



**UWI**  
SCHOOL FOR  
GRADUATE STUDIES  
AND RESEARCH

# ONE-UWI POSTGRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

**Collaborative Horizons:**  
Interdisciplinary Visions for  
Caribbean and Global Progress

ONLINE  
CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER  
20 - 22  
2024

## PROGRAMME HANDBOOK



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# About the One-UWI Postgraduate Student Conference

The One-UWI Postgraduate Student Conference proudly returns for its second year, following a successful inaugural event held in November 2023. Hosted by the School for Graduate Studies and Research at The University of the West Indies (The UWI)—the Caribbean’s leading university and a globally recognised institution—this virtual conference will take place from November 20-22, 2024.

Guided by this year’s theme, “**Collaborative Horizons: Interdisciplinary Visions for Caribbean and Global Progress,**” the conference aims to provide an empowering platform for graduate students to present their research, ideas, and interdisciplinary solutions to the challenges facing both the Caribbean and the broader global community. This event underscores The UWI’s commitment to advancing scholarship and fostering collaborative dialogue among emerging leaders.

The conference’s objectives include:

- **Empowering Graduate Voices:** Elevating the role of graduate students in academic discourse, thereby promoting leadership and innovative thinking within the Caribbean.
- **Fostering Interdisciplinary Engagement:** Encouraging discussions across diverse academic fields, from climate change and food security to cultural dynamics, in response to pressing regional and global issues.
- **Celebrating Academic Excellence:** Showcasing the high-calibre research and unique perspectives of The UWI’s graduate students, recognising their contributions to knowledge and societal progress.

This gathering represents an invaluable opportunity to celebrate and support the extraordinary achievements of The UWI’s graduate community, as they work to shape the future of our region and our world.

**ONE-UWI  
POSTGRADUATE  
STUDENT  
CONFERENCE  
2024**

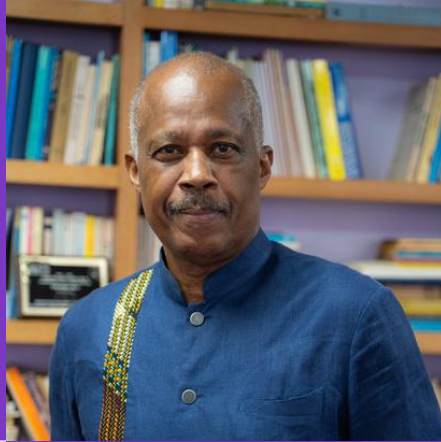
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**REMARKS**  
**FROM**  
**THE UWI**



“

***"The broad thematic areas for the 2024 Conference reflect the multiplicity of issues facing the Caribbean and the world.. Addressing these issues requires multidisciplinary approaches, and I am confident that... there will emerge opportunities for collaboration in the future."***

”



# VICE-CHANCELLOR

**Professor Sir Hilary Beckles**  
Vice-Chancellor, The UWI

I am absolutely delighted that the One-UWI Postgraduate Conference will enjoy a second staging in November 2024 under theme Collaborative Horizons: Interdisciplinary Visions for Caribbean and Global Progress. The very successful inaugural Conference in 2023 demonstrated very clearly the breadth, depth and value of the research being done by our graduate students. There is tremendous benefit in a gathering such as this, as it allows our researchers to share their ideas and work, and to receive feedback from their mentors and contemporaries thereby allowing them to refine and hone their work to make it even better and more impactful.

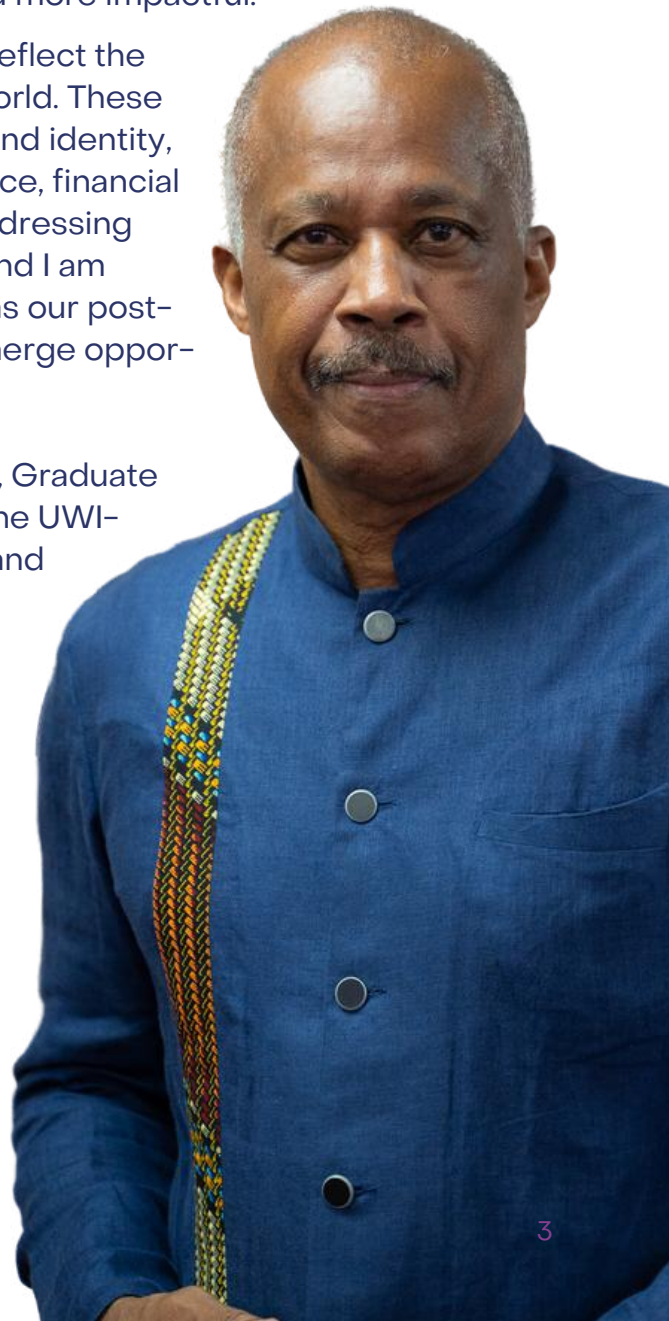
The broad thematic areas for the 2024 Conference reflect the multiplicity of issues facing the Caribbean and the world. These include health and wellbeing, food security, gender and identity, renewable energy, quality education, peace and justice, financial wellness, and fostering sustainable communities. Addressing these issues requires multidisciplinary approaches and I am confident that over the duration of the Conference, as our post-graduate students share their research, there will emerge opportunities for collaboration in the future.

My heartiest congratulations to Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Studies and Research, Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee, the UWI-wide team of graduate coordinators, administrators and other colleagues, and importantly our postgraduate students whose work will be featured this year!

Keep up the good work!

Blessings!

Hilary Beckles  
Vice-Chancellor



# PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR & CONFERENCE CHAIR

## **Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee**

Pro Vice-Chancellor,  
Graduate Studies and Research, The UWI

Welcome to the second annual One - UWI Postgraduate Student Conference. Last year's conference was a huge success, and I know that this year's conference will be remarkable. As you know, research and graduate studies distinguish us and are mainly responsible for our number one position among Caribbean universities. This conference is critical to the fulfillment of our strategic goal to enhance the quantity, quality and impact of our UWI research

The School for Graduate Studies and Research is very pleased to once again collaborate with the Directors, Graduate Studies and Research and the student leaders on all five campuses to host this conference. I express my profound gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Directors, Graduate Studies and Research Supervisors, Student Representatives, Session Chairs, Discussants and the members of the Conference Committee headed by Miss Ava-Loi Forbes. Your dedication and support have been instrumental in the successful hosting of this second conference. This One-UWI approach augurs well for the enhancement of our research and graduate studies at The UWI.

I also want to thank our featured speakers who are giving generously of their time and expertise. I urge students to listen to and engage with them. You never know how their presentations can help you re-think or enhance your own research, methodologically or theoretically. As you participate in the discussions and presentations during the conference, I hope that you find inspiration in the diversity of thought and experience represented during these two days. Use this online platform to network, collaborate, and form partnerships that may extend beyond this conference.

As postgraduate students, you are at a crucial stage in your academic journey. This conference is not just an opportunity to present your work but you will receive constructive feedback and recommendations. I also hope that you will submit your work for peer-reviewed publications.



# PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR & CONFERENCE CHAIR

You should also think about the broader impact of your work. The best research not only advances knowledge but also serves a purpose beyond certification. I am pleased with the several issues that we will discuss at this conference. Much of the research will positively impact the quality of life of our Caribbean people.

Finally, I want to thank you for the hard work and investment in your studies. Pursuing a postgraduate degree is difficult but remember, you are not alone in this journey. We at the School for Graduate Studies and Research are here for you. Your faculty, mentors, Supervisors, Student Representatives and peers stand ready to support you.

We often host capacity-building workshops for students. Please follow us on social media to remain informed about these great opportunities. I want to end by thanking our online participants and those who will engage with our students. Thank you for joining us and please stay in touch.

Let's make this conference a memorable one!

Aldrie Henry-Lee, Professor

“

***The best research not only advances knowledge but also serves a purpose beyond certification. Much of the research presented here will positively impact the quality of life of our Caribbean people.***

”

# DIRECTOR, GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH - CAVE HILL CAMPUS

## **Dr Sherma Roberts**

Director, Graduate Studies and Research, Cave Hill Campus  
& UWIPGCon24 Abstract Chairperson

On behalf of all Directors, it is my pleasure to warmly welcome you to the 2nd One-UWI Conference! The theme Collaborative Horizons: Interdisciplinary Visions for Caribbean and Global Progress is apt and exciting- not only does the theme reinforce the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic, namely that a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach is pivotal to solving existential challenges, but it celebrates the Caribbean role's in forging a better sustainable future. Indeed, the best solutions to our common problems emerge when knowledge hegemonies cede ground to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary visioning! We only need to reflect on the positive changes that we have been a part of over the last two decades.

I had the privilege of reviewing the bricolage of topics presented in your abstracts, and I am incredibly encouraged by the conceptual, theoretical and empirical groundings of your work that have sought to address the theme. While I applaud the theorising, I love that many of your papers have also provided concrete, innovative and viable solutions to the current global and Caribbean challenges. Congratulations!

Beyond the interdisciplinary discussions and debates that would feature in this conference, I encourage you to use the time 'to meet' and connect with your fellow student colleagues across The UWI campuses. There is much to gain through forging and nurturing these connections. They are the seedbed for ensuring that the rich intellectual tradition that you have inherited continues. In the sagely words of Jim Elliott:  
'Wherever you are, be all in.'  
In this spirit, I wish you a wonderful time over the next 3 days! May it be a time of intellectual and social nourishment!

Warmest regards,  
Sherma Roberts, PhD  
Chair, Conference Scientific Committee

# DIRECTORS, GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH



**Dr. Sherma Roberts**  
Cave Hill Campus



**Prof. Peter Adams**  
Five Islands Campus



**Prof. Julie Meeks  
Gardner**  
Global Campus



**Prof. Marcia Roye**  
Mona Campus



**Prof. Duraisamy  
Saravanakumar**  
St. Augustine Campus





# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**DAY  
01**

**WED., 20 NOV. 2024**

School for Graduate Studies & Research  
**The University of the West Indies**

## **OPENING CEREMONY**

8:00 – 9:30AM (GMT-5/JAMAICA TIME)

**Master of Ceremony: Ms. Jewell Garrette**

President, St. Augustine Association of  
Postgraduate Students (STAAPS)

### **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

**Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee**

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Studies and Research, The UWI

### **REMARKS**

**Professor Sir Hilary Beckles**

Vice-Chancellor, The UWI

**Dr. Sherma Roberts**

Director, Graduate Studies and Research, Cave Hill Campus

### **INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Dr. Patrice Prout**

UWIPGCon 2023 Presenter / Alumni &

Instructor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Ms. Elizabeth Emanuel**

*International Development Expert*

*Lead Consultant on the Technical Assistance & Development and  
Corporate Communications Teams of CCRIF SPC*

### **VOTE OF THANKS**

**Mr. Joeseeph Mclean**

President (Interim), Mona Association of  
Postgraduate Students (MAPS)





## ELIZABETH EMANUEL

BIO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Elizabeth Emanuel** is an international development expert with over twenty-five years of development experience working primarily with small island and coastal states. For the past 15 years she has been the lead consultant on the Technical Assistance and Development and Corporate Communications teams of CCRIF SPC. CCRIF is the world's first multi-country, multi-peril risk pool based on parametric insurance. Through her work she engages with CCRIF stakeholders in the Caribbean and Central America to help them better understand disaster risk financing, risk layering and the role of parametric insurance in financially protecting their economies against natural disasters and closing the protection gap. She also works with local communities and civil society organisations across the Caribbean to develop and implement projects to build their resilience to climate change as part of the CCRIF Technical Assistance Programmes. She has experience working across the Caribbean.

She has led the development of several public policies for governments across the Caribbean in areas such as energy, transport, sustainable development planning, green economy and disaster risk management. She was one of the lead consultants that supported Jamaica in the development of that country's first long-term national development plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica and also led the implementation of the Plan for many years. With respect to sustainable development goals (SDGs) she has worked with 3 countries in the Eastern Caribbean in the preparation of their Voluntary National Reviews of the SDGs for the UN High Level Political Forum. She has authored several technical papers and training manuals. She is an excellent communicator and can translate highly technical concepts into simple language for a wide variety of stakeholders.

She has developed several courses at the tertiary level in areas such as natural resources valuation, environment & sustainable development, ecosystem-based adaptation, green economy and green business among others. She played a central role in developing CCRIF's 45-hour disaster risk financing course which is now offered as a master's level course at the University of the West Indies. She also lectures at several universities.

She also has experience working with several development partners, including the UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNECLAC, FAO, World Bank, IDB, UNDESA among others. She also has experience working on projects in Africa in areas such as international waters, youth development and agriculture value chains.

In her earlier years, she worked as an advisor to the Government of Jamaica focusing on greening of government and areas such as green procurement, environmental stewardship of government operations and strategic environmental assessments among others.

# DAILY SCHEDULE OF PLENARY SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**9:30 AM - SESSION 1: 'WASTE NOT WANT NOT': CREATING RENEWABLE  
11:15 AM OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEXT DECADE**

**Session Chair: Dr. Legena Henry**  
**Session Discussant: Dr. Xsitaaz Chadee**

**Leneka Rhoden - Faculty of Science & Technology, Mona Campus**

- *The Use of Sargassum-Derived Compounds in Phase Change Materials for Thermal Energy Storage*

**Keane Mason - Faculty of Science & Technology, Cave Hill Campus**

- *Production of Bioethanol from Sargassum Biomass through Simultaneous Saccharification and Fermentation*

**Shanice Martin - Faculty of Science & Technology, Mona Campus**

- *A Dive into Thermoelectric Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (TE-OTEC): Potential of Implementation in Jamaica*

**Dudley Williams - Faculty of Science & Technology, Mona Campus**

- *The Caribbean building sector- resilient to extreme wind, not temperature: an assessment of the thermal performance of current and potential green cooling technologies*

**Shamika Spencer - Faculty of Science & Technology, Cave Hill Campus**

- *Biomethane Production from Sargassum Seaweed and Rum Distillery Waste: A Sustainable Fuel Solution.*

# DAILY SCHEDULE OF PLENARY SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

DAY 1 - SESSION 2

PRESENTERS

**11:15 AM - 1:00 PM**    **SESSION 2: UNPACKING QUALITY EDUCATION WITHIN THE  
CONTEXT OF CARIBBEAN SOCIETIES**

**Session Chair: Dr. Laurette Bristol**  
**Session Discussant: Professor Canute Thompson**

**Sunita Colai - Faculty of Humanities & Education, St. Augustine  
Campus**

- *A Qualitative Transcendental Phenomenological Study on Educators' Experiences Implementing the Caribbean Secondary Examination Certificate (CSEC) Revised English A Syllabus*

**Rickela Greaves - Faculty of Humanities & Education, Cave Hill  
Campus**

- *Primary School Teachers' Lived Experiences on the Integration of Game-Based Learning in the Barbadian Educational Landscape*

**Judy-Ann Auld - Faculty of Humanities & Education, Cave Hill  
Campus**

- *Exploring Inclusive Education Practices in Grenada: An Ethnographic Case Study of District Supervision and School Management Teams*

**Shanique Taylor - Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona  
Campus**

- *The Language Biographies of Jamaican Primary School Teachers: A Critical Discourse Analysis*

**Yolanda Henry - Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona  
Campus**

- *From Learning to Earning: Enhancing Youth Development Through Quality Education and Decent Work*

**1:00 PM - 1:30 PM: LUNCH BREAK**

# DAILY SCHEDULE OF PLENARY SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**1:30 PM - 3:30 PM**    **SESSION 3: PRIORITISING HEALTH AND WELL BEING IN THE CARIBBEAN**

**Session Chair: Mr. Roger Mc Lean**  
**Session Discussants: Dr. Heather Harewood and Dr. Marsha Ivey**

**Tiffany Reid-Bailey - Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona Campus**

- *The Systems Theory: A Framework for Understanding Mindfulness*

**Ian Jackson - Faculty of Humanities & Education, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Deconstructing Students' Experiences of Community Violence: School Engagement and Wellbeing Challenges*

**Aaron Haralsingh - Faculty of Medical Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *The Impact of Transportation on Healthcare Access and Outcomes Among Patients with Diabetic Foot Infections*

**Doreen Prendergast - Faculty of Social Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Keys to Social Housing Provision as a Human Right in the Global South*

**Satesh Sookhai et al - Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Exploring Factors Affecting Technological Acceptance Among Healthcare Professionals: A Systematic Review*

**Marsha Brown - Faculty of Social Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Factors influencing Healthcare Usage Amongst Adult Jamaicans during the COVID-19 Pandemic*

# DAILY SCHEDULE OF PLENARY SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**3:30 PM -  
5:15 PM**      **SESSION 4: PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER AND IDENTITY**

**Session Chair: Dr. Sue Ann Barratt**  
**Session Discussant: Dr. Halimah DeShong**

**Jovani Campbell - Faculty of Social Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Examining Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Intimate Partner Violence*

**Chloé Maharaj - Faculty of Humanities & Education, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Global Progress: Women's Sense of Self and Belonging Across the South Pacific*

**Rachel Taylor - Institute for Gender & Development Studies, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Gendered Negotiations of Identities in Trinidadian Drumming*

**Arti Ramsaroop - Faculty of Humanities & Education, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Positioning British West Indian Intellectuals in Harlem, N.Y., 1900-1964*

**Rudolph Ellis - Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona Campus**

- *Intellectual Trauma: A revision of the post-colonial self in Caribbean Philosophy*

**DAY  
02**

**THUR., 21 NOV. 2024**

School for Graduate Studies & Research  
**The University of the West Indies**

## **OPENING CEREMONY**

8:00 – 9:30AM (GMT-5/JAMAICA TIME)

**Master of Ceremony: Mr. Imanuel Alexander**  
President, Cave Hill Association of  
Postgraduate Students (CHAPS)

### **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

**Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee**

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Studies and Research, The UWI

### **INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Mr. Joeseeph Mclean**

President (Interim), Mona Association of Postgraduate Students  
(MAPS)

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Mr. David Evangelista**

*President & Managing Director,  
Special Olympics Europe Eurasia & Senior Advisor for  
International Development for Special Olympics, Inc.*

### **VOTE OF THANKS**

**Mr. Kimon W. Drigo**

President, Five Islands Campus Association  
of Postgraduate Students (FICAPS)



## DAVID EVANGELISTA

**David Evangelista** is the President & Managing Director of Special Olympics Europe Eurasia and Senior Advisor for International Development for Special Olympics, Inc. He is responsible for the growth and development of the Special Olympics movement across 58 nations across Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. As Senior Advisor for International Development, David is responsible for the creation and expansion of global partnerships with United Nation agencies, foreign aid agencies, international non-governmental organizations and global philanthropy. David has extensive global experience in the areas of government relations, industry engagement, international development, thought leadership and global partnership building in support of marginalized populations. David serves on the Advisory Board of the Division of Multilateral Diplomacy for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), a current member of the Centre for Sports and Human Rights (CSHR) and is a member of the international Board of Directors for The Access Challenge (TAC). He also serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the London School of Economics' The Inclusion Initiative Diversity and Productivity Committee. David was a former member of the High-Level Group on Sports Diplomacy for the European Commission and a former member of the Global Partnership for Children with Disabilities for UNICEF.

A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow of the Lions Clubs International Foundation, David is Founding President of the Washington, DC Special Olympics Lions Club and currently serves as a member of the Centennial 100 Champion Lions Club based in London. An experienced guest speaker, David has delivered keynote speeches and serves as a guest lecturer at leading universities, including Harvard University, the University of Chicago, Georgetown University, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the University of New York-Prague, as well as at various business institutes in Europe. He has also served as a guest speaker and presenter for the United Nations, European Union, and a range of civil society organizations on issues related to international development, global affairs, disability, and government relations. David has also provided numerous interviews to a range of media outlets, including the BBC, NPR, ESPN, and national media affiliates across Europe, the Caribbean and North America.

David has a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the School of International Service of American University in Washington, DC and an Executive Master's in Business Administration/ International Business from Universidad Intercontinental de la Empresa in Vigo, Spain. A native of Rhode Island, USA, David, resides in Vigo, Spain with his wife and their two sons.

# DAILY SCHEDULE OF PLENARY SESSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**9:30 AM - 11:25 AM**      **SESSION 1: RED ALERT!!: ADDRESSING CRITICAL HEALTH ISSUES AMONG CARIBBEAN POPULATIONS**

**Session Chair: Professor Julie Meeks Gardner**  
**Session Discussants: Professor Peter Adams and Professor Maxine Gossell-Williams**

**Moina Spencer Ffrench - Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Determining the Prevalence of Chronic Pain and Evaluating What Factors Influence the Use of Coping Strategies in Adult Attendees of the Sickle Cell Unit in Jamaica*

**Raphica Scott - Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill Campus**

- *Comparison of the gut microbiome in active versus quiescent Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE): A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*

**Nicolette Cassim - Faculty of Medical Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Study of the Morphometry of the Pituitary Gland and Posterior Pituitary Bright Spot on Magnetic Resonance Imaging in a North Trinidadian Population*

**Laura Lovell - Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill Campus**

- *A Qualitative Exploration of Lived Experiences among a Barbadian Population with Diabetic Foot Ulceration.*

**Joann Hypolite - Faculty of Science & Technology, Cave Hill Campus**

- *Assessing the Efficacy of Using C-Reactive Protein as a Biomarker For Metabolic Syndrome, to Build a Screening Model for Vascular Disease Risk in the Barbadian Population*

**Penelope McCallum - Faculty of Medical Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Aspirin Resistance in the Caribbean*



# DAILY SCHEDULE OF PLENARY SESSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

DAY 2 - SESSION 2

PRESENTERS

**11:25 AM - 1:10 PM** - **SESSION 2: WE ARE WHAT WE EAT: INVESTIGATING FOOD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS**

**Session Chair: Professor Marcia Roye**  
**Session Discussant: Professor Duraisamy Saravanakumar**

**David Forgenie - Faculty of Food & Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Analyzing per Capita Food Consumption Patterns in Net Food-importing Developing Countries*

**Meera Mahase-Forgenie - Faculty of Food & Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Household Dietary Diversity during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Rural Southeast Trinidad*

**Genele Lezama - Faculty of Food and Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- *A microbial evaluation of Ponche de Crème: the effects of alcohol concentrations, egg pasteurization & storage temperature on product shelf life.*

**Tynessa Gay - Faculty of Food & Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Evaluating the Significance of Food Security and Agri-food Systems Within Existing Disaster Resilience Frameworks: A Systematic Review*

**Augustus Thomas - Faculty of Food and Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Balancing the Scales: Mitigating the Harmful Impacts of Pesticides with Biological Alternatives in Food Production*

**1:10 PM – 1:30 PM: LUNCH BREAK**

# DAILY SCHEDULE OF PLENARY SESSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**1:30 PM - 3:30 PM      SESSION 3: CARIBBEAN PERSPECTIVES ON DELIVERING  
QUALITY EDUCATION**

**Session Chair: Dr. Clavia Williams-McBean**  
**Session Discussant: Dr. Bolapeju Agboola**

**Noor-ud-din-Mohammed - Faculty of Humanities & Education,  
St. Augustine Campus**

- *Towards Translanguaging the Caribbean: Interrogating the Applicability of Translanguaging Theory to Language Education Contexts in the English-official Caribbean (with specific reference to Trinidad).*

**Vellie Nicholas-Benta - Faculty of Humanities & Education,  
Cave Hill Campus**

- *Ananse and the World Wide Web: Exploring Kamau Brathwaite's The Arrivants as Connecting Thread in Re-memembering, Recuperating and Retelling Caribbean Stories Digitally.*

**Mark Salina - Global Campus**

- *An Exploration of Teachers' Perception of Technology Acceptance: The Case Study of Two Government and Denominational Schools in Trinidad and Tobago*

**Ta'Neil James - Faculty of Humanities & Education, Cave Hill  
Campus**

- *ICT as an Instructional Tool for Social Studies Teachers*

**Donikue Nicola Campbell - Faculty of Humanities & Education,  
Mona Campus**

- *Monolingual Children English Dictionaries in Jamaica*

# DAILY SCHEDULE OF PLENARY SESSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**3:30 PM - SESSION 4: STAKEHOLDERS 'WE IN THIS TOGETHER':  
5:15 PM SECURING PEACE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL CITIZENS**

**Session Chair: Mr. Tarik Weekes**  
**Session Discussant: Professor Corin Bailey**

**Lauri Smikle - Faculty of Law, Mona Campus**

- *The UN Convention and Cybercrime in Jamaica*

**Tania Chambers - Faculty of Social Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Securing the Development Rights of Child Victims and Witnesses in Jamaica*

**Samantha Allahar - Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *The Grenada Revolution: Elevating the Subaltern in the Decolonisation Process*

**Chioke Holder - Faculty of Social Sciences, Cave Hill Campus**

- *An Assessment and Evaluation of CARICOM's Security Cooperation Framework and Its Efficacy Towards Addressing Cyber-Assisted Transnational Security Threats: Whether Regional Security Governance over Sovereignty?*

**Michelle Samaroo-David - Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *An Investigation into the Relationship between Abusive Supervision and Employee Prosocial Behaviours: A Moderated-Mediation Analysis of Roles of Organizational Justice and Job Embeddedness.*

**DAY  
03**

**FRI., 22 NOV. 2024**

School for Graduate Studies & Research  
**The University of the West Indies**

## **OPENING CEREMONY**

8:00 – 9:30AM (GMT-5/JAMAICA TIME)

**Master of Ceremony: Mr. Norice Artwell**

President, Global Campus Association of  
Postgraduate Students (GCAPS)

### **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

**Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee**

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Studies and Research, The UWI

### **INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Mr. Imanuel Alexander**

President, Cave Hill Association of Postgraduate Students  
(CHAPS)

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Ms. Shefanie Vin**

*Financial Specialist,  
Agricultural Competitiveness Programme and Sustainable  
Agriculture Productivity Programme, funded by the Inter-  
American Development Bank (IDB), and the Complementary  
Grant funded by the European Union*

### **VOTE OF THANKS**

**Ms. Jewell Garrette**

President, St. Augustine Association of  
Postgraduate Students (STAAPS)



## SHEFANIE VIN

BIO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

With over a decade of expertise, **Shefanie Vin** is a highly skilled professional in programme coordination, strategic management, financial oversight, and stakeholder engagement across diverse sectors. She has provided advisory services to more than 40 organisations, including multilateral development projects, driving impactful outcomes in financial reporting, budget management, and project implementation.

Currently, Shefanie serves as a Financial Specialist for the Agricultural Competitiveness Programme and Sustainable Agriculture Productivity Programme, both funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as well as the Complementary Grant funded by the European Union. She leads the management, budgeting, and compliance efforts for a financial portfolio exceeding USD50 million. Additionally, Shefanie serves as the Finance Manager for Suriname's Growth Enterprises Programme with Solidaridad LatinoAmerica, where she has supported SMEs through financial and procurement processes, ensuring compliance with government and World Bank procedures to enable them to receive grant funds for growth and productivity.

Shefanie holds a Strategic Diploma from the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS), a Master's in Management with a specialisation in Financial Decision Making from the Open University of the Netherlands, and is currently pursuing an Executive Master of Science in Finance and Control in collaboration with Erasmus School of Accounting. She also holds certifications in Public Procurement and Management Drives and is proficient in financial structuring, public speaking, and project management.

In addition to her professional work, Shefanie is active in volunteer service. She is the Founder and Charter President of the Paramaribo FOCUS Lions Club and serves as a member of the Finance and Investment Committee at Fos Feminista. Shefanie was the first appointed youth leader from the United States of America and the Caribbean to serve on the Lions International Board of Directors, where she collaborated with the Board on policies impacting both youth and adult members globally. Her leadership and commitment to community service have established her as a recognised leader in both professional and volunteer circles.

# DAILY SCHEDULE OF PLENARY SESSIONS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**9:30 AM - SESSION 1: INTERROGATING PROGRESS TOWARDS INTER &  
11:15 AM INTRA GENERATIONAL FINANCIAL EQUITY**

**Session Chair: Dr. Karen Murdock**  
**Session Discussant: Dr. Indianna Minto-Coy**

**Justin Carter - Faculty of Social Sciences, Cave Hill Campus**

- *Is Fiscal Consolidation the Caribbean's Saviour?*

**Shenelle Guscott - Faculty of Social Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Central Bank Independence and Banking Crises: Individuals versus Mandates*

**Desiree Alleyne - Faculty of Law, Mona Campus**

- *A Critical Analysis of Issues of "Lotto Scamming" in Jamaica.*

**Shantelle Armstrong - Faculty of Social Sciences, Cave Hill Campus**

- *An Examination of Conflict and Control Corporate Governance Practices within the Credit Union Sector in Barbados*

**Denise Julien - Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Market Segmentation a Path to Overall Customer Satisfaction: A Moderated Model of Attribute Level Performance*

# DAILY SCHEDULE OF PLENARY SESSIONS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

DAY 3 - SESSION 2

PRESENTERS

**11:15 AM - 1:00 PM**    **SESSION 2: INTERROGATING LEGAL AND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS**

**Session Chair: Dr. Marcia Rainford**  
**Session Discussants: Dr. Alicia Elias-Roberts and Dr. Bolapeju Agboola**

**Dionne Jackson Miller - Faculty of Law, Mona Campus**

- *Access Granted: The Power and Promise of the Access to Information Appeal Tribunal in Jamaica*

**Opal Reid - Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona Campus**

- *Transnational considerations and transcultural implications of the etymology of legal translation.*

**Ashlie Lewis-Laidley - Faculty of Humanities & Education, Cave Hill Campus**

- *Examining Attitudes, Self-Esteem, Academic Self-Efficacy, Achievement Motivation and Experiences of Students with Specific Learning Disabilities and Learning Difficulties in Public Secondary Schools in Barbados.*

**Alicia Hospedales - Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *A Quantitative Study of School Professionals' Knowledge, Beliefs, Responses and Attitude to Reporting Child Sexual Abuse.*

**Cynanie Sawyers-Haylett - Faculty of Social Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Exploring the Nexus Between Leadership Behaviours, Psycho-socio-cultural Factors and Institutional Effectiveness in Five Jamaican HEIs.*

**1:00 PM - 1:30 PM: LUNCH BREAK**

# DAILY SCHEDULE OF PLENARY SESSIONS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**1:30 PM - 3:30 PM**    **SESSION 3: BUILDING SUSTAINABLE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITIES**

**Session Chair: Dr. Arlene Bailey**  
**Session Discussants: Dr. Halimah DeShong and Dr. David Smith**

**Vania Patrick-Drakes - Faculty of Social Sciences, Cave Hill Campus**

- *Constructing Race in Contemporary Barbados: Public Discourses and the Perceptions and Experiences of a Select Group of Youth.*

**Candice Sant - Faculty of Medical Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Leishmaniasis and African trypanosomiasis in domestic animals in Trinidad and Tobago - A One Health Approach.*

**Vikki Lee - Faculty of Food & Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- *The potential of Vetiver Grass (*Chrysopogon zizanioides*) for Forest Restoration in abandoned quarries.*

**Achirri Adams - Faculty of Humanities and Education, Cave Hill Campus**

- *Technological Change and The Demise Of Plantation Rum In Nineteenth Century Barbados.*

**Gillian Rowe - Faculty of Food and Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Dissection of A Rhizome Rot Disease Complex In Ginger And Development of A Biological Control of Rot Disease In Jamaica*



**DAY  
03**

**FRI., 22 NOV. 2024**

School for Graduate Studies & Research  
**The University of the West Indies**

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**

3:30 – 4:00PM (GMT-5/JAMAICA TIME)

**Master of Ceremony:**

**Professor Duraisamy Saravanakumar**

Director (Graduate Studies and Research),  
St. Augustine Campus

### **REMARKS**

**Mr. Joeseph Mclean**

President (Interim),  
Mona Association of Postgraduate Students (MAPS)

**Mr. Perry Cummings, Jr.**

President, The UWI Guild of Students, Mona Campus

**Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee**

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Studies and Research,  
The UWI

### **REPORT AND CLOSING REMARKS**

**Professor Duraisamy Saravanakumar**

Director (Graduate Studies and Research),  
St. Augustine Campus

**END OF CONFERENCE:  
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE  
2ND ANNUAL ONE-UWI POSTGRADUATE  
STUDENT CONFERENCE A SUCCESS!**



**PRESIDENTS  
OF THE  
POSTGRADUATE  
ASSOCIATIONS  
OF  
THE UWI GUILD  
OF STUDENTS**

# CAVE HILL CAMPUS

## IMANUEL ALEXANDER

POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE &  
PRESIDENT, CAVE HILL ASSOCIATION OF POSTGRADUATE  
STUDENTS (CHAPS), GUILD OF STUDENTS

Email: [guildpostgraduaterrep@mycavehill.uwi.edu](mailto:guildpostgraduaterrep@mycavehill.uwi.edu)



**Immanuel Alexander** is the current Postgraduate Representative of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. With a BSc in Economics and Management and an MBA in progress, Imanuel is committed to enhancing postgraduate student engagement, networking, and academic support on campus.

He actively advocates for improved resources and a stronger community within the postgraduate body. Imanuel also serves as a member of various academic and student-focused committees, where he brings a solutions-oriented approach to addressing student needs and advancing institutional goals.

# FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

## KIMON W. DRIGO

POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE &  
PRESIDENT, FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS ASSOCIATION OF  
POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS (FICAPS), UWI GUILD OF STUDENTS



**Kimon W. Drigo** is a seasoned Sales, Marketing, PR, and Advertising professional with over 20 years of experience. He is the founder and CEO of KWD Management Group, a consultancy specialising in comprehensive Sales, Marketing, and PR solutions. Kimon's expertise spans traditional and digital marketing, strategic communications, and media management. Currently, he serves as the Marketing Specialist, PR, and Special Projects Coordinator for the American University of Antigua.

His career includes notable roles such as Marketing Manager of Courts (Antigua & Barbuda and St. Kitts & Nevis), Managing Director and Editor of Caribbean Times Newspaper and Sales and Marketing Manager at Observer Media Group.

Kimon's diverse background also includes experience as an Accounting Clerk proficient in QuickBooks and ACCPAC systems. He is currently pursuing his MBA to further enhance his professional capabilities.

# GLOBAL CAMPUS

## NORICE ARTWELL

**POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE &  
PRESIDENT, GLOBAL CAMPUS ASSOCIATION FOR  
POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS (GCAPS), GUILD OF STUDENTS**

Email: [guildpostgraduaterrep@mycavehill.uwi.edu](mailto:guildpostgraduaterrep@mycavehill.uwi.edu)



**Norice R. Artwell** is a dedicated and accomplished professional with a distinguished background in law enforcement, community engagement, and youth services. Beginning his career with the Jamaica Constabulary Force, Norice held key positions as a Police Youth Club Coordinator and Regional Community Safety and Security Liaison Officer. He then brought his expertise to the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service, serving as a Lead Officer for the Little Cayman Policing District. In addition to his law enforcement experience, Norice has expanded his skill set into administrative roles, having worked as a Payroll and Admin Consultant with Parkdale Queen West Health Center. Currently, he is a Senior Youth Services Coordinator in Northern Ontario, Canada.

Academically, Norice achieved a first-class honours degree in Management Studies and is now advancing his expertise with a master's degree in Project Management. He is also a seasoned leader within The University of the West Indies Global Campus Guild, where he has served as the Chapter Chairman, Regional Treasurer, Vice President of Special Projects and Fundraising, and Guild President. Presently, he is the Regional PG Representative and President of the Global Campus Association of Postgraduate Students, advocating for postgraduate students' growth and success.

# MONA CAMPUS

## JOESEPH MCLEAN

**POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE (ACTING) &  
PRESIDENT (ACTING), MONA CAMPUS ASSOCIATION FOR  
POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS (MAPS), GUILD OF STUDENTS**

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**Joeseph Mclean** is a current student at UWI Mona pursuing a Master's in Social Work. A seasoned leader, he has held several roles on UWI Mona Guild of Students and currently serves as the Vice President for Services and Special Projects and interim Mona Post-Graduate Representative.

Joeseph is passionate about empowering communities and helping people maximise their full potential. He is driven to contribute wholeheartedly to sustainable development, grassroots community work, and macro social work practice.

# ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

## JEWELL GARRETTE

**POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE &  
PRESIDENT, ST. AUGUSTINE ASSOCIATION FOR POSTGRADUATE  
STUDENTS (STAAPS), GUILD OF STUDENTS**

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Meet **Jewell Garrette**, the enthusiastic Postgraduate Representative at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus! Currently on a mission to conquer a Master's in Human Resource Management (Specialization).

Jewell is passionate about making a difference in the academic community. When not advocating for fellow students, you can find her binge-watching movies or exploring new topics that pique her curiosity. Always up for a chat, believes in the power of knowledge and a little bit of fun along the way!



# CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS



# LISTING

- **Adams, Achirri**
- **Allahar, Samantha**
- **Alleyne, Desiree**
- **Armstrong, Shantelle**
- **Auld, Judy-Ann**
- **Brown, Marsha**
- **Campbell, Donikue Nicola**
- **Campbell, Jovani**
- **Carter, Justin**
- **Cassim, Nicolette**
- **Chambers, Tania**
- **Colai, Sunita**
- **Ellis, Rudolph**
- **Forgenie, David**
- **Gay, Tynessa**
- **Greaves, Rickela**
- **Guscott, Shenelle**
- **Haralsingh, Aaron**
- **Henry, Yolanda**
- **Holder, Chioke**
- **Hospedales, Alicia**
- **Hypolite, Joann**
- **Jackson Miller, Dionne**
- **Jackson, Ian**
- **James, Ta'Neil**
- **Julien, Denise**
- **Lee, Vikki**
- **Lewis-Laidley, Ashlie**
- **Lezama, Genele**
- **Lovell, Laura**
- **Maharaj, Chloé**
- **Mahase-Forgenie, Meera**
- **Martin, Shanice**
- **Mason, Keane**
- **McCallum, Penelope**
- **Mohammed, Noor-ud-din**
- **Nicholas-Benta, Vellie**
- **Patrick-Drakes, Vania**
- **Prendergast, Doreen**
- **Ramsaroop, Arti**
- **Reid, Opal**
- **Reid-Bailey, Tiffany**
- **Rhoden, Leneka**
- **Rowe, Gillian**
- **Salina, Mark**
- **Samaroo-David, Michelle**
- **Sant, Candice**
- **Sawyers-Haylett, Cynanie**
- **Scott, Raphica**
- **Smikle, Lauri**
- **Sookhai, Satesh**
- **Spencer Ffrench, Moina**
- **Spencer, Shamika**
- **Taylor, Rachel**
- **Taylor, Shanique**
- **Thomas, Augustus**
- **Williams, Dudley**



## Bio

**Achirri Adams** is an educator with 28 years' experience at Primary and Secondary schools in Barbados. He is a Doctoral candidate in the Department of History and Philosophy at the University of The West Indies Cave Hill and is presently conducting research on the history of the rum sector in Barbados between 1815–1915. Achirri is a researcher, author, heritage tour guide and Pan Africanist with a keen interest in African and Caribbean History.

**Adams, Achirri D.**

## Technological Change and The Demise Of Plantation Rum In Nineteenth Century Barbados.

Notwithstanding the considerable expertise garnered in the distillation of rum and a golden era of rum exports in the 18th century, the Barbadian rum sector declined dramatically in the nineteenth century. Lloyd Best's Plantation Economy Model will be used to critically analyse the extent to which the lack of scientific innovation and investment stunted sustainable growth and led to a foreign owned rum distillery established in 1893 monopolising the local rum space. The unprecedented collapse and virtual extinction of plantation rum distilleries occurred during a period of consolidation in Barbados' commercial sector and speaks to the need for Caribbean governments to enact progressive legislation to incentivize capital investments in vulnerable local industries.

**Keywords:** Pot Still, Column Still, Innovation, Conservatism



## Bio

**Samantha Allahar** is a post-graduate student at the Institute of International Relations at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine. She is in the final stages of the PhD programme for which her thesis is titled “The Grenada Revolution: Elevating the Subaltern in the Decolonisation Process’.

**Allahar, Samantha**

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## **The Grenada Revolution: Elevating the Subaltern in the Decolonisation Process**

This research presented the Grenada Revolution as a case study for considering revolution in the Caribbean’s decolonisation process, with an emphasis on two subaltern groups: women and Rastafari. The main research question asked: “How did the specific subaltern groups of women and Rastafari emerge as socio-political agents in the Grenada Revolution as part of the post-World War II decolonisation process?”. A qualitative research design was used in which data collection combined traditional IR and post-colonial tools; and data analysis was done using discourse and content analyses. Findings were categorised into three areas: the impact of the Grenada Revolution on the subaltern; the impact of the subaltern on the Grenada Revolution; and challenges to the decolonisation process. The conclusions centred on considering the Grenada Revolution both as a revolutionary and as a decolonisation process, and by recognising the intersectional differences that existed in subaltern experiences. The interdisciplinary approach presented a way that two traditionally diverse perspectives could be combined: studying revolutions in IR and framing Grenada’s experience with revolution as a part of its decolonisation efforts presented another way of studying resistance and revolution; and the case study reenforced the significance of focussing on post-colonial subaltern voices.

**Keywords:** Grenada; revolution; subaltern; post-colonialism; decolonisation



## **Bio**

**Ms Desiree Alleyne** graduated in 1988 from the Hugh Wooding Law School. She was formerly the Director of Kingston Legal Aid Clinic and the Senior Legal Counsel for the Fair-Trading Commission.

Ms Alleyne has also published three books, namely “Trial by Paper”, “The Law of Dangerous Drugs in the Caribbean: Cases and Materials”, and “The Law of Firearms in the Caribbean: Cases and Materials.’ She is presently an Mphil/Phd student at the Faculty of Law UWI Mona, an Associate Tutor in Landlord and Tenant at the Norman Manley Law School and the Senior Parish Judge for the Parish of St Catherine.

## **Alleyne, Desiree**

dcalleyne@yahoo.com

## **A Critical Analysis of Issues of “Lotto Scamming” in Jamaica.**

The problem that I am addressing is advance fee fraud, called ‘lotto scamming’ in Jamaica. This issue arose in the late 1990s as elderly persons in developed countries, mainly in the United States of America are being targeted by Jamaicans and told that they have won money in a lotto, usually millions of dollars and that they have to send money to pay certain administrative / processing costs, insurance fee or taxes to get these winnings. Of course, after these monies are sent by the victims, they do not receive any winnings.

It is important to examine this issue as its prevalence has resulted in the reputation of Jamaica being significantly damaged. Further, the authorities have constantly proclaimed that the monies are being used by gangs to purchase firearms to wreak havoc on the citizens in Jamaica, thus causing the violent crime statistics to increase exponentially.

Data was also published by various task forces such as the Financial Action Task Force of Jamaica and the Caribbean Action Task Force. In America, there are numerous agencies and organisations which continuously collate statistics on Elderly Financial Fraud. These include the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Trade Commission, Metlife Study on Elder Financial Abuse, the United States Senate Special Aging Committee and the Transnational Elder Fraud Task Force. They have published their data on the number of complaints made by the victims, the age and gender of the victims and the amount of financial losses incurred during specific periods. These secondary data will be helpful for analysis purposes.

It was recognized by the agencies, that the problem with obtaining reliable statistics, is because of the reluctance of the elderly victims to admit they have been scammed, and give the necessary information.

## **A Critical Analysis of Issues of “Lotto Scamming” in Jamaica.**

The approach will be to analyse these various data in order to ascertain whether specific steps that were taken by authorities both in Jamaica and America to eliminate or to at least significantly reduce this type of fraud were successful. It was found that consumer data companies and marketing companies contributed to the problem as they revealed and sold identity information of these elderly victims to the fraudsters. They have been prosecuted accordingly. Also remittance agencies and financial institutions such as Banks, as they easily facilitated the transfer of monies from the victims to the fraudsters.

These fraudsters have been and are still being prosecuted in America pursuant to the wire fraud and mail fraud legislations in America. The co-operation between the agencies in Jamaica and America in this regard has been unquestionable. The Mutual Assistance (Criminal) Matters Act of 1995 of Jamaica has also been helpful in this regard. Further, in Jamaica the Extradition Act was utilized to ensure these criminals faced the justice system in America. However, it was also realised in Jamaica that the existing legislations such as the Larceny Act, the Proceeds of Crime Act and the Unlawful Possession of Property Act were not adequate for the purpose of prosecuting these criminals, so the Law Reform (Fraudulent Transactions) (Special Provisions) Act in 2013 parochially referred to as the Lotto Scamming Act was promulgated. The statute’s focus was directly on ensuring that all the actions taken in preparation of the commission of the crime, were being made offences, such as possession of ‘lead sheets’. ‘Lead list’ brokers who compile and sell these identity information to the criminals can also be prosecuted pursuant to this Act.

The researcher has also delved into the cases in which these criminals were successfully prosecuted in relation to this specific crime and considered whether the sentences imposed were a deterrent. Further, the activities by the various organisations to alert their elderly victims of this type of fraud were also analyzed.

The results of the studies so far, as to if there has been a real and ascertainable reduction in this type of offence have been mixed and not settled. It will therefore be necessary to interview directly the stakeholders. In particular the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Jamaica Constabulary Force’s Anti-Lottery Scam Task Force and Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) to name a few, in order to obtain primary data and information.

**Keywords:** Advance fee fraud lotto scamming



## Bio

**Shantelle Armstrong** has been with the Financial Services Commission for over 12 years, during which she has gained extensive experience in regulatory supervision. Her time with the Commission has not only honed her analytical skills but also strengthened her ability to devise creative solutions to professional challenges.

Shantelle is a proud alumna of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management with First Class Honors. Her drive for continuous development led her to pursue a Master of Science degree in Investment and Wealth Management, in which she graduated with Distinction. Shantelle's outstanding performance earned her the Student of the Year Award in this program.

In addition to her academic achievements, Shantelle published her research paper, A Survey of Capital Budgeting Practices Used by Firms in Barbados, in the Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting through Emerald Publishing on December 3, 2018. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Corporate Governance and Regulation, with the intention of becoming a lecturer at the University of the West Indies.

## Armstrong, Shantelle

shantellenarmstrong@gmail.com

## An Examination of Conflict and Control Corporate Governance Practices within the Credit Union Sector in Barbados

This research examines corporate governance in Barbados' credit union sector, focusing on managing conflicts and control between boards and management. It explores decision-making through agency and managerial hegemony theories, aiming to improve governance outcomes for a more sustainable tomorrow. It employed a mixed-methods approach, using surveys from 27 credit unions (achieving a 90% response rate) and an interview with a representative from the Financial Services Commission Barbados. The research addresses key questions: Is there an effective regulatory framework or effective corporate governance policies in Barbados' credit union sector to manage board/manager conflict? Who controls the board's actions according to agency and managerial hegemony theory, and what strategies can improve conflict management and control? The findings highlight weaknesses in governance, such as board members' lack of knowledge and commitment, and managerial dominance due to inadequate training. Participants recommended enhancing education and training for both boards and management to address these issues. Conflicts and control dynamics were confirmed to significantly impact board-manager relationships. Therefore, this study empirically contributes to the body of knowledge by affirming the relevance of managerial hegemony theory in governance dynamics. Also, the research introduces a novel conceptual framework to improve governance by integrating regulatory and company-level policies.

**Keywords:** corporate governance; credit union sector; agency theory; managerial hegemony theory.



## Bio

**Judy-Ann Allison Auld** is in the final stages of her PhD in Education at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, within the Faculty of Humanities and Education, awaiting thesis examination. She holds a master's degree in Inclusive Education from the University of Roehampton, London, and a bachelor's degree in educational leadership and management with honours from the University of the West Indies. In addition, she has obtained a Certificate in Inclusive Education from the University of Roehampton and a Teachers' Certificate in Elementary Education with honours from the Joint Board of Teacher Education/U.W.I.

Her extensive professional experience includes serving as a primary school teacher, principal of a special education institution, and part-time lecturer at both the Teacher Education Department of the T.A. Marrayshow Community College and the School of Arts and Science at St. George's University. Currently, she serves as the Deputy Chief Education Officer with responsibility for Special and Inclusive Education at the Ministry of Education in Grenada. A staunch advocate for students with special educational needs, her scholarly work is committed to fostering and advancing inclusive education practices.

## Auld, Judy-Ann

judy-ann.auld@mycavehill.uwi.edu

## Exploring Inclusive Education Practices in Grenada: An Ethnographic Case Study of District Supervision and School Management Teams.

This ethnographic study explores the implementation of inclusive education policies in Grenada, focusing on how District Education Officers (DEOs) and School Management Teams (SMTs) interpret and apply these policies in public schools. Despite Grenada's formal commitment to inclusive education, a gap remains between policy formulation and practical execution. The research, conducted through focus group interviews, field observations, document analysis, and participant work diaries, examines the realities in one primary and one secondary school in northwestern Grenada.

Findings highlight a disconnect between national policy and school-level implementation, stemming from unclear guidelines, insufficient professional development, and limited resources. Inconsistent practices emerged, with individual school leaders interpreting policies differently. The study advocates for standardized frameworks, specialized training, and increased resource allocation to bridge this gap. It contributes valuable insights to the discourse on inclusive education, offering recommendations for policymakers and educational planners in Grenada and similar contexts to enhance effective policy enactment.

**Keywords:** Inclusion, Inclusive Education, Inclusive Leadership, School Administration



## Bio

**Marsha Brown** is a doctoral student within the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work at the University of the West Indies, Mona. Over the years she has taught research and data analysis at several universities. Her research interests include: reproductive health, non-communicable diseases, infectious diseases and ageing. She is a peer reviewer for the British Medical Journal (BMJ) and co-author of The Impact of Covid-19 on NGO Beneficiaries in the Eastern Caribbean.

## Brown, Marsha

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## Factors influencing Healthcare Usage amongst Adult Jamaicans during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### Sub-theme: Health and Well-Being

**Intro/Aim:** The COVID-19 pandemic has globally disrupted the healthcare system with approximately seven (7) million deaths and over 7.6 million cases of moderate to severely ill persons (WHO, 2024). The aim of this study is to determine the factors influencing healthcare usage amongst adult Jamaicans during wave 3 of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Research Question Description:** The study will analyze the socio-demographic factors influencing healthcare usage during wave 3 of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Methodology:** The data is taken from the 2021 Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions. Analysis was completed using Spearman's Rho and chi-statistic techniques at  $p < .05$ .

**Findings:** The chi-statistic test revealed a significant relationship between area of residence and healthcare usage ( $p = .028$ ,  $OR = 0.078\%$ ). Additionally, both age ( $p = .018$ ,  $r = .169$ ) and number of non-communicable diseases ( $p = .017$ ,  $r = .172$ ) had positive, but weak correlations with healthcare usage.

**Conclusion:** Urban elderly individuals with multiple comorbidities needed the most support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Implication:** The healthcare system in the urban conglomerate needs to respond to the demand for healthcare utilization to assist vulnerable populations such as the elderly and persons with multiple morbidities with added pharmaceutical and non-clinical interventions.

**Keywords:** Non-communicable Diseases; Healthcare usage, COVID-19





## Bio

**Donikue N. Campbell** is a skilled marketing, language, and communication specialist with over a decade in education and language development. Currently pursuing her MPhil/PhD in Linguistics at UWI, she focuses on Jamaican Creole lexicography and holds a Master's in English and a Bachelor's in Language, Communication, and Society. Donikue serves as the Marketing and Social Media Coordinator at the Jamaica Language Unit—Braadkyaas Jamiekan, where she promotes Jamaican Creole through translation, content creation, and digital management, with a passion for language empowerment and cultural identity.

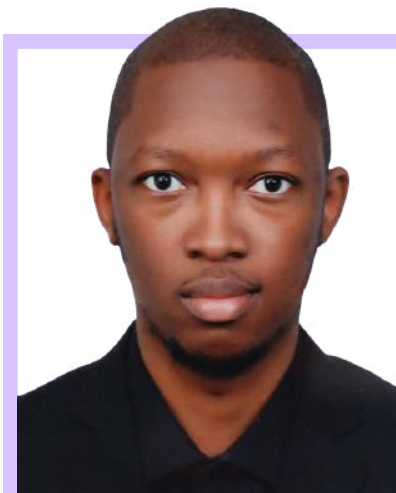
**Campbell, Donikue N.**

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## Monolingual Children English Dictionaries in Jamaica

The Jamaican government's National Standards Curriculum, introduced in 2018, mandates that Jamaican children become literate in both their mother tongue and English. The Language Arts attainment goals for each term, state that students should be able to compare vocabulary, usage and grammar of both Jamaican and Jamaican English. However, the education system currently lacks provisions for teaching Jamiekan literacy. Currently, the only comprehensive resource for Jamiekan is Cassidy and Le Page's Dictionary of Jamaican English (1980). Some words/senses have fallen out of use, and many others have since evolved in pronunciation, usage, or meaning. There's an urgent need for language learning materials specifically designed to teach Jamiekan spelling, meanings, and usage. The paper does a meta-lexicographical analysis of eight monolingual English dictionaries for primary students. It seeks to ascertain whether these dictionaries are fit for purpose in terms of their coverage and treatment of Caribbean/Jamaican lexis, the nature of definitions, linguistic and cultural knowledge that definitions assume, and the extent to which they satisfy the English side of the curriculum. The aim of the paper is to identify shortcomings and best practices of these monolingual dictionaries and use these as guides for the creation of a monolingual Jamiekan dictionary. Best practices include introducing formal SJE vocabulary, facilitating pronunciation, fostering independent learning, building contextual understanding, and preparing students for exams in English. However, key shortcomings include a lack of cultural relevance, no support for learning JC, complex definitions, inadequate phonetic representation for JC speakers, and the omission of JC dialect variations. The paper advocates for the creation of both print and electronic versions of a monolingual Jamaican Creole dictionary to enhance cultural relevance, linguistic inclusivity, and digital accessibility, supporting bilingual education in Jamaica.

**Keywords:** dictionaries, primary education, lexicography, education policy, curriculum



## Bio

**Jovani P. Campbell**, a statistician by profession, has served in the Agricultural, Education, Health, and Transport sectors. Whereby specialising in research and statistical practices. Honing his skills in data privacy, and statistical reporting, contributing to the enhancement of statistical practices across the island.

He holds a Master of Science in Demography from The University of the West Indies, Mona, and has completed various professional development certifications including Supervisory and Project Management.

Passionate about leveraging data for impactful decision-making, Jovani is committed to advancing and mobilizing knowledge in the interest of public health and safety.

## Campbell, Jovani

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## Examining Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Intimate Partner Violence

**Conference sub-theme:** Cultural and social shifts in a globalised world and how they impact the Caribbean – Crime and Violence

**Objectives:** The aim of the study was to determine the lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV); to identify key predictors of IPV; and to recommend evidence-based programme-policy interventions to likely and effectively combat IPV.

**Methods:** This study used secondary data from the 2016 Women's Health Survey. Logistic regression, cross-tabulations, and chi-square tests were employed to scientifically analyze the dataset that was extracted from the survey. Logistic regression was used to model the likelihood of IPV with associated risk factors, while cross-tabulations scientifically examined the correlation between risk factors and IPV. Furthermore, the theories of coercive control and social learning were used to evaluate protective measures of IPV to inform recommendations for programme-policy interventions and decision-making.

**Results:** At least 1 in every 3 women experienced IPV in their lifetime. Alcohol use (OR = 2.171) and witnessing IPV during childhood (OR = 0.383) were significant predictors of IPV. However, the logistic regression model did not demonstrate a correlation with other key factors, such as household size, education level, and union status. The study highlighted key actions to be taken. Continued research on the topic is needed with emphasis on males as victims; and other types of relationships to better understand the IPV crisis in Jamaica. It is pertinent to develop targeted behavioral and marital interventions to effectively address the issue of IPV in Jamaica.

**Conclusion:** One-third of women experienced IPV in their lifetime. Those who consumed alcohol, along with those who had witnessed IPV as a child were likely to experience IPV as an adult. Further research on IPV is necessary to adequately address the issue and to develop robust programme-policy interventions.

**Keywords:** Intimate Partner Violence; Protective Factors; Risk Factors.



## Bio

**Justin Carter** is a fourth year PhD economics student at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus. Justin's research focuses primarily on fiscal policy as he aims to better understand how government's decisions impact economic activity in the Caribbean Region. Justin holds a MSc. Economics from the University of Surrey and a BSc. Economics and Mathematics from the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill). Justin has worked as an economist for over 10 years and is currently a Country Economist at the Caribbean Development Bank.

## Carter, Justin

1carter.j.a@gmail.com

## Is Fiscal Consolidation the Caribbean's Saviour?

Caribbean economies have long been plagued with high debt levels caused by persistent fiscal deficits and exacerbated by countless exogenous shocks. The unsustainable fiscal situation when coupled with little to no growth has forced many of the region's governments to make the difficult decision of implementing fiscal consolidation, some with the aid of the International Monetary Fund. The primary objective of this paper is to explore the effects of fiscal consolidation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Using data from select developing countries from 1981 to 2022, the paper uses a panel local projection model [Jorda, 2005] to estimate the impact of fiscal adjustments on debt dynamics, economic growth and the fiscal multiplier. Estimates show that the improvements in debt dynamics are tied to the depth of the fiscal adjustment and though a reduction of growth almost always follows fiscal consolidation, it is less apparent if government's capital spend remains unchanged. This paper provides an analysis of the determinants, channels and to what extent fiscal contractions influence the dynamics of debt and economic activity in developing economies and could aid in policy design of fiscal consolidation plans in SIDS.

**Keywords:** Fiscal Multipliers, Fiscal Consolidation, Economic Growth



## **Bio**

**Nicolette Cassim** is a Post graduate year 3 DM Radiology student at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus.

### **Cassim, Nicolette**

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## **The Study of the Morphometry of the Pituitary Bright Spot on Magnetic Resonance Imaging in a North Trinidadian Population**

### **Introduction (Background/Context):**

This study explores the relationship among age, sex and ethnicity with pituitary gland and posterior pituitary bright spot (PPBS) sizes in a North Trinidadian population. The study addresses a significant gap in the current literature regarding reference values for pituitary gland and posterior pituitary bright spot sizes in a Caribbean population.

### **Research Objectives:**

The primary objective of this research is to determine the normal dimensions of the pituitary gland and posterior pituitary bright spot, as well as normal pituitary shape in a North Trinidadian population with a focus on the relationship of these parameters with age, ethnicity, and sex.

### **Methodology:**

A retrospective, cross-sectional study in which sequential sampling of cranial MRI scans of 384 individuals was performed. Pituitary height, width, depth, volume and morphology, as well as anteroposterior (AP) and craniocaudal (CC) dimensions of the PPBS were obtained from T1-weighted images. Data was stratified based on age, ethnicity and sex, with statistical methods including Pearson's correlation, Student's t-test, ANOVA, and Chi-Square test used for analysis. A minimum level of statistical significance was set at  $P < 0.05$ .

## **The Study of the Morphometry of the Pituitary Bright Spot on Magnetic Resonance Imaging in a North Trinidadian Population**

### **Results/Findings:**

Pituitary gland size demonstrated a statistically significant difference among age groups and sex groups, and not with ethnicity.

PPBS size demonstrated a statistically significant difference among age groups, not with sex or ethnicity.

Pituitary gland morphology demonstrated a statistically significant difference among age groups, not with ethnicity or sex.

### **Normal Values:**

Pituitary Gland: width: 11.8mm (+/- 1.9mm); depth: 9.4mm (+/- 1.6mm); height: 5.5mm (+/-1.3mm); volume: 319.1mm<sup>3</sup> (+/- 115.3mm<sup>3</sup>)

PPBS: AP: 2.3mm (+/-0.5mm); CC: 4.8mm (+/-1.0mm)

### **Conclusion:**

This research contributes to the field of health and well-being, aiding in the assessment of hypothalamic-pituitary axis abnormalities, through provision of reference values for a Caribbean population for medical professionals.

**Keywords:** pituitary gland, posterior pituitary bright spot, Trinidadian population.



## Bio

**Tania Chambers** is a legal and policy consultant with 20 years of experience in developing rights-affirming and locally contextualized legislative and policy strategies for Caribbean governments, international development organisations and interest groups. She works across a spectrum of social development and human rights issues, including child protection, justice reform, climate law, health and education.

Her published research addresses the participation of children and vulnerable witnesses in courts, with a view to influencing the evolution of more equitable Caribbean justice policies. She is currently an MPhil candidate in the Public Policy and Governance stream at Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies, Mona, with an intent to advance to PhD studies.

## Chambers, Tania

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## Securing the Development Rights of Child Victims and Witnesses in Jamaica

Child witnesses and victims are key participants in Jamaican court processes, often in matters that arise from traumatizing circumstances. They feature in family disputes and are brought before the court for behavioural issues, as children in need of care and protection or as the most common victims of sexual offences. The aim of this study is to understand and analyse the means used by court professionals to secure the development rights of child victims and witnesses as they navigate participation in court processes. Through qualitative, semi-structured interviews with ten court professionals, I explore their perceptions regarding the health and education rights of child witnesses, the actions taken to secure these rights and any gaps in rights fulfilment. I analyse the outcomes against benchmarks established through international law and normative frameworks on child and witness rights, concluding that while professional praxis and court norms are designed to facilitate children's wellbeing, act in their best interest and secure their best evidence, in the absence of standardized, rights-based and child-centred protocols, children's development rights are negatively affected. I include recommendations for strengthening child justice policies and court procedures and reducing the deleterious effects of court participation on children's development rights.

**Keywords:** child justice, development rights, court professionals, child victims and witnesses



## Bio

**Sunita Colai** is the Head of the English Language Arts Department at Arima North Secondary, where she teaches English Language, Literature, and Communication Studies. In addition to her teaching role, she serves as an examiner for CAPE Communication Studies with the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC). Sunita also works as a part-time tutor at the School of Education, University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language and Literature with Education, a Postgraduate Diploma in the Teaching of English, and a Master of Education in Curriculum Studies, graduating with distinction. Currently, Sunita is pursuing her Ph.D. at UWI, St. Augustine, with her research focusing on secondary education, particularly in the area of curriculum implementation.

## Colai, Sunita

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## **A Qualitative Phenomenological Study on Educators' Experiences Implementing the Caribbean Secondary Examination Certificate (CSEC) Revised English A Syllabus.**

In an endeavour to enhance the pedagogy, learning, and evaluation of English Language in the Caribbean, a revised CSEC English A (Language) syllabus was introduced. Teachers were required to adopt new teaching approaches, manage group dynamics, comply with SBA requirements, deliver new content, and create additional resources. Unfortunately, since its inception in 2018, limited information exists regarding the efficacy of its implementation. This qualitative phenomenological study, conducted in Trinidad and Tobago, aimed to explore the lived experiences of English teachers with the revised syllabus. Fifteen teachers from four different school types participated in semi-structured interviews to address the research question: "How did English teachers describe their experience of implementing the revised CSEC English A syllabus?" Using Fullan's (2016) theoretical framework, the analysis revealed that teachers struggled with understanding the syllabus changes, time constraints, and increased workloads. The implications of these findings go beyond merely describing educators' experiences. They offer more extensive insights that have the potential to influence and shape teacher training, professional development initiatives, and educational policies. Thus, policymakers and educational leaders can utilize these findings to design training programs aimed at supporting teachers in their ongoing development, specifically in the context of curriculum change.

**Keywords:** Curriculum Change, Phenomenology, CSEC English A, Teachers' experiences



## Bio

**Rudolph Percival Ellis** is a finalizing Ph.D. research student and assistant in the Department of Language Linguistics and Philosophy at the University of the West Indies. His research area is Caribbean Thought and specializes in Metaphysical Consciousness with a focus on Metaphysical Dualism. Research interests are Metaphysics, Epistemology, Axiology, and Political philosophy. Conference presentations are the platforms used to share findings from my Research as well as submitting articles for publication to Journals.

## Ellis, Rudolph

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## Intellectual Trauma: A revision of the post-colonial self in Caribbean Philosophy

The search for the post-colonial self in the discourse of Caribbean thought has been shaped by prominent scholars such as C. L. R. James, Aime Cesaire, and Wilson Harris, whom we have entrusted with immense latitude to represent us on topics such as the self, freedom, equality, and self-determination among many other concerns. Aime Cesaire's concept of language and espousal of Negritude are elements he embraced about what the self is, and Wilson Harris's exposition of the radical imagination is a path to discovering the self. In other words, the cascading images of the self that inform our collage of identities is inextricably linked to the conceptual framework and methodology that we have cultivated in response to the apparent fall out of slavery and colonialism in the region. The narrative constituted in the works of writers have served to inform our varying conceptions of who and what we are as humans. The position that this paper argues for and defends, highlights that the element of consciousness was not integrated in the narratives that they expressed, therefore, the need to revisit their understanding of the black man whom they wrote about. The archival approach facilitated the retrieval of data that contained the conceptual and articulated understanding of the structure of the post-colonial self. This paper argues that neither slavery nor colonialism affected the constituted nature of the black man and that the real issue of concern for us to address is the link between the narratives of writers and the issue of intellectual trauma. This research established that the Caribbean man constituted nature of matter and spirit is unchangeable while alive. The study argues that having a holistic understanding of the functioning elements of the self is necessary to narrate who and what the post-colonial self is.

**Keywords:** Post-colonial self, metaphysical dualism, consciousness, Wilson Harris, Aime Cesaire.





## Bio

**David Forgenie** is currently a PhD candidate in Agricultural Economics at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension where he is studying the dynamics of food import demand in the Caribbean region, with a special emphasis on consumer demand, consumption patterns, food policy, and welfare. His research is being supervised by Dr Sharon Hutchinson, Professor Dr. Andrew Muhammad, and Dr. Ewan Scott. In July 2023, Mr. Forgenie had the privilege of presenting his doctoral research on the global stage at the prestigious AAEA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., the largest Agricultural Economics Conference in the Western Hemisphere, thanks to funding from the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus. Additionally, his collaboration efforts with researchers from the University of Islam Malang, Indonesia, secured a substantial funding grant from the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture for their research on household protein consumption until 2025 where he serves as a co-principal investigator.

## Forgenie, David

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Co-authors: Sharon D. Hutchinson, Nikmatul Khoiriyah, Meera Mahase-Forgenie

## Analyzing per Capita Food Consumption Patterns in Net Food-importing Developing Countries

This study examines per capita food consumption patterns in 60 net food-importing developing countries. Using ICP 2017 data for eight food categories and the linear approximate almost ideal demand system model, the research estimates marginal shares, income, and price elasticities of demand to understand consumption behavior and responsiveness to income and price changes. The results reveal that additional expenditure is mainly allocated towards fruits and vegetables, meat, and bread and cereals, with notable differences among countries. Conversely, minimal additional spending is allocated to sugar and honey, and fats and oils. Income elasticities revealed varying degrees of responsiveness across food categories, with beverages (1.191) and meat (1.187) being the most sensitive to changes in income while bread and cereals (0.813) were the least sensitive. Uncompensated own-price elasticities show significant sensitivity, particularly for beverages (-2.853), dairy (-2.654), meat (-2.307), fats and oils (-2.264), and fish and seafood (-2.078). Compensated cross-price elasticities suggest predominantly substitution relationships between food categories. The study also includes an informative map highlighting the results for each country. These findings provide crucial insights for policymakers and stakeholders to understand consumption dynamics and develop effective strategies to enhance food security and welfare in net food-importing developing countries.

**Keywords:** Food security; Elasticities; ICP 2017; LA-AIDS model.



## Bio

**Tynessa Gay** is a dedicated administrative professional and PhD candidate in Agricultural Economics at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. A Queen Elizabeth Scholar in Climate Adaptation, her research focuses on integrating food security into Caribbean disaster resilience frameworks. She holds a BSc in Economics and Management, an MSc in Agricultural Economics, and a Master's in Institutional Innovation and Effectiveness. As an Acting Administrative Assistant, Tynessa supports academic operations and student engagement, and her work has been showcased at international conferences, highlighting her commitment to resilient food systems.

## Gay, Tynessa

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## Evaluating the Significance of Food Security and Agri-food Systems Within Existing Disaster Resilience Frameworks: A Systematic Review

The Caribbean is one of the most disaster-prone regions, with a projected 40% increase in disaster frequency by 2030. The Mid Term Sendai Framework Review emphasizes a flexible, all-of-society approach for improving multi-hazard risk assessment. Since 2019, the Caribbean and Latin America have faced higher rates of moderate to severe food insecurity than the rest of the world. This study reviews current literature on disaster resilience frameworks to evaluate the prioritization of agri-food systems in disaster planning.

A comprehensive search was performed across several databases, including Google Scholar, PubMed, Science Direct, and Web of Science. The review revealed the absence of a unified index for measuring disaster resilience. Of the 1,007 references exported from EndNote for sorting, 63 were included in the study. Notably, 48% of the studies included in this review utilized one of six disaster resilience frameworks for their assessments. However, only 3% specifically highlighted "Food Security" and "Agricultural Development" as distinct dimensions. Additionally, the Environmental dimension was often excluded from the frameworks due to the unavailability or unreliability of the required data.

It is postulated that Disaster Resilience Frameworks do not reflect enough indicators that directly measure food security indices or factors that can inform agricultural development.

**Keywords:** Disaster Resilience; Agrifood Systems; Food Security



## Bio

**Rickela** is a Primary School Teacher with a passion for curriculum. With 4 years of experience in teaching she has established a love for education just beyond the classroom. Rickela's dedication to curriculum is evident in her continuous pursuit of knowledge and professional development. Beyond her professional accomplishments such as gaining her Bachelor's and recently her Master's degree she is also known for her kind and heartwarming nature. She loves to sing, bake and most importantly have a good laugh. As a little girl she always knew she was destined to be in the field of education and every choice she made has brought her to this very moment.

## Greaves, Rickela

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## Primary School Teachers' Lived Experiences on the Integration of Game-Based Learning in the Barbadian Educational Landscape

This research explores the experiences of three Barbadian primary school teachers in implementing game-based learning (GBL) and the impact of resource availability on these experiences. Utilizing a qualitative descriptive phenomenology approach, semi-structured interviews were conducted with the teachers to gain in-depth insights into their practices, challenges, and perceptions regarding GBL. Thematic analysis of the transcripts revealed nine key themes: Engagement and Motivation, Informal Training and Self Learning, Technology Integration, Benefits of GBL, Implementation Challenges, Pedagogical Adaptations, Peer Learning, Assessment Techniques and Resource Needs. Findings indicate that GBL significantly enhances student engagement and motivation, leading to better interaction, retention of concepts, and academic performance. However, the teachers face considerable challenges, including technical difficulties and limited access to technological devices, which hinder the effective implementation of GBL. The lack of formal training in GBL necessitates reliance on self-learning and workshops, underscoring the need for structured professional development opportunities. Teachers adapt their pedagogical strategies to blend traditional and modern methods, incorporating GBL elements to cater to diverse learning styles. Peer learning and collaborative activities further support student learning, while GBL provides alternative assessment techniques that offer real-time feedback and comprehensive insights into student progress.

The research highlights a significant need for increased resources and institutional support to facilitate the widespread adoption of GBL. Addressing these resource gaps and providing targeted professional development can enhance the effectiveness of GBL, enriching the educational experience and improving student outcomes in Barbadian primary schools. The study underscores the transformative potential of GBL and critical need for systemic support to fully leverage its benefits.

**Keywords:** Game-based learning, professional development and pedagogy



## Bio

**Shenelle K. Guscott** is a final year PhD Economics student and an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Economics at UWI Mona Campus. She holds a BSc in Mathematics with First Class Honours (2018) and a MSc in Economics with Distinction, graduating at the top of her class in 2020. She started the PhD Economics program at the UWI Mona in the Department of Economics in 2020. She is expected to finish in August 2025. Her research (dissertation) centers on the causes and consequences of banking crises.

## Guscott, Shenelle

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## Central Bank Independence and Banking Crisis: Individuals Versus Mandates

This study examines the impact of central bank independence and its dimensions on banking crises using data on 92 countries from 1985 to 2017 and the probit model. The probit model was used since the dependent variable is binary. It was discovered that, on average, higher levels of overall central bank independence increase the likelihood of banking crises. However, the study reveals distinct influences based on country development levels and institutional contexts. In developing countries, the personal attributes of central bank governors exert a significant influence, with greater independence often correlating with a higher probability of a banking crisis. Moreover, periods of high government stability mitigate the governor's relative impact on the economy. Conversely, in developed countries, the central bank's objectives, particularly a focus on price stability, are pivotal. Adopting price stability as a primary policy goal appears to heighten the frequency of banking crises in these countries, suggesting a trade-off between financial stability and price stability. These results underscore the varying impacts of the dimensions of central bank independence across different country contexts. Consequently, policymakers in developing countries should consider a balanced approach to central bank independence, ensuring accountability and oversight without compromising effectiveness. Furthermore, policymakers in developed countries could benefit from adopting more flexible monetary policies that consider broader economic stability, including financial system health.

JEL Classification: E31; E52; E58; G01; H11

**Keywords:** Banking Crises; Central Bank Independence; Central Bank Governor; Price Stability; Government Stability



## Bio

**Aaron Haralsingh** is an Acting Registrar in General Surgery, based at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex in Trinidad. He is a DM Part II General Surgery Resident at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine. He aspires to specialise further in Thoracic Surgery and has a keen interest in teaching, research, administration and public health, with the goal of marrying these disciplines to improve patient care and outcomes. He is an avid Cricket and Formula 1 fan.

## Haralsingh, Aaron

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## The Impact of Transportation on Healthcare Access and Outcomes Among Patients with Diabetic Foot Infections

Theme: Health Challenges in the Caribbean

**Aim/Objective:** To investigate whether transportation-related factors affect healthcare access and diabetic foot outcomes.

**Background/Relevance:** Diabetic foot infections present a significant health burden locally, resulting in over 600 major lower limb amputations annually. The role of transportation access as a risk factor for poor diabetic foot outcomes has never been evaluated regionally.

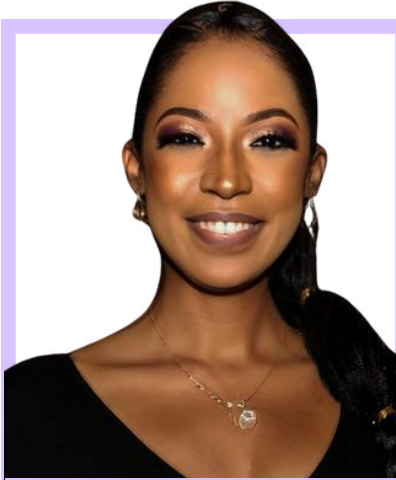
**Methods:** A retrospective cohort study was performed using clinical data of patients who presented with diabetic foot infections over an 18-month period. The data was entered onto a spreadsheet and analysed using SPSS Version 28. Pearson's chi-square test was used to look for associations between diabetic foot outcomes and demographics, clinical characteristics and patients' access to transportation. This method was also applied to parameters of health access, namely missed clinics and readmissions.

**Results:** 312 patients were included, of which 41% had major lower limb amputations. 37.5% lacked access to transportation. Major lower limb amputation was associated with lack of access to transportation and a history of re-admissions. These 2 factors, in addition to greater travel times, were associated with a greater likelihood of missing clinics.

**Conclusion:** Lack of access to transportation is associated with worse diabetic foot outcomes and greater likelihood of missing clinics.

**Implications:** Expansion of community-based foot-care services, social support programmes for 'at-risk' patients and provision of non-emergency transportation to health facilities may improve diabetic foot outcomes locally.

**Keywords:** diabetic foot infections, transportation, healthcare access, diabetic foot outcomes, major lower limb amputation



## Bio

**Chynelle Harewood** is an experienced dietetic technician with over 3 years of expertise in the healthcare field. Currently serving at the North Central Regional Health Authority, she specializes in patient nutritional assessments and data management, assisting in dietary order validation and food service oversight. Chynelle also has past experience as a nutrition assistant and dietetic technician trainee, contributing to food safety and quality standards. Academically, she holds a Bachelor's in Human Nutrition and Dietetics and recently completed a Master's in Agri-Food Safety and Quality Assurance from the University of the West Indies. Outside of work, she is an avid lover of the Steelpan culture holding a position as committee member and steelpan player for the Pamberi Steel Band Stage Side and enjoys reading and cooking.

## Harewood, Chynelle

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## Knowledge And Purchasing Preferences of Trinidadian Consumers on the Safety of Farm-Raised Meat and Plant-Based Alternatives

Protein is a crucial macronutrient for bodily structure development and maintenance. Animal protein is complete, containing all nine essential amino acids, while plant protein is incomplete, lacking one or more essential amino acids. The global trend of consuming farm-raised meat or plant-based alternatives or both has been steadily increasing, driven by issues such as health awareness, environmental ramifications and ethical considerations. The study explores Trinidadian consumers' purchasing perceptions of farm-raised meat and plant-based alternatives, their safety awareness, and food safety knowledge which influences their choices.

A customized questionnaire, distributed throughout the eight counties of Trinidad, was used to collect data on consumer awareness, purchasing behavior and knowledge. A non-probability sampling design, with 385 participants with a confidence level of 95% and margin of error of 5%, analyzed using descriptive statistics; cross tabulation and chi-square. The survey data was distributed in person through self-completion questionnaires or structured interview surveys administered by interviewers.

## **Knowledge And Purchasing Preferences of Trinidadian Consumers on the Safety of Farm-Raised Meat and Plant-Based Alternatives**

The main sources of purchasing farm raised meat or plant-based alternatives are grocery stores (50.4%). Most consumers prefer to purchase their protein from the retailer themselves where they can see and select the product as sensory perception has a direct impact on customers' buying decisions. The Fisher's Exact Test ( $p=.019$ ) confirms the association between protein preference purchased and gender where women were more likely to choose meat possibly due to traditional gender norms and more concern for health issues. The Chi-squared ( $p < .001$ ), confirms there is an association between academic qualification and food safety knowledge, those with greater levels of education exhibit superior food safety behaviors and understanding, resulting in a reduced likelihood of contracting foodborne diseases. Salmonella knowledge scores among participants, with the largest group scoring 3 out of 6 (32.7%), indicates that it is crucial to educate consumers on safe meat preparation and plant-based alternatives. The Fisher's Exact Test ( $p=.009$ ) confirms the association between gender and food safety awareness where women are more concerned about food borne diseases and have more food safety knowledge, in line with their tendency to choose foods they believe have lower chances of contamination. The Chi-squared results ( $p=.048$ ) confirm the association between location and food safety knowledge, where Urban residents have better access to food safety information and resources than rural residents which can be due to differences in educational opportunities.

Results of this study may assist policy makers in designing effective training programs for consumers, which should ultimately lead to a safer food supply for the consuming public and a reduction in food-borne disease outbreaks in Trinidad.

**Keywords:** Farm raised meat, plant-based alternatives, consumer's knowledge, purchasing preferences, salmonella, food safety, Trinidad



## Bio

**Yolanda Henry** is a dedicated professional with a strong background in education. She is the Campus Director for one of the off-site campuses of the Excelsior Community College in Jamaica. She also serves as the assistant secretary of the Association of Graduate Researchers in Education (AGRE). Ms. Henry is currently pursuing the PhD in Leadership in TVET and Workforce Development at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. Ms. Henry has presented at various conferences in the Caribbean and North America.

## Henry, Yolanda

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## From Learning to Earning: Enhancing Youth Development Through Quality Education and Decent Work

A skilled workforce is integral to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 (Quality Education) and 8 (Decent Work). SDG 4 pinpoints the transformative power of education. In close alignment to this, SDG 8 is about the promotion of activities, including training, that encourages economic growth and productive employment for all.

A case study mixed method design was used to evaluate how the educational and employment prospects of youth were affected by their participation in a skills-based training programme in Jamaica. 20 participants (4 trainers and 15 trainees) were the focus of a pilot study. Focus group discussions were utilised along with an adapted version of the validated Training Evaluation Inventory (TEI) developed by Ritzman, Hageman and Kluge (2020).

The aims of the study were to evaluate a youth skills-based training programme and assess the extent to which it was empowering youth to further their education and/or acquire decent work. The stated aims of the training programme were to enhance employment and help youth (aged 17-29) transition to further training and education.

Preliminary findings from the pilot study suggest that skills were initially enhanced. However, learning transfer and the persistence of the acquired skills within the work environment faded if the skills were not consistently utilised. Additionally, few trainees transitioned to further training. Recommendations are for training of shorter duration, mandatory internship, and more practical-based assessments. These recommendations were also advanced by trainees.

Findings can be utilised by training agencies, the ministry of education, employers, and policy makers who employ skills-based interventions to empower youth.

**Key words:** youth, skills-based training, SDGs, decent work, quality education





## Bio

**Mr. Chioke Holder** is a PhD student in Political Science at The UWI Cave Hill Campus, whose academic focus is Caribbean security challenges within CARICOM, particularly those arising from globalisation and regional integration. With a background in law and international trade policy, he advocates for greater regional cooperation to address the pressing security concerns facing the region. His research examines CARICOM's security governance framework and its response to modern threats in an era of technological advancement. At the One-UWI Postgraduate Student Conference, he will present his abstract on CARICOM's security governance framework and the need for balance between regional integration and national sovereignty.

## Holder, Chioke

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## **An Assessment and Evaluation of CARICOM's Security Cooperation Framework and Its Efficacy Towards Addressing Cyber-Assisted Transnational Security Threats: Whether Regional Security Governance over Sovereignty?**

Globalisation has provoked transnational security issues that threaten the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), particularly as the Community attempts to advance its integration movement through the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). Initial findings suggest that CARICOM conducts security cooperation primarily through intergovernmentalism, which is vulnerable to implementation deficits, and has resulted in an inadequate regional security response, especially concerning cyber-assisted transnational security threats. Although scholars and policy makers agree that regional cooperation is required to mitigate multijurisdictional concerns of this nature, contention remains regarding the extent to which community-centred and/or nation-centred approaches should be best utilised when combatting these threats. This research provides an examination of the complexities and deficiencies of CARICOM's present security governance framework and its ability to effectively implement policies and mechanisms vital to regional security cooperation in the era of global technological advancements. By using a pragmatic, qualitative, multimethod design based on a theory of change approach, document analyses and engagement with relevant security stakeholders via interviews, the research seeks to determine the utility and feasibility of incorporating supranational tenets in CARICOM's security governance framework and whether the adoption and application of a supranational approach would be desirable and viable towards improving existing practice.

**Keywords:** CARICOM; Security Governance; Regional Security Cooperation; Supranationalism; Intergovernmentalism.



## Bio

**Alicia Hospedales** has a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and a Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice with distinction. She is a recipient of three awards from the University of the West Indies and is a PhD Candidate in Criminology and Criminal Justice at UWI, St. Augustine.

Her passion for child protection led her to conduct her current study. She loves God and loves helping and empowering others.

Her supervisor is Dr. Bennie Berkeley, who she appreciates for his guidance and support.

**Hospedales, Alicia**

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## **A Quantitative Study of School Professionals' Knowledge, Beliefs, Responses and Attitude to Reporting Child Sexual Abuse**

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a crime that negatively affects victims. Understanding school professionals' attitude to reporting CSA is critical for the protection of the victim and prosecution of the perpetrator. This quantitative study aimed to evaluate the strength of the relationship between school professionals' knowledge, beliefs, responses and their attitude to reporting CSA. Conducted in seven Education Districts in Trinidad, participants were teachers, guidance officers and social workers, who had frequent contact with children and were likely to receive a CSA report. They worked at government primary and secondary schools that were randomly selected. Overall, 231 teachers, 122 guidance officers, and 112 social workers voluntarily participated. The findings revealed that most of the participants did not have training in CSA, gained knowledge about CSA from different sources, significant positive relationships exist between knowledge and reporting CSA, beliefs and reporting CSA, and response and reporting CSA. These results suggest that participants who are more knowledgeable about CSA, hold more beliefs that a child is a victim of CSA, are able to respond quickly to a CSA victim, and also tend to frequently report more cases of CSA. Increasing the knowledge of school professionals is a key strategy for combating CSA.

**Keywords:** Child sexual abuse; School professionals; Trinidad and Tobago.



## Bio

I am a Dominican postgraduate student currently in the final semester of my MPhil in Biochemistry programme, under the supervision of Dr. Scantlebury-Manning. Our research focuses on assessing potential biomarkers for Metabolic Syndrome. For the majority of the past seven years, I have been in Barbados, since I began my undergraduate degree in Microbiology at the UWI Cave Hill Campus in 2017. When I graduated in 2021, I obtained the Mount Gay Distilleries Ltd prize in Microbiology and the Faculty of Science and Technology Dean's Prize. Now I am the recipient of the Postgraduate (general) scholarship for MPhil studies. My research interests primarily include investigating health concerns in under-studied populations, using biological and chemical practices.

## Hypolite, Joann

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## Assessing the Efficacy of Using C-Reactive Protein as a Biomarker For Metabolic Syndrome, to Build a Screening Model for Vascular Disease Risk in the Barbadian Population

Metabolic Syndrome (MetS) refers to a group of chronic disorders that, besides individually increasing a person's risk for developing vascular disease, significantly elevates this risk when more than one is present. These disorders include obesity, hypertension, hyperglycemia, and dyslipidemia, which consists of having abnormally high triglyceride or abnormally low high density lipoprotein levels. In Barbados it is estimated that eighty percent of deaths are due to chronic non-communicable diseases and a study conducted by the Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC) in Barbados determined that the prevalence of obesity, hypertension, and diabetes, was 33.8%, 40.6%, and 18.7% respectively. With these concerning reports it is therefore imperative to study these diseases not just at an epidemiological level but on a biochemical one, in order to mitigate disease risk and outcomes. As such, in this research we study the potential of using C- Reactive Protein (CRP), a well characterised inflammatory biomarker associated with MetS and which previous studies have shown can predict future cardiovascular events, as an effective biomarker for MetS in the Barbadian population. ELISA testing of blood plasma samples provided from the CDRC were conducted in order to determine CRP concentration among subgroups of persons with various combinations of MetS components. Average CRP concentration in the healthy control group was  $0.93 \pm 0.94 \mu\text{g/mL}$ , significantly lower than the group with obesity, hypertension, and diabetes present, which had a CRP concentration of  $2.13 \pm 1.38 \mu\text{g/mL}$  ( $P < 0.01$ ). These results show that the presence of MetS is positively correlated with significantly elevated plasma CRP levels, and this has the potential to be used as a reliable indicator of elevated vascular disease risk in Barbadians.

**Keywords:** Metabolic Syndrome; Non-Communicable Diseases; Biomarkers



## Bio

**Dionne Jackson Miller** is a PhD student in the Faculty of Law, the UWI, Mona researching Access to Information law. She is an attorney-at-law, with an LL.M. in Human Rights Law and a post-graduate certificate in Media Law, both from the University of London. She also holds a BSc (Botany and Zoology) and MPhil (Zoology). She is also a journalist with over 30 years' experience in media, a two-time Press Association of Jamaica Journalist of the Year, and a former President of the Press Association of Jamaica.

**Jackson Miller, Dionne**

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## **Access Granted: The Power and Promise of the Access to Information Appeal Tribunal in Jamaica**

This project investigates how Jamaica's Access to Information Appeal Tribunal delivers justice and safeguards the right of access to information. The right to information underpins other civil, political, social and economic rights. The right to information is therefore foundational to the ambitious goals of deepening participatory democracy and furthering sustainable development.

The main research question is "How does the ATI Appeal Tribunal further access to justice in Jamaica?" This paper therefore discusses administrative justice and its role in protecting rights through checking the power of executive decision-making. The concept of justice as a journey, that is, progressive achievement of the justice ideal, is developed and applied to administrative justice, including the ATI Appeal Tribunal. Applying justice as a journey to administrative justice properly contextualises discussion of the goal of protecting the right of access to information in Jamaica. The paper concludes that the distance between the reality of administrative justice and the justice ideal must be bridged with reforms that improve access, reduce delay, and eliminate structural disparities that affect issues like independence.

The methodology involves multi-method legal research including legal doctrinal research, qualitative interviews, document analysis and observation.

**Keywords:** Access to information, participatory democracy, justice as a journey, administrative justice, access to justice



## **Bio**

**Ian Rostan Jackson** holds a Master of Education in Health Promotion with Distinction and is a Ph.D. candidate in Education at The University of The West Indies.

His career spans over two decades in education. His experiences gained as a primary school teacher, as well as a secondary school teacher, now as a Dean afford him the opportunity to view Education from a broad perspective. He also worked with YTEPP where he was able to further develop and enhance his craft as an educator.

His research interest is resilience in young people amidst distressing circumstances.

## **Jackson, Ian**

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## **Deconstructing Students' Experiences of Community Violence: School Engagement and Wellbeing Challenges**

To explore the perceptions and experiences of students who reside/attend schools in communities in the identified Educational Districts where violence is prevalent, which are challenges to their academic performance, overall development and well-being.

Objectives encompass the essence of the conference's theme, providing collaborative approach to understand, stay informed and to make recommendations to assist children residing and attending schools in "hot spot" areas. Two objectives were:

1.To investigate how living within violent community environments contribute to primary and secondary school students increased disruptive/unfocused classroom behaviour.

2.To identify the factors that protect students against the adverse outcomes of community violence exposure.

The study employed a qualitative research design, using a purposeful sampling method to select a total of 16 students across 2 primary and 2 secondary schools, between the ages of 9 to 17 years, who reside in urban and suburban hot spot communities in Trinidad. Data was gathered through focus group and interviews, using narratives of students of both primary and secondary schools, field notes, students' school's cumulative record cards, biographical data, academic performances, and behaviour profile.

## **Deconstructing Students' Experiences of Community Violence: School Engagement and Wellbeing Challenges**

Key results show:

1. significant challenges to their physical, social, mental, and emotional wellbeing.
2. a range of psychological problems, including depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), with the addition of Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD).
3. Immediate and lingering/reaction to traumatic event
4. Students model inappropriate social behaviours
5. Low participation in school-based extracurricular activities
6. Low level of academic achievement

Implications: subsequent studies should focus on the resilience of some children who reside in and around urban and sub-urban areas in violent communities. Additionally, future research could focus on the media, and on the use of technological devices operated by students to capture fellow school mates involved in infractions both out of school and in school. It concludes:

1. not performing at their optimum level at school
2. impacting negatively on their wellbeing

The outcomes of the study can be extrapolated to other students in similar situations and offer workable solutions.

**Keywords:** Community violence, School Engagement, Wellbeing, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder



## Bio

**Ta' Neil James** is a trained graduate teacher by profession and a citizen of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Her research interest focusses on exploring effective techniques to enhance the teaching and learning of History and Social Studies, with specific emphasis on the utilisation of technology. Additionally, she is interested in Curriculum Fidelity and the factors that influence its successful implementation. This conference is a new experience for her, and she is excited about sharing her research findings, learning from field experts, and potentially gaining valuable insights to shape her future work in education.

**James, Ta'Neil**

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## ICT as an Instructional Tool for Social Studies Teachers

The integration of information and communication technologies (ICT) in education has become increasingly important, with governments and educational institutions globally investing substantial resources to develop a technology-enhanced learning environment. Despite these efforts, traditional teaching methods still prevail in many schools, including the Star Academy. This research sought to explore Social Studies teachers' experiences of integrating ICT into their instruction. To achieve this, the research employed a phenomenological hermeneutic approach. Semi-structured interviews which served as the primary method of data collection, enabled teachers to share their personal experiences on integrating ICT into their teaching. The results of the study indicate that teachers do support the integration of ICT into the teaching of Social Studies despite challenges. It also revealed the factors affecting the integration of ICT into the instruction of Social as perceived by participants, including, lack of access to ICT tools and resources, lack of training opportunities for teachers, the absence of policy on the use of ICT in education at both the school and national level. Based on these findings, the researcher has recommended several actions which need to be taken if teachers are to fully embrace and incorporate more ICT into the teaching of Social Studies. Among such recommendations are the availability of ICT resources at schools, the ongoing training of teachers and the development and implementation of an ICT policy. These actions require the support of the school as well as the Ministry of Education.

**Keywords:** information and communication technology (ICT), ICT integration, social studies, ICT resources, ICT training, ICT policies



## Bio

**Dr. Denise Julien** is a seasoned academic and practitioner specializing in marketing and corporate communications. She recently completed her PhD in Business Administration at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, with her research focusing on Services Marketing. With over 20 years of professional experience across the financial services, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors, Dr. Julien brings a wealth of practical knowledge to her academic endeavors. She is also an active researcher and consultant, dedicated to advancing the field of Services Marketing, with a particular emphasis on customer service excellence. Her work aims to enhance the customer service landscape across the Caribbean.

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## Market Segmentation a Path to Overall Customer Satisfaction: A Moderated Model of Attribute Level Performance

In today's hyper-competitive financial services sector, understanding and addressing the diverse expectations of different customer groups is critical to sustaining competitive advantage. However, many organizations struggle to identify the nuanced factors that drive overall customer satisfaction across generations. This study addresses this pressing challenge by investigating how generational market segmentation, specifically targeting Generations X and Y, influences the relationship between service quality attributes and overall customer satisfaction. Grounded in Kano theory, the research employs a moderated asymmetric model to explore these dynamics, with a particular focus on customer expertise as a potential moderator. The research was conducted within the English-speaking Caribbean, a region where empirical studies on customer satisfaction are limited. By employing a robust mixed-methods approach, the study integrates both qualitative thematic analysis and advanced quantitative techniques, including Structural Equation Modelling, Penalty-Reward-Contrast Analysis, and Multi-group Confirmatory Factor Analysis. Results demonstrate that service quality attributes have a direct positive impact on overall customer satisfaction. Moreover, generational differences significantly influence this relationship, while customer expertise does not act as a moderator. This study offers a fresh perspective by providing empirical evidence from a developing region, reinforcing the critical importance of market segmentation strategies in managing customer satisfaction. The findings underscore the need for financial services companies to adopt tailored approaches to meet the evolving expectations of generational cohorts, thus ensuring sustained customer loyalty in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

**Keywords:** Financial Services; Kano Model; Market Segmentation; Overall Customer Satisfaction; Penalty-Reward-Contrast Analysis





## Bio

A meticulous and resourceful researcher with a background in water and environmental management. She graduated from the Department of Geography with first class honours and was a UWI Postgraduate Scholar for the past 2 years. She has cultivated a passion for habitat rehabilitation, environmental and water management at various scales and enjoys the dynamic nature of research.

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## **The potential of Vetiver Grass (*Chrysopogon zizanioides*) for Forest Restoration in abandoned quarries.**

Quarrying is a major environmental challenge, compounded by climate change. Vetiver grass (*Chrysopogon zizanioides*) has been widely used to address erosion, however its full potential for water uptake, and its application for companion planting is yet to be explored. Literature suggests that Vetiver will not only be highly resilient to the harsh conditions in abandoned quarries, but it may also improve the hydraulic and microclimatological conditions to aid in tree re-establishment. Local forest tree species, commonly known as Olivier and Immortelle, were planted with and without Vetiver to examine its hydraulic and microclimatic influence. Key parameters investigated include soil moisture, temperature, humidity, hydraulic conductivity, growth and isotopic fingerprints. Preliminary analyses show that Vetiver had little impact on soil temperature ( $P = .71$ ) however, it was found to have a statistically significant impact on humidity and soil moisture between treatments and across depths ( $P < 0.001$ ). Preliminary isotopic analyses indicated that water uptake for both saplings and Vetiver occurred primarily within the 0–50 cm zone, which may suggest competition during rainfall scarcity, and, in consequence, reduced plant vigor. It is evident that a low intervention technique was ineffective at improving sapling survival, however some soil amelioration was observed. Future studies should investigate the viability of Vetiver as a sole remediator until soil is adequately improved.

**Keywords:** Reforestation, Resilience, Vetiver, Quarrying



## **Bio**

**Mrs. Ashlie Lewis-Laidley** is a Graduate Teacher based in Barbados and a PhD candidate in Education at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. Her research interests focus on special needs, inclusion and inclusive education, demonstrating her commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for all students.

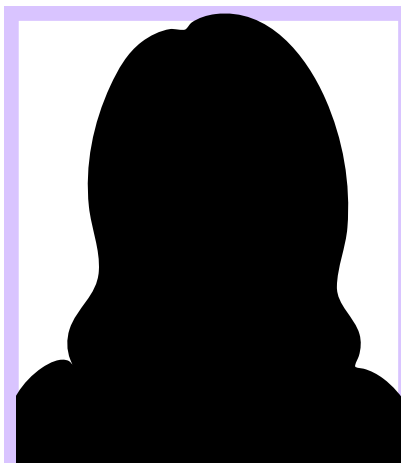
## **Lewis-Laidley, Ashlie**

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## **Examining Attitudes, Self Esteem, Academic Self-Efficacy, Achievement Motivation and Experiences of Students with Specific Learning Disabilities and Learning Difficulties in Public Secondary Schools in Barbados**

Inclusion in education is crucial for fostering an equitable society, enabling students to learn together despite challenges. However, those with Specific Learning Disabilities (SpLDs) and Learning Difficulties (LDs) often experience academic and social exclusion. This exclusion can negatively impact their interactions, affecting their psychological well-being and motivation. Therefore, this mixed-methods study examined the attitudes, self-esteem, academic self-efficacy, achievement motivation and experiences of 131 public secondary school students with SpLDs and LDs in Barbados. Participants were selected using purposive and convenience sampling methods. Research analyses included descriptive statistics, T-test, ANOVA, Pearson's Correlation and Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis. Findings revealed positive attitudes towards teachers but ambivalent attitudes towards peers. Participants demonstrated adequate self-esteem, high academic self-efficacy, and strong achievement motivation, with significant age differences observed in students' attitudes and self-esteem. No significant sex differences were found, and a positive relationship emerged among key variables. Themes were linked to attitudes, self-esteem, motivation and school experiences. The study concluded that the extent of exclusion in the sampled schools was small, though evidence of exclusion exists. The study emphasises the importance of nurturing school experiences while advocating for best practices that promote inclusivity, like supportive measures. These findings provide valuable implications for research, practice and policy.

**Keywords:** inclusion, attitudes, self-esteem, self-efficacy, motivation



**Lezama, Genele**

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### **A microbial evaluation of Ponche de Crème: the effects of alcohol concentrations, egg pasteurization & storage temperature on product shelf life.**

A study was conducted to investigate the microbial spoilage of Ponche de Crème with three varying alcohol content, egg pasteurization and storage temperatures. The research design comprised twelve (12) samples of Ponche de Crème which were divided into two (2) groups of six (6) samples each. Group 1 samples were processed using raw eggs while group 2 samples were processed using pasteurized eggs. Each group was further subdivided into three (3) pairs, which were treated with 40% alcohol (white rum) to reflect a final beverage alcohol percentage of 6.19%, 12.39% and 16.90% respectively. One sample of each pair was then either placed in a refrigerator set at 4 °C or at a room temperature of 24 °C. The samples were retained for a period of eighty-five (85) days and periodically tested for the presence of Salmonella, E. coli, TBC and TYMC. The data collected for microbiological growth was analysed using SPSS Statistics Software version 12.0 for Descriptive Statistics, One-way ANOVA, Correlations, Means and an Independent sample T-Test. An ANOVA conducted for Alcohol concentration showed significance ( $P < 0.05$ ) indicating a difference in mean growth of microorganisms as lower alcohol content showed higher microbial presence. A Correlation for alcohol content also showed a negative significance, thus confirming that growth decreased as alcohol concentration increased. A T-test for egg treatment indicated a significance ( $P < 0.05$ ) for total bacterial growth, also confirming pasteurized eggs showed lower microbial growth compared to unpasteurized eggs. A t-test for storage temperature was also significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) indicating significant difference in mean growth for refrigerated temperatures (4 °C) compared to room temperature (24 °C). The result demonstrates that high alcohol content, low temperature and pasteurization of eggs decreases microbial growth thus increasing Ponche de Crème shelf life.

**Keywords:** Ponche de Crème, shelf life, microbial spoilage, alcohol content, storage temperature, pasteurization.



## Bio

**Dr Laura Lovell** is a medical doctor working at a multidisciplinary diabetes centre in Barbados for almost ten years. She is currently a MPhil/PhD student where her research entitled “ The Barbados Diabetic Foot Study’ explores diabetic foot disease within the local context. She has also been most recently a reviewer of the Diabetes Africa handbook entitled “ Diabetes Footcare in Dark Skin Tones’ and is passionate about cultural competency of guidelines and increased understanding of diabetic foot disease in the Caribbean region through evidence-based research. Her goals for the outcomes of the study include provision of local policy and pathways for diabetic foot and increased understanding and cultural competency of guidelines

**Lovell, Laura**

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## **A Qualitative Exploration of Lived Experiences among a Barbadian Population with Diabetic Foot Ulceration**

Diabetic foot ulceration is a complication of diabetes which affects 19–34% of all persons living with diabetes during their lifetime according to 2023 data. This figure is likely to increase with increasing global disease burden, and understanding of facilitators and barriers of this complication within Afro-Caribbean communities is grossly lacking. A qualitative methodology with an interpretivist approach was used to generate meaning of participants’ accounts of their experiences with foot ulceration. This was facilitated using focus groups and dyads among persons in wound care clinics at local polyclinics (health centres) and one multidisciplinary centre in Barbados. A total of six groups included adults aged 52–79 fitting the inclusion criteria. Sampling was purposive and included rural and urban communities. The overarching theme of “culturally accepted treatment as a barrier to evidenced based care’ emerged as the global theme with four organizing themes of “Culturally Accepted Treatment as a Barrier to Evidenced Based Care’, “Information Desert’, “Emotional Impact of DFU and Limb Loss’ and “Private–Public Health Systems’. This study highlights the malalignment of indigenous beliefs of medical care within indigenous Afro-Caribbean communities and Western evidenced-based care which may be a barrier for adherence to medical treatment plans for diabetic foot disease. Culturally appropriate education may therefore be a tool for patient education surrounding diabetic foot ulceration to improve outcomes.

**Keywords:** Metabolic Syndrome; Non-Communicable Diseases; Biomarkers



## Bio

After growing up in the Republic of Fiji, and living in France and Trinidad and Tobago, **Chloé Maharaj**'s culturally diverse background has led her to studying Women's Pacific Literature for her MPhil thesis. Her unique perspective from spending time in both the Pacific and the Caribbean, allows her the opportunity to relate to both societies, cultures and their literatures against the backdrop of the 21st century.

## Maharaj, Chloé

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## Global Progress: Women's Sense of Self and Belonging Across the South Pacific

Due to the impact of colonisation on the peoples of Oceania, in conjunction with a pre-existing domineering patriarchal culture, a powerful and enabling society designed by men and fueled by the purpose of amassing and retaining power through carefully crafted tenets of society – the identity, the sense of self and belonging can soon become distant concepts to marginalised groups of that society. All too quickly a girl or a woman can become displaced, uprooted and self-servingly used as a tool, traded, bought, sold and/or disregarded as chattel. Such has been the fate of most indigenous women in Pacific societies – not dissimilar to Caribbean women. In the specific collection of works by Pacific women authors Sia Figiel, Célestine Hitiura Vaite and various selected anthologies by Mikaela Nyman and Rebecca Tobo Olul-Hossen, and Sisilia Eteuati and Lani Young, the experiences of girls and women are explored and analysed comparatively in relation to the interwoven themes of gender, culture, relationships, colonialism, sex, violence, inclusion and representation in the past and in contemporary society. Re-adjusting the understanding of girls' and women's own experiences to their reality is paramount for global progress, asserting that they be treated with respect and dignity as equal citizens.

**Keywords:** patriarchy, feminism, Pacific literature, Postcolonialism, Decolonisation



## Bio

**Mrs. Meera Mahase-Forgenie**, an emerging researcher and upcoming PhD candidate in Geography at UWI's Faculty of Food and Agriculture, investigates food security in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). With a background in Environmental and Natural Resource Management and Geography, her research focuses on food insecurity in Trinidad's rural communities, examining the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on household food security. Her work highlights rural vulnerabilities and identifies populations at risk, aiming to inform policies that strengthen resilience against food crises. Her work aims to support sustainable, resilient food systems across the Caribbean, addressing key drivers of food insecurity and regional challenges.

## **Mahase-Forgenie, Meera**

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## **Household Dietary Diversity during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Rural Southeast Trinidad**

Inadequate food and nutrition significantly impact human livelihood, particularly among poor and marginalized populations in rural areas. This study aimed to assess household food consumption patterns and identify the determinants of household dietary diversity in Southeast Trinidad during the COVID-19 pandemic. A sample of 312 households was selected from three communities: Biche, Ortoire, and Plum Mitan. Household dietary diversity was measured using a household dietary diversity score (HDDS) based on 12 food groups over a 24-hour recall period. A Poisson regression model analyzed the factors influencing household dietary diversity. The findings revealed an average HDDS of 5.84, with Plum Mitan scoring the highest at 6.61, followed by Biche at 5.57 and Ortoire at 5.26. Cereals, roots and tubers, and meat were the most consumed food groups, while fruits, eggs, and milk were the least. The gender and marital status of the household head, household food production, community and government support, and additional income sources positively impacted household dietary diversity. In contrast, the community of residence and household size negatively influenced household dietary diversity. These findings provide policymakers with crucial insights for developing targeted policies to combat food insecurity in rural Trinidad.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Determinants, Food Security, Household Dietary Diversity, Poisson Regression, Southeast Trinidad.



## Bio

**Shanice Martin**, is a recent graduate of a Master of Science (MSc.) degree in Renewable Energy Management (with distinction) from the Department of Physics, The University of the West Indies, Mona. She has a background in chemistry, attaining a first degree in General Chemistry (BSc.), and always had a passion for environmental chemistry, environmental physics and conservator. Shanice is a conservation scientist employed in the public sector.

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## A Dive into Thermoelectric Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (TE-OTEC): Potential of Implementation in Jamaica.

Ocean thermal energy technology is not a new concept; it has been implemented and used to generate electricity since the 1900's in Hawaii and Japan, and in Jamaica at the time of the energy crisis showed interest in the development of the technology through research from local and international parties. As stated in the Jamaica National Energy Policy 2009–2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), there is a need for energy independence (access to clean, modern energy) from imported fossil fuel sources, and a way to directly reduce electricity cost for consumers.

More than electricity, OTEC is capable of providing answers to many global issues such as access to clean water, through desalination, as well as advancements in aquaculture, etc.

There have been more recent efforts to improve on the technology of OTEC through Thermoelectric OTEC (TE-OTEC). The analysis of TE-OTEC in the paper will look on applicable theory and calculations to determine optimal results and I will also present simulations showing the ideal thermoelectric material based on physical transport properties of thermoelectric components.

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**Keywords:** Thermoelectric OTEC; Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion; Electricity; Desalination



## Bio

**Keane Mason** is a final-year MPhil. student within the faculty of Science and Technology at the Cave Hill Campus, who is pursuing her studies in Chemistry. Her research focuses on the extraction and analysis of the chemical constituents present in the Barbados brown seaweed and the utilisation of *Sargassum sp.* as a substrate in bioethanol production. By studying the biochemical properties of the macroalgae, Keane aims to investigate its nutritional properties and to maximize the yield of the value-added products sodium alginate and bioethanol, thereby providing an environmentally sustainable solution to the excess *Sargassum* that has been accumulating in the Caribbean.

## Mason, Keane

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## Production of Bioethanol from *Sargassum* Biomass through Simultaneous Saccharification and Fermentation

### Introduction:

The recurrent accumulation of massive piles of brown algae, *Sargassum sp.*, along Caribbean coastlines has escalated into a national crisis, negatively impacting the environment, economy, and public health. While efforts have been made to address this issue, effective solutions remain limited. This study investigates a novel approach to mitigate these effects by converting *Sargassum* biomass into value-added products, specifically bioethanol, leveraging its high carbohydrate content. This aligns with global efforts to find sustainable energy alternatives and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

### Research Objective:

The primary objective of this research is to explore the potential of *Sargassum sp.* as a renewable feedstock for bioethanol production, thereby providing an environmentally sustainable solution to the excessive *Sargassum* accumulation in the Caribbean.

### Methodology:

*Sargassum* biomass was processed through hydrolysis, thermal treatment, saccharification, fermentation, and distillation to produce bioethanol. Acid and enzymatic hydrolysis were employed to release key monosaccharides, including glucose, arabinose, fucose, galactose, mannose, rhamnose, and xylose. Enzymatic saccharification was optimized using a combination of enzymes such as Ceramix Plus MG, cellulase, Diazyme X4, hemicellulase, and Viscozyme L to maximize sugar yield. The enzyme-treated hydrolysate was fermented using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, resulting in a bioethanol concentration of 104 g/L.



## **Production of Bioethanol from Sargassum Biomass through Simultaneous Saccharification and Fermentation**

### Conclusion:

This study highlights the significant potential of Sargassum sp. as a renewable source for bioethanol production. The findings not only present a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels but also offer a viable solution to the environmental, economic, and health challenges posed by Sargassum accumulation. Additionally, this research contributes to the broader goal of combating global warming through renewable energy development.

**Keywords:** Sargassum sp.; Bioethanol; Saccharomyces Cerevisiae; hydrolysate; fermentation.



## Bio

**Penelope A. McCallum**, is a final year student at The University of the West Indies pursuing my Master's degree in Internal Medicine, with the hope of one day becoming a cardiologist. I am from a small rural village in Guyana, called Vreed en hoop but currently resides in Trinidad and Tobago with my husband of four years. Patient care and the improvement of our health care system has always been a passion of mine. My hobbies include planning and executing health fairs with the aim to have a much healthier community as well as advocating for more patient education.

**McCallum, Penelope**

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## Aspirin Resistance in the Caribbean

**Objectives:** Aspirin resistance can have catastrophic effects in the management of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, as it relates to both primary and secondary prevention. This prospective, single-arm, crossover pharmacodynamic investigation compared the effects of Bayer® low-dose enteric-coated aspirin eighty-one pills and Vazalore® low-dose phospholipid-aspirin liquid-filled aspirin eighty-one milligram tablets on platelet reactivity as measured by aspirin reaction units.

**Methods:** The study included only healthy volunteers (n=47) and assessed platelet function using the VerifyNow™ aspirin reaction unit assay (Werfen, Bedford, Massachusetts, USA). Participants received Bayer® LD EC-ASA daily for fourteen days, followed by a twenty-eight-day washout period. After that, they were administered Vazalore® LD PL-ASA daily for an additional fourteen days, with aspirin reaction unit measurements conducted after each treatment phase.

## **Aspirin Resistance in the Caribbean**

Results: Volunteers receiving eighty-one (81) milligram tablets of Bayer enteric-coated aspirin in a low dosage exhibited an average aspirin reaction unit score of 426, with 19.1% of the subjects demonstrating an aspirin reaction unit of >550 and a p-value of 0.199. Participants administered Vazalore® low-dose liquid-filled phospholipid-aspirin eighty-one (81) milligram tablets displayed a typical value aspirin reaction unit score of 435, with 15% exhibiting an aspirin reaction unit of >550 with a p-value of 0.401. No notable differences in aspirin resistance (aspirin reaction units of >550) were observed based on the formulation (Bayer® LD EC-ASA vs. Vazalore® LD PL-ASA). Aspirin resistance was found to be not influenced by ethnicity, regardless of the formulation utilised. Furthermore, no notable associations were identified between body surface area (BSA) and Bayer® LD EC-ASA ARU values (p-value zero point eight) or Vazalore® LD LP-ASA Aspirin Reaction Unit values (p-value 0.477). Any participant reported no serious adverse events (SAEs).

Conclusions: No pharmacodynamically significant differences in aspirin resistance were observed in this investigation in relation to the Bayer® LD EC-ASA and Vazalore® LD PL-ASA systems. This study in pharmacodynamic represents the first conducted among Trinidadian participants on DAPT, thus offering potentially valuable data. Further research is necessary to corroborate these preliminary findings (ARC Clinical Trials). gov number NCT06228820).

**Keywords:** Aspirin Resistance



## Bio

**Noor-ud-din Mohammed** is a linguistics graduate student at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. His research on language access for Deaf students has garnered national recognition and international publication. He has presented his work at various conferences, including those hosted by the U.S. National Science Foundation and the University of Witwatersrand. Inspired by his experience teaching high-school English, he is now exploring linguistic theories and approaches to improve education for Caribbean Creole and vernacular speakers.

## Mohammed, Noor-ud-din

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## **Towards Translanguaging the Caribbean: Interrogating the Applicability of Translanguaging Theory to Language Education Contexts in the English-official Caribbean (with specific reference to Trinidad).**

**Themes:** Inclusive and Equitable Education, Areas for Future Research, Contribution to Education Policy to National/Regional Development.

The incorporation of Creole languages into the formal education of Caribbean people has been discussed for decades. Recently, studies on the diaspora and multilingual situations beyond the Caribbean have started pursuing this through translanguaging (e.g. Smith, 2020; Duarte & Perreira, 2011)— considered by many to be the most advanced theory explaining language use and learning. However, as translanguaging pedagogy gains currency as a means of addressing the linguistic needs of Creole-speaking students we must consider, “how well do the contexts of its application outside the Caribbean mesh with the sociolinguistic complex within the Caribbean?”

This paper examines the theoretical underpinnings of translanguaging, juxtaposing them with the circumstances of language contact, language conceptualization and language pedagogy in the English-official Caribbean. It locates points of interaction between the post-essentialist views of translanguaging and distinctly essentialist ideals that have developed in the region, using Trinidad as a primary reference. It extends the developing body of literature about translanguaging and Caribbean communities by interrogating the appropriacy of translanguaging theory for sociolinguistic and educational contexts that are specifically Creole and broadly post-colonial; and makes recommendations for future research.

**Keywords:** Inclusive Education; Language Education; Language Policy; Creole and Vernacular Studies; Endonormative Research Standards.



## Bio

**Vellie Nicholas-Benta** received her first degree (BA Hons Literatures in English) from the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus in 2021. An avid researcher and writer, she currently pursues the MPhil in Literatures in English at Cave Hill and recently (2021) self-published her first book of fictionalised history, *Poisoned Arrows*.

### **Nicholas-Benta, Vellie**

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## **Ananse and the World Wide Web: Exploring Kamau Brathwaite's *The Arrivants* as Connecting Thread in Re-remembering, Recuperating and Retelling Caribbean Stories Digitally.**

With deepening globalization, meteoric advances in communicative technology, and rising calls from the Global South for health and climate justice, the growing demand for increased community engagements and the creation of collaborative online learning have reverberated at regional fora. One significant response is the recent launch of the UWI's International Centre for Development Justice in alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. In the wake of Covid-19, digital storytelling has gained popularity as a vehicle for facilitating cross-cultural, inter-discursive engagements among humans globally. Consequently, with a view to shaping a promising Caribbean future, this study explores the link between poetry and the unmuting of Caribbean voices for the remembering and recuperation of Caribbean folklore, history, myths, and legends. It draws on Kamau Brathwaite's *The Arrivants* for its cross-cultural sensibilities as his focus on poetry as a democratisation tool aligns, in principle, with the overarching theme of the One UWI Conference. Brathwaite's poetics of landscape, Ananse as a subversive historic force and his experiments with printing technologies gesture toward community engagement through cultural narratives and iconography. Essentially, the techno-cultural interfaces of Brathwaite's work make his poetry ideal for the digital sharing of Caribbean stories.

**Keywords:** poetry, Ananse, digital storytelling, Kamau.



## Bio

**Vania** holds a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours in Cognitive Science and Neuroscience from the University of Toronto, a Master of Science degree with Distinction in Counselling Psychology from the UWI Cave Hill campus, and is currently completing a PhD in Social Policy.

Vania is a five-time awardee of the Other Universals- UWI Scholarship, a supra-national scholarship supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. A Barbados-registered psychologist since 2016, Vania is committed to continuing Caribbean research and advocacy related to identity, positionality and belonging.

## Patrick-Drakes, Vania

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## Constructing Race in Contemporary Barbados: Public Discourses and the Perceptions and Experiences of a Select Group of Youth

Constructions of identity – including race – continue to impact the sociopolitical fabric of postcolonial Caribbean societies. In Barbados, discourses on nationalism, liberation, sovereignty and development coexist with assertions of sustained disparate treatment based on race, class, and other intersecting identity constructs in ways that have not been largely explored since the island’s 50th year of independence. Barbadian youths’ constructions and experiences surrounding race – and the factors that influence these – have direct implications on future societal norms, policies, and practices, particularly as the island navigates its new republic status and seeks reparatory justice. This phenomenological qualitative study therefore joins academic conversations surrounding race and race relations in the Anglophone Caribbean by analyzing the constructions and experiences of race amongst a select group of youth in Barbados, as well as the types of sociopolitical discourses occurring in Barbados related to race found in national policies, news media articles and social media extracts. Findings from elite interviews, youth interviews and qualitative documents all highlight sustained racial tension and perceived social, economic and political disparities based on racial identity. These are implicated as potential threats to social cohesion, national identity and belonging, as well as to future decolonial efforts.

**Keywords:** race, coloniality, identity, Barbados, belonging



## Bio

**Doreen Prendergast** is an Urban Planner and Public Policy Specialist, with over 40 years of service in the public sector. She has contributed to the formulation of the National Development Plan of Jamaica and has spearheaded the development of the National Housing Policy and Implementation Plan of Jamaica (2022). She previously served as the National Focal Point for the United Nations Human Settlements Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) and as Technical Advisor to the 22nd President of the Governing Council of the UN-HABITAT from 2009-2011.

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## Keys to Social Housing Provision as a Human Right in the Global South

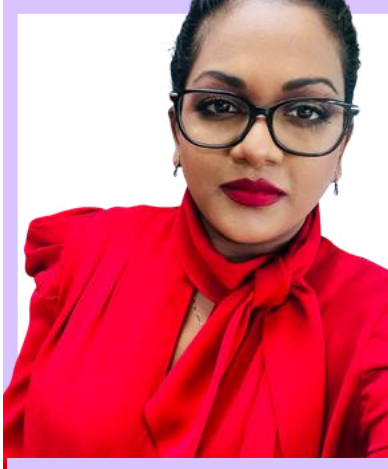
Under the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, housing is a basic human right. However, access to adequate housing remains a problem, thus the demand on national institutions to be more responsive to low-income earners.

The research is framed around a broadened definition of the right to adequate housing and the basic premise of social justice to “leave no one behind”. It seeks to move beyond the income requirement focus highlighted in existing literature on select models of social housing projects in the global south, to critically assess and proffer recommendations to address the gaps regarding other defined aspects of the right to adequate housing, especially within the Caribbean.

The mixed method design is utilized. Though the data is not yet collected, the literature review shows that provision of social housing is one way in which justice is realized, but failure to assess all the critical factors leads to incoherence in meeting the needs of beneficiaries.

This research will provide a framework for the development of an inclusive Social Housing Policy for Jamaica and aid in advancing scholarly research on housing provision in the Caribbean.

**Keywords:** Right to Adequate Housing, Social Housing, Social Justice



## Bio

**Arti P. Ramsaroop** is a doctoral candidate in History at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus. With a First-Class Honours degree in History and Psychology, Arti has been actively engaged in research and academic pursuits. Her current role as Dean's Research Assistant in the Faculty of Humanities and Education reflects her dedication to scholarly inquiry. Arti's research interests span a range of historical topics, encompassing African Caribbean History, African American History, and African Diaspora Studies. Her contributions to the field have been recognized through presentations at both regional and international conferences. Recently, she was awarded the prestigious Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Fund Travel Award for her outstanding paper at the Association of Caribbean Historians 2023 Conference in Puerto Rico.

## Ramsaroop, Arti

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## Positioning British West Indian Intellectuals in Harlem, N.Y., 1900-1964

British West Indians, confronted with the dual reality of northern-style Jim Crow racism and xenophobia upon disembarking in N.Y.C., saw the quick crippling of their economic hopes and aspirations of upward social mobility. In navigating this new reality, many disseminated ideologies that were rooted in the Anglophone Caribbean's black intellectual tradition. They ultimately became "soldiers without swords" in Harlem's radical arena. The purpose of this study is to illuminate the role, transfer and continuity of Pan-African ideology in radical activism in Harlem through the work of E. Ethelred Brown, Richard B. Moor and Wilfred A. Domingo. The paper dissects and refutes the popular stereotype "Over-educated West Indians without a job," giving agency to the hypothesis: Afro-Caribbean intellectuals in Harlem fuelled black activism through their creation and involvement in advocacy organisations as well as their immersion in protest journalism. Methodologically, the work employs Carole Boyce-Davies' method of "Seeing, Reading and Thinking" and her theoretical framework Diasporic Circulations/Movements. The archival evidence revealed that the radical activism of these intellectuals was an outgrowth of their West Indian upbringing. The paper illuminates this Afro-Caribbean intellectual element in the historiography of early twentieth century black radical activism in the United States.

**Keywords:** Afro-Caribbean Intellectuals, Pan-Africanism, Advocacy Organisations, Protest Journalism





## Bio

**Opal Reid** is an accomplished Foreign Language educator at Jamaica College and a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) student at the University of the West Indies, Mona, focusing on Legal Translation. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in International Relations with a minor in Public Administration, a Diploma in Teaching with a Spanish specialization, and a postgraduate diploma in Spanish Teaching Methodology. Currently in her final year of pursuing an LLB at the University of Technology, Jamaica, Ms. Reid's academic journey is marked by her passion for the intersection of international law, linguistics, and education. Her research, which she will present at the ONE UWI Postgraduate Research Conference, delves into the transnational considerations and transcultural implications of the etymology of legal translation, offering unique insights into global legal frameworks and cross-cultural communication.

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## **Transnational considerations and transcultural implications of the etymology of legal translation**

The historical, cultural, and transnational dimensions of legal language have transformed how legal translation is approached and has ensured that it remains relevant and effective in our evolving world. By delving into the "transnational considerations and transcultural implications of the etymology of legal translation", this represents a vital frontier in translation studies. The emergence of research in the area has sought to uncover novel insights and address pressing issues that are of utmost importance in the legal and linguistic domains, such as a focus on the etymology of the legal terminology within a transcultural context. As it specifically relates to the theme of the conference "Collaborative Horizons: Interdisciplinary Visions for Caribbean and Global Progress,' legal terminology is a reflection of the rich tapestry of historical, cultural, and linguistic influences that have shaped legal systems around the world. Discipline of translation and an understanding of the historical and cultural roots of legal terms is crucial to this discipline.

**Keywords:** etymology, transcultural, relevance



## Bio

**Tiffany Reid-Bailey** is a teacher with over ten years of experience in early childhood and primary education. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education and a Master of Education in Educational Psychology. As a full-time teacher, educational psychologist and researcher, she is committed to fostering student development by incorporating mindfulness practices into social-emotional learning (SEL) approaches. Exploring and implementing innovative strategies and techniques, such as the MindUp curriculum and the INSIGHTS intervention, has guided positive learning experiences that support students' holistic development. Research interests include education and its interaction with mindfulness, SEL, classroom management, learning environments and inclusion. Tiffany dedicates her research to revolutionizing traditional approaches to education within the Jamaican context.

## Reid-Bailey, Tiffany

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## The Systems Theory: A Framework for Understanding Mindfulness

This study aims to establish a framework for understanding the effects of mindfulness on students' overall wellbeing. The objectives involved identifying what is known about the impact of mindfulness on students' social-emotional learning (SEL), examining how this relationship helps to understand overall wellbeing and, finally, developing a framework for understanding these effects. A review of twenty-five scholarly sources on students' mindfulness, SEL, and wellness was conducted to identify recurring themes. The well-documented connection between mindfulness and SEL was conceptually analysed within the context of systems theory, suggesting that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The findings were synthesised into a single framework, which hypothesises that the positive effects of mindfulness on students' SEL leads to corresponding improvements in wellbeing. These results underscore the role of mindfulness in enhancing the health of students and future leaders, aligning with the conference theme of promoting health and wellbeing for all. The research contributes to the growing understanding of mindfulness and SEL, with the potential to enhance the effectiveness of SEL programmes by making holistic wellness practices more accessible. Such insights are relevant for educational settings aiming to support students' holistic development and foster long-term health benefits.

**Keywords:** social-emotional skills, mindfulness, wellness, systems theory, education



## Bio

**Leneka Rhoden** is a Natural Scientist and Project Management Professional with over 7 years' experience in the fields of Science, Energy, and Education/Training. Leneka holds extensive experience in strengthening global climate advocacy campaigns, and convening capacity-building training for nature-based solutions in research, policy, and management.

Leneka holds an Honors BSc. Degree in Marine Biology and International Relations and is currently an MPhil candidate in Environmental Biology (Renewable Energy) at the University of the West Indies, Mona (UWI). Her graduate studies research explores the potential of the macroalga, *Sargassum natans*, and microalga, *Chlorella vulgaris*, to produce biodiesel and bioethanol. With the inconsistency of the spread of oil and gas reserves in the Caribbean, Leneka's research amplifies energy security in Small Island Developing States (SIDs).

Additionally, Leneka holds Project Management certifications from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (South Africa), the University of Adelaide, Australia. Leneka also has post-graduate training in Law and Policy from the University of Bradford (United Kingdom) with specializations in Global Changes, Climate Change, Energy, and Bioremediation. She holds certifications in Renewable Energy Development and Energy Efficiency from the Government of Japan, having participated in intensive trainings through the Japan International Cooperation Agency in Japan.

**Rhoden, Leneka**

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## The Use of Sargassum-Derived Compounds in Phase Change Materials for Thermal Energy Storage

The accumulation of Sargassum on beaches poses a multi-dimensional threat. Consequently, finding sustainable uses for the seaweed has become pressing. One promising avenue is the extraction of valuable compounds from Sargassum for industrial applications. This research explores the potential of using hydrocarbons extracted from Sargassum, such as pentacosane and octadecane, in phase change materials (PCMs) for thermal energy storage applications. The paper evaluates their thermal properties, energy storage efficiency, and phase transition behaviours. Sargassum samples were collected, cleaned, dried, and subjected to ethanol extraction. GC-MS analysis confirmed the presence of significant quantities of pentacosane and octadecane, along with other hydrocarbons such as tetracosane and hexacosane. Pentacosane exhibited a retention time (RT) of 12.930 minutes with an area percentage of 20.35%, while octadecane showed an RT of 14.120 minutes with an area percentage of 11.88%. Both hydrocarbons demonstrated promising thermal stability and phase transition behaviours, making them viable candidates for PCMs. The study concludes that pentacosane and octadecane possess suitable thermal properties and energy storage efficiencies for use in PCMs, supporting their viability as sources for high-value hydrocarbons in thermal energy storage systems. The findings have significant implications for sustainable energy and environmental management, providing a renewable alternative for industrial applications.

**Keywords:** Sargassum, Phase Change Materials, Thermal Energy Storage, Pentacosane, Octadecane



## Bio

**Mrs. Gillian Rowe Lindo** is a Crop Science Doctoral Candidate in the Saravanakumar Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA) Biocontrol Laboratory. Her research focus is on using metagenomics for development of eco-friendly biocontrol agroproducts to address Ginger Rhizome Rot Disease and by extension, several phytopathogens.

Gillian Rowe Lindo is a L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Young Talent for the Caribbean 2024 Awardee, an American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) Plantae Fellow and a recipient of the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) 2024 Phenomenal Woman in Agriculture Award.

**Rowe Lindo, Gillian**

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Supervisors: Professor D. Saravanakumar

## Dissection of A Rhizome Rot Disease Complex In Ginger And Development of A Biological Control of Rot Disease In Jamaica

Jamaican ginger is known worldwide for its pungency and medicinal properties. The potency of Jamaican ginger makes it well-suited for agro-processing, production of nutraceutical and pharmaceutical products and culinary infusions. Jamaica was one of the world's highest ginger producers in the past, however, due to disease, the island is unable to satisfy local and global demand. Ginger rhizome rot (GRR) disease has devastated major ginger growing areas on the island and productivity has declined over the years. In order to stimulate the ginger industry and increase ginger production, safe and novel approaches must be employed to curtail the disease. Ginger rhizome rot (GRR) disease has been reported as a complex problem caused by *Fusarium*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Pythium*, *Ralstonia*, *Erwinia* and *Meloidogyne* species. Traditionally for decades, chemical control methods have been utilized in GRR treatment, however, there is a need to incorporate environmentally safe management programs to preserve the biodiversity in the soil ecosystem and reduce pesticide risks to human and environmental health. The knowledge of the entire microbial composition within ginger soil communities in the island is limited. Modern sequencing technology has provided the ability to examine the phylogenetic relationships amongst the GRR pathogens and discover uncharacterized species. The preliminary study has characterized the rhizobiome of GRR pathogens. However, an intensive study using metagenomics will be performed to determine and compare the microbial diversity in infested and healthy Jamaican ginger soils. The pathogenicity of microbial isolates will be verified to identify the causative pathogens involved in the GRR complex using *in vitro* assays. Thereafter, investigations will be conducted to identify potential biocontrol agents with efficacy against GRR and develop appropriate bioformulations to be used as part of an integrated pest management practices for ginger cultivation.

**Keywords:** Ginger, *Zingiber officinale* (Roscoe), rhizome rot disease, *Ralstonia solanacearum*, *Fusarium*, biocontrol, metagenomics, 16S rRNA and Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS)



## Bio

**Mark Salina** is a University of the West Indies Global Campus student pursuing his doctorate in Teaching and Learning with Emerging Technology. Mark has an MSc in Management Studies and a BSc in Management Studies from the University of the West Indies. He also has a law degree from the University of London Mark is a part-time University of the West Indies Global Campus Instructor. He has facilitated courses such as Change Management, Introduction to Trade and Foreign Business, and Trust and Corporate Law.

## Salina, Mark

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## **An Exploration of Teachers' Perceptions of Technology Acceptance: The Case of Two Government and Denominational Schools in Trinidad and Tobago.**

Although there are many benefits associated with technology in education, its eventual use depends on its acceptance. Technology acceptance within the educational setting is essential as technology is incorporated into preparation, learning, delivery, and assessment. Although research on technology acceptance was undertaken separately in public and private schools, this study seeks to add to the literature by examining denominational and government schools in one study. Additionally, various potential users support knowledge transfer and acquisition in education. This study, utilising the convergent parallel mixed-method research design, examines how teachers' perceptions of technology differ in denominational and government schools in Trinidad. Eleven teachers were interviewed, and 51 teachers responded to an online survey from four secondary schools. The six steps of the approach of Braun and Clarke (2006) were utilized to analyse the qualitative data, and correlational analysis and t-test were used to analyse the quantitative data. The qualitative data revealed no difference in teachers' perceived ease of use and usefulness of technology in government and denominational schools. However, factors such as resources, technophobia, age, availability of time, and training shaped teachers' perceptions of technology. The quantitative data confirmed no difference in perceived ease of use and usefulness in denominational and government schools, as the independent t-test revealed no significance at the 1% level. Notably, the results revealed a correlation between perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, attitude, subjective norm, and behavioural intention. Additionally, there was a correlation between perceived ease of use, perceived usefulness, attitude, subjective norm, and behaviour intention. This study is significant as it provides recommendations for promoting greater technology acceptance. Based on the study's findings, these recommendations can enlighten educators, researchers, and policymakers in the field of education and technology about effective strategies for promoting technology acceptance. In addition, the study revealed that despite the difference in resources available in denominational and government schools, teachers in both school types are willing to use educational technology. The study's primary limitations are the sample size and the ability to generalize based on four schools.

**Keywords:** Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), perceived ease of use, perceived usefulness, behavioural intention, behaviour usage.



## Bio

**Michelle Samaroo-David** is a dedicated PhD candidate specializing in Human Resource Management, with a keen focus on understanding the impact of negative forms of leadership on employee outcomes. With a strong academic foundation, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Management Studies and a Master's degree in Management Studies, with a concentration in Human Resource Management. Her research is geared toward identifying and mitigating the adverse effects that toxic leadership styles can have on team dynamics, productivity, and overall workplace well-being, aiming to contribute meaningful insights to the field of HRM. Michelle's commitment to her studies reflects her passion for fostering healthier, more effective organizational cultures.

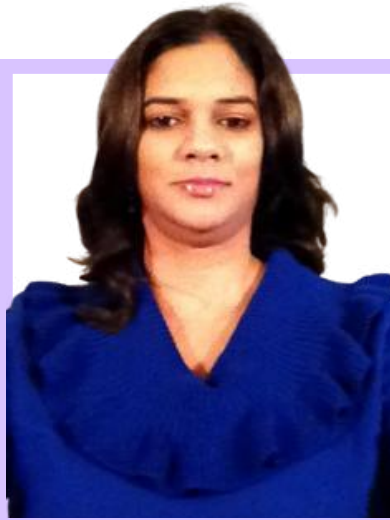
## Samaroo-David, Michelle

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### **An Investigation into the Relationship between Abusive Supervision and Employee Prosocial behaviours: A Moderated-Mediation Analysis of Roles of Organizational Justice and Job Embeddedness.**

Using the lenses of the social exchange, need to belong, planned behaviour and organisational justice theories, this study examines the impact of abusive supervision, as a form of destructive leadership on prosocial outcomes (organisational citizenship behaviour and community citizenship behaviour), and the moderating roles of procedural and interactional justice in that relationship, as well as the mediating effects of organisational and community job embeddedness on the abusive supervision – prosocial outcomes relationship. To explore these relationships, a quantitative method approach will be utilized from a sample of 280 administrative employees from five (5) large higher educational institutes in the Caribbean. The present study will utilize Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) to assess the research relationships. While existing research has explored abusive supervision, limited studies have investigated the impact on prosocial organisational and community outcomes such as organisational citizenship behaviour and community citizenship behaviour. Further, the mediating role of job embeddedness as a disaggregated construct between abusive supervision and such outcomes are vastly under-researched. This study explores such research gaps and offers practical implications for managing abusive supervision and building job embeddedness.

**Keywords:** Abusive Supervision, Job Embeddedness, Procedural Justice, Interactional Justice, Organisational Citizenship Behaviour, Community Citizenship Behaviour.



## Bio

**Dr Candice Sant** is a Lecturer in Veterinary Parasitology and a graduate of the School of Veterinary Medicine, The University of the West Indies located in Trinidad and Tobago. She completed a Doctor of Veterinary degree with honours in 2003 and a Master of Philosophy degree in Veterinary Clinical Medicine with high commendation in 2016. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Veterinary Parasitology. Her research interests are vector-borne diseases, neglected tropical diseases, diagnostic pathology and One Health. Her current research is focused on tick-borne diseases and trypanosomiasis in the ruminant population, leishmaniasis, malaria and investigation of the rat lungworm in the giant African snail population in Trinidad and Tobago.

## Sant, Candice

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## **Leishmaniasis and African trypanosomiasis in domestic animals in Trinidad and Tobago - A One Health Approach.**

The proximity of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) to the South American continent makes it highly vulnerable to the introduction and spread of new and re-emerging pathogens through the illegal movement of animals and people. Many of these agents are zoonotic, hence this study reports on the likely introduction and spread of trypanosomiasis in ruminants and leishmaniasis in domestic animals in T&T. Conventional PCR was performed on blood from 435 cattle, 331 sheep and 371 goats for *Trypanosoma* species. Blood samples and skin scrapings from suspect positive dogs (405), cats (28) and sheep (2) were tested for *Leishmania* using conventional PCR. *Trypanosoma vivax* was detected in six goats, five sheep and three cows, and *Leishmania amazonensis* was detected in three cats, seven dogs and two sheep. The identification of these re-emerging and 'exotic' pathogens in domestic animals in T&T emphasises the need for continuous vigilance, targeted diagnostic capacity building and surveillance, so that new and exotic pathogens can be rapidly and effectively detected in the animal and human populations. The introduction of these two zoonotic pathogens emphasises the importance of using a One-Health approach, so that all sectors are informed and involved in the development of control, prevention and eradication plans.

**Keywords:** Trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, One Health approach



## Bio

**Cynanie Sawyers-Haylett**, a distinguished Visual Arts educator, currently serves as the Dean of the Research and Innovation Division at the prestigious Excelsior Community College (ECC). Her journey in academia has been marked by significant achievements and contributions to institutional research. She has supervised over 200 undergraduate and postgraduate research students, chairs the ECC Institutional Review Board (IRB), and was the co-editor of the ECC Journal of Institutional Research (ECCJIR) and the ECC Academic Journal (ECCAJ). She is a doctoral candidate at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona, pursuing a PhD in Organizational Behaviour. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Counselling and Consulting Psychology, a Bachelor of Science Degree with honours in Psychology, a Sociology minor from the UWI, Mona, and a Diploma in Visual Arts Secondary Education from The MICO University College. Her research interests include Leadership Practices, Higher Education Institution Development, Organisational Learning/Development, Organisational Transformation and Change, Art Therapy, Skin Colour Perception in Jamaica, and Skin Colour Modification Behaviours. Mrs Sawyers-Haylett is a certified change agent who has presented at several conferences and has published an article in the Excelsior Community College Academic Journal (ECCAJ) in 2021 and the Leadership Vibes at the University of Toronto in May 2024. Her philosophy is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13.

## Sawyers-Haylett, Cynanie

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## Exploring the Nexus Between Leadership Behaviours, Psycho-socio-cultural Factors and Institutional Effectiveness in Five Jamaican HEIs

Leadership behaviours are crucial to psycho-socio-cultural (P-S-C) realities and institutional effectiveness (IE). This study aims to unearth the leadership behaviours (LBs), P-S-C factors and perceptions of IE in higher education institutions (HEIs). Leadership behaviours and P-S-C realities are critical to the effectiveness of HEIs, which have implications for Jamaica's attainment of strategic development goals. The objectives of the study were to qualitatively describe the P-S-C and leadership realities and quantitatively determine the linkages between the identified LBs, P-S-C factors and IE. A complex sequential exploratory mixed-methods research (MMR) design was adopted where five HEIs were selected using maximal variation sampling, including 355 employee and student participants. The qualitative findings from 170 participants revealed dominant LBs were characterised by autocratic, transactional, stewardship and transformational leadership attributes, and the P-S-C factors were trust, justice, psychological safety, and organisational defensive routines. The quantitative data from the 185 participants revealed that LBs predicted IE and P-S-C factors such as organisation trust, justice, psychological safety and defensive routines at the individual and group levels. This predictive relationship between the variables suggests that adaptive LBs foster adaptive P-S-C factors, resulting in P-S-C well-being and IE in HEIs. Policy and developmental implications exist for adopting adaptive leadership approaches in Jamaican HEIs, specifically impacting various stakeholders' behaviours, institutional sustainability and IE.

**Keywords:** Leadership behaviours (LBs), psycho-socio-cultural (P-S-C) factors, institutional effectiveness (IE), higher education institutions (HEIs), mixed-methods research (MMR)





## Bio

**Raphica Scott** is a postgraduate student of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. She is currently pursuing an MPhil/PhD in Immunology. Ms. Scott gained a BSc (Hons.) degree in Biochemistry and in Biology in 2017. With her Biology background, Ms. Scott served as a Biology lecturer at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College for five (5) years. She has a passion for research and for being a catalyst for positive change in her society. Ms. Scott's current research focuses on the autoimmune inflammatory disease - Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and the gut microbiome.

## Scott, Raphica

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## Comparison of the gut microbiome in active versus quiescent Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE): A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.

**Introduction:** A previous systematic review examined gut microbiome differences between SLE and non-SLE. However, this is the first systematic review focused on active and quiescent SLE.

**Research Objective:** This research aims to compare the genomic profile for the gut microbiome in active vs quiescent SLE.

**Methodology:** A systematic review of studies that examined the gut microbiome of SLE patients during a disease flare or quiescence was completed. Four databases were searched and findings were qualitatively and quantitatively synthesized by microbial abundance and diversity.

**Results/Findings:** Of 10737 studies screened, nineteen were included in the review. Reports on microbial abundance and diversity in active vs quiescent SLE were inconsistent; the definition of active and quiescence across all studies was variable. The meta-analysis reported no significant difference in diversity or abundance.

**Conclusion:** The microbial diversity and abundance in active vs quiescent SLE are inconclusive. There is need for a standardized protocol to effectively compare these outcomes. This study can be a nidus for gut microbiome research in Faculties at The UWI. Results can support work aimed at gut microbiome alteration through diet, as a sustainable approach to amelioration of disease activity.

**Keywords:** SLE, gut microbiome, disease activity



## Bio

**Lauri Smikle** is a seasoned attorney with over 13 years of diverse legal experience spanning civil litigation, corporate, family, and criminal law. She has held roles in both the public and private sectors, offering legal guidance on contracts, legislation, and governance. Lauri holds an LLM in Corporate Law from Nottingham Trent University and has contributed to legal research on cybersecurity in Jamaica's financial sector. A member of the Middle Temple, she is known for her analytical skills, leadership, and commitment to professional excellence.

**Smikle, Lauri**

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## The UN Convention and Cybercrime in Jamaica

This study aims to examine the potential impact of the United Nations' forthcoming Cybercrime Convention on Jamaica's legal and regulatory framework for combatting cybercrime. It evaluates Jamaica's current efforts, legal infrastructure, and its alignment with international standards, as well as the challenges and opportunities the country faces in adopting this global framework.

As cybercrime becomes a global threat, the relevance of international collaboration in shaping cybercrime laws is crucial for developing countries like Jamaica. This submission aligns with the conference's theme of global security and legal frameworks, exploring how international treaties, such as the UN Cybercrime Convention, can help Jamaica strengthen its defenses against growing cyber threats.

The research addresses the following key questions:

1. How does Jamaica's current legal framework for cybercrime align with international standards, particularly the forthcoming UN Cybercrime Convention?
2. What are the main challenges Jamaica faces in addressing cybercrime at a national level?
3. How can the adoption of international conventions enhance Jamaica's ability to combat cross-border cybercrime?

## **The UN Convention and Cybercrime in Jamaica**

This study adopts a qualitative approach, utilizing a combination of primary and secondary data sources. Legal documents, policy reports, and data from Jamaica’s Cybercrimes Act of 2015 were analyzed alongside international frameworks, including the UN and OAS cybercrime initiatives. Arrangements will be made to conduct interviews with legal experts, cybersecurity practitioners, and law enforcement officials to provide further insights into the practical challenges and potential solutions.

The findings indicate that Jamaica has made substantial progress through its Cybercrimes Act, yet significant gaps remain in areas such as international cooperation, technical expertise, and legislative updates to address emerging threats. The study also finds that the forthcoming UN Cybercrime Convention, once ratified, could enhance Jamaica’s cross-border investigative capabilities and improve collaboration with international law enforcement agencies.

Jamaica is well-positioned to benefit from adopting the UN Cybercrime Convention, but to fully capitalize on this, the country must address resource limitations and continuously update its legal framework. International collaboration will be essential to ensure Jamaica remains resilient in the face of evolving cyber threats. The research has significant implications for policymaking in Jamaica and other developing nations grappling with cybercrime. The study demonstrates the importance of aligning domestic laws with international conventions, as well as the need for continuous capacity building in law enforcement and technical areas. It also underscores the potential for the UN Cybercrime Convention to serve as a cornerstone for future legal reforms in Jamaica, enhancing its cybercrime prevention strategies and cooperation efforts.

**Keywords:** Cybercrime Jamaica UN Convention

## **Meet the Team Members**



### **Bio**

**Rhondell Dipnarine** graduated with a B.Sc. in Pharmacy at the University of the West Indies St. Augustine in 2022. Rhondell obtained a practicing certificate from the Pharmacy Board of Trinidad and Tobago by the Pharmacy Board Act Chap 29:52, 1987 and has become a registered pharmacist. He is passionate about research in the areas of medicine and technology

**Dipnarine, Rhondell**



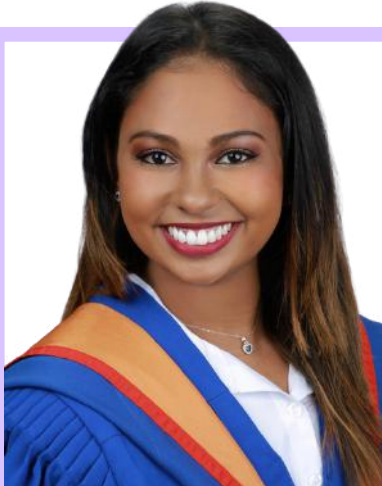
### **Bio**

**Jordanne Pereira** graduated from the University of the West Indies in 2020 with a BSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice with minors in Psychology and Social Policy Development (with specifications in Health Policy) and in 2022 with a LLB of Laws. She is currently pursuing her Legal Education Certificate (LEC) at the Hugh Wooding Law School. She is passionate about legal research and its applicability to various developing fields.

**Pereira, Jordanne**

## Group paper – Sookhai, Satesh et al

### Meet the Team Members



#### **Bio**

**Gabrielle Simbhoo** holds a BSc in International Relations with First Class Honours from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and is pursuing an MSc in Global Studies. Her current research focuses on BRICS and the Future of Small State Development: A New Path for Economic Growth and Global Influence. She aspires to work with international organizations to address global inequalities.

**Simbhoo, Gabrielle**



#### **Bio**

**Melissa Steele** has a double major in Physics and Electronics. She is currently pursuing her MSc in Biomedical Physics, and her research is on radiation protection. She is interested in using digital technology to support sustainable practices and improve personal well-being and quality of life in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Steele, Melissa**



## Bio

**Satesh Sookhai** (ORCID 0009-0000-8738-7428) is a dedicated Ph.D. candidate at the Faculty of Social Sciences, specializing in Management Studies at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago. He has also completed his BSc in International Tourism Management and MSc in Management Studies (Distinction) at UWI STA. His research centres around rewards, employee motivation, and employee performance within small businesses. For inquiries, feel free to reach out to Mr. Sookhai at [satesh.sookhai@my.uwi.edu](mailto:satesh.sookhai@my.uwi.edu).

## Sookhai, Satesh

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## Exploring Factors Affecting Technological Acceptance Among Healthcare Professionals: A Systematic Review

Satesh Sookhai <sup>\*</sup>, Melissa Steele <sup>2</sup>, Jordanne Pereira , Rhondell Dipnarine , Gábrielle Simbhoo <sup>5</sup>

Objective: The primary goal of this study is to review empirical studies and analyze their results to understand the current state of research on technology acceptance in the healthcare sector. The study aims to identify the prevailing technology acceptance models and theories, as well as the key factors influencing technology acceptance among healthcare professionals. A systematic search was conducted following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. The review included articles published between January 2019 and December 2023, selected based on inclusion criteria and relevant keywords. Databases used for the search included Emerald Insights, Science Direct, MDPI, ProQuest, PubMed, and IEEE Xplore. To ensure the validity and reliability of the findings, four researchers independently participated in the data extraction and analysis processes. A standardized extraction form was also employed to ensure that the data aligned closely with the study's objectives. After a thorough screening and review process, 129 articles were found to meet the study's inclusion criteria. The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) emerged as the most frequently utilized frameworks for explaining technology acceptance among healthcare professionals. Furthermore, the analysis revealed that perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, lack of skills, user attitudes, and technology infrastructure were the five primary factors influencing technological readiness. Understanding these theories and models can help policymakers and healthcare professionals develop initiatives and policies to encourage effective technology adoption among healthcare providers in various settings.

**Keywords:** Technology Acceptance, Healthcare Professionals, Technology Readiness, Systematic Review



## Bio

**Dr. Moina Spencer Ffrench** holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from The University of the West Indies. In 2015, while a medical officer at the Hope Institute Hospital, she developed a keen interest in Palliative Medicine. In 2024, she earned her Doctorate of Medicine (DM) in Family Medicine and aims to pursue a fellowship in Palliative Medicine in 2025. Currently, she provides community-based private palliative care, focusing on personalized pain management tailored to each patient's needs.

## Spencer Ffrench, Moina

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## Determining The Prevalence of Chronic Pain and Evaluating what Factors Influence the use of Coping Strategies in Adult Attendees of the Sickle Cell Unit in Jamaica

A prevalent genetic disorder within the Jamaican population, sickle cell disease (SCD) often presents with chronic pain (CP) as a significant symptom. This study aimed to determine the prevalence of CP among Jamaican adults with SCD, identify the type of coping strategies (CS) utilised, and influence of sociodemographic factors. A cross-sectional study of 205 adult attendees of the Sickle Cell Unit (SCU) in Kingston, Jamaica, were consecutively recruited. Data was collected using an interviewed assisted questionnaire, capturing sociodemographic characterises, pain duration, and coping responses. Data analysis involved the use of the Mann-Whitney U, Kruskal Wallis tests and Multiple Linear Regression (MLR). The study found a CP prevalence of 49.3% and noted significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) in CS based on SCD genotypes, sex, education level, and employment status. MLR demonstrated significant differences between sociodemographic characterises and the utilisation of cognitive coping strategies. The findings highlight the importance of non-pharmacological treatments in managing CP and shed light on the socioeconomic challenges associated with it. This research also underscores the relevance of future studies focusing on employment challenges faced by individuals with CP, particularly the high utilisation of CS among unemployed participants.

**Keywords:** Sickle Cell Disease; Chronic pain.



## Bio

**Shamika Spencer** is an Antiguan & Barbudan PhD student in Environmental Studies at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. My research focuses on optimizing the ratios of Sargassum seaweed and rum distillery wastewater in co-digestion to enhance biogas outputs. I completed my undergraduate degree in Biology and earned an MSc in Biosafety at UWI Cave Hill. Currently, I am supervised by Dr. Legena Henry. With a lifelong passion for environmental sustainability, I aim to contribute innovative solutions to the pressing challenges posed by climate change.

### **Spencer, Shamika**

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## **Biomethane Production from Sargassum Seaweed and Rum Distillery Waste: A Sustainable Fuel Solution.**

Climate change, driven by global warming, presents a significant environmental challenge, notably evidenced by the transoceanic migration of Sargassum from Africa's western coast to the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea, raising environmental and public health concerns. Anaerobic digestion emerges as a viable solution, utilizing Sargassum seaweed and locally available substrates. In this presentation, we explore the co-digestion of Sargassum seaweed and rum distillery waste, emphasizing the role of inoculum in optimizing the process. Results indicate a need for a greater proportion of seaweed than waste for optimal digestion. Biomethane gas production holds potential as a vehicle fuel, contingent on optimizing the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio and inoculum volume, offering insights for future large-scale studies. The findings from this research contributed to generating biofuels on a larger scale, successfully fueling an electric vehicle at Rum & Sargassum's test drive zero event in September 2024.

**Keywords:** Sargassum, Co-digestion, Biomethane, Optimizing, Anaerobic digestion, Rum distillery waste, Inoculum





## Bio

**Rachel Taylor** is a PhD candidate and Research Assistant at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI, St Augustine Unit. Her current research examines gendered experiences and negotiations in cultural performance, specifically that of women in Afro and Indo Trinidadian drumming spaces. She has worked on numerous local and regional projects in the areas of Gender policy and gender based violence, prison reform, active ageing and disability advocacy; all giving voice to marginalised groups. She was a recipient of the Caricom Leadership Scholarship and the Elsa Goveia postgraduate scholarship. She holds a master's degree in Gender and Development Studies from The UWI, Mona Campus and enjoys educating students and conducting social science research. Her other research interests include the construction identities in the Caribbean context and Ageing in the Caribbean.

**Taylor, Rachel**

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## Gendered Negotiations of Identities in Trinidadian Drumming

In feminist research, the personal is often the first point of entry as our identities account for our lived realities. This qualitative study has employed a Caribbean feminist research praxis which allows me to study the social behaviours, practices and perceptions of women. My involvement in creative processes has further led me to do practice-based research through the medium of film. Here, I focus on women's participation in African drum ensemble and the Tassa drum ensemble in Trinidad. I aim to historicise women's experiences in drumming spaces through the medium of documentary film and interrogate their negotiation of identities and gender dynamics. Research questions have focused on the reinforcement of identities whether gender, race, class and it's relation to performance and hybridity in a 'third space' (Bhabha 1990, 211). Preliminary data collection through in-depth interviews and fieldwork have revealed the interplay of power relations for women, tradition and nationalism was negotiated based on space and place and gender identity and sexual orientation was sometimes called into question as women engaged in what was considered to be by most, a male practice. This paper grapples with the negotiation of gender and ethnic identities of women in this performance space.

**Keywords:** Women, Drumming, Identities, Afro-Trinidadian, Indo-Trinidadian



## Bio

**Shanique Taylor** is a year 5 candidate in the MPhil in Linguistics programme at the University of the West Indies, Mona. She holds a B.A. in Linguistics and Language Education.

**Taylor, Shanique**

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## **The language biographies of Jamaican primary school teachers: A critical discourse analysis.**

This study analyses language biographies prepared by primary school teachers to explore language ideologies and the implications for teaching and learning. The teachers' language biographies are reflections on their language journeys and the ideologies they have of the languages that exist within society. These were done before and after the Professional Development Primary School Teachers) project which provided workshops that introduced teachers to fundamental Linguistics topics with a view to help them become more language aware. The language biographies were analyzed using Gee's (2005) seven building tasks:- significance, identities, practices, relationships, politics, connections, sign systems and knowledge. The data revealed the majority of teachers thought it important to know both Jamaican Creole (JC) and Jamaican English (JE). Fifteen teachers expressed close relations to both JC and JE; eleven for JC only; and seven for JE only. Most teachers perceive JC as an aid in learning JE, but they are not (fully) language aware and are not able to use JC in a meaningful way in the classroom. These findings shed light on the importance of teachers being language aware to bridge the gap between students' first and second languages. The findings have broader implications for territories in the Caribbean and beyond that are similar to Jamaica.

**Keywords:** Critical discourse analysis, building tasks, significance, relationships



## Bio

Augustus Thomas is a PhD candidate in the Department of Food Production, The UWI. His research focuses on the use of biological agents for disease management in vegetable crops—a direction driven by the environmental and health risks associated with chemical disease controls.

Since 2019, he has published multiple peer-reviewed articles on this topic. In addition to his academic work, he serves as a senior technician and manage the Plant Pathology Lab within the Department of Food Production.

**Thomas, Augustus**

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Supervisors: Professor D. Saravanakumar

## **Balancing the Scales: Mitigating the Harmful Impacts of Pesticides with Biological Alternatives in Food Production**

Pesticides, widely applied in conventional agriculture to control pests and enhance crop yields, pose significant risks to human health and the environment. Exposure to these chemicals, has been linked to numerous health issues, including hormonal imbalances, immune system suppression, and neurological impairments. This growing pool of evidence emphasizes the need for safer, more sustainable agricultural practices.

Biological agents, notably *Bacillus subtilis* and *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, have shown efficacy in plant disease management, soil health enhancement, and biodiversity promotion within soil ecosystems. Our research has demonstrated the potential for *Bacillus* species to suppress plant pathogens under in-vitro conditions. Our studies tested the ability of *Bacillus* species to suppress diseases of lettuce under glasshouse and field conditions. *Bacillus* bioformulation reduced fungal leaf spot disease in lettuce by 76.2% and 87.4%, in glasshouse and field conditions respectively. In glasshouse, bacterial leaf spot diseases in lettuce, caused by *Xanthomonas* and *Acidovorax* species were reduced by 47.7% and 66.2%, respectively. In addition, *B. Amyloliquefaciens* was able to significantly increase yield by 39% and 34% in lettuce and cabbage respectively. These findings highlight that biological agents could be better used as alternatives to Highly Hazardous Pesticides and facilitate environment friendly sustainable food production practices in the tropics.

**Keywords:** Biologicals; Plant Disease, Pesticides



## Bio

**Dudley Williams** is an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, where he teaches Classical Physics, Renewable Energy, and Information Technology. Mr. Williams is currently pursuing a PhD in Applied Physics, intending to research alternative cooling methods to solve the issues faced by the Caribbean's increasing climate. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Alternative Energy, a minor in Computer Science, and a Master of Philosophy in Applied Physics from UWI Mona. Dudley previously worked on energy projects for Barbados' CCREEE and Antigua and Barbuda's Department of Environment.

**Williams, Dudley**

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Supervisors: Dr M Ferhat, Dr J Dorville

## **The Caribbean building sector- resilient to extreme wind, not temperature: an assessment of the thermal performance of current and potential green cooling technologies**

Tropical climates typically use light-weight materials, including plasterboard and wood, which do not retain heat because of their low thermal mass. In reaction to powerful hurricanes like Gilbert 1988, and Irma 2017, the Caribbean's built environment began erecting structures made of heavy materials like concrete to save lives and property during these calamities. Because of their roughly 2.6-fold higher thermal capacity (552 ) than wood (211) concrete buildings are significantly hotter than wooden buildings, especially in regions with high solar radiation (Bajno et. al 2021). This choice of concrete encourages waste energy for cooling, which could be avoided by using more appropriate materials or passive cooling systems. This building design issue is anticipated to escalate, as climate projections forecast significantly warmer conditions by the end of the century. Will active cooling become essential or stay optional in future climates? This study develops a model to predict the indoor thermal performance of our buildings under different emission scenarios as an early warning system to reduce heat-related mortality and support regional building thermal performance policies. Forecast models will examine how well nocturnal radiative cooling and Phase Change Material cooling technologies reduce temperature discomfort in future climates.

**Keywords:** Phase change material, building energy simulations, climate change



**SESSION  
CHAIRS  
&  
DISCUSSANTS**



# **SESSION CHAIRS**

# BIO SESSION CHAIRS



**DR. ARLENE BAILEY**

**Dr. Arlene Bailey** has taught and conducted research extensively on areas of development within the Caribbean. Throughout the years she has specialised in information and communication technologies for development, community, social and development informatics.

She has also co-chaired several Association for Information Systems Special Interest Group on ICTs and Global Development Workshops. Some of her research includes : Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 in Jamaica, SDGs Tracking Progress Sites for Barbados and Jamaica, Next City Horizon Scanning and Foresighting for Jamaica, Energy Access for the Urban Poor, Feasibility Study for a Proposed Global Jamaican Immigration/Diaspora Card and Human Security Results and Resources Framework.

Dr. Bailey was a part of the team that conducted the first National Sustainable Development Goals Study and Leaving No One Behind Reports. She was also a member of Jamaica's National Delegation to the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development . Additionally, Dr. Bailey has worked with the United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, Statistical Offices and Ministries on addressing developmental issues in the Caribbean region. Some of her work included research on Covid Aware: the Potential of New Technologies to mitigate the Impacts of COVID-19 in Jamaica, Caricrop: Exploring the potential of new technologies to support local and inter-regional agricultural trade in the Caribbean, Assessing the Role of Telecentres in Socio-Economic Development in the Caribbean and ICT Usage in the Caribbean Diaspora. She has taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and she supervises graduate students. Some of her taught courses include Research Design and Management, Monitoring and Evaluation of Social Programmes and Introduction to Social Research.

# BIO SESSION CHAIRS



## DR. SUE ANN BARRATT

**Dr. Sue Ann Barratt** is Lecturer and Head at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. She is a scholar of human communication and gendered expression and interaction. Dr. Barratt interrogates gender-based violence, especially as it manifests through social discourse. In addition, she explores the nuance and significance of social identities, such as race/ethnicity, for example through her most recent book, "Dougla in the 21st Century: Adding to the Mix". In general, Dr. Barratt's research extends to human communication conflict, social media use and its implications, mental health management and its implications for learners, gender and climate adaptation/resilience, and Carnival and cultural studies. She is dedicated to building gender responsiveness and gender justice within society.



# BIO SESSION CHAIRS



## DR. LAURETTE BRISTOL

**Dr. Bristol** has over 25 years of service in the education arena– Primary Education, Teacher Education, Tertiary Education Administration and Education Policy Development as Programme Manager, Human Resource Development at the CARICOM Secretariat. She has practised in the Caribbean and Australia.

Her research emphasises the historical impact of the colonial experience on classroom practices, prefiguring post-colonial educational aspirations and actions. More specifically she has an international research profile that crosses the fields of professional development, mentoring, leadership, and school transformation.

# BIO SESSION CHAIRS



**DR. LEGENA HENRY**

**Dr. Legena Henry**, PhD, is the CEO-Founder of Rum and Sargassum Inc, a transportation biofuel company in Barbados. Dr Henry is also an MIT graduate, and a Mechanical Engineer, and is Lecturer for Renewable Energy at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, specializing in Renewable Energy and Mechanical Engineering. She researches sustainable energy sources in the Caribbean, such as biofuel from Sargassum seaweed, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion, and wave energy. Her most recently published IDB Technical note, "Experimental Evidence on the Use of Biomethane from Rum Distillery Waste and Sargassum Seaweed as an Alternative Fuel for Transportation in Barbados" (2021) delineates her unique, indigenous renewable transportation solution being commercialized at Rum and Sargassum Inc.

# BIO SESSION CHAIRS



## MR. ROGER MC LEAN

**Roger Mc Lean**, is a Research Fellow and Lecturer at the HEU, Centre for Health Economics, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago where he lectures in a number of postgraduate courses across the three campuses in areas linked to Health Economics and Development. Working in the field of research for over 30 years, his areas of research include Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV, Non-Communicable Diseases, Health Financing, Poverty and Ageing.

Mr. Mc Lean sits on a number of Technical Advisory Commissions, Committees, and Technical Working Groups at the local, regional and international levels, including The Ministry of Health, The Ministry of Labour, The PAHO, CARICOM, the International Plan Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and is one of the founding members of The University of the West Indies HIV-AIDS Response Programme (UWIHARP). His publications cover issues in HIV, Poverty, NCDs and Health Equity.

# BIO SESSION CHAIRS



## PROFESSOR JULIE MEEKS GARDNER

**Julie Meeks Gardner** is a Professor of Child Development and Nutrition, and Director of Graduate Studies and Research at The University of the West Indies, Global Campus.

She trained at the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit, The UWI, in human nutrition and child development, and did post-doctoral work at Cambridge University, on cross-cultural assessments of child cognition at the MRC Applied Psychology Unit. Her research has focused on the nutritional status and development of children in difficult circumstances, and on child protection issues, including the developmental path of aggression and violence, the effects of violence on children, and intervention studies to reduce aggression among children and high risk youth. More recently, she led an interventional study on children ageing out of State Care, and was co-investigator in a series of studies on remote acculturation and the impact of media literacy training on Jamaican children's food intake.

Prof Meeks Gardner has published widely in international research journals, and has authored or edited several book chapters and technical reports, books and monographs. She serves on the boards of several Jamaican, Caribbean and international organisations, and has received a number of awards for excellence in research and public service.

# BIO SESSION CHAIRS



## DR. KAREN MURDOCK

**Dr. Karen Murdock** is a Senior Lecturer in Management in the School of Business and Management at the Five Islands Campus. She is co-coordinator of the Management Studies Unit and the Key Strategy Officer for the Planning Unit at the campus.

Prior to joining the Five Islands Campus of the UWI, Dr Karen Murdock spent ten years at the Denmark's Technical University (DTU) where she held positions in research and teaching (Associate Professor-Teaching) and administration (Consultant). Dr Murdock was also the Deputy Director for the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business at UWI, St Augustine.

Her research interests include Innovation Policy, Technology Commercialization, Business Models for Growth and Sustainability. She has published in journals including Entrepreneurship and Regional Development, International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior and Research and The International Journal of Management Education.

# BIO SESSION CHAIRS



## DR. MARCIA RAINFORD

**Dr. Marcia Rainford** Is a Senior Lecturer in Science Education and the Coordinator of the Science Mathematics and Information Technology (SMIT) Centre at the University of the West Indies. She holds a Ph.D. in Science Education and a Master's degree in the same field from the University of the West Indies.

Her research interests focus on assessment for learning, the continuing professional development of teachers, and chemistry education. With extensive experience in science education, Dr. Rainford is dedicated to advancing both teaching practices and the development of future educators in the Caribbean.

# BIO SESSION CHAIRS



## PROFESSOR MARCIA ROYE

**Professor Marcia Roye** is the Director, Graduate Studies and Research for the Mona Campus and a Professor of Molecular Virology. A graduate of The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus (BSc Biochemistry (1992) and PhD Biochemistry (1996)), her primary research is in the area of molecular virology, more specifically, the genetic diversity of geminiviruses and antiretroviral drug resistance of HIV in Jamaican children and adults.

As part of her contributions to building research capacity at The UWI, Professor Roye has 35 peer-reviewed publications, has supervised 19 graduate degrees (10 PhD, 9 MPhil), and trained 30 undergraduate students in molecular virology and biotechnology.

She is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including the inaugural L’Oreal-UNESCO Special Fellowship “In the footsteps of Marie Curie.’ She conceptualised and hosted annual workshops and laboratory-based training for CAPE biology teachers and students, and has served as a volunteer lecturer in genetic engineering and biotechnology at local high schools.

In her current role, Professor Roye developed strategies to improve the graduate experience on the Mona Campus, and spearheaded the development of University-wide graduate policies, including an academic forgiveness policy for graduate programmes.

# BIO SESSION CHAIRS



## MR. TARIK WEEKES

**Mr. Tarik Weekes** is presently a Research Fellow in the Centre for Criminal Justice and Security at the University of the West Indies. Since 2012, he has been the Founding Principal Investigator for a Gang Observatory and Mapping Project (GOMP). This ongoing initiative was the first to be undertaken in Jamaica using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and has informed much of his understanding of criminal gangs and the embeddedness of organized crime. For the last 15 years, Weekes has been involved in crime and violence prevention and behavior change research initiatives in Jamaica, St. Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Since 2017, he has worked alongside academic researchers in El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and Guatemala and the United Kingdom to apply methodologies for i) a better understanding of how safer spaces are constructed ii) to monitor fatal police shootings.

Weekes was a co-author in justice and security for the evaluation of European Union Budget Support to Jamaica 2008-2021, a co-author of Jamaica's Citizen Security Plan (2019) and he is currently a member of a team conducting a strategic threat assessment for the Turks and Caicos Islands government. He is a member of the Caribbean Expert Group contributing to the Global Index on Organized Crime (2021,2023) and a member of the Technical Working Group co-chaired by the Jamaica Constabulary Force, Ministry of National Security and Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency, developing Jamaica's national counter organized crime strategy with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). He is also a member of the expert group on security priorities and public spending established by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.



# BIO SESSION CHAIRS



## DR. CLAVIA WILLIAMS-MCBEAN

**Dr Clavia Williams-McBean** is a Lecturer in Educational Measurement and Research in the School of Education, UWI, Mona. She is also the Programme Coordinator for the Undergraduate Programme in the School of Education. She holds a Ph.D. in Education, an M.Ed. in Educational Measurement, a BA in Literatures in English and Sociology, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Language Education from the UWI, Mona.

She is also an assessment consultant whose work includes the development of licensing examinations in the region. Her areas of specialization include educational testing and measurement, school-based assessment, formative assessment, sustainable development and assessment, research methodologies, English Language, English Literature and teacher professional development.

Dr. Williams-McBean has over 17 years of teaching experience at the secondary and tertiary levels. She has also published mixed methods, quantitative, qualitative and conceptual research articles and workbooks. In 2020, she received the Principal's Award for Best Research Article for her 2019 article, *The Value of a Qualitative Pilot Study in a Multi-Phase Mixed Methods Research*. Finally, she has developed and executed training workshops to respond to assessment changes in the region, including implications for practice considering advancements in artificial intelligence, including ChatGPT.



# **PANEL DISCUSSANTS**

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



## PROFESSOR PETER ADAMS

**Professor Peter Adams** is the Director, Graduate Studies and Research at the Five Islands Campus and former Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill campus. He completed secondary school at Queens College in Guyana, received a BSc in Biochemistry from Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London and a MBBS and DM from the University of the West Indies. He attended both the Mona and Cave Hill campuses of the UWI. He is a Family Physician who after completing his internship in Trinidad has been practising medicine for over 3 decades in Barbados.

Prior to becoming Dean in 2015, he coordinated both the undergraduate and postgraduate Family Medicine programmes. He introduced a Diploma in Family Medicine by distance with doctors in several Eastern Caribbean islands enrolled. Until recently he was an associate consultant at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and headed the General Practice Unit located at the Edgar Cochrane Polyclinic. He is a former editor of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners Bulletin, and is currently a member of the International Advisory Board, British Journal of General Practice.

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



## DR. BOLAPEJU AGBOOLA

**Dr. Bolapeju Agboola** is a Senior Lecturer in Educational Planning, Policy, Leadership and Management at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus. She has worked previously as a tenured Associate Professor with the University of Uyo, and National Open University, Nigeria facilitator. She obtained her Master and PhD degrees in Educational Management and Planning and a B.Sc (Ed.) in Mathematics with Second Class Upper honours. Dr. Agboola is a certified career educator, assessor, trainer, programme developer, planning and management consultant, trainer of educators, planners and leadership development. Her experience as a classroom teacher, principal, teacher educator, and university lecturer spanning over 30 years. She brings to her present position a well-established background in professionalism in teaching and customer service. Her experience and skills in the education business have enhanced the roles she is playing in developing and delivering educational services for a wide range of education customers and diverse clients. She is passionate in mentoring and training educators, transformation and change leaders and planners to meet the local, regional, and global needs. She is a scholar, researcher, examiner, editor, co-editor, and reviewer of both referred journals and edited books. Her research interests include educational planning, policy, and leadership development, sustainability, educational management, etc. She has over 40 publications on various aspects of education. She is a member of many professional bodies, a Fellow at the Institute of Management Consultant, and also a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International.

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



## PROFESSOR CORIN BAILEY

**Prof. Bailey** obtained his B.A in Geography from The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in 1999. His undergraduate thesis looked at Fear of Crime in the Kingston Metropolitan Area. Prof. Bailey obtained his Ph.D. in Social Geography in 2004 also from The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. This was done in conjunction with the University of London, Queen Mary College where he spent a year as a recipient of the Commonwealth Split Site Scholarship. The thesis was entitled 'Crime and Social Exclusion in the Kingston Metropolitan Area'.

His current academic interests include qualitative research methodology and problems associated with poverty and inequality with a specific interest in crime.

Prof. Bailey has worked previously as the Project Coordinator for the South-South Initiative which was a joint effort between The University of the West Indies and the University of Cape Town in South Africa designed to see what lessons can be learned from crime prevention initiatives in these two areas of high criminal activity.

Prof. Bailey was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2022. He is Professor of Sociology, Crime & Social Inequality.

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



**DR. XSITAAZ CHADEE**

**Dr. XsitaaZ T. Chadee** is a Lecturer in Renewable Energy and Environmental Physics at the Department of Physics, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. She holds a BSc, MPhil, and PhD from UWI and specializes in research areas focused on sustainable energy solutions and climate science for the Caribbean region. Her primary research interests include wind energy, wind resource assessment, and wind farm development across Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean. Additionally, she is actively involved in numerical weather prediction, air pollution dispersion studies, regional climate change modeling, and assessing climate change impacts on Caribbean ecosystems. Dr. Chadee has contributed significantly to the development of wind maps that support renewable energy initiatives throughout the Caribbean, providing critical insights to advance regional energy resilience.

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



## DR. HALIMAH DESHONG

**Dr. Halimah DeShong** is a Senior Lecturer and Head of the IGDS:NBU. She is an experienced feminist researcher, published in the areas of gendered and gender-based violence, feminist methodologies, anti-colonial feminisms, qualitative interviewing and analysis. She is the co-editor (with Professor Kamala Kempadoo) of *Methodologies in Caribbean Research on Gender & Sexuality* (2020) and is currently completing another book length manuscript on violence, the coloniality of gender and change. Her scholarly work appears in a wide range of peer-reviewed academic journals and books. She is joint editor of four special issues on Feminist Methodologies; Men and Masculinities; and Gender, Sexuality and Feminism in the Caribbean. Dr. DeShong has advised Caribbean governments on gender-based violence policies and laws, is the author of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) National Gender-based Violence Action Plan and has jointly designed a GBV/HFLE curriculum for post-secondary school students in SVG (with Dr. Tonya Haynes). She was also the lead researcher and author of the qualitative component of the UN Women/CARICOM/Caribbean Development Bank Women's Health Survey on violence against women in Grenada.

Dr. DeShong served as an Ambassador and Second Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations. She was SVG's expert, during the country's two-year tenure (January 2020 to December 2021) on the United Nations Security Council on Women, Peace and Security; Children and Armed Conflict; Youth, Peace and Security; and the Protection of Civilians. In addition to this, she also covered the situations in Mali, Somalia, Guinea-Bissau, and West Africa and the Sahel.

Animating her teaching, public service, scholarship and outreach is a concern for ending the enduring effects of complex systems of violence.

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



## DR. ALICIA ELIAS-ROBERTS

**Alicia Elias-Roberts**, Dean of the Faculty of Law at The University of the West Indies St Augustine Campus, has over 20 years of experience as a legal educator. She has pioneered legal education and training in Oil and Gas Law in Trinidad and Tobago and is the course developer and lecturer in Oil and Gas Law at The UWI. She has lectured in International Environmental Law, Caribbean Environmental Law, Administrative Law, Public International Law, and several other areas, and has worked on environmental law issues with organisations such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, UNAIDS, ILO and various governments in the Commonwealth Caribbean. An experienced legislative and treaty drafter, Dr Elias-Roberts was awarded the United Nations International Law Fellowship in 2015. She is admitted to practice Law in Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and New York.



# BIO DISCUSSANTS



## PROFESSOR MAXINE GOSSELL-WILLIAMS

**Professor Maxine Gossell-Williams** is a Professor of Pharmacology and Pharmacovigilance in the Faculty of Medical Sciences and serves as the coordinator of multiple undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. She has been the primary supervisor for over thirty research projects and currently holds the role of Programme Coordinator for the Master's and PhD programmes in Biomedical Research, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Pharmacology, and Physiology.

One of the notable graduate programmes she developed is the Master's in Biomedical Research, a comprehensive 22-month research training course designed to prepare students for doctoral studies or research-focused careers in government, public sectors, independent organizations, or research centers. The programme includes courses in research methods, literature review, academic writing, and electives tailored to students' interests. In collaboration with Professor Marvin Reid, Dr. Jean-Louis, and the NYU Training Team, Professor Gossell-Williams has been instrumental in establishing the CaRT-C Institute, which addresses a significant gap in the Caribbean academic workforce by training and mentoring 48 Caribbean investigators for careers in cardiovascular research. This initiative aims to build a network of UWI scientists dedicated to addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the Caribbean.

Her primary research focus is on evaluating drug efficacy and safety, with an emphasis on cultivating a culture of drug monitoring over the past eight years. She is particularly interested in the performance of generic drugs and the potential challenges posed by prescribing patterns. Her research also addresses the risks of potential drug interactions—an essential area of study given the reliance on medicinal plants in Jamaican culture.

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



## DR. HEATHER HAREWOOD

**Heather Harewood** (BSc, MBBS, MPH, DrPH) is Lecturer in Public Health and Epidemiology, and Head of the Public Health Group at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados. She is the coordinator of the Master of Public Health programme and the UWI-PAHO postgraduate programmes in Health Policy and Health Systems.

Her research interests are health systems-based and align with her experience as a public health clinician and administrator. She uses qualitative and mixed methods approaches to examine and inform policies related to areas such as maternal and child health, nutrition, childhood obesity and climate change. Her work has resulted in peer-reviewed publications and technical reports produced for local and international agencies.

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



**DR. MARSHA IVEY**

**Dr. Marsha A. Ivey** is a Lecturer in the Department of Para-Clinical Sciences at The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, within the Faculty of Medical Sciences. Her research focuses on public health, epidemiology, and health systems, with a particular interest in addressing the healthcare needs of the elderly and the impact of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) on Caribbean populations. Dr. Ivey's work is dedicated to advancing health systems research to improve healthcare delivery and outcomes. Through her role at UWI, she contributes to both academic knowledge and the practical applications of public health strategies that benefit communities in the Caribbean.

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



## DR. INDIANNA MINTO-COY

**Dr. Minto-Coy** is Deputy Executive Director, MBA and MSc Programmes, Mona School of Business and Management, The University of the West Indies, Mona. She is the Caribbean Countries Director for the Academy of International Business – Latin America and the Caribbean (AIB-LAC) for 2021-2024. She is also a Research Affiliate at Wilfrid Laurier University's International Migration Research Centre.

Indianna's research, consultancies, publications and public engagements span the themes of Entrepreneurship, Diasporas and International Business. There is also an emerging stream of work in the areas of Sustainability, Business Continuity and Disaster Risk Reduction.

She believes in encouraging excellence among students and also in mentoring and encouraging the next generation of researchers and Caribbean Scholars.

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



## PROFESSOR DURAISAMY SARAVANAKUMAR

**Duraisamy Saravanakumar** (Sara) is the Director, Graduate Studies and Research and Professor of Plant Pathology, at the St Augustine Campus, Trinidad.

He has over 20 years of experience in food systems practiced in sub-tropical, temperate and tropical production systems. He has served as a sustainable agriculture expert for EU and FAO projects. His present research is focused on the identification of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), study of health impacts of pesticides and development of sustainable bio-inputs for management of pests in the Caribbean.

Professor Saravanakumar has published over 70 impactful research papers in refereed journals and authored nine book chapters. His publications have over 4000 citations within Google Scholar, with papers published as first author, earning over 2000 citations – particularly in the fields of plant pathology, entomology, biological control, stress mitigation, microbiology, environmental science, and molecular biology.

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



## DR. DAVID SMITH

**Mr. David C. Smith**, PhD (Zoology) is the Coordinator of the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) and Director of the Centre for Environmental Management (CEM) at The UWI. He is the Caribbean Coordinator for the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN) and was a member of the Independent Group of Scientists who prepared the UN Global Sustainable Development Report 2019. Dr. Smith has many years of experience in academia, civil society, the private sector and the United Nations, focusing on Sustainable Development, Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Reduction.

He is a former Executive Director of the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT). During his tenure at JCDDT, he managed a debt-for-nature swap and helped to establish the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica and the Jamaica National Parks Trust Fund. He has also worked on verification of Carbon emission reductions, several Environmental Assessments and was instrumental in the design and implementation of a Green Globe certified Environmental Management System in a major resort hotel in Jamaica. Dr. Smith provided oversight to the development of Jamaica's Protected Areas System Plan and contributed to the National Forestry Management Plan. He has also contributed to small business management and the design of environmental financing mechanisms in Jamaica, Uganda, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

# BIO DISCUSSANTS



## PROFESSOR CANUTE THOMPSON

**Professor Canute Thompson** is a Professor of educational policy, planning and leadership who serves as Director of the Caribbean Centre for Educational Planning (CCEP) and was the Project Director, UWI Governance Recommendation and Implementation Committee from 2022 to 2024.

Professor Thompson holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree with high commendation in Educational Administration and Leadership and a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Studies from The UWI, a Master of Arts (with honours) from the Eden Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts (with honours) from The UWI. He also earned a Certificate in Educational Sector Planning from the International Institute for Educational Planning; and a Management Consultant International Certificate from the Council of Management Consulting Institutes. His work as a leadership coach and management consultant has included projects with UNESCO, UNICEF, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and the Government of Jamaica.

His publication record includes seven single-authored books, one co-authored monograph, four co-edited books, seven book chapters and twenty journal articles. Regionally and internationally, he has also delivered over thirty conference and special presentations and has had over 200 newspaper articles published.

Throughout his academic service, Professor Thompson has supervised six doctoral candidates and twenty-six Masters of Education students. He has developed two (2) new programmes and co-developed another two (2), in addition to developing fourteen (14) new courses and co-developed two (2) for the School of Education and another two (2) for the Department of Government at the Mona Campus. He also spearheaded the founding of the Caribbean Centre for Educational Planning (CCEP), the Caribbean Leadership Re-Imagination Initiative (CLRI), and the Philosophy of Education Movement of the Caribbean (PEMCA).

Professor Thompson has earned several awards. Among them, are six UWI Mona Campus Principal's Award – two for Best Publication (Article Category) in 2019 and in 2020 for his book, *Reimagining Educational Leadership in the Caribbean*; two for Most Outstanding Researcher (2020 & 2021); and again, two in 2023 on behalf of the CCEP – for Research Activity generating the most funds and Research with the most Development Impact. In 2022 he was awarded a bronze medal in the Independent Publishers' Book Awards, for his 2020 book, *Education and Development: Policy Imperatives for Jamaica and the Caribbean*.

He co-chaired the Vice-Chancellor's Re-Imagining UWI 2020–2021 Committee and is a member of the Editorial Board of the *International Society for Educational Planning*, the *Caribbean Journal of Mixed Methods Research* and the *Journal of Human Resource Management*. He is the founding President of the Jamaica Chapter, Caribbean Institute of Certified Management Consultants, a former Ministry of Education Representative on the University Council of Jamaica, a former Chair of the Advisory Board of the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) and a former Board Member of the Council of Community Colleges in Jamaica. His international affiliations include membership in the American Educational Research Association, the International Society of Educational Planning, and the Philosophy of Education Society of North America.

Professor Thompson's scholarly contributions and ability to provide unique insights on issues in the field of education are widely respected. The expansive UWI network extends congratulations to Professor Thompson on his appointment as Pro Vice-Chancellor, Board for Undergraduate Studies.

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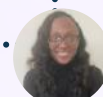
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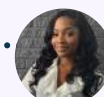
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