto Rico, the University of Guyana, St. George's University, and the College of the Bahamas. These collaborations have consistently provided invaluable opportunities to strengthen personal, intellectual, and institutional ties over the years.

Our ability to maintain such a strong, collaborative relationship with our hemispheric partners has been made possible by the unwavering support of many individuals and institutions—too numerous to name in full. However, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Office of the President, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of English and Creative Writing, the Hemispheric Caribbean Studies Collective, the Center for Global Black Studies, the Martha S. Weeks Chair in Latin American Studies, and the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Americas.

We are also deeply thankful for the generous support of Franklin Sirmans and his talented team of curators and arts educators—Marie Vickles, David Miller, and Iberia Pérez González—at the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM). Each iteration of this conference at the University of Miami has allowed us to partner with one of the city's cultural institutions, and we are excited to work with PAMM this year to host a day of the conference at the museum. We look forward to sharing our “Juracán – Huracán – Hurricane Stories: From the ‘I’ of the Storms” with the public on Thursday, October 9, 2025.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to my graduate assistants, Gabrielle Jean-Louis and Michael Soriano, whose organizational efforts, logistical support, and digital expertise have been essential in bringing this conference to life. A heartfelt thank you also goes to the many graduate student volunteers, whose dedication has made this event possible. I am also incredibly grateful to the colleagues who have generously given their time and energy, managing every aspect of the conference with grace and commitment: Kei Miller, Yolanda Martinez San Miguel, and Erica James.

This year's theme, “The Time of the ‘Bruggadung’: States of EmUrgency,” emerges from a moment of profound reckoning in the Caribbean. The term *bruggadung*, a seemingly playful word in Bajan Creole, carries mytho-poetic and prophetic weight in the work of Kamau Brathwaite. Our region—and the writers who chronicle and critique it—are facing a convergence of crises that are both urgently new and hauntingly familiar. Escalating volcanic activity, increasingly destructive hurricanes, heatwaves, and droughts are reshaping our physical environment. At the same time, repeated declarations of states of emergency in countries such as Haiti, Trinidad, and Jamaica signal deepening political instability and social unrest. We are also grieving the loss of a generation of scholars and writers whose contributions have profoundly shaped Caribbean literary and cultural studies.

We have convened this conference to explore, in a meaningful way, how contemporary writers are engaging with these urgent times. Our novelists, poets, essayists, visual artists, and musicians continue to offer invaluable insights and perspectives that can guide us through these challenges, just as they have always done.

Finally, we thank each of you for responding to our invitation and for recognizing the importance of reflecting on the implications of these urgent times for our circum-Caribbean region. It is an honor to have you all here as interlocutors, and we eagerly anticipate the next four days of rich and engaging conversation.

Sincerely,

Patricia Saunders

Professor of English
Faculty Lead, Hemispheric Caribbean Studies
Director of Graduate Studies in English



October 8, 20205

Dear Friends,

The College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Miami is delighted to welcome you. We are honored that you have chosen our university to host the 43rd West Indian Literature Conference.

As the theme of this year's conference suggests, academic and cultural institutions, like the artists, educators, writers and students are being called upon to lead as we navigate our way through these transformative historical moments. At the same time, they represent a wealth of human and natural resources that must be both valued and safeguarded. These pathways enable vital exchanges of ideas and knowledge, and it is our collective responsibility, across disciplines and borders, to ensure equitable access to and fair use of these resources.

Hosting the conference in Miami, a city uniquely positioned at the crossroads of diverse cultures and communities, offers a dynamic space for cultural immersion and intellectual discovery. As scholars and artists in Caribbean Studies, your dialogue during this gathering will help forge new directions and innovative approaches to transforming the cultural and social landscapes of tomorrow.

We warmly welcome you and wish you a meaningful, productive, and memorable conference.

Best regards,

Leonidas G. Bachas

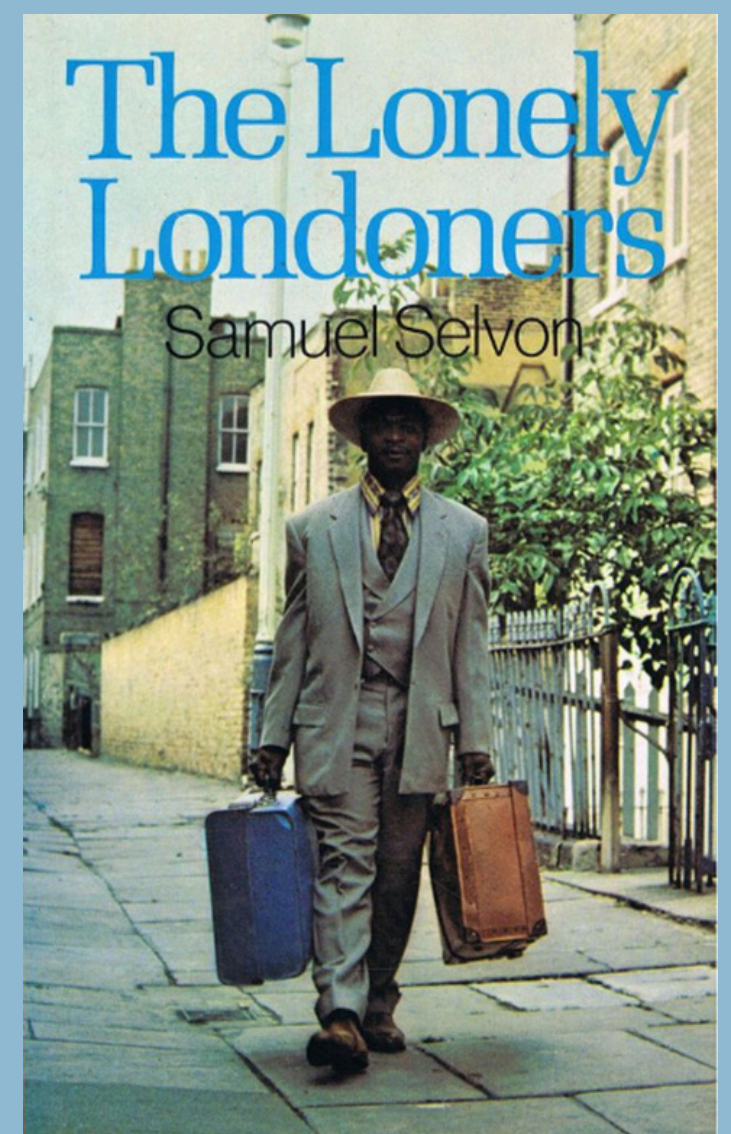
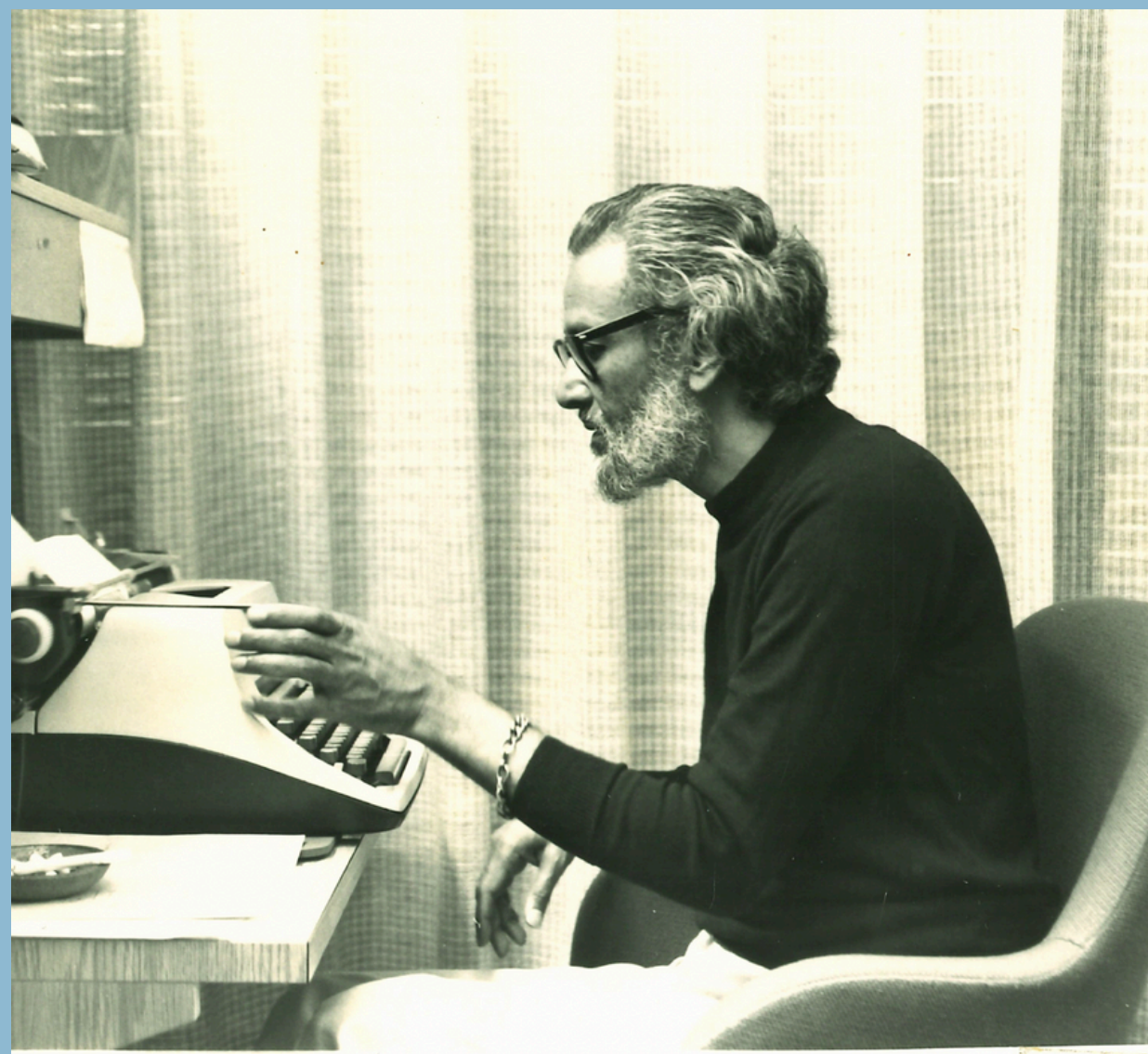
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Miami

ANTHURIUM

A CARIBBEAN STUDIES JOURNAL

ANNOUNCES A

SPECIAL ISSUE: SELVON @ 100



FEATURING:

- “He Had a Sympathetic Understanding of Everybody”: Remembering Sam Selvon - a Conversation with Ramabi Espinet by **Nalini Mohabir** and **Ronald Cummings**
- Of Selvon and Sentimentality: Diasporic Rememberings by **Ronald Cummings**
- Sam Selvon: Under the Kiff-Kiff Laughter by **Ramabai Espinet**
- Selvon and Me by **Simone Dalton**
- “The Blasted Man Made Me Vex”: Artistic Vulnerability, Satire, and Caribbean Literary Historiography by **Cornel Bogle**
- Selvon’s Bush Coolie: Producing Backwardness in “Cane is Bitter” and *The Plains of Caroni* by **Kris Singh**
- Revisiting Return in Selvon’s Writing by **Nalini Mohabir**

For this issue and more, visit: <https://anthurium.miami.edu/35/volume/20/issue/1>

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

The Time of the “Bruggadung”: States of EmUrgency

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

Newman Alumni Center, University of Miami

8:30am – 4:00pm

Registration Open

9:00am – 10:00am

**Workshop #1 “Academic Publishing in Caribbean Studies
(Academic Book Publishing)**

(ROOM A)

Newman Alumni Center

(ROOM B)

**Workshop #2 “Understanding Ourselves: Caribbean
Literature as Data” (Digital Humanities)
Newman Alumni Center**

10:30am – 11:30am

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

**(Workshop 3 Participants: Follow graduate students to the UM
Shuttle Stop. The Shuttle will take you to the Kislak
Center/Newman Alumni Center).**

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

12:00pm - 12:15pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks

12:15pm - 1:15pm

L U N C H

1:30pm - 2:30pm

ROOM B

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

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

Faith Smith (Brandeis University)

Fabienne Josaphat (Author)

Donette Francis (University of Miami)

2:45pm - 3:45pm

SESSIONS 1-3

Session 1

Plantation Bruggadung

Chair: Kellie Magnus (Caribbean Culture Fund)

ROOM A

Kim Evelyn (Bowie State University)

“Bruggadung Braps: Heritage Site Demolition in Jasmine Sealy’s
The Island of Forgetting”

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: Simone A. James Alexander (Lehigh University)

Alexis Samuel (Univ. of the West Indies, 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 (Univ. of the West Indies, 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”

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

Session 3

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

ROOM C

Chair: Stephen Narain (University of Miami)

Sonia Farmer (Poinciana Press)

Rhys Knowles (Author)

Stephen Narain (University of Miami)

4:00pm – 5:00pm

SESSIONS 4-6

Session 4

The Cambridge Companion to Mary Prince

ROOM A

Chair: Nicole Aljoe (Northeastern University)

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

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: 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”

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

Session 6

The Digital Caribbean

ROOM C

Chair: Schuyler Esprit (Univ. 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 U, Hyderabad, India)
“Bruggadung Digitised: *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”

5:15pm – 6:30pm

Keynote Conversations 1

ROOM B

Diana McCauley
(Author and Founder of Jamaican Environment Trust)

“The Rock That Grew: Sumn nah right.”

In conversation with Kei Miller (University of Miami)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

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)**

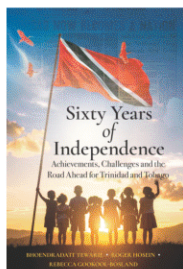


The University of the West Indies Press

LATEST RELEASES

30% off online at www.uwipress.com with promo code 03WILC25

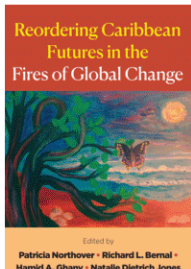
Redeem through October 31, 2025



Sixty Years of Independence
Achievements, Challenges and the Road Ahead for Trinidad and Tobago

Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Roger Hosein and Rebecca Gookool-Bosland (eds.)

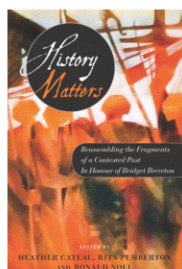
2025
ISBN 978-976-658-026-1
US\$45



Reordering Caribbean Futures in the Fires of Global Change

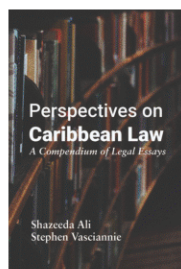
Patricia Northover, Richard L. Bernal, Hamid A. Ghany, Natalie Dietrich Jones (eds.)

2025
ISBN 978-976-640-982-1
US\$50



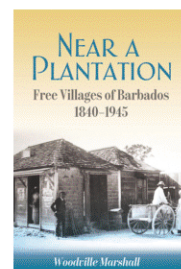
History Matters
Reassembling the Fragments of a Contested Past - In Honour of Bridget Brereton

Heather Cateau, Rita Pemberton and Ronald Noel (eds.)
2025
ISBN 978-976-640-986-9
US\$45



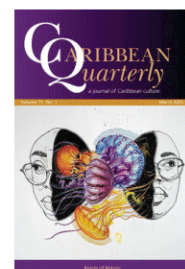
Perspectives on Caribbean Law
A Compendium of Legal Essays

Shazeeda Ali and Stephen Vasciannie (eds.)
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-963-0
US\$45



Near a Plantation
Free Villages in Barbados, 1905-1945

Woodville Marshall
2025
ISBN 978-976-640-961-6
US\$25



Caribbean Quarterly
a journal of Caribbean culture

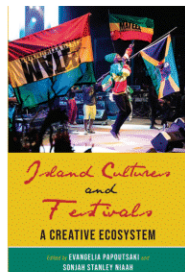
Volume 71, No. 1
ISSN 0008-6495
US\$15

Print copies available for Caribbean only.



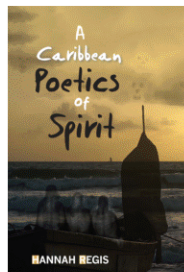
Richie Richardson

Denis A. Williams
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-952-4
US\$15



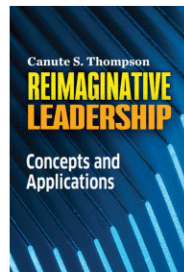
Island Cultures and Festivals
A Creative Ecosystem

Evangelia Papoutsaki and Sonjah Stanley Niaah
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-967-8
US\$40



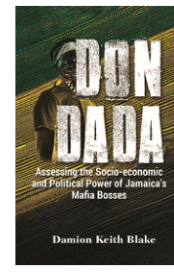
A Caribbean Poetics of Spirit

Hannah Regis
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-945-6
US\$35



Reimaginative Leadership
Concepts and Applications

Canute S. Thompson
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-948-7
US\$35



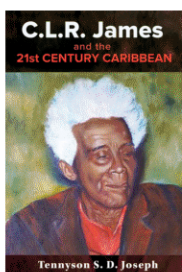
Don Dada
Assessing the Socio-economic and Political Power of Jamaica's Mafia Bosses

Damion Keith Blake
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-893-0
US\$35



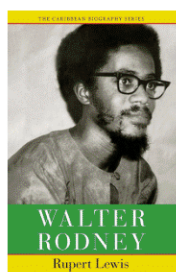
A Child at a Time
Understanding Temperament

Loraine D. Cook
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-931-9
US\$30



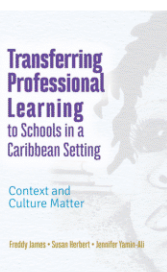
C.L.R. James and the 21st Century Caribbean

Tennyson S. D. Joseph
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-940-1
US\$40



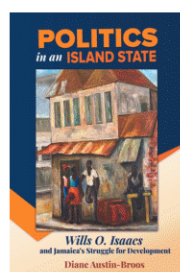
Walter Rodney

Rupert Lewis
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-928-9
US\$15



Transferring Professional Learning to Schools in a Caribbean Setting
Context and Culture Matter

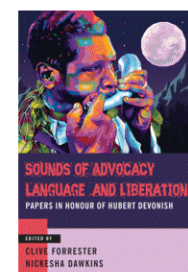
Freddy James, Susan Herbert and Jennifer Yamin-Ali
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-956-2
US\$35



Politics in an Island State
Wills O. Isaacs and Jamaica's Struggle for Development

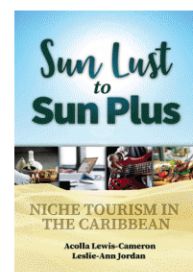
Diane Austin-Broos
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-959-3
(Paperback)
US\$45 (Paperback)

ISBN 978-976-640-958-6
(Hardcover)
US\$ 60 (Hardcover)



Sounds of Advocacy, Language and Liberation
Papers in Honour of Hubert Devonish

Clive Forrester and Nickesha Dawkins (eds.)
2024
ISBN 978-976-640-894-7
US\$35



Sun Lust to Sun Plus
Niche Tourism in the Caribbean

Acolla Lewis-Cameron and Leslie-Ann Jordan (eds.)
2023
ISBN 978-976-640-941-8
US\$45



DOWNLOAD OUR APP



Enter 'Uni. of West Indies Press'

7A Gibraltar Hall Road, Mona Campus, Kingston 7, Jamaica, West Indies

Telephone: (876) 977-2659 | Email: uwipress.mktg@uwimona.edu.jm

Website: www.uwipress.com



Caribbean Studies Association's 50th Annual Conference June 1 - 5, 2026 | Kingston, Jamaica

***Caribbean Vibes and Vibrations:
Culture, Identity and Development in Transformative Times***



Donna P. Hope
President



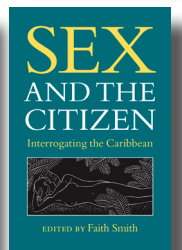
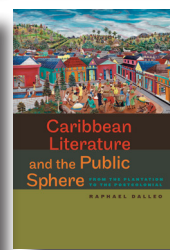
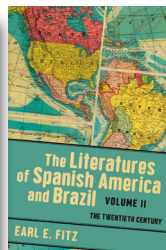
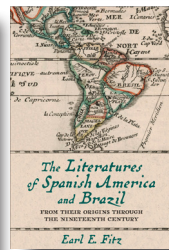
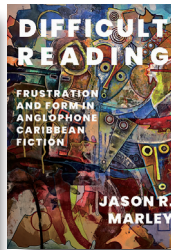
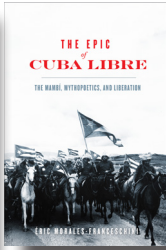
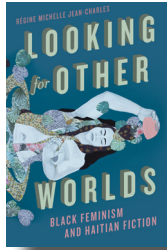
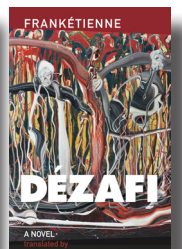
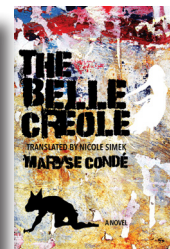
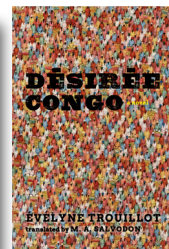
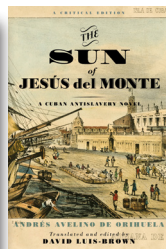
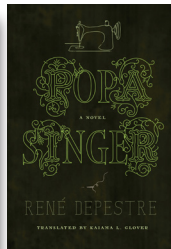
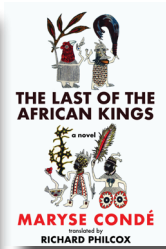
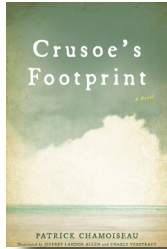
Patricia Saunders
Vice President

CALL FOR PAPERS COMING SOON
Visit www.CaribbeanStudiesAssociation.org for updates.
We look forward to welcoming you to Kingston, see you there!



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA PRESS

43RD ANNUAL WEST INDIAN LITERATURE CONFERENCE



FICTION

Désirée Congo
Evelyne Trouillot
Translated by M. A. Salvodon

The Last of the African Kings
Maryse Condé
Translated by Richard Philcox

Popa Singer
René Depestre
Translated by Kaiama L. Glover

Crusoe's Footprint
Patrick Chamoiseau
Translated by Jeffrey Landon Allen and Charly Verstraet

I Am Alive
Kettly Mars
Translated by Nathan H. Dize.

The Sun of Jesús del Monte
A Cuban Antislavery Novel
Andrés Avelino de Orihuela
Translated and edited by David Luis-Brown

The Belle Créole
Maryse Condé
Translated by Nicole Simek

Dézafi
Frankétienne
Translated by Asselin Charles

CRITICISM

Difficult Reading
Frustration and Form in Anglophone
Caribbean Fiction
Jason R. Marley

Looking for Other Worlds
Black Feminism and Haitian Fiction
Régine Michelle Jean-Charles

The Epic of Cuba Libre
The Mambí, Mythopoetics, and Liberation
Éric Morales-Franceschini

The Price of Slavery
Capitalism and Revolution in the
Caribbean
Nick Nesbitt

Comrade Sister
Caribbean Feminist Revisions of the
Grenada Revolution
Laurie R. Lambert

**Caribbean Literature and the Public
Sphere**
From the Plantation to the Postcolonial
Raphael Dalleo

Rum Histories
Drinking in Atlantic Literature and Culture
Jennifer Poulos Nesbitt

Sex and the Citizen
Interrogating the Caribbean
edited by Faith Smith

AWARD WINNERS

Signs of Dissent
Maryse Condé and Postcolonial Criticism
Dawn Fultonn

Fictions of Whiteness
Imagining the Planter Caste in the French
Caribbean Novel
Maeve McCusker

Pathologies of Paradise
Caribbean Detours
Supriya M. Nair

American Imperialism's Undead
The Occupation of Haiti and the Rise of
Caribbean Anticolonialism
Raphael Dalleo

Break and Flow
Hip Hop Poetics in the Americas
Charlie D. Hankin

Edwidge Danticat
The Haitian Diasporic Imaginary
Nadège T. Clitandre

Aime Cesaire
Lyric and Dramatic Poetry, 1946-82
Translated by Clayton Eshleman and
Annette Smith

Caribbean Discourse
Selected Essays
Edouard Glissant. Translated and with an
introduction by J Michael Dash

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

11:30am – 12:30pm

SESSIONS 7-9

Session 7

The Dangers of Resiliency in States of EmUrgency

Hoffman Board Room

Chair: Lia Bascomb (Georgia State University)

Stephanie Fullerton-Cooper (Univ. 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”

Keja Valens, (Salem State University)
“What to Eat After a Hurricane?”

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

The Queer Bruggadung

ROSS Classroom

Chair: Nikoli Attai (Binghamton University)

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

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

Geraldine Skeete (Univ. of the West Indies, 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

SESSIONS 10-12

Session 10

Visual Reckonings

Hoffman Boardroom

Chair: 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”

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

**PAMM
Auditorium**

Chair: Lisa Outar (Independent Scholar)

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

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

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 Sinnapah Mary”

Session 12

Tuning In to the Sound Sensations of the Bruggadung

**ROSS
Classroom**

Chair: Michael Bucknor (University of Alberta)

Michele Adams (Univ. of the West Indies, 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”

Donna Hope (Univ. of the West Indies, , Mona)

“Emergency!: Narrating Alternative Modes of Resilience and Survival in Brysco’s ‘Where I’m From’ and Jamal’s ‘Ballandor’”

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: The Sense of Urgency

Moderator: Kelly Baker Josephs (University of Miami)

**Northern
Trust Terrace**

Fabienne Josaphat (*Kingdom of No Tomorrow*)

Anthony Joseph (*Precious and Impossible*)

6:00PM– 7:30PM

Hurricane Stories

PAMM Auditorium

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

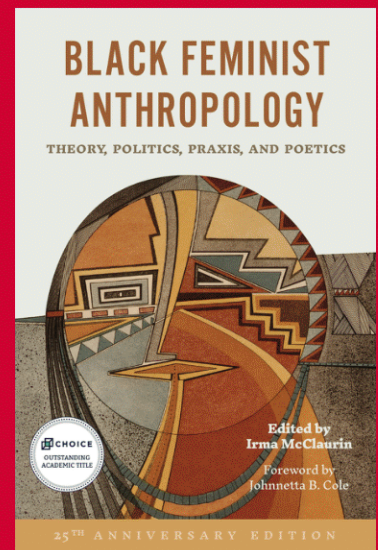
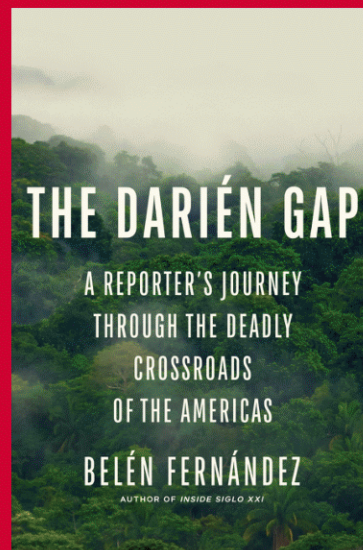
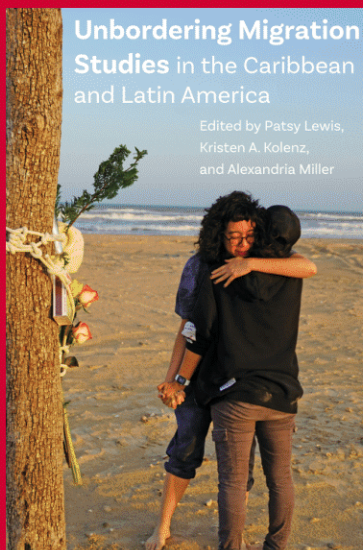
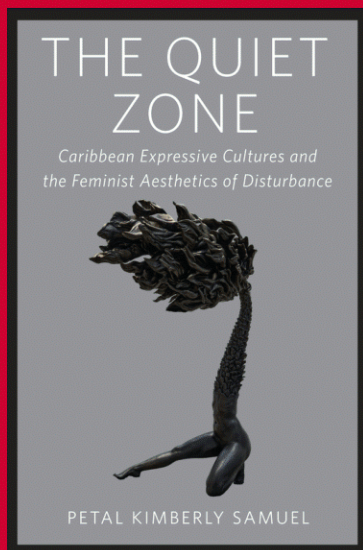
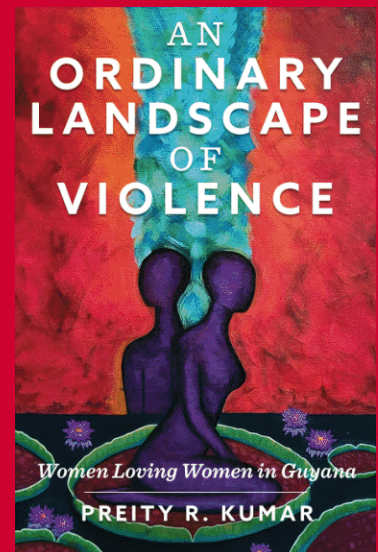
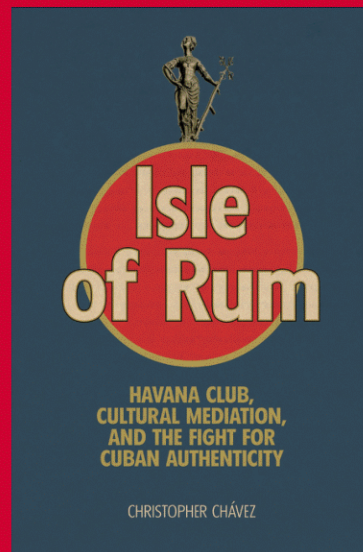
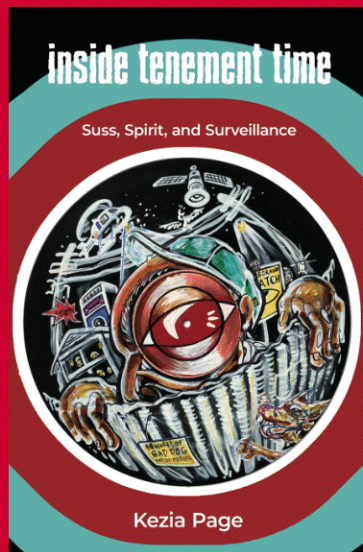
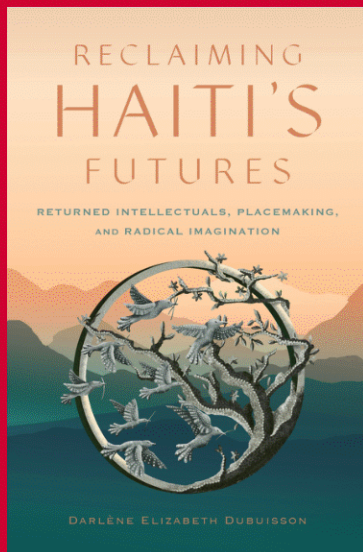
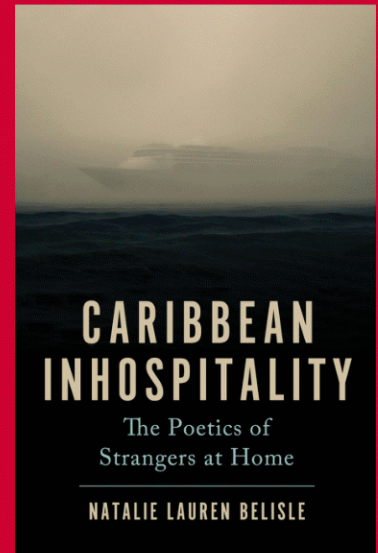
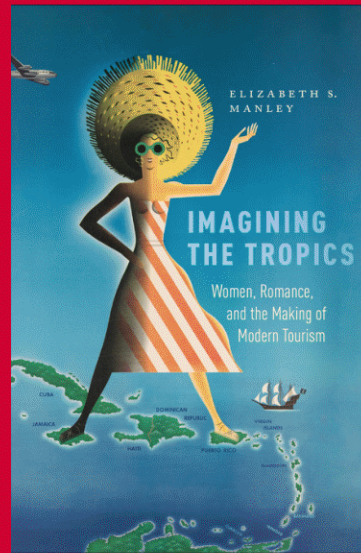
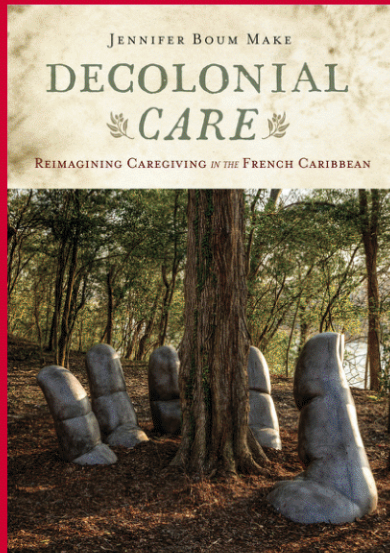
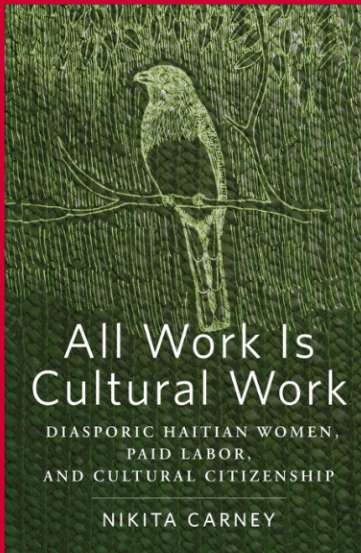
Moderator: Patricia Saunders (University of Miami)

Tiphonie Yanique (Emory University)

Erica James (University of Miami)

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

Bold Ideas, Essential Reading



RUTGERS
UNIVERSITY PRESS



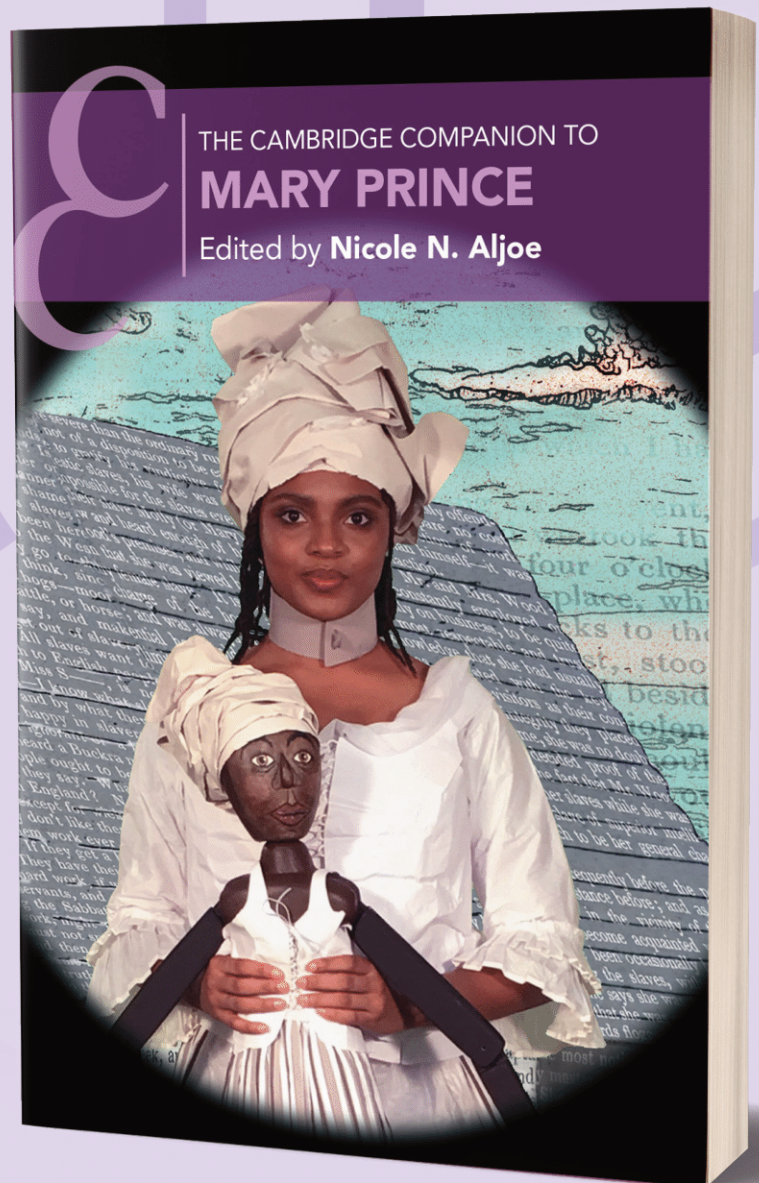
rutgersuniversitypress.org

@rutgersupress

Use code RUSA30 for 30% off!

The Cambridge Companion to Mary Prince

Edited by Nicole N. Aljoe



Embracing and celebrating a growing international scholarly and general interest in African diasporic voices, texts, histories, and literary traditions, this Companion weds contributions from Romanticists, Caribbeanists, and Americanists to showcase the diversity of disciplinary encounters that Prince's narrative invites, as well as its rich and troubled contexts. The first published collection on a single slave narrative or author, the volume is not only an authoritative, highly focused resource for students but also a model for future research.

Discover more at [Cambridge.org/maryprince](https://www.cambridge.org/maryprince)



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025

Newman Alumni Center, University of Miami

8:30am – 10:00am **Registration Open**

9:00am – 10:00am **Keynote Conversation 3**

ROOM B **T. Urayoán Noel (New York University)**
“The Caribbean Lit/Oral: Poetics and Performance”

Moderator: Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel
(University of Miami)

10:15am -11:15am **SESSIONS 13-15**

Session 13 **Refuge and Repair: Poetics of Resistance**

***Executive
Conference Room***

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

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**

ROOM B

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

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

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

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

Caribbean Feminisms and the Body Politic

ROOM C

Chair: Simone A. James Alexander (Lehigh University)

Dasharah Green (The Graduate Center, 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

Keynote Conversation 4

ROOM B

Deborah Thomas (University of Pennsylvania)
R. Jean Brownlee Professor of Anthropology

“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)

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

2:15pm - 3:15pm

SESSIONS 16-18

Session 16

A Country for Old Men: The Urgency of Aging

***Executive
Conference Room***

Chair: Travis Weekes, (Univ. of the West Indies, St Augustine)

Laurence Breiner (Boston University)

“A Poet’s Reckoning: How Kendel Hippolyte Addresses Urgency”

Travis Weekes (Univ. of the West Indies, St Augustine)

“Men, Old Age and Poetry”

Session 17

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

ROOM B

Chair: Lisa Outar (Independent Scholar)

Kerry-Ann Abdool (Univ. of the West Indies, 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 C

Chair: 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)

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

“Eco-Dreaming as embodied nationalist landscaping: Toward a ‘topistic’ reading of Lasana Sekou's *Nativity*”

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

SESSIONS 19-20

Session 19

Imagining in the Space of the Fantastic

ROOM B

Chair: A. Marie Sairsingh (University of the Bahamas)

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 (Univ. of the West Indies, Cave Hill)

“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

Borica Body Politics: Survival, Inadaptability, and Renewal

**Executive
Conference
Room**

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

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*”

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

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

ROOM C

Manchineel + Seagrape presents:

A staged reading of *Woman Tongue*, by Tanya Batson-Savage

Followed by a conversation between the playwright and Kelly Baker Josephs

Sponsored by the Caribbean Digital Scholarship Collective

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

8:30am – 9:30am

Registration Opens

Newman Alumni Center, University of Miami

9:00am -10:00am

Keynote Conversation 5

Room B

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

“Redeeming the Time: Strategic Re-positioning of West Indian Literature in Caribbean Education Systems”

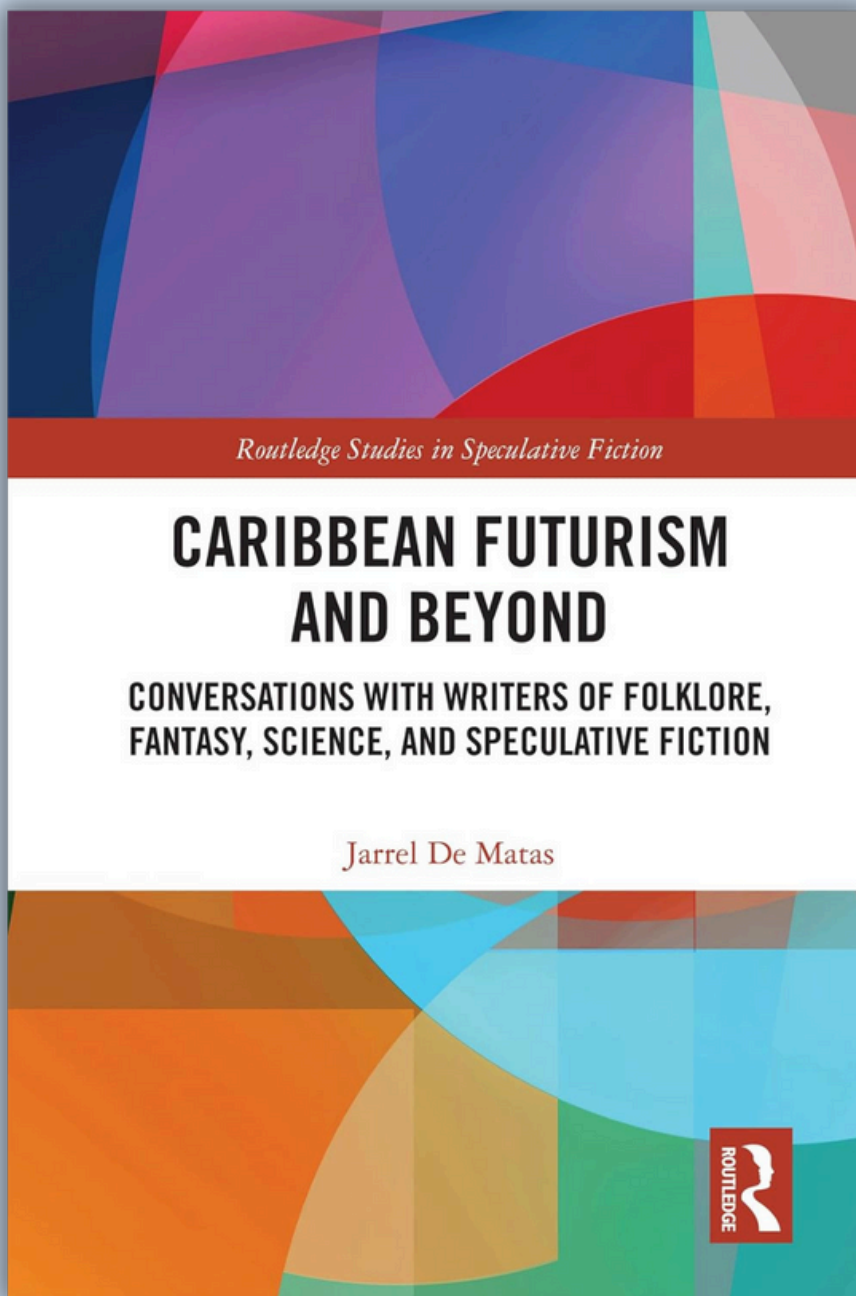
**In Conversation with Antonia MacDonald (St. George’s University, Grenada)
Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies**

10:15am -11:15am

Workshop #5 - Kimberly Reyes, University of Miami

Executive Conference Room

“Narration, Social Justice and the Art of Perspective” (Journalism to Creative Writing)



Caribbean Futurism and Beyond is a tripartite combination of **interviews** with writers of the sf (speculative fiction, science fiction, fantasy, and folklore) genre, **literary and cultural analysis** of those interviews within the context of seven discrete yet overlapping dimensions – folklore, mythology, children’s and young adult literature, science, technology, climate disaster, and identity; and a **theory of Caribbean futurism** as an esthetic practice reflecting not just future but also past and present experiences of Caribbean people. Interviews include Nalo Hopkinson, Karen Lord, Tobias Buckell, and Diana McCaulay



Jarrel De Matas, PhD
is an Assistant Professor in the
Department of Bioethics and
Health Humanities at the
University of Texas Medical
Branch



The tripartite structure of *Caribbean Futurism and Beyond*



Available at a limited-
time discounted rate in
hardcover and eBook

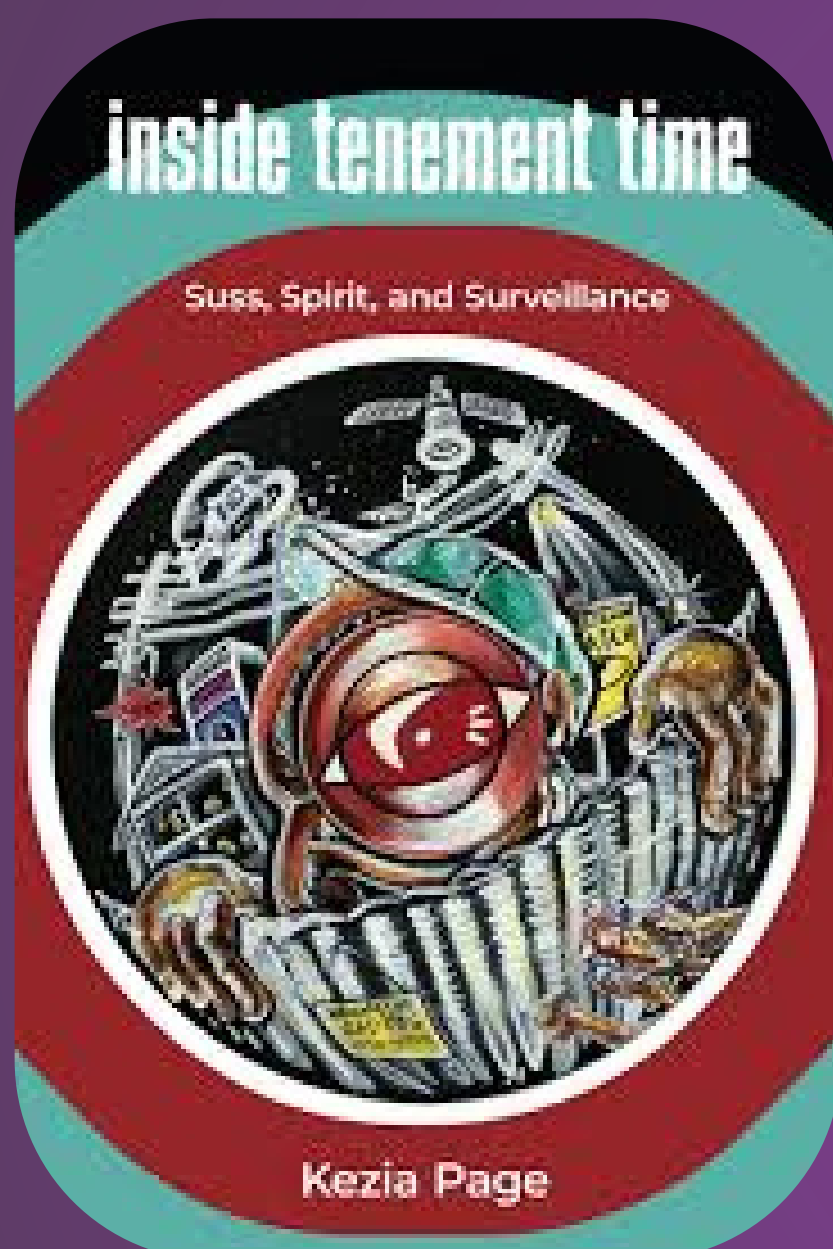


The 43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference
Oct. 9, 2025 @ 10:00AM | Perez Art Museum Miami Auditorium

The Time of the “*Bruggadung*”:
States of EmUrgency

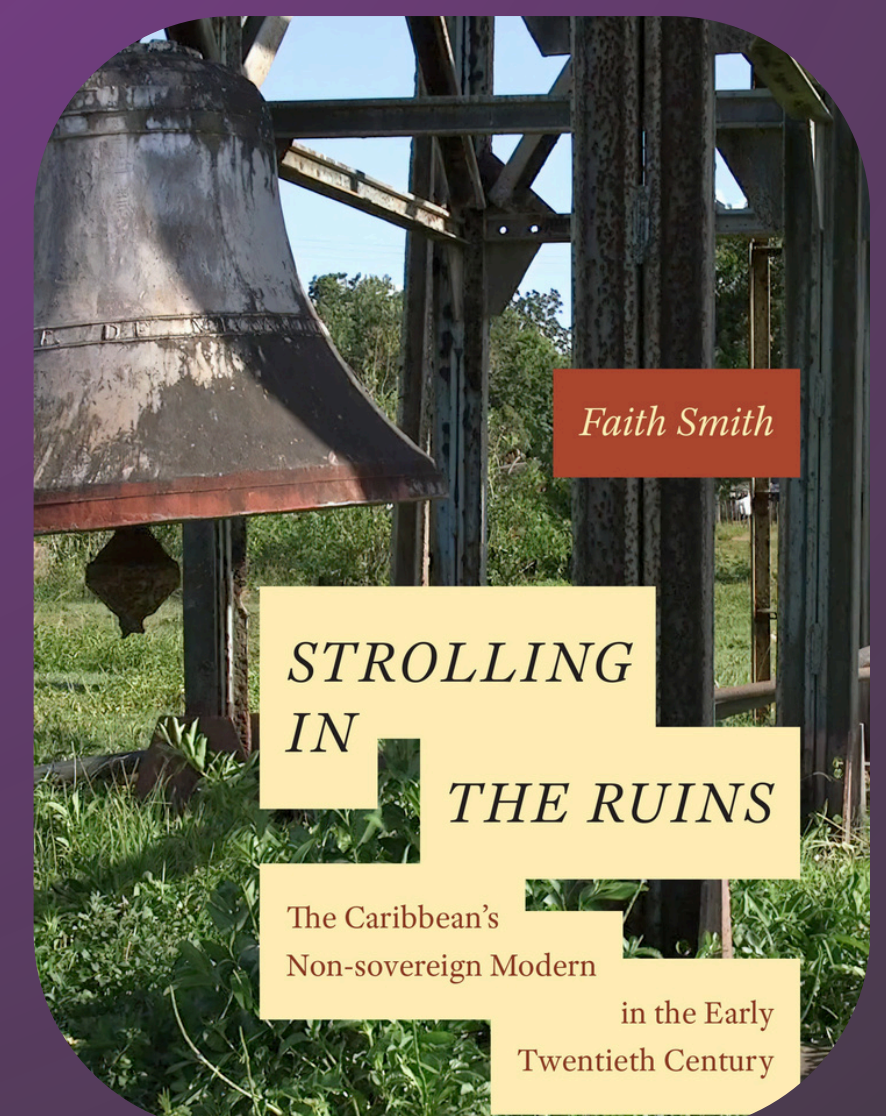
Book Discussion:
Critical Dialogues in Caribbean Literature

Moderator: Carol Bailey (Amherst College)



Inside Tenement Time (Kezia Page, Colgate University) is the first comprehensive treatment of literary and cultural texts on surveillance in the Caribbean. Covering the long historical arc of the twentieth to the twenty-first centuries, *Inside Tenement Time* uses Jamaica as a case study to examine moments of crisis and particular spaces, especially urban yard enclaves and their environs, in the Caribbean encounter with surveillance. Making the argument that the Caribbean situation reveals flexible hegemonies rather than provinces of exclusive control, the book demonstrates the countervailing force of sussveillance and spiritveillance, Afro-Indigenous variations on surveillance. Sussveillance and spiritveillance are exemplars of vernacular arts and sciences that operate at and within the frangible borders of state power, exposing the unique dynamics of surveillance in the region and marshalling the acts of imagination with which it contends.

In *Strolling in the Ruins*, Faith Smith (Brandeis University) engages with a period in the history of the Anglophone Caribbean often overlooked as nondescript, quiet, and embarrassingly pro-imperial within the larger narrative of Jamaican and Trinidadian nationalism. Between the 1865 Morant Bay Rebellion and World War I, British imperialism was taken for granted among both elites and ordinary people, while nationalist discourses would not begin to shape political imagination in the West Indies for decades. Smith argues that this moment, far from being uneventful, disrupts the inevitability of nationhood in the mid-twentieth century and anticipates the Caribbean's present-day relationship to global power.



43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

10:15am -11:15am

SESSIONS 21-23

Session 21

Mythopoeitics and the Caribbean Canon

ROOM A

Chair: Reishma Seupersad (Independent Scholar)

Sabrina Bramwell (Howard University)

“Caribbean Mythopoeitics: Mapping through Space Towards Freedom”

J. Dillon Brown (Washington University, St. Louis)

“Transcending America: The Mythopoeitics of Derek Walcott’s *The Fortunate Traveler*”

Carlotta Pisano (NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal)

“Mythopoeitics of Renewal: History, Memory, and Transformation in Ayanna Lloyd Banwo’s *When We Were Birds*”

Session 22

Focus on Haiti

ROOM B

Chair: MariVi Madiedo (University of Miami)

Catheline Desire (University of Miami)

“Exile and return- Diasporic discourse in the contemporary Haitian context.”

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: Lillian Manzor (University of Miami)

Don Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras)

“Full Freedom Still to Come in Caribbean Diasporic Poetry”

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

Caroline M. Suárez Rodríguez (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

L U N C H

12:45pm - 1:45pm

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

ROOM B

Chair: Yolanda M. Martinez-San Miguel (University of Miami)

Kimberly Guinta
(American Philosophical Society Press)

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

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

2:00pm – 3:00pm

SESSIONS 24-26

Session 24

Caribbean Humanism

ROOM A

Chair: Raphael Dalleo (Bucknell University)

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”

43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference

Session 25

Representing Women: A Different Kinda “Dread”

ROOM B

Chair: Andrea Shaw Nevins (Nova Southeastern University)

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: Angeletta KM Gourline (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”

3:30pm- 4:30pm

Keynote Conversation 6:

ROOM B

“Cultivating Creativity: Funding the Future of Caribbean Literature”

Kristina Newman Scott

Vice President, Arts; Knight Foundation

Moderator: Kellie Magnus (Caribbean Culture Fund)

4:30pm

CLOSING RECEPTION

Sponsored by: The Caribbean Culture Fund

NOTES

NOTES

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO SPONSORS



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY OF THE AMERICAS

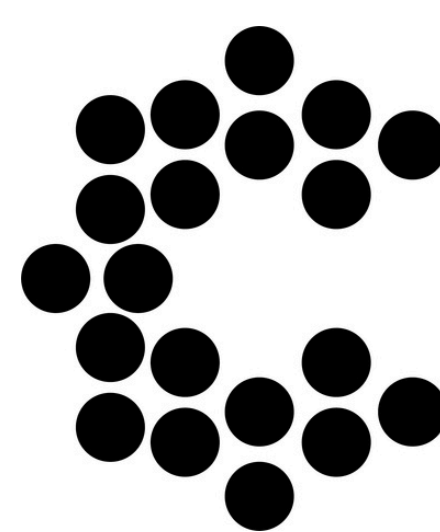
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING

MICHELE BOWMAN UNDERWOOD DEPARTMENT OF
MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

HEMISPHERIC CARIBBEAN STUDIES

MARTA S. WEEKS CHAIR IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

CENTER FOR GLOBAL BLACK STUDIES



PÉREZ ART MUSEUM MIAMI
C A R I B B E A N
C U L T U R A L
I N S T I T U T E

