



**UWI**  
SCHOOL FOR  
GRADUATE STUDIES  
AND RESEARCH

# ONE-UWI POSTGRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

Theme: **Building Resilient Futures**



**ONLINE**  
JANUARY  
**20-22**  
2026



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**ONE-UWI**  
**POSTGRADUATE**  
**STUDENT**  
**CONFERENCE**  
**2025/2026**



# About the One-UWI Postgraduate Student Conference

The One-UWI Postgraduate Student Conference proudly returns for its third year, following a successful inaugural event held in November 2023 and 2024. 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 **January 20-22, 2026**.

Guided by this year's theme, "**Building Resilient Futures**" 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.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The One-UWI Postgraduate Student Conference 2025 is guided by the principles of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a shared global framework for advancing research, innovation, and impact across disciplines. Postgraduate research showcased at the Conference is encouraged to engage with these goals by addressing critical challenges such as poverty reduction, health and education equity, climate resilience, sustainable economic growth, and environmental protection. Through interdisciplinary scholarship and regional insight, the Conference highlights the role of postgraduate students in shaping sustainable futures for the Caribbean and beyond.

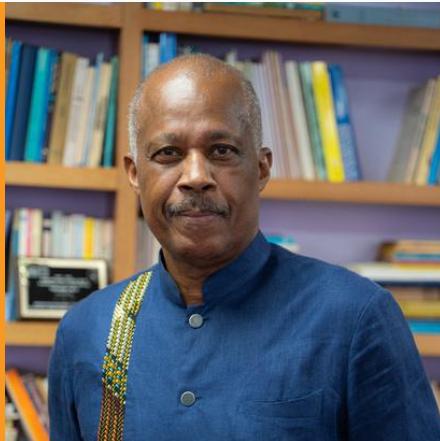


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- Directors, Graduate Studies & Research
- Vice-Chancellor

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Meet our Daily Keynote Speakers

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Meet the Team Behind the Scenes

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# **REMARKS FROM THE UWI**

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*In these times of phenomenal change and complex challenges, the need for clarity and resilience have never been more critical. As postgraduate researchers, you stand at the forefront of this mission—your work not only advances knowledge but also strengthens the foundations of our communities, institutions, and the Region.*

~Vice-Chancellor Beckles

# VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

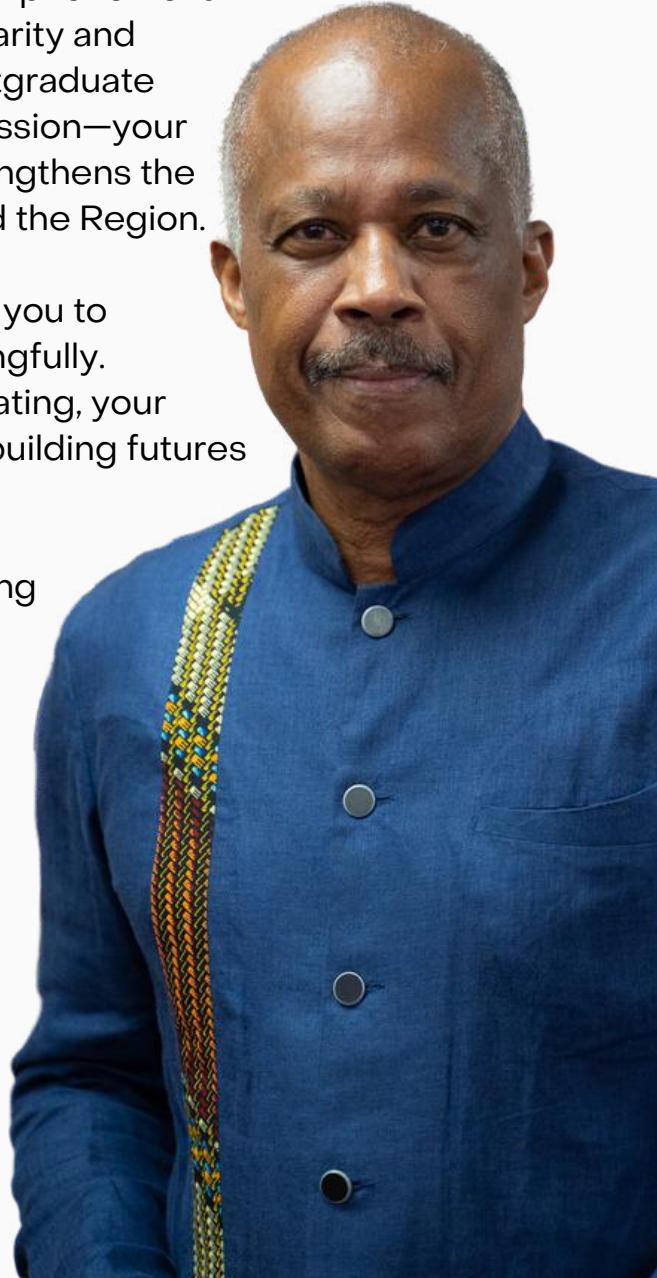
It is my distinct honour to extend warm greetings on behalf of The University of the West Indies as we come together for the 3rd Annual One-UWI Postgraduate Student Conference (UWIPGCon25). In this gathering we will explore, challenge, and shape the future through research, dialogue, and innovation as One University.

This year's theme, *Building Resilient Futures*, invites us to reflect on the role of scholarship in navigating uncertainty, confronting global challenges, and designing solutions that endure. In these times of phenomenal change and complex challenges, the need for clarity and resilience have never been more critical. As postgraduate researchers, you stand at the forefront of this mission—your work not only advances knowledge but also strengthens the foundations of our communities, institutions, and the Region.

Over the course of this conference, I encourage you to engage deeply, think boldly, and connect meaningfully. Whether you're presenting, listening, or collaborating, your contributions are vital to the collective effort of building futures that are not only sustainable—but resilient.

I extend heartfelt congratulations to the organizing team, speakers and the more than fifty student researchers from across the five campuses of The University of the West Indies, who have contributed to making this conference possible.

Wishing you an enriching and productive conference.



# PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR & CONFERENCE CHAIR

**Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee**

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

Welcome to the third One-UWI Postgraduate Student Conference being held under the theme *Building Resilient Futures*. It is with great pride and pleasure that I warmly congratulate all student presenters whose work reflects intellectual rigour, creativity, and a deep commitment to advancing knowledge. Your research topics are relevant, timely and multi-disciplinary. Your participation from across four of our five campuses demonstrates the strength of our postgraduate community and the value of cross-campus engagement in addressing shared regional and global challenges.

I also commend our keynote speakers – young, brilliant, and forward-looking scholars

– whose insights and leadership exemplify the promise of the next generation of researchers. Your contributions will challenge us to think boldly urgently, and act purposefully.

The conference theme, *Building Resilient Futures*, could not be timelier. In the wake of the immense negative impact of Hurricane Melissa, we are reminded of the urgency of resilience – environmental, social, economic, and institutional. The research that will be shared over the three days, underscores the critical role of postgraduate scholarship in defining adaptive solutions and sustainable pathways for our Caribbean Region and beyond.

I wish to extend sincere appreciation to the members of the Conference Secretariat headed by Miss Ava-Loi Forbes for their professionalism, dedication, tireless efforts in delivering a successful postgraduate conference, each year. Your commitment ensures the execution of a seamless programme and a welcoming space for scholarly exchange.

I thank the student leaders, the Directors, Graduate Studies and Research, our discussants and moderators for your support and diligence. I express my appreciation to all participants for your engagement, dialogue, and collegiality. Your participation enriches the conference and strengthens our scholarly community. I invite you to continue this journey with us and to join us again at next year's postgraduate conference as we together build resilient futures through research.

# **DIRECTOR, GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH - ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS**

**Professor Duraisamy Saravanakumar**

**Director, Graduate Studies and Research, St. Augustine Campus**

On behalf of all Directors of the Graduate Studies and Research, I take great pleasure and honour in congratulating and welcoming your participation in the 3rd iteration of successful One-UWI Postgraduate Student Conference.

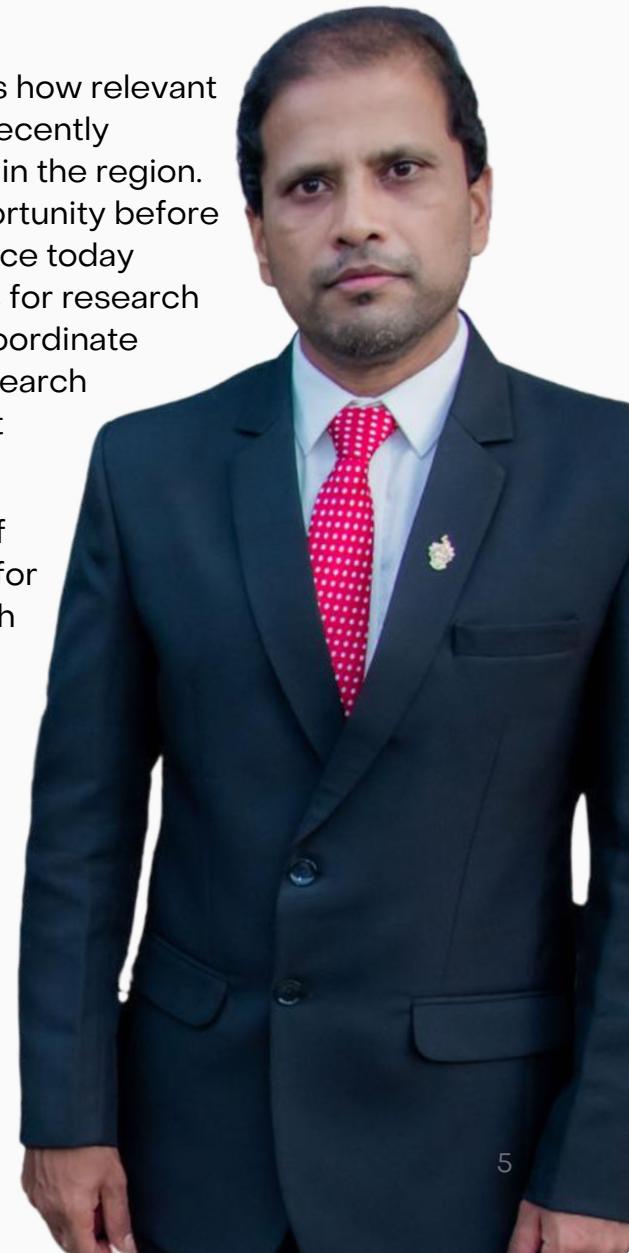
Our graduate students are the enormous force behind The UWI's research innovation that results in advancement of knowledge in the region and beyond, invention of technologies for industries, development of practices for communities and policies for governments through data driven approaches. I had an opportunity to review the conference abstracts and impressed by the depth and relevance of the issues our graduate students are tackling in health, agriculture, education, cultural identity, economic transformation, governance, environmental sustainability and in many more areas.

Our theme this year *Building Resilient Futures* stresses how relevant it is; and how foresighted our leadership is as we had recently experienced the serious impacts of Hurricane Melissa in the region. Our theme speaks to immense responsibility and opportunity before us as research scholars across the Caribbean. Resilience today demands more than recovery from shocks, and it calls for research innovation. It is the ability to connect to one another, coordinate our efforts efficiently, and incorporate the relevant research being done not just across barriers and disciplines, but across borders.

Therefore, I urge our graduate students to make use of this opportunity to create networks among comrades for sharing knowledge, fostering multidisciplinary research and building sustainable futures for better life and environment.

I remind you the popular words of Thomas Edison to become a successful research scholar: "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration".

In closing, we wish you a rewarding and inspiring conference, and we look forward to the contributions this gathering will spark in the years ahead.





# DIRECTORS, GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH





# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 1: JANUARY 20, 2026

### *Opening Ceremony*

#### **Moderator**

Mr. Kimon Drigo  
President, Five Islands Campus  
Association of Postgraduate Students

**Time:** 8:00AM to 9:30AM

<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b>	<b>Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee</b> Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Studies and Research), The UWI
<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Professor Duraisamy Saravanakumar</b> Director (Graduate Studies and Research), St. Augustine Campus
<b>Introduction of Guest Speaker</b>	<b>Professor Sir Hilary Beckles</b> Vice-Chancellor, The UWI
<b>Guest Speaker</b>	<b>Mr. Brandon Sookhoo</b> President, St. Augustine Campus Association of Postgraduate Students
<b>Vote of Thanks</b>	<b>Ms. Nadine Bushell</b> International Director – Constitutional Area I Lions Clubs International
	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
	<b>Mr. Teion Sealey</b> President, Cave Hill Campus Association of Postgraduate Students



## NADINE BUSHELL

**Ms. Nadine Bushell** serves as the Assistant Director, Projects at the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS). In this capacity, she provides executive oversight of the Agency's portfolio of programmes and projects, encompassing project formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and resource mobilization.

Ms. Bushell recently completed a six-year tenure as a Director on the Procurement Board of Trinidad and Tobago. Her professional career spans the fields of development, project planning, and management, with extensive experience in both the public sector and international development. She has served in the Public Service of Trinidad and Tobago, including at the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ministry of Community Development, Culture, and Gender Affairs, and has also worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Throughout her career, Ms. Bushell has cultivated substantial expertise in engaging and collaborating with international and regional development agencies, governments, and civil society organizations to mobilize and effectively utilize development resources in support of national and regional priorities.

She holds a Master of Science in Development and Project Planning and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Diplomacy and International Affairs.

Beyond her professional work, Ms. Bushell is deeply committed to community service across the Caribbean and globally. She is currently an International Director (2025–2027) on the Lions Clubs International Board, following her distinguished service as District Governor for District 60A (Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname) during 2016–2017, and Council Chairperson for the Caribbean Region in 2017–2018. Additionally, she has been actively involved with the Catholic Commission for Social Justice in Trinidad and Tobago.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 1: JANUARY 20, 2026

### Plenary Session 1

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**9:30 AM - THE FUTURE OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN THE  
11:30 AM CARIBBEAN**



**Session Chair: Professor Maxine Gossell-Williams**  
**Session Discussant: Dr. Stanley Lalta**

**Dr. Li-Shann Paul-Mullings | Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Prevalence and Clinical Characteristics of Infants with Urinary Tract Infection and Concomitant CSF Pleocytosis: A Single-Centre Retrospective Study*

**Ms. Hazel Roberts | Faculty of Food & Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Stating the Potential Benefits and Barriers of Implementing a Front-of-Packaging Nutritional Warning Labelling System in the Caribbean: A Literature Review*

**Ms. Sian Ramdass | Faculty of Science & Technology, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Uncovering the Anticancer Potential of Bush Medicine in Trinidad and Tobago*

**Mrs. Felicia Frederick-Davis | Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Psychological Insulin Resistance among persons with type 2 diabetes in Trinidad.*

**Ms. Oneika Pacheco | Faculty of Food & Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Perception and Awareness toward Pesticide Residues on Fruits and Vegetables Among Local Consumers in Trinidad, West Indies*

**Dr. Griffin Benjamin, Jr. | Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill Campus**

- *Primary Care Patients' Awareness and Perceptions Toward Medicinal Cannabis in Barbados*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 1: JANUARY 20, 2026

### Plenary Session 2

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**11:30 AM - THE DIGITAL CARIBBEAN: TECHNOLOGY, AI, AND  
1:00 PM SMART SOCIETIES IN EVERYDAY LIFE**



**Session Chair: Dr. Kris Manohar**  
**Session Discussant: Dr. Peter Chami**

**Ms. Ornella Mattoo | Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- Who, How & What! Determinants of Consumer Brand Attitudes Following Product Failure & Recovery: Virtual Chat Agent Vs Human Chat Agent Compensation Recovery!



**Ms. Juliet Ann Jackson | Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona Campus**

- Culturally Speaking: Norms of Interaction and Interpretation in Jamaican YouTube Cooking Shows



**Ms. Tanisha Ash | Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- An investigation of AI Adoption in LAC for Policy Insights: A Mixed Methods Explanatory Sequential Case Study of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ms. Rhonda Rattansingh | Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *The Impact of Uni-Sensory and Multi-Sensory Semantic Cue Congruence on Online Consumer Product Attitude*

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

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 1: JANUARY 20, 2026

### Plenary Session 3

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**1:30 PM - 3:00 PM** **FROM ROOTS TO ROUTES: IDENTITIES, BELONGING, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE CARIBBEAN**



5  
GENDER  
EQUALITY  
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**Session Chair: Professor Sonjah Stanley Niaah**  
**Session Discussant: Ms. Tania Chambers, UNDP**

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

- For Home from Abroad: Muriel Petioni and the Trinidad and Tobago Gayap Organisation.



11  
SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES  
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**Ms. Te Hilla Maloney | Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- Ties That Travel: Investigating the Impact of Youth Migration on Caribbean Family Resilience Using Quantitative Methods.



**Ms. Helen Atkins | Institute of Gender Development Studies, Mona Campus**

- Women's Media Watch Jamaica: Early Trajectories in Storying Advocacy

**Dr. Gabrielle Boyce | Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill Campus**

- Sociodemographic and Health Characteristics of Elderly People Referred to Public Long-Term Health Care Facilities in Barbados

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 1: JANUARY 20, 2026

### Plenary Session 4

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**3:00 PM - ONE CARIBBEAN: BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**  
**4:30 PM**



**Session Chair: Dr. Keron Niles**  
**Session Discussant: Dr. Natalie Dietrich Jones**

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



**Mrs. Shara Williams-Lue | Faculty of Social Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Workplace Support for Retirement in Jamaica: A Resource-Based Dynamic Perspective.*

13 CLIMATE ACTION



**Ms. Amanda Kellman | Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill Campus**

- *A Qualitative Exploration of Stakeholder Perspectives on Mental Health Services for Emerging Adults in Barbados*

15 LIFE  
ON LAND



**Ms. Eulanie Burgess | Faculty of Food & Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Examining Consumer Demand Response to Food Recalls: A Scoping Review.*

**Ms. Carol-Ann McKenzie | Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona Campus**

- *Determinants of Hurricane Preparedness in the Caribbean: A New Framework for Disaster Communication Interventions.*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 2: JANUARY 21, 2026

### *Opening Session*

#### **Moderator**

#### **Ms. Shawnecia Smart**

President, Global Campus Association  
of Postgraduate Students

**Time:** 8:00AM to 9:30AM

#### **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

#### **Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee**

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

#### **Introduction of Guest Speaker**

#### **Ms. Zilpah Joyette**

Guild President  
The UWI Guild of Students, Global Campus

#### **Guest Speaker**

#### **Mr. Rodolpho Gonçalves da Silva**

Biologist & PhD Student in Biodiversity,  
São Paulo State University (UNESP), Brazil

#### **Translator**

from the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures,  
Faculty of Humanities & Education, The UWI, Mona Campus

#### **Q&A**

#### **Vote of Thanks**

#### **Mr. Teion Sealey**

President, Cave Hill Campus Association  
of Postgraduate Students



## RODOLPHO GONÇALVES DA SILVA

**Rodolpho Gonçalves da Silva** is a biologist and PhD student in Biodiversity at São Paulo State University – UNESP, Brazil. His research investigates how different livestock management practices influence wildlife in the Pantanal, with a special focus on jaguars and pumas.

By comparing areas managed with cattle and those with water buffalo, his work seeks to understand how land use and production systems affect the structure of mammal communities and the occupancy of top predators, contributing to the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and the promotion of more sustainable agriculture in harmony with nature conservation.

Beyond scientific research, Rodolpho is engaged in youth development and community service through Lions Clubs International. Over the past year, he represented young people around the world as a Leo-Lion Board Liaison to the International Board of Directors, combining science, leadership, and social commitment toward a more balanced and resilient future.

Once again, thank you for your kind invitation. I am looking forward to contributing to the discussions on Building Resilient Futures and engaging with the postgraduate community at UWI.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 2: JANUARY 21, 2026

### Plenary Session 1

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**9:30 AM - GREEN DREAMS: SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE INNOVATION,  
11:15 AM AND RESILIENT FUTURES**



**Session Chair: Dr. David Smith**

**Session Discussant: Dr. Evangeline Inniss Springer**

**Mr. Satesh Sookhai, Mr. Areeb Mohammed, Mr. Widmark Ramgoole, Ms. Gail Narinesingh, Ms. Shania A. Sookhai, Ms. Celine Suchit, Ms. Melissa Steele | Faculty of Social Sciences; Faculty of Science and Technology; Faculty of Medical Sciences; The Health Services Unit; Faculty of Food and Agriculture**

- *Preparing Tomorrow's Doctors for Climate Change: Insights from Medical Student Perceptions.*

**Mr. Rajne Reynolds | Faculty of Science & Technology, Mona Campus**

- *A Comparative Reconstruction of Environmental Change in Jamaica: Insights from Sedimentology, Foraminifer and Geochemistry in Manatee Bay and Turtle Crawle Bay, Jamaica.*

**Ms. Alana S. Mahabir | Faculty of Engineering, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Integrating Sustainability into an Alternate Water Management System of Caribbean SIDS: A Trinidad Case Study*

**Dr. Daniel Thomas | Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Assessment of the Nutritional Properties of Jamaican Red Kidney Beans: A Food for Health and Well-Being.*

**Mr. Gopiechand Boodhan | Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *A Proximity Analysis of Communities at Risk from Landfill Air Pollutants – A Study of the Beetham, Forrest Park and Guanapo Landfill Sites*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 2: JANUARY 21, 2026

### Plenary Session 2

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**11:15 AM - INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**  
**1:00 PM**



**Session Chair: Ms. Dian Bailey**  
**Session Discussant: Dr. Shani Roper**

**Mrs. Stephanie Chambers-Anderson | Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona Campus**

- *An Experimentation with Spanish Language Learning through Literary Texts: A Mixed Method Approach.*

**Mrs. Tamara Scott McFarlene | Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona Campus**

- *Using McClusky's Theory of Margin to Investigate the Lived Curriculum of Adult Learners in Second Chance Education Programmes.*

**Mr. Mark Salina | Faculty of Humanities & Education, Global Campus**

- *An Exploration of Trinidadian Teachers' Acceptance of Technology in Two Government and Two Denominational Secondary Schools.*

**Ms. René Henry | Faculty of Social Sciences, Global Campus**

- *An Exploration of Perspectives on Programme Diversification in a Tertiary Institution in Anguilla 2019-2023.*

**Ms. Lyn-Addis Lynch | Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona Campus**

- *Inclusive Education and Youth Futures: Transforming Caribbean Curriculum for Equity and Cultural Responsiveness*

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

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 2: JANUARY 21, 2026

### Plenary Session 3

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**1:30 PM - SOCIAL EQUITY AND PARTICIPATION IN THE CARIBBEAN**  
**3:00 PM**



**Session Chair: Professor Julie Meeks Gardner**  
**Session Discussant: Dr. Talia Esnard**



**Ms. Marsha Brown | Faculty of Social Sciences, Mona Campus**

- Socioeconomic Factors Associated with Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination in Jamaica.

**Ms. Priya Ramdial | Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- Fear of Crime, Psychological Distress, and Personality Traits in Caribbean Adults: A Thematic Review of Literature

**Ms. Dhanielle Smith | Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *A Living Wage for Trinidad and Tobago*

**Mr. Yuvan Dass | Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Shifting the Civic Pulse, Exploring Local Government Participation in Trinidad.*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 2: JANUARY 21, 2026

### Plenary Session 4

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM** **BODIES IN CONTEXT: HEALTH, NUTRITION, PERFORMANCE, AND DISEASE**



**Session Chair: Dr. Kwesi Marshall**  
**Session Discussants: Professor Minerva Thame & Dr. Sharmella Roopchand-Martin**

**Dr. Chloe Thompson | Faculty of Sport, Mona Campus**

- *Prevalence of Low Energy Availability Among Adult Female Cricketers in Barbados.*

**Dr. Racquel Dawkins | Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Unveiling Critical Insights: Assessing Retinopathy of Prematurity Screening in a Resource-Limited Setting*

**Dr. Toni-Ann Dunn | Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Acute Glomerulonephritis: Prevalence, Etiology, and Complications of Children Admitted at a Tertiary Institution: A 10-year review.*

**Dr. Fareena Alladin | Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Cultural Capital as a Determinant of Food Consumption: Insights from the COVID-19 Pandemic.*

**Dr. Deepak Ramsingh | Faculty of Medical Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *The Role of Ki-67 in the Prognosis of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Systematic Review*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 3: JANUARY 22, 2026

### *Opening Session*

#### **Moderator**

##### **Mr. Martineil Bartley**

President, Mona Campus Association  
of Postgraduate Students

**Time:** 8:00AM to 9:30AM

#### **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

##### **Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee**

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

#### **Introduction of Guest Speaker**

##### **Mr. Teion Sealy**

President, Cave Hill Campus Association of  
Postgraduate Students

#### **Guest Speaker**

##### **Mr. Ishaan Sudan**

Founder/Director –  
• Aerod Technologies,  
• Orra Naturals and  
• Flippysustainables  
India

#### **Q&A**

#### **Vote of Thanks**

##### **Mr. Kimon W. Drigo**

President, Five Islands Campus Association of  
Postgraduate Students



## ISHAAN SUDAN

**Ishaan Sudan** is an entrepreneur and sustainability leader from India, whose work focuses on environmental action, climate advocacy, and the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals. His efforts are centred on translating global development priorities into meaningful, community-driven impact.

Working across the spectrum from grassroots implementation to global platforms, Ishaan undertakes initiatives that promote all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular emphasis on climate action, community resilience, and inclusive development. His work bridges local realities with global sustainability frameworks through on-ground programmes, awareness campaigns, and international advocacy.

Beyond field-based action, Ishaan is deeply engaged in youth leadership and global dialogue through Lions Clubs International, where he has been an active member for over eight years. He has represented young people on international platforms, including serving as a Youth Representative to the United Nations, and has delivered speeches and interventions at United Nations-linked forums on sustainability, youth leadership, and climate action.

In recognition of his contributions to the social and environmental sector, Ishaan has been awarded the Diana Award and the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, honouring his leadership, service, and sustained impact.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 3: JANUARY 22, 2026

### Plenary Session 1

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**9:30 AM - TRANSFORMING ORGANISATIONS: STRATEGY, SYSTEMS,  
11:00 AM AND HUMAN CAPITAL**



**Session Chair: Dr. Karen Murdock**  
**Session Discussant: Dr. Kevin Fleary**



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

- *An Investigation of the Learning Organisation and Psycho-socio-cultural Predictors of Institutional Effectiveness in Three Jamaican Higher Education Institutions*



**Mr. Leroy Quildon | Faculty of Engineering, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Strategising Public-Private Partnerships in Maritime Export Operations: A Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Perspective in Trinidad and Tobago*



**Mr. Marcele Joseph | Faculty of Food & Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- *An Evaluation of the Food Safety Management System in a CARICOM Wheat Flour Mill*



**Mr. Satesh Sookhai | Faculty of Social Sciences, St. Augustine Campus**

- *Engineered for Business: A Comparative Study of Entrepreneurial Intentions in Management and Engineering Students*



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 3: JANUARY 22, 2026

### Plenary Session 2

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**11:00 AM - THE FUTURE OF FOOD AND WELL-BEING IN THE  
12:45 PM CARIBBEAN**



**Session Chair: Professor Duraisamy Saravanakumar  
Session Discussant: Dr. Patricia Northover**



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

- Understanding the Drivers of Chronic Food Insecurity in Caribbean Small Island Developing States



**Mrs. Daydre-Ann Allen-Mitchell | Faculty of Food & Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus**

- Improving Food Security and Socio-Economic Well-Being of Ginger Producers in Jamaica



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

- Household Dietary Diversity and Associated Socioeconomic Factors: The Case of Three Rural Communities in Southeast Trinidad During COVID-19

**Mr. Jody Brown | Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona Campus**

- Promoting Nutritional Well-Being Through Indigenous Food Systems in Caribbean Households (Home Economics Focus)

**Ms. Jamie Hinds | Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill Campus**

- Characterization of the Street Food Environment of Barbados Using Geographical Information Systems

**12:45 PM - 1:30 PM: LUNCH BREAK**

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## DAY 3: JANUARY 22, 2026

### Plenary Session 3

All times are listed as  
GMT-5 / Jamaica Time

**1:30 PM - REFRAMING CARIBBEAN LIVES IN A CHANGING WORLD**  
**3:00 PM**



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**Session Chair: Professor Dwayne Devonish**  
**Session Discussant: Dr. Arlene Bailey**

**Mr. Rudolph Ellis | Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona Campus**

- *Consciousness in Human Beings: A Metaphysical Engagement with the Post-Colonial Self.*

**Ms. Kendria Ferguson | Faculty of Social Sciences, Mona Campus**

- *Intersecting Vulnerabilities and Socio-Economic Drivers of Household Impact in Post-Hurricane Dorian Bahamas*

**Mr. Kenny Kitsingh | Faculty of Sport, Mona Campus**

- *Gender Differences in Extracurricular Sports Participation Among Secondary Students in Trinidad: Multiple Stakeholders' Perspective.*

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

- *Translanguaging for Creole Education: A Caribbean-Centered Approach.*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE :

## DAY 3: JANUARY 22, 2026

### *Closing Ceremony*

#### **Master of Ceremony**

##### **Professor Dwayne Devonish**

Director (Graduate Studies and Research),  
Cave Hill Campus

**Time:** 3:10PM to 3:40PM

#### **Remarks**

##### **Mr. Brandon Sookhoo**

President, St. Augustine Campus Association of Postgraduate Students

##### **Mr. Roshaun Wynter**

Guild President,  
The UWI Guild of Students, Mona Campus

##### **Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee**

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

#### **Report & Closing Remarks**

##### **Professor Dwayne Devonish**

Director (Graduate Studies and Research),  
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

**END OF CONFERENCE:  
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE  
3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL ONE-UWI POSTGRADUATE  
STUDENT CONFERENCE A SUCCESS!**





Dr. Griffin Benjamin, Jr. (right) and Dr. Suman Vemu, Senior Medical Officer at the Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital, is engaged in a conversation with Jamaica's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor McKenzie (left), Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Health for Jamaica.

Some of our postgraduate students from across the region and beyond are on the front lines in Western Jamaica, supporting recovery efforts after Hurricane Melissa.

Dr. Griffin Benjamin, Jr., a UWI postgraduate student, Consultant Family Physician, and Team Doctor with the Barbados Defence Force Emergency Medical Team, is helping to treat patients alongside a small team of colleagues in a field medical setting.

This mission shows The UWI in action, with students using their training in real time, in service of communities, and in regional solidarity.

*The UWI - Rooted, Ready Rising!*

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



## MR. TEION SEALEY

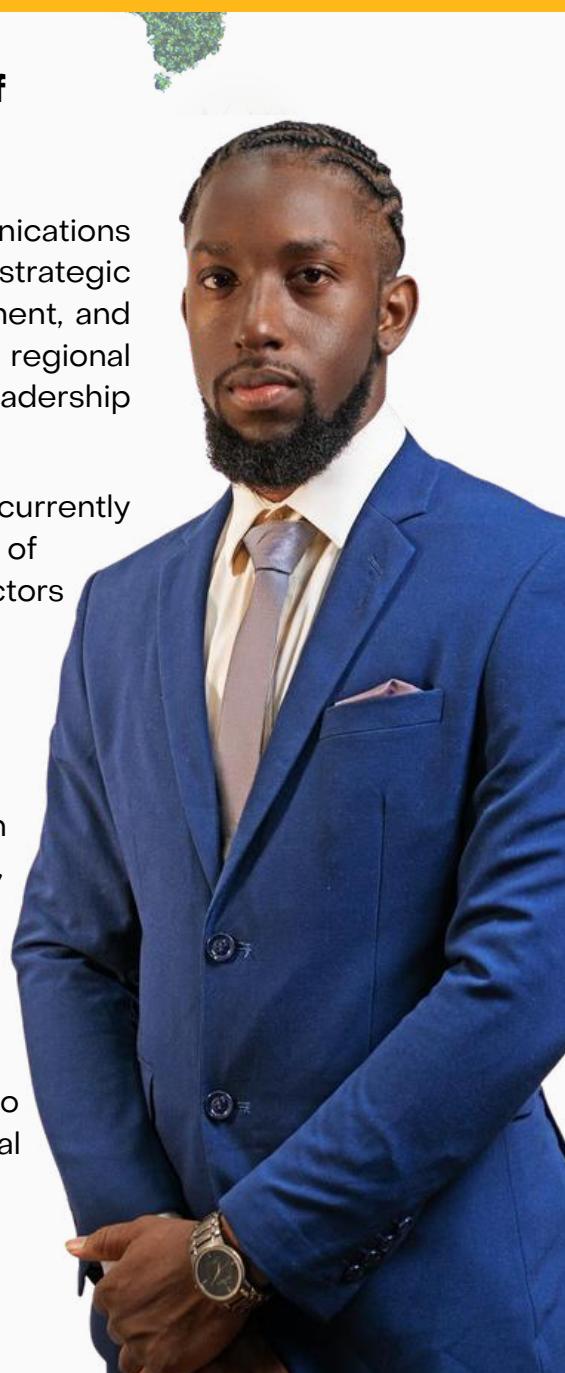
**Postgraduate Representative &  
President, Cave Hill Campus Association of  
Postgraduate Students (CHAPS),  
The UWI Guild of Students**

**Teion Sealey** is a marketing and corporate communications professional with years of experience spanning strategic communications, digital engagement, stakeholder management, and executive support. He currently works within a large regional organisation, contributing to corporate, internal, and leadership communications across multiple markets.

Teion holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Law and is currently pursuing an MBA in Marketing and Analytics at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. He has worked across sectors including telecommunications, retail, food and beverage, and the non-profit space, with experience in communications planning, content development, brand management, and stakeholder engagement.

His academic and professional interests sit at the intersection of communications strategy, data-informed decision-making, and organisational impact.

He is passionate about creating effective communications that connect people, ideas, and organisations, bringing a strategic, data-informed perspective to every challenge he undertakes, and is committed to leveraging his expertise to drive meaningful impact in communications and organisational strategy.





## MS. SHAWNECIA SMART

**Postgraduate Representative &  
President, Global Campus Association of  
Postgraduate Students (GCAPS),  
The UWI Guild of Students**

As a student leader, **Shawnecia Smart** is passionate about advocacy, continuous learning, and tackling challenges to foster growth. She has served as a student leader for the Guild of Students since 2022 where she has worked tirelessly to amplify and champion the voices of students.

My academic and professional foundation lies in auditing, accounting, finance, and international tax. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Management Studies where she hopes to combine my technical knowledge with strategic leadership.

My commitment is to empower others as I am passionate about advancing women in leadership and creating opportunities for diverse perspectives to thrive in. She is guided by her favourite mantra, “The journey is just as important as the destination” which helps me to embrace growth, resilience and the value of shared experiences along the way.





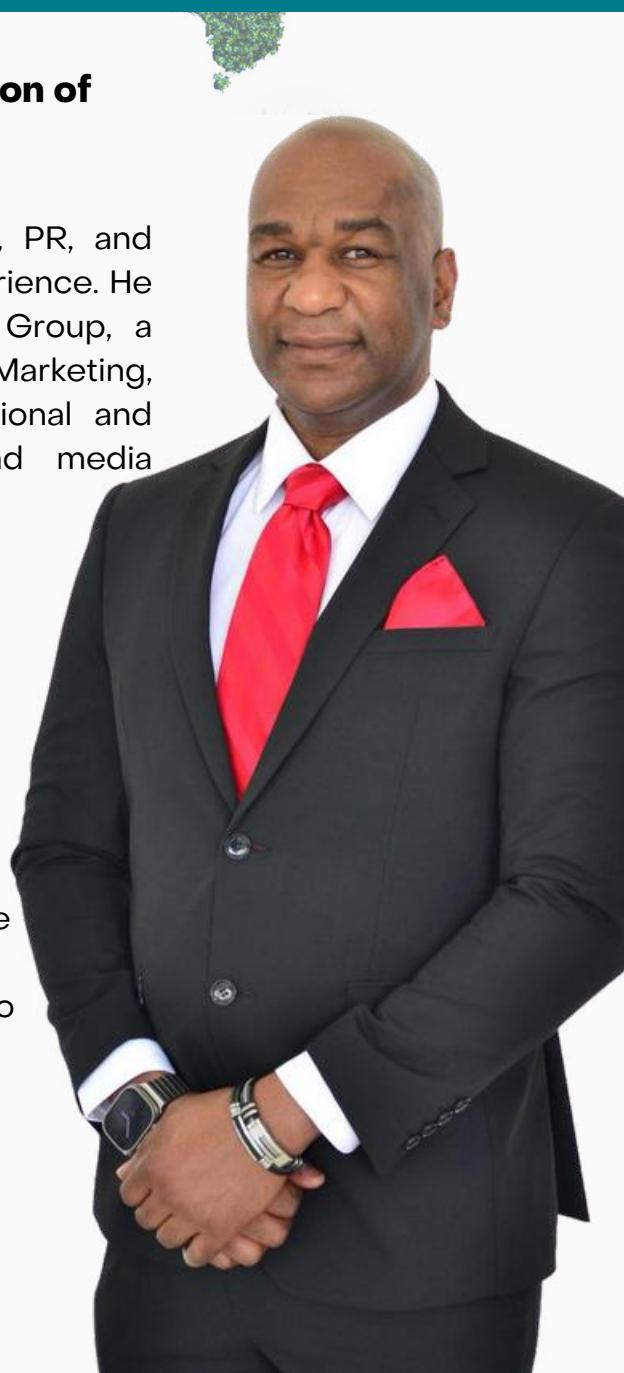
## MR. KIMON W. DRIGO

**Postgraduate Representative &  
President, Five Islands Campus Association of  
Postgraduate Students (FICAPS),  
The 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.





## MR. MARTINEIL BARTLEY

**Postgraduate Representative &  
President, Mona Campus Association of  
Postgraduate Students (MAPS),  
The UWI Guild of Students**

**Martineil Bartley** is a dynamic professional with a strong academic focus at the intersection of Biomedical Engineering and Information Technology/Management Information Systems, driven by a passion for leveraging technology to improve healthcare, education, and public-sector governance.

At the University of the West Indies, Mona, he has held several senior leadership roles, including Guild of Students Public Relations Officer and Vice President of Services and Special Projects, where he led initiatives focused on student welfare, food security, access to essential resources, and professional development.

He currently serves as President of the Mona Association of Postgraduate Students (MAPS), advocating for postgraduate students while developing leadership, academic support, and capacity-building programmes that foster sustainable student growth and institutional impact.





## MR. BRANDON SOOKHOO

**Postgraduate Representative &  
President, St. Augustine Campus Association of  
Postgraduate Students (STAAPS),  
The UWI Guild of Students**

Meet **Brandon Sookhoo**, the dynamic and forward-thinking Postgraduate Representative at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Currently pursuing a Master's in Climate Studies with a specialization in Energy, Brandon is driven by a passion for climate resilience, sustainable development, and ensuring the voices of postgraduate students are heard and represented.

Dedicated to strengthening the postgraduate experience, he actively champions student advocacy, academic support, and innovative initiatives across campus. Outside of his leadership role, Brandon is an avid football enthusiast and fitness lover, often found on the field or in the gym staying active and energised.

Motivated, approachable, and committed to positive change, Brandon brings a blend of professionalism, creativity, and genuine care to the postgraduate community.





# CONFERENCE **ABSTRACTS**



# PRESENTERS

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- **Ramgoolie, Gail Narinesingh,**
- **Shania A. Sookhai, Celine**
- **Suchit, Melissa Steele**
- **Thomas, Dr. Daniel**
- **Thompson, Dr. Chloe**
- **Williams-Lue, Shara**



**Dr. Fareena Alladin** is a recent graduate (PhD Sociology) from The University of the West Indies at the St. Augustine Campus, with specialisations in sociologies of food and health. She is also an Instructor at the Department of Behavioural Sciences, The UWI-STA, where she teaches courses in introductory statistics, research methods, industrial sociology, and health sociology. As a researcher, her interests focus on sociological issues affecting eating behaviour, research methods and statistics education.

## **Alladin, Dr. Fareena**

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### **Cultural Capital as a Determinant of Food Consumption: Insights from the COVID-19 Pandemic**

This study examined consumption of 'healthy' and 'unhealthy' foods among adults in Trinidad and Tobago during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The influence of cultural capital, psycho-social factors, and the home food environment on individual food consumption during the pandemic was investigated. Using an online survey and mix of convenience and snowball sampling, data was collected from adults residing in Trinidad and Tobago during the period July to October 2021 ( $n = 386$ ). Data was analysed using SPSS 26.0. Significant declines were noted in the consumption of healthy,  $t (384) = 4.508$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , and unhealthy food items,  $t (384) = 5.186$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , before and during the pandemic. During the pandemic, significant differences in healthy food consumption were found based on objectivised capital,  $t (385) = - 3.244$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ; while differences in unhealthy food consumption were based on objectivised capital,  $t (385) = - 1.709$ ,  $p < 0.05$ , and incorporated capital,  $F (2, 283) = 3.920$ ,  $p < 0.05$ . No significant differences were found based on sex or ethnic group identification; however, both types of food consumption differed based on education level while positive associations were found between household income and healthy food consumption. Additionally, cultural capital moderated the relation between household availability of unhealthy food and individual unhealthy food consumption. These results simultaneously highlight differences in food consumption before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the role of cultural capital in shaping consumption during the pandemic. They underscore the need for further interrogation of cultural capital as a social determinant of food-related behaviours. While the pandemic came to an official end in 2023, investigations of adaptations during the pandemic provide useful insight into the role of socio-economic determinants of health-related behaviours, and provide scope for mapping the future of health in the region.

Keywords: Cultural capital, Food consumption, COVID-19 pandemic, Food space-environment



**Daydre-Ann Allen-Mitchell** is a Plant Protection Officer with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining in Jamaica and a presenter at the One-UWI Postgraduate Student Conference. She brings eight years of experience teaching Biology up to the CAPE level and is dedicated to advancing agricultural science. Her professional goal is to deepen her expertise in Plant Nematology and contribute to the sector through research and innovation. Outside of work, she enjoys baking, singing, and evangelising.

### **Allen-Mitchell, Daydre-Ann**

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## **Improving Food Security and Socio-Economic Well-Being of Ginger Producers in Jamaica**

Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) is an economically and culturally significant crop in Jamaica. It is widely used as spice and for its medicinal value. Ginger production in Jamaica fell from 2000 tonnes in 1953 to about 400 tonnes in 2008. Plant parasitic nematodes, including root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.) played a major part in the decline of the crop (Myers, Elliott, and Young 2002; Elliott 2003). Despite this, not much is known about the susceptibility of the different varieties or the economic thresholds of nematode infestations in this crop. This deficiency limits the implementation of cost-effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. In this study, the author will investigate the nematode species infecting ginger; the ginger varieties most resistant and vulnerable; and explore the use of botanicals and biologicals for the management of nematodes. To accomplish these objectives, the researcher will conduct a series of field surveys throughout the island in major ginger growing areas. Nematode eggs will be extracted from infected roots and allowed to hatch for identification before being reared in pots containing susceptible plants. The use of morphological features along with the Shotgun metagenomic sequencing will be the primary identification methods. The most common ginger varieties cultivated in Jamaica (Jamaica Yellow, Jamaica Blue, and Hawaiian) will be grown in protected structures using a randomized complete block design; in two soil types; and inoculated with three different densities of one selected *Meloidogyne* species. Data will be taken on shoot height, number of leaves, root galls, Chlorophyll content and nematode reproduction factor according to research by Kankam and Adomako (2014). The findings will provide critical data to support sustainable, improved production and IPM strategies for nematode management in ginger production.

Keywords: Biological control, Genes, Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*), Root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.)



**Tanisha Ash** holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Development Statistics. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Social Policy at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. Her doctoral research focuses on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in social research for social policy, with particular emphasis on addressing challenges within the informal economy. Tanisha currently serves as a Labour Market Specialist at the Ministry of Labour in Trinidad and Tobago, where she supports the development and analysis of evidence-based labour market policies and initiatives

## **Ash, Tanisha**

### **An Investigation of AI Adoption in LAC for Policy Insights: A Mixed Methods Explanatory Sequential Case Study of Trinidad and Tobago**

**Authors:** Tanisha Ash, Priya Ramdial, Letetia Addison

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly viewed as a transformative driver of economic growth and policy innovation across the globe. However, in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), evidence on the extent of AI adoption remains fragmented, limiting the ability of policymakers to design strategies that are context-specific and regionally relevant. Trinidad and Tobago, as a small developing state with ambitions of digital transformation, provides an important case study for understanding both the opportunities and constraints shaping AI uptake. This study therefore investigates the current state of AI adoption in Trinidad and Tobago with the broader aim of generating insights to inform regional AI policy across LAC. The research addresses two central questions: What is the current level of AI Adoption? What barriers and opportunities exist for accelerating AI implementation? Using an explanatory sequential mixed methods design, a structured survey was administered to key stakeholders, followed by in-depth interviews. Preliminary findings from 64 survey responses reveal that 52% of participants consider AI adoption in their organisation to be in early exploratory or pilot phases. The most cited challenge is the high cost of implementation, while others report the absence of an institutional AI Policy or strategy. Productivity enhancement emerged as the primary use case, and education and training were the most recommended enablers of adoption. Twenty-eight participants consented to follow-up interviews, which will be stratified into case studies of adopters and non-adopters to provide comparative insights. These findings highlight the need for targets investment in digital capacity and policy framework to support inclusive AI adoption in the region.

**Keywords:** AI adoption, AI readiness, mixed-methods, Trinidad and Tobago



**Helen Atkins** is an MPhil student at The University of the West Indies (The UWI). She holds an MSc in Gender and Development Studies from The UWI, an MA (Cantab) and BA in Law from the University of Cambridge, and prior visiting research fellowships in Criminology from the LSE and London South Bank University. Helen conducted monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning on the 'WE Talk' project to reduce gender-based violence in Jamaica, and collaborated widely in the UK to counter sexual violence and exploitation. She is an editor for the Journal of International Women Studies and Leverhulme Trust grant recipient 2025-2027.

## **Atkins, Helen**

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### **Women's Media Watch Jamaica: Early Trajectories in Storying Advocacy**

This paper discusses the inaugural interview for a case study exploring violence prevention by Women's Media Watch Jamaica, a civil society organisation founded in 1988. In alignment with conference subtheme: The Social Imagination, particularly SDG5 Gender Equality, the organisation delivers creative advocacy, research and training – its 'ART' model. The purpose of the study is to inform future interventions and institutional sustainability. Research objectives include storying the mobilisation of seven founders, two deceased to be profiled, and conducting participatory action research with membership. Research questions include: How do (founding) members narrate their pathways to the organisation? How do members across generations describe institutional experiences? What impacts do these perceptions and encounters have? How might members' narratives inform the organisation's future? Shaped by Caribbean decolonial feminism, multiple qualitative techniques include oral histories, multimedia archival analysis, and diasporic autoethnography. Quantitative data is drawn from participant demographics and stakeholder surveys. The first story spans relationships, influences, organising, gendered violence, media, citizenship and belief, concluding with a call to action which inspired the case study. The interview will appear as a chapter in forthcoming UWI Press anthology, *Gender-Based Violence in the Caribbean: Historical Roots, Contemporary Continuities*, edited by Dr Dalea Bean and Professor Verene Shepherd.

Keywords: Violence Against Women; Gender-Based Violence; Participatory Action Research; Institutional ethnography; Caribbean decolonial feminism.



**Dr. Griffin Carty Benjamin Jr.** is a Family Medicine Specialist at the Eunice Gibson Polyclinic in Barbados. A graduate of The UWI, Cave Hill and medical-trained in Cuba, he has delivered primary care across Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, and Cuba. He also practices privately in Dominica, integrating mental and primary care. His research explores patient perceptions of medicinal cannabis in Barbados. Bilingual in English and Spanish, he is active in medical education, sports medicine, and community leadership.

## **Benjamin, Jr., Dr. Griffin**

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### **Primary Care Patients' Awareness and Perceptions Toward Medicinal Cannabis in Barbados**

**Objective:** To assess primary care patients' awareness, perceptions and experiences regarding medicinal cannabis following the 2019 Medicinal Cannabis Act in Barbados.

**Design and Methods:** Cross-sectional survey of 404 adult primary care patients (M 162, F 242; response rate 79.2%), conducted January to February 2025 across nine government polyclinics in Barbados using stratified systematic random sampling. A validated structured questionnaire assessed awareness, perceptions (Cronbach's  $\alpha=0.857$ ), prior use, and healthcare provider communication (Cronbach's  $\alpha=0.707$ ). Chi-square tests, t-tests and ANOVA examined demographic associations.

**Results:** Only 16.8% recognized legal medicinal cannabis products. Familiarity with medical uses declined with age: 25-34 years (45.1%) vs 55+ years (25.0%,  $p<0.001$ ). Despite low awareness, 80.2% ( $n=324$ ) supported easier access and 64.1% ( $n=259$ ) believed medicinal cannabis improved health conditions. Younger adults (25-44 years) had higher mean perception scores than older adults 55+ ( $3.78\pm0.52$  vs  $3.33\pm0.61$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Awareness did not differ by gender (M 18.5%, F 15.6%,  $p=0.42$ ) or religion ( $p=0.28$ ). Only 8.9% ( $n=36$ ) had used medicinal cannabis; of these, 43% cited pain management. Concerns included insufficient information, addiction fears and safety concerns. A critical communication gap emerged: despite 68.1% ( $n=275$ ) trusting physician information, and 66.8% willingness to try if prescribed, only 3.5% ( $n=14$ ) had discussed medicinal cannabis with providers ( $\chi^2 (1) =156.3$ ,  $p<0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Five years post-legalization, Barbados' primary care patients remain largely uninformed about medicinal cannabis yet are open to its use. This critical policy-practice gap highlights the need for targeted public education, healthcare provider training, and clinical practice guidelines to support evidence-based patient counseling. Findings provide baseline data for other Caribbean nations implementing cannabis policy reforms.

Keywords: Awareness; Legalization; Medicinal Cannabis; Patient Perceptions; Primary Care



**Gopiechand Boodhan** is a Research Officer (Full-time) at the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) Limited and an Assistant Lecturer/Tutor (Part-time) at the Department of Economics, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad, W.I. Mr. Boodhan is currently pursuing his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics degree at the Department of Economics. He graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) Major in Economics and a Minor in International Relations. A year later (2011), he graduated with a Master of Science in Economics. Mr. Boodhan has worked on projects with institutions such as the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

Mr. Boodhan's current research interests are climate change, solid waste management, renewable energy, and sustainable development. Currently, he is researching municipal solid waste as a potential energy source for generating electricity at the Beetham, Forres and Guanapo landfills in Trinidad via methane capture and utilisation.

## **Boodhan, Gopiechand**

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### **A Proximity Analysis of Communities at Risk from Landfill Air Pollutants – A Study of the Beetham, Forres Park and Guanapo Landfill Sites**

Air pollutants from landfill sites can be a nuisance to nearby residents. Additionally, people face risks from uncontrolled surface emissions from landfills, including volatile organic compounds (e.g. propanol and methyl mercaptan) and hazardous air pollutants (e.g. trichloroethane and mercury). Previous research has explored types of air pollutants emitted from landfills, the impact of locating new landfills, and potential health effects, but has not integrated air dispersion modelling with micro-level analysis for effective environmental management. Health risks associated with air pollution from landfill sites include wheezing and asthmatic attacks, and in extreme cases, congenital anomalies, low birth rate and cancer. The study aimed to assess households at risk from air pollutants from the Beetham, Forres Park, and Guanapo landfill sites. Its goal was to provide an initial analysis of health risks to neighbouring communities from landfill emissions. The objectives included estimating trace gases, constructing air pollution dispersion maps, and identifying households at risk. The methodology employed consisted of reviewing the literature on land air pollutants, utilising the LandGEM model to estimate air pollutants, and proximity analysis with GIS to identify impact zones. It was found that the Beetham landfill emitted the highest amount of trace gases among the three sites. Evaluating the dispersion maps, it was determined that 5,281 households, representing 17,174 persons, are at health risk from landfill air pollutants. Consequently, there is a pressing need for improved solid waste management at landfill sites in Trinidad and Tobago to mitigate landfill air pollution.

Keywords: Landfills, LandGEM, Trace Gases, Air Dispersion Modelling, Proximity Analysis.



**Dr. Gabrielle Boyce** is a recent graduate of the Doctor of Medicine (DM) in Family Medicine program at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, where she also earned her MBBS. With a strong interest in Geriatric Medicine, she is committed to addressing the unique healthcare needs of older adults in Barbados. Dr. Boyce balances a growing family with a deep dedication to research and clinical practice. Her recent research explores the sociodemographic and health characteristics of elderly individuals referred for long-term placement in Barbados, contributing valuable insights into elder care planning and policy

### **Boyce, Dr. Gabrielle**

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## **Sociodemographic and Health Characteristics of Elderly People Referred to Public Long-Term Health Care Facilities in Barbados**

**Aims/Objectives:** Describe and explore sociodemographic and health characteristics of referrals to public long-term health care facilities in Barbados.

**Methods:** Descriptive cross-sectional survey, where a questionnaire was administered to all referrals to public long term health care facilities between March 1st, 2023, and February 29th, 2024.

**Results:** Hypertension and diabetes were the most prevalent NCD's. 88.1%, had dementia and most were totally dependent for all instrumental activities of daily living. Most persons were referred due to increased care needs as well as reported care-giver burden. Men were more likely to have stroke and incontinence and be independent with eating mobility and hygiene ( $p<0.05$ ).

**Finals and Recommendations:** Cognitive impairment and functional dependence were the strongest associations in this population. Urgent areas highlighted were the need for a longitudinal study to confirm predictors of institutionalization, the development of a national dementia plan and bolstering public health efforts to achieve active aging as well as equipping the public to care for their elderly members.

Keywords: gender; eldercare; long term health care; institutionalization; predictor



**Jody Brown** is a Master Teacher, educator, and entrepreneur with training in Home Economics, Food and Health from The Mico University College, the University of Technology. He also has a diploma in Christian Theology from the Caribbean Bible Institute. He is currently completing an MA in Education (TVET and Workforce Development) at The University of the West Indies. He is the CEO of Devanjo's Kitchen and was LASCO Teacher of the Year 2022. He is a lecturer at the Mico University College; contributor of recipes to the Gleaner & Observer yearly cookbook publications and the visionary behind the At-Risk Boys' Symposium held annually in St. Thomas. He has also been awarded by the Caribbean Association of Home Economists for product development. He has also represented his institution at the Caribbean Home Economics Conference and presented papers on current educational issues.

### **Brown, Jody**

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### **Promoting Nutritional Well-being through Indigenous Food Systems in Caribbean Households (Home Economics Focus)**

This study aimed to investigate the efficacy of revitalizing indigenous food systems in enhancing nutritional well-being and fostering household resilience within Caribbean communities, directly addressing the conference theme. Our research objectives included assessing the current knowledge and utilization of traditional Caribbean foods, identifying barriers to their adoption, and evaluating the impact of targeted Home Economics-based educational interventions on household food practices and nutritional outcomes. Employing a mixed-methods approach, we combined quantitative surveys on dietary habits and food expenditure with qualitative interviews and focus groups exploring traditional food knowledge, followed by the implementation of designed educational workshops and post-intervention assessments. The findings confirmed a significant decline in indigenous food consumption, correlating with increased reliance on processed imports and rising NCD rates, but post-intervention data revealed a measurable increase in kitchen garden cultivation, local ingredient meal preparation, and traditional technique preservation among participating households. We concluded that integrating indigenous food systems through practical Home Economics education is a highly effective strategy for improving household nutritional well-being and building food resilience, with implications for policy support and educational programs that promote food sovereignty and cultural food practices as a sustainable model for enhancing public health and economic stability across the Caribbean.

Keywords: Indigenous Food Systems, Home Economics, Nutritional Well-being, Food Sovereignty, Caribbean Resilience



**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*. Recently she was awarded the Sara and George McCune scholarship for mixed methods research.

## **Brown, Marsha**

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# **Socioeconomic Factors Associated with Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination in Jamaica**

### **Introduction/Aim:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted nations, significantly affecting lives and straining healthcare systems (WHO, 2025). This is evidenced by 17,400 pediatric deaths reported globally, with approximately 53% occurring among adolescents aged 10–19 years (UNICEF, 2025). This study aims to examine the socioeconomic factors associated with pediatric COVID-19 vaccination in Jamaica during the pandemic.

### **Research Question:**

What socioeconomic factors are associated with COVID-19 vaccination among Jamaican children aged 5–17 years during the pandemic?

### **Methodology:**

Cross-sectional data from the 2022 Jamaica Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey captured the wellbeing of children post-pandemic. Survey analysis utilized Spearman's Rho correlation and binary logistic regression at a statistical significance of  $p < .05$ . The model was statistically significant (Omnibus test  $\chi^2 = 131.274$  (14),  $p < .001$ ; Hosmer-Lemeshow test  $\chi^2 = 8.845$  (2),  $p = .351$ ).

### **Findings:**

Significant correlates of vaccination included economic status, mother's education, child's education level, age, and social protection. Children aged 10–14 years were 1.362 times more likely to be vaccinated than those aged 5–7 years ( $p = .018$ , CI = 1.053–1.760). Adolescents with secondary education were 94.3% less likely ( $p < .001$ , Exp(B) = .057, CI = .020–.168) and those with post-secondary education approximately 69% less likely ( $p = .020$ , Exp(B) = .362, CI = .154–.850) than their special-education counterparts to be vaccinated. Mothers with post-secondary education were 41.3% less likely ( $p = .001$ , Exp(B) = .587, CI = .431–.798) than those with primary education to have vaccinated children. Households in quintiles 4 (OR = 1.686,  $p = .011$ , CI = 1.127–2.522) and 5 (OR = 1.620,  $p = .018$ , CI = 1.052–2.495) were more likely to vaccinate, while those receiving social protection were 46% less likely ( $p < .001$ , Exp(B) = .536, CI = .382–.752).

### **Conclusion:**

Children aged 10–14 years, from higher-income households were more likely to be vaccinated.

### **Implications:**

Economic status had the strongest influence on vaccination, suggesting that children from wealthier households experienced a health advantage.

Keywords: Pediatric, Vaccination, COVID-19



**Eulanie Burgess** is a food safety professional from Guyana with over 10 years of experience in safe guarding public health through quality assurance. I am currently pursuing a MSc in Agri-Food Safety and Quality Assurance at the University of the West Indies, St, Augustine Campus. Her research focuses on consumer demand response to food recalls and uses evidence-based insights that can be used to strength food systems and influence policies in LMICs.

## **Burgess, Eulanie**

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### **Examining Consumer Demand Response to Food Recalls: A Scoping Review**

**Authors: Ms. Eulanie Burgess, Dr. Marsha Singh, Mr. David Forgenie**

An efficient recall system coupled with informed consumer responses shapes an effective food system. Consumer behavior in light of the increasing frequency of food recalls affects both public health and trade. This Scoping review using the PRSIMA-SCR guidelines screened 6035 articles from 4 databases. Included in the review are 21 peer-reviewed articles published between 2019 and 2024 which examine Consumer Demand Responses to Food Recalls. The geographic distribution of the studies is skewed toward high income countries; there were limited studies from LMICs with no studies from the Caribbean which highlights a critical gap in food systems research. Thematic synthesis across 5 research questions were used to identify patterns and gaps in the literature. The key findings thus far were decline in consumer demand across all markets especially for Class 1 recalls, spillover effect with reduced sales in unaffected brands/products not involved in the recall. The spillover effect persisted for a longer period

in LMICs compared to other countries. Consumer Response is dependent on consumer perception, coping capacity and trust in the source of the recall message. This review presents the drivers of consumer behaviour and aids in developing more effective food recall programs; influencing food system policies in LMICs.

**Keywords:** Food Recalls, Consumer Response, Recall Communication



**Stephanie Chambers-Anderson** is a teacher of Spanish. She is currently pursuing an MPhil in Spanish literature at the University of the West Indies, Mona. Her research interests includes Literatures in Spanish and Spanish Literature for Sustainable Development.

### **Chambers-Anderson, Stephanie**

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### **An Experimentation with Spanish Language Learning through Literary Texts: A Mixed Method Approach**

This experimental study aims to determine the role that literary texts play in helping nascent learners hone and display their lexical, communicative and critical competency in the learning of Spanish as a foreign language. This study is in consonance with building resilient futures-particularly in our Caribbean context, and the current regional impetus for an educational system which is driven by not only multilingualism, but one that meets twenty-first century educational standards. This study uses a mixed-method approach employing an explanatory sequential design to ascertain answers to the following questions: In what ways, if any, do literary texts/stimuli in Spanish help with vocabulary development? Is there a difference in vocabulary knowledge between those who are sensitized to literary texts/stimuli and those who are not? If so, how significant is this difference? Does learning through literary texts/stimuli in Spanish improve one's critical thinking skills? To what extent does this improvement, if any, occur? How do literary texts contribute to communicative competence? What perceptions and beliefs do beginning learners have about utilizing literary texts in the Spanish Language Classroom?

Keywords: Experimentation, Spanish literary texts, Mixed Method, beginners



**Yuvan Dass** is a researcher in Political Science at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. His work focuses on participatory democracy, public sector reform, and local government in the Caribbean. With a strong background in both academic research and public administration, Yuvan blends theory and practice in his teaching and research. He is currently pursuing an MPhil, examining citizen participation and democratic engagement in Trinidad, with a particular focus on the evolving role of civil society, local government reform, and digital governance in shaping inclusive political processes.

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### **Shifting the Civic Pulse, Exploring Local Government Participation in Trinidad**

The landscape of Participatory democracy changed in the context of how it complements political equality and inclusion of all citizens in society. There is a delicate balance of different structures of authority and psychological qualities that operates in society which is necessary for citizens to be represented equally in the democratization process. Pateman argues that full participation is a process where each citizen has the power to determine the outcome of decisions.

This research paper will provide an assessment of the level of citizen involvement in political participation in Trinidad. Major emphasis will be placed over the past decade on the local government environment with the different factors that has influenced political participation or a lack thereof. There will be a quantitative focus with four hundred surveys being distributed, stratified random sampling and quantitative analysis. The research will explore the extent to which the factors such as local government reform, citizen trust, representation, advocacy and lobbying with CSO's and civic education has remodeled the topography of citizen participation in the political process of Trinidad, and the study will also highlight what alterations are necessary to improve the efforts of success in participatory democracy.

Keywords: Participatory democracy, inclusivity, civic engagement



**Dr. Racquel Dawkins** is a dedicated medical professional with a profound interest in neonatology, driven by a passion to enhance the quality of life for premature infants. Her primary goal is to significantly reduce both the mortality and morbidity rates in this vulnerable population. Dr. Dawkins completed her undergraduate degree at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and has recently concluded her Doctor of Medicine (DM) programme in Paediatrics, further specializing her expertise in child health.

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# **Unveiling Critical Insights: Assessing Retinopathy of Prematurity Screening in a Resource-Limited Setting**

**Authors:** Professor Helen Trotman-Edwards, Dr. Tracia James-Powell, Dr. Oluwatomi Olugbuiyi, Dr. Racquel Dawkins

**Background:** Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) is a leading cause of childhood blindness, particularly affecting premature infants with incomplete retinal vascularization. While high-income countries (HICs) primarily report severe ROP in extremely preterm infants (< 30 weeks, < 1000 g), low- to middle-income countries (LMICs) experience higher rates of severe ROP in more mature infants (>32 weeks, >1500 g). Limited data exist on ROP in Jamaica and the Caribbean. This study evaluates the incidence, severity, risk factors, and completeness of screening for ROP at the Spanish Town Hospital (STH) in Jamaica.

**Methods:** A retrospective descriptive medical record review was conducted at the Level II NICU of Spanish Town Hospital(STH) for the period January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2022. Inclusion Criteria: Infants meeting the Spanish Town Hospital's ROP screening criteria (< 32 weeks gestational age, < 1500 g birthweight, prolonged oxygen therapy >7 days, or 32–36 gestational age in weeks with a stormy clinical course) who survived to at least 6 weeks of life. Descriptive statistics summarized patient demographics and clinical characteristics. Differences between neonates meeting the inclusion criteria with and without ROP were analyzed using t-tests for continuous variables and chi-squared tests for categorical variables. Logistic regression identified independent risk factors for ROP development. An audit of the screening process was also described to investigate if all the patients who met the criteria for ROP screening actually received it and returned to STH for follow-up. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software, with significance set at  $p < 0.05$ . Ethical approval was obtained from the Mona Campus Research Ethics Committee and the South East Regional Health Authority ethics committee.

**Results:** ROP was diagnosed in 66 infants, with an incidence rate of 45.7% among very low birth weight (VLBW) infants who survived to at least 6 weeks. Most (72.8%) cases had mild ROP, 18 (27.2%) had severe ROP. Five (7.6%) had stage 5. Among larger infants  $\geq 1.5$  kg, 26% developed ROP (12 of 46 cases), with 9 cases being mild and 3 cases severe. No cases of stage 5 ROP were identified.

Identified risk factors included lower gestational age, low birthweight, number of blood transfusions, chronic lung disease, and duration of oxygen therapy. Logistic regression confirmed duration of oxygen therapy as the only independent predictor of ROP.

Screening compliance was observed in 87.3% of at-risk infants, but 45.8% of those screened, were screened after 6 weeks of age. No significant difference was observed in ROP occurrence between infants screened at 6 weeks versus those screened later ( $p = 0.219$ ). Overall there was significant loss to follow-up with only 68.4% returning for follow-up.

**Conclusion:** The incidence of ROP at Spanish Town Hospital aligns with trends in LMICs, with a high prevalence in VLBW infants and occurrence in bigger, more mature infants (>32 weeks, >1500 g). Duration of oxygen therapy was the strongest predictor of ROP, emphasizing the need for stringent oxygen monitoring. Screening captured most at-risk infants, but significant follow-up loss suggests a need for enhanced tracking and parental education.

Keywords: Retinopathy of Prematurity, Childhood Blindness



**Dr. Toni-Ann Dunn** is a Senior Resident in the Paediatric Programme at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. Her research focus is on Paediatric Nephrology, with a keen interest in improving healthcare outcomes for children with kidney disorders. She completed a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 2018 and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Medicine in Paediatrics. She has received several prestigious awards, including the Top Award for CXC in Secondary School and the Open Scholarship for undergraduate medical studies from 2013 to 2018. Her clinical interests also extend to Neonatology. Outside of her academic and clinical pursuits, she also enjoys dancing, relaxing at the beach, and taking long drives. She is a mother to a beautiful 5 year old that keeps her on her toes daily and pushes her to be her utmost best with every task she undertakes.

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# **Acute Glomerulonephritis: Prevalence, Etiology, and Complications of Children Admitted at a Tertiary Institution: A 10-Year Review**

**Authors:** Dr. Sandrica Young Peart<sup>1,2</sup>, Dr. Toni- Ann Dunn<sup>1,2</sup>

Bustamante Hospital for Children<sup>1</sup>, Department of Child and Adolescent Health, UWI<sup>2</sup>

**Introduction:** Acute Glomerulonephritis is a glomerular disease characterized by glomerular injury and inflammation. It can be asymptomatic or complicated in its presentation and may be associated with significant morbidity. AGN necessitates timely diagnosis and treatment. There is a dearth of published data locally and regionally.

**Methods:** This is a retrospective, single centre descriptive study to review the prevalence, etiology and complications of children ages 29 days to < 12 years admitted at Bustamante Hospital for Children with AGN during the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2023. Ethical approval was obtained from Mona Research Ethics Committee and South East Regional Health Authority. An electronic data extraction sheet was used to collect data over a three month period. Patient's data were deidentified and placed in a password encrypted computer. This study held a low risk for participants. Data collected were analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software, version 18. P value < 0.05 was statistically significant.

**Results:** Eighty-two children were eligible for the study. There was a male preponderance (76%). The estimated prevalence of AGN was 0.08%. Ninety percent of AGN were due to PIGN (post infectious glomerulonephritis). 97% of PIGN were due to PSGN (post- streptococcal glomerulonephritis). The most common antecedent infection was respiratory tract infections (41/82, 50%) and impetigo (35/82, 43%). There were no significant associated risk factors. In children with AGN, 55% had C3 hypocomplementemia. Eight-three (83%) of patients had acute complications; with the most common being hypertensive urgency/emergency (69%) p=0.041 and acute kidney injury 12%. None of the patients developed CKD but 6% had chronic hypertension. Seventy percent (70%) defaulted follow up.

**Conclusion:** PSGN remains a significant cause of morbidity highlighting the need for generalized rapid strep antigen testing. Future studies are needed to examine the long-term renal outcomes of patients with AGN.

**Keywords:** Acute glomerulonephritis, Post streptococcal glomerulonephritis, acute kidney injury



**Rudolph Ellis** is a Jamaican scholar affiliated with The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston. His academic work is grounded in philosophy, with a particular focus on metaphysical consciousness and related questions of being, mind, and reality. Through research and scholarly inquiry, he explores foundational philosophical concepts surrounding human awareness, existence, and meaning. His work contributes to Caribbean and global philosophical discourse, emphasizing critical reflection, conceptual analysis, and theoretical inquiry within the field of philosophy.

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### **Consciousness in Human Beings: A Metaphysical Engagement with the Post-Colonial Self**

The dissertation presents the notion of slavery and colonialism as driving considerations that have been used to push the narrative that defines who and what the black man is in the Caribbean. In the case of Frantz Fanon, the Caribbean man is an entity that is synonymous with a non-being, Sylvia Wynter envisioned and projected the self as an epistemological imperative that should be revisited starting from 1492, Marcus Garvey implied that the black man was in a preparatory state of repatriation to Africa, and C. L. R. James projected the black man as an entity destined to undergo a revolution. These various characterizations of the post-colonial self assert that the self encountered damage during its sojourn, and therefore, they engage understanding the self from its material status at the expense of its immaterial component. This interaction represents only a partial understanding of the self. On the contrary, this dissertation argues that the composite elements of matter and spirit in the structure of human beings are the primary pillars of references that should be engaged to achieve a holistic understanding of the post-colonial self. This will be done by dovetailing the predicative, and anatomical narratives characterizing Caribbean and Western philosophy. This holistic immersion into the theoretical and conceptual framework of the self amplifies the structural understanding of who and what a human being is. In this sense, focus will be placed on the functionality of the soul/spirit in the bodies of human beings and its inextricable connection to the themes that we engage in the Caribbean. The aim, methodology, and results of this research are inextricably fused on the basis that they exhibit compatibility with the self where the engine of consciousness resides. The archival approach contained the data with the conceptual structure of the post-colonial self that writers have used to construct the nature of the Caribbean man. This undertaking involved a systematic interrogation and analysis of extant work of scholars from the region.

Keywords: Post-colonial self; metaphysical dualism; consciousness; identities; predicative and anatomical discourses; language usage theories; human beings.



**Kendria Ferguson** is a PhD candidate in Sustainable Development Institute at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. She holds a Master's degree in Global Sustainability with a concentration in Sustainable Energy and is a GRI Certified Sustainability Professional. Her research explores the socio-economic impacts of Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas, focusing on household vulnerability, disaster risk, and resilience in small island contexts. Kendria has over a decade of experience in climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, and sustainable development, supporting national and regional projects across the Caribbean.

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### **Intersecting Vulnerabilities and Socio-Economic Drivers of Household Impact in Post-Hurricane Dorian Bahamas**

This study investigates the intersecting socio-economic vulnerabilities that shaped household-level impacts and recovery experiences following Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas. Focusing on Abaco and Grand Bahama, the research examines how income, housing conditions, preparedness, and access to institutional support influenced different levels of damage and impact. It responds to gaps in disaggregated vulnerability data that often undermine disaster planning and recovery in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Using a convergent mixed-methods approach, the study combines quantitative household survey data with qualitative interviews from humanitarian responders and agency representatives. Logistic regression identified flood exposure, preparedness, income, and household structure as significant predictors of impact. Qualitative findings revealed structural gaps in governance, gendered barriers to resilience, and limited psychosocial support during recovery. The study concludes that resilience planning must integrate social vulnerability indicators and community-specific data. Findings inform policy and programming for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and equitable recovery in The Bahamas.

Keywords: social vulnerability, disaster resilience, Hurricane Dorian, socio-economic impact, Caribbean SIDS



**David Forgenie** is a Ph.D. candidate in Agricultural Economics at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. His work centres on food trade, econometric modelling, welfare, and food policy, with a particular focus on Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). He has led empirical studies on household food-consumption patterns in Indonesia and on carbon-emissions and sustainability dynamics in India. David is currently advising and researching the food-security implications of the IMO Mid-term Measures for the Caribbean in collaboration with researchers from UWI Cave Hill and the University College London. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and presented technical findings at the International Maritime Organization and at global conferences, including the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting.

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## **Understanding the Drivers of Chronic Food Insecurity in Caribbean Small Island Developing States**

**Authors:** David Forgenie and Meera Mahase-Forgenie

Chronic food insecurity persists across Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) because of structural vulnerabilities, heavy food-import dependence, and volatility in global markets. This study quantifies the macro-level drivers of chronic food insecurity in ten Caribbean SIDS from 2001 to 2021, proxied by the prevalence of undernourishment. A balanced panel comprising GDP per capita, domestic food production, inflation, food import value, globalization, and access to financial institutions. Fixed and Random Effects models were first estimated; Hausman and Breusch-Pagan diagnostics favored a Random Effects specification. Autocorrelation detected by the Wooldridge test was corrected using Random-Effects Generalized Least Squares with an AR(1) structure. Results indicate that income, stronger domestic food output, globalization, and access to finance significantly reduce undernourishment within the region, whereas inflation and food imports increases it, though their coefficients lack statistical significance. Policymakers should foster inclusive income growth, revitalize domestic agriculture, expand banking services, and build buffers against external shocks to strengthen food-system resilience. Ultimately, addressing chronic food insecurity in Caribbean SIDS requires a coordinated, multisectoral strategy that strengthens economic and institutional resilience while strengthening local food systems.

**Keywords:** Chronic food insecurity, Caribbean SIDS, Globalization, Financial access, panel analysis.



**Felicia Frederick-Davis** is an undergraduate psychology instructor and doctoral student at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, having recently successfully completed her PhD viva. She obtained a B.Sc. Psychology degree (First Class Honours) minoring in Public Sector Management and a M.Sc. Clinical Psychology degree (Distinction) from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. She is interested in mental health disorders, mental health coping mechanisms, and the impact of disease diagnosis and health behaviour decision-making. Her research interest focuses on identifying and understanding the psychological factors associated with the diagnosis, treatment and/or management of diseases and mental health conditions.

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## **Psychological Insulin Resistance among persons with Type 2 Diabetes in Trinidad.**

**Background:** Accurate knowledge about type 2 diabetes and its treatment is an essential component of disease management (Watkins, Drury, Taylor, 1990). Initial management of type 2 diabetes emphasizes lifestyle changes, diet, and oral medications. However, these strategies often lose effectiveness over time due to progressive beta-cell dysfunction, leading many patients to require insulin therapy (Suglo et al., 2022; Haw et al., 2017). Despite insulin's proven efficacy in reducing diabetes complications and lowering morbidity and mortality (Suglo et al., 2022; Taylor et al., 2017), initiation and adherence remain low. This delay is frequently attributed to psychological insulin resistance, a complex set of negative beliefs, emotions, and attitudes toward insulin use (Jang et al., 2021; Polonsky et al., 2019). Psychological insulin resistance encompasses fear of injections, perceived loss of autonomy, stigma, and feelings of personal failure (Holloway et al., 2021; Ellis et al., 2018). Consequently, persons with type 2 diabetes often delay insulin use, prolong exposure to uncontrolled hyperglycemia and increase their risk for preventable complications. Understanding and addressing psychological insulin resistance within the Trinidadian context is essential to improve type 2 diabetes management outcomes and develop holistic care models that integrate psychological and cultural dimensions alongside biomedical treatment.

**Objective:** This study aims to determine the prevalence of psychological insulin resistance and identify the dominant attitudes that contribute to psychological insulin resistance within the Trinidad context. Additionally, the findings of this study can assist healthcare professionals in addressing patients specific negative attitudes towards insulin use with tailored type 2 diabetes educational and supportive interventions strategies. Furthermore, the study aims to examine differences in psychological insulin resistance among insulin-dependent and insulin-naïve persons with type 2 diabetes and to identify any gender and ethnic group difference. The study's findings are intended to guide more personalized and effective interventions to improve insulin use among persons with type 2 diabetes in Trinidad.

**Design and Methods:** 278 persons with type 2 diabetes attending outpatient diabetes clinic at Port-of-Spain General Hospital, Eric Williams Medical Science Complex, San Fernando General Hospital and Sangre Grande General Hospital on designated clinic days for their routine appointment were survey in this study. Data was collected using a self-administered questionnaire obtaining information about participants age, gender, ethnicity, occupation, duration of diabetes diagnosis, type of diabetes medication and duration of use, use of alcohol and or cigarettes, present glucose levels, weight and height. Misconceptions of insulin treatment was determined using the Insulin Treatment Appraisal Scale (Snoek, Skovlund & Pouwe, 2007). Descriptive and frequency statistics, one-way ANOVA and independent sample t-test were used to analyse the data.

**Results:** 96% of the population had negative attitudes towards insulin treatment. Specifically, 75% of participants reported that insulin use caused increased concern by family and friends, 58% believed that insulin use signified a worsening of their condition, 55% felt that insulin use indicated a personal failure to manage their type 2 diabetes, and 51% expressed concerns about the risk of hypoglycemia. The average duration of type 2 diabetes diagnosis was approximately 12 years ( $M = 12$ ,  $SD = 9.7$ ), with the majority of participants (54%) on oral medication, 27% on both insulin and oral medication, and 18% on insulin therapy only. The average duration of the participants' treatment regimen was 12 years ( $M = 12$ ,  $SD = 12.6$ ). A one-way ANOVA indicated that oral medication users had higher levels of psychological insulin resistance than those using insulin alone or in combination with oral medication. Type 2 diabetes medication explained 9% of the variance of psychological insulin resistance. An independent sample t-test showed a non-significant difference in score for males ( $M = 57.52$ ,  $SD = 10.20$ ) and female with type 2 diabetes ( $M = 56.62$ ,  $SD = 10.07$ ) with regards to psychological insulin resistance ( $t (276) = .70$ ,  $p = .49$ ). A one-way ANOVA indicated only 2% of the variance of psychological insulin resistance is due the ethnic background of persons with type 2 diabetes. AfroTrinidadians, Indo-Trinidadians and Mixed persons with type 2 diabetes did not differ significantly in psychological insulin resistance.

**Conclusions:** In summary, this study identified an unusually high prevalence of psychological insulin resistance among persons with type 2 diabetes in Trinidad, exceeding the rates typically reported in existing literature. This elevated resistance is primarily attributed to the widespread endorsement of negative beliefs about insulin use. Although participants acknowledged the clinical benefits of insulin, they were not sufficient to overcome deeply held fears and misconceptions about insulin use. In contrast to prior studies, this study uniquely highlights that this sample of participants' negative attitudes were more deeply rooted in sociocultural and symbolic concerns. Notably, gender and ethnicity were not significantly associated with PIR, suggesting that these barriers cut across demographic subgroups within the population. Initiating insulin can be an overwhelming adjustment. Initiating insulin can be an overwhelming adjustment. Practical demonstrations and workshops that address the emotional, social, and cultural barriers contributing to psychological insulin resistance, should include sessions on understanding the progressive nature of type 2 diabetes and the clinical necessity of insulin, and discussions to challenge the belief that insulin use reflects personal failure or disease progression. Workshops should also offer strategies for managing family and social concerns, promote confidence in self-management, and provide culturally sensitive education that empowers persons with type 2 diabetes to view insulin as a tool for improved health rather than a sign of decline. These interventions can help reduce negative attitudes and support timely, effective self-management among persons with type 2 diabetes in Trinidad.

Keywords: psychological insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, insulin therapy, health beliefs, insulin use misconceptions.



With over 12 years in youth leadership, intervention and development, **René Henry** has functioned as a Teacher, Community Service Officer, Student Tutor, and in various volunteer roles. René has worked collaboratively to create enriching opportunities for young people on Anguilla. She holds a Bachelor Science Degree in Social Work from The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Global Campus and recently concluded a Master of Science Degree in Management & Educational Leadership.

Merging her love of development and education, René is currently employed at The UWI Global Campus Anguilla Site. She serves her alma mater through active engagement in student support services and guiding educational action plans for higher education and professional development.

René believes that the strength of any society is in the skills and development of its people. As such, she dedicates her life to the continuous work of developing the most important resource-people.

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## **An Exploration of Perspectives on Programme Diversification in a Tertiary Institution in Anguilla 2019-2023**

The purpose of tertiary institutions is to provide pathways of education for knowledge and skills development for functioning in the workforce. An institution's success depends on the diversification of programmes to meet the changing needs of the workforce. The dearth of variation in regional and local programmes demonstrates a lack of responsiveness from local and regional tertiary institutions to adjust to economic shifts and meet prescribed sustainable development goals. Furthermore, literature offers mainly the perspectives of students in this context mostly outside of Anguilla and the Caribbean. There is a gap in identifying the perspectives of industry partners and graduates, who are most impacted by programme diversification.

This study explored the perspectives of graduates and industry partners on programme diversification in a tertiary institution in Anguilla from 2019-2023. A qualitative case study with 16 participants was conducted featuring the Connectivism Learning Theory. It was concluded that trends in programme diversification were heavily dependent on industry changes and needs. Most industry partners and some graduates perceive current programmes and degrees as misaligned with the career goals and industry needs. These findings further prove that changes in the environment accordingly require a change in pedagogy.

**Keywords:** Programme diversification; perspective on tertiary education; Anguilla tertiary institutions; Connectivism Learning Theory, Caribbean studies; Caribbean university



**Jamie Hinds** is a nutritionist, passionate about health promotion and education. In 2007, she completed a Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology with a specialisation in Nutrition and Dietetics from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. She continues to promote health in her community by organising health presentations, physical activity sessions and health fairs. In 2020, she completed a Master of Public Health at the Cave Hill Campus where her desire was peaked to research poorly understood areas. She is currently a PhD student in Public Health at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. Her research interests are in nutrition, the food environment and health behaviour.

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### **Characterization of the Street Food Environment of Barbados Using Geographical Information Systems: A Research Protocol**

Traditionally food was mainly consumed at home, however literature shows a global rise in consumption of foods purchased away from home. Street foods are ready-to-eat foods sold by street vendors, typically high in fat, sugar and salt and low in micronutrients. The food environment inherently influences consumer diets. While healthy diets help protect against over- and under-nutrition, an unhealthy diet contributes to non-communicable diseases.

This study aims to characterize (quantity, type and spatial distribution of vendors and nutritional profile of food) the street food environment of Barbados, in four commercial hubs in Barbados (Bridgetown, Oistins, Six Roads and Warrens). Itinerant and stationary vendors selling ready-to-eat foods were eligible for inclusion and were recruited with the assistance of gatekeepers, snowballing and Google map search.

Field researchers documented available foods via direct observation and informal discussion with vendors and geographical data was collected with Kobo toolbox, a mobile data collection tool. ArcGIS will be utilized for spatial analysis and the NOVA classification and method of cooking will be used to assess nutritional profile.

This research will provide a profile of the street food density and types in Barbados. The data can inform future efforts aimed at promoting healthy food environments.

Key words: Food environment, Street foods, Ultra-processed foods, Barbados



**Juliet Ann Jackson** is a Lecturer of Communication at Excelsior Community College in Kingston. She holds BA in Mass Communication from Northern Caribbean University, an MA in English from The University of the West Indies at the Mona Campus, and she is an MPhil/PhD Candidate in Linguistics also at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. Her research interests include culinary linguistics, linguistic anthropology, ethnography of communication and creole linguistics.

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## **Culturally Speaking: Norms of Interaction and Interpretation in Jamaican YouTube Cooking Shows**

This paper supports “The Digital Caribbean: Technology, AI and Smart Societies’ theme, illustrating that Jamaican cooking shows serve as cultural transmission. Over the past decade, much of the viewership for cooking shows has shifted from traditional media to social media platforms such as YouTube and as far as I am aware, there has been no academic study on cooking shows in the Jamaican context. Therefore, this study attempts the first academic engagement with Jamaican YouTube cooking shows, and the focus is on the content of six Jamaican channels that are dedicated to streaming/posting cooking-related content. The aim was to use Dell Hymes (1974) Ethnography of Communication to examine linguistic phenomena in selected episodes, and to explain how the interactional socio-linguistics approach, and the principles of pragmatics in Brown & Levinson (2014) politeness theory account for rules of engagement of interlocutors in the cooking shows. Corpus methodology was used to gather data, and a catalogue of fifty (50) hours of cooking video data from six randomly selected channels was created. An AI tool was used to transcribe samples of videos based on the categories- meat, pastry, beverage and porridge, and the findings show that Jamaicans utilize authentic speech including direct address, endearments, cordial language, Jamaican Creole and several varieties of English to project a polite face /self- image and to build their social network on social media. Conclusively, it was observed that high and low prestige language (diglossia) is relaxed on YouTube as the speakers engage in codeswitching without discrimination. The implication is that the attitude towards Jamaican is positive, although more studies can be done about the role of digital media in reducing language discrimination. This study is relevant as a frame of reference for future studies in ethnography of communication and culinary linguistics particularly in the Caribbean.

Keywords: Ethnography of Communication, norms of interaction and interpretation, culinary linguistics, codemixing, AI transcription, multimodal communication



**Marcele Joseph** is a final year student pursuing a Masters of Science in Agri-Food Safety and Quality Assurance at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, awarded through the Intra-Caribbean Academic Mobility Programme Scholarship. (iCAMP).

Mr. Joseph is an aspiring Food Safety Consultant with interest that include the linkage between National Food Control Systems and Public Health, Investment and Trade; the integration of Food Nutrition and Safety in Agri-Food Systems; and the development of sustainable value chains that are resilient to Climate Change within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Apart from this, Marcele has a passion for personal development, reading and language learning. Principally, with Trinidad and Tobago's geographic proximity to Latin America, this allows cultural appreciation and the expansion of his communication skills as he aims to be a citizen of the world.

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## **An Evaluation of the Food Safety Management System in a CARICOM Wheat Flour Mill**

Due to the increase of trade and distribution of food globally, the impact of food safety has become of significant importance to both manufacturers and consumers, supported by development of private food safety standards outlining safety, quality specifications and requirements for compliance and trade. In emerging food manufacturing companies, implementing food safety standards aims to improve food safety and quality, market access and export opportunities. This study evaluated the current Food Safety Management System of the East Caribbean Group of Companies to determine its conformity to the BRCGS food safety standard. This study was done through a third-party audit format using a modified BRCGS Auditor Checklist and Site Self-Assessment Tool, with focus on the requirements that were relevant to the company. Data and information were collected through photographs, the review of company documents, discussion with employees, and onsite tours of the facility which were facilitated during the preassessment audit undertaken. A HACCP plan was developed which assessed the points of hazard incidence in the wheat milling process and outlined the management system required to control biological, chemical and physical hazards from the manufacturing, storage and distribution inputs in place. The operational prerequisite programmes in place were identified as necessary for safe and quality wheat flour production whilst the two critical control points that eliminate or reduce the hazard of non-wheat material to acceptable levels for further wheat processing was determined. It was determined that there was a 67.6% conformity to BRCGS Standard, a moderate level to the 170 clauses applicable. Identified non-conformances require urgent improvements to be made for certification acquisition inclusive of implementation of quality management systems, and integrated pest and facilities management strategies. For the emerging economies of developing countries, the salience of safe food is underscored by its dual role of sustaining human productivity through nutrition whilst being a revenue generator through local and export procurement. The future of these economies requires innovative strategies for growth and the application of food standards such as BRCGS provides opportunities for global market access. Food Safety Culture and its implementation and maintenance form key components of required for change management and the transformation of food manufacturing business systems, human behaviour and processes needed for commitment and continuous improvement of food safety.

Keywords: Brand Reputation through Compliance Global Standards, CARICOM, Food Safety, Food Safety Audit, Food Safety Management System, HACCP, Private Food Safety Standards, Wheat Flour.



**Amanda Kellman** is an MPhil Public Health Student in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. Her current research focuses on emerging adult mental health. Amanda is a Registered Clinical Psychologist in academia and clinical practice. She divides her time between teaching undergraduate-level personality theory and assessment courses and being a solo practitioner providing psychological services, training, and consultation. Amanda received a BA in Psychology from the Cave Hill Campus in 2009 and attained her MSc in Clinical Psychology from the Mona Campus in 2017. Amanda wants to help young people with emotional, behavioural, and adjustment problems thrive in their families, schools, work environments, and whole communities by using her Clinical Psychology and Public Health backgrounds to promote positive mental health and minimise mental health problems. Additionally, as an individual living with alopecia areata, Amanda is also dedicated to promoting the acceptance of visible differences.

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# **A Qualitative Exploration of Stakeholder Perspectives on Mental Health Services for Emerging Adults in Barbados**

**Background:** Emerging adulthood (18–29 years) is a critical period for mental health intervention. In Barbados, increasing mental health concerns among this group are met with limited, fragmented services that are not youth-centred.

**Aim of the study:** To examine the current design and delivery of mental health services for emerging adults in Barbados from stakeholders' perspectives.

**Research question:** What are stakeholders' perspectives on the design and delivery of mental health services for emerging adults in Barbados?

**Design and methods:** This qualitative exploratory study, grounded in an interpretivist paradigm, used purposive sampling guided by saturation. A semi-structured interview guide informed by the CDC's socioecological model explored the interplay between individuals and their social environments. Seventeen interviews (30–45 minutes) were conducted (February– June 2025) with stakeholders (clients and providers of public, private, and NGO-based mental health services in Barbados) recruited via governmental and non-governmental mental healthcare sector gatekeepers. Interviews were conducted in person or via encrypted video conferencing, transcribed verbatim, and analysed using Hamilton's five-step Rapid Qualitative Analysis.

**Results:** Key findings encompassed participants' views that services seemed primarily designed for older adults and did not incorporate the developmental and socio-cultural realities of emerging adults. Participants described services as unwelcoming and insufficiently youth-focused, with a lack of continuity during transition from child to adult care.

**Conclusion:** This misalignment underscores the need for youth-centred, integrated, and culturally responsive mental health services.

**Keywords:** Emerging adults, mental health, mental health service utilisation, help-seeking, user perspectives



**Kenny Kitsingh** is a lifelong educator with a thirst for knowledge. He prides himself for being determined in his quests to achieve set goals and loves to think outside the box. He has a wealth of experience in teaching at the primary, secondary and tertiary level institutions. The experiences gained across this spectrum has truly impacted on his approach to education, both as an individual and towards his students. He possesses a MSc in Kinesiology and is an author of Physical Education textbooks which are widely used in schools across Trinidad and Tobago including SAGHS, Hillview College, Malabar Secondary, Holy Faith Convent, Point Fortin and many others. Mr. Kitsingh is currently pursuing his PhD in Sport through the Faculty of Sport, Mona Jamaica. It has been a long term goal of his for many years and finally hopes to summit that elusive peak in the next year.

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## **Gender Differences in Extracurricular Sports Participation Among Secondary Students in Trinidad: Multiple Stakeholders' Perspective**

**Authors: Kenny Kitsingh, Dr. Anand Rampersad**

This qualitative study explored gender differences in extracurricular sports participation (ECSA) among secondary school students in Trinidad, factors that impact students' participation and the association between other variables such as socioeconomic status, ethnicity, family size etc. from the perspectives of multiple stakeholders. Data were collected from 14 schools in Trinidad through interviews with four (4) Principals and focus groups with of six (6) Curriculum Officers and ten (10) Physical Education teachers. This study aligns with the theme "Body in Motion: Health, Sport and Human Performance."

The findings revealed a multitude of factors impacting gender differences in ECSA. these included availability of opportunities for participation, student's personal motivation to participate, opportunities to be recognized, parental support, focus on academics, socioeconomic factors, family structure, socialization and to a lesser extent religion. A major finding was that males dominate in extracurricular sports participation over females. Personal safety, transport after games and practice, family structure and economic status were perceived as barriers to participation in ECSA.

The findings of this study provide a wealth of information that can be utilized by educational administrators and policymakers to chart a path forward that can possibly lead to greater participation by both genders in ECSA.

**Keywords:** extracurricular sporting activities, gender differences, factors influencing participation



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She began her career teaching at a high school in St. Lucia before pursuing a Postgraduate Diploma in Web Development at Humber College, Canada. Upon returning to St. Lucia, she continued teaching before moving to the British Virgin Islands to teach at the high school level. There, she became a member of the school's management team, serving three years as a year head, and is currently the Head of the Business Department.

Lyn-Addis recently completed her Master's degree in Educational Leadership and Management, further strengthening her commitment to educational excellence and leadership.

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## **Inclusive Education and Youth Futures: Transforming Caribbean Curriculum for Equity and Cultural Responsiveness**

This conceptual paper examines the need for inclusive education reform to transform youth futures within the Jamaican education system, situated within the broader context of the English-speaking Caribbean. While national and regional policies increasingly emphasize access, equity, and inclusion, many students particularly those from marginalized, rural, and disadvantaged communities continue to experience curricula and pedagogical practices that inadequately reflect their cultural identities, learning needs, and aspirations.

Drawing on a critical review of Jamaican education policy documents, national curriculum frameworks, and relevant scholarly literature, this paper explores how principles of inclusive education, cultural responsiveness, and equity are articulated at the policy level and the extent to which they align with classroom realities described in existing research and practitioner discourse. The analysis highlights persistent gaps between policy intent and implementation, including limited use of differentiated instruction, continued reliance on traditional pedagogies, and insufficient integration of culturally relevant content across core subject areas.

The paper argues for a reimagined, human-centered curriculum that foregrounds students' strengths, identities, and lived experiences while equipping them with adaptive skills for participation in a globalized world. It further emphasizes that meaningful inclusion extends beyond the classroom, requiring collaboration among educators, families, communities, and policymakers. By focusing on Jamaica as a case, this conceptual discussion contributes to wider Caribbean debates on curriculum reform and inclusive education, offering insights relevant to policymakers, educators, and researchers seeking to build more equitable and socially responsive education systems for youth.

Keywords: inclusive education, Jamaica, curriculum reform, cultural responsiveness, educational equity, conceptual paper



**Alana S. Mahabir** (PhD Candidate, Civil Engineering) is Head of the Water Resources Agency (WRA) at the Water and Sewerage Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, providing strategic oversight and technical guidance for national water-resources management.

Her work emphasizes policy and regulatory strengthening, including abstraction licensing, administrative fee reform, and inter-agency water-climate coordination, alongside regional and international capacity-building. She also serves as Trinidad and Tobago's national counterpart to the IAEA on isotope hydrology, applying environmental isotopes to protect groundwater, assess saltwater intrusion risks, and identify sustainable sources for national supply. Her PhD at The University of the West Indies focuses on underserved rural communities, advancing water equity through rainwater harvesting governance research.

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## **Integrating Sustainability into an Alternate Water Management System of Caribbean SIDS: A Trinidad Case Study**

**Authors:** Alana S. Mahabir, Hazi Azamatulla, Sandra Sookram

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Integrating sustainability into rainwater harvesting systems (RWH) is central as Small Island Developing States are faced with vulnerability to water insecurity, a condition further complicated by increasing climatic variability and the prevalence of prolonged droughts. Understanding the multidimensional impacts of water stress at community levels is critical for developing effective adaptation strategies. In this context, rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems have emerged as a practical intervention to address water shortages in remote areas experiencing inadequate access to nationally managed water sources.

This study conducted a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) assessment across Trinidad to investigate factors influencing RWH acceptance and sustainability. Findings revealed that knowledge of RWH was high (94%), attitudes and practices toward its use were highly positive. Statistical analysis showed no significant links between attitudes and demographic variables. Notably, 78.6% of respondents were willing to adopt alternative water sources because of a lack of consistent national water supply, which remained a major enabler. Economic factors also played a significant role where survey results revealed that approximately 64% of households were willing to invest in minor RWH maintenance activities, such as cleaning tanks and replacing gutters, while 86% expressed concern over the affordability of additional treatment options such as filters or first-flush systems. The findings highlight the need for policymakers and practitioners to adopt integrated RWH strategies that blend robust engineering design, socio-cultural adaptability, and active community participation to strengthen water security and resilience in vulnerable island contexts.

**Keywords:** Sustainability; rainwater harvesting, innovation, climate resilient and water security



**Meera Mahase-Forgenie** is a PhD candidate in Geography at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Her research focuses on food security policy in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), sustainable rural development and food sovereignty. She combines rigorous empirical methods and policy analysis to address the complex challenges faced by remote agricultural and fishing communities.

Meera is particularly experienced in Social Network Analysis (SNA), using tools like UCINET to map and assess institutional and community relationships influencing food and nutrition systems across the Caribbean. Her work engages with national and regional stakeholders to explore how networks of producers, markets, institutions, and communities can be leveraged for resilient and sustainable food systems.

Passionate about bridging research and policy, Meera advocates for evidence-based strategies that strengthen local food systems and empower rural livelihoods. She aims to promote policies that foster food sovereignty and support sustainable and resilient rural futures for Caribbean SIDS.

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## **Household Dietary Diversity and Associated Socioeconomic Factors: The Case of Three Rural Communities in Southeast Trinidad During COVID-19**

**Authors:** Meera Mahase-Forgenie, Phillip J McBride, George Legall, Marquitta Webb, and Arlette Saint Ville

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted food security globally and regionally, raising concerns about its effects on rural households in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This study addresses this gap by assessing household dietary diversity (HDD) and associated socioeconomic factors in three rural communities—Biche, Plum Mitan, and Ortoire—in Southeast Trinidad. Data were collected between July and September 2021 ( $n = 306$  households) using the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS). Dietary diversity was moderate across regions, highest in Plum Mitan (6.6), followed by Biche (5.6), and lowest in Ortoire (5.3). Economic stability influenced HDD: households with government support or secondary income reported more diverse diets. ANOVA and chi-square tests confirmed regional differences in food consumption, while ordinal logistic regression identified region as the strongest predictor of HDD. The pandemic also triggered changes in food purchasing behaviours, with many households shifting to cheaper, less preferred foods amid disruptions in agri-food production. These findings underscore the need for targeted interventions to strengthen local food systems. By highlighting the nutritional vulnerabilities and adaptive responses of rural households, this study contributes to advancing SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) in the Caribbean.

**Keywords:** Caribbean, Small Island Developing States, nutrition surveillance, food security, safety nets



**Te Hilla Maloney** is a dynamic Sustainability Data Specialist at Republic Bank with a strong foundation in social research and demographic statistics. Formerly a Research Analyst at Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of National Security, she brings robust experience in evidence-based policy development and regional security research. TeHilla is currently the Chair of CARICOM Statistics' Year of Statistics YSTAT Programme and the Caribbean Development Bank's Future Leader Network where she leads regional efforts to promote youth participation in data and statistical literacy. With a background in Sociology with International Relations and a MSc in Development Statistics underway, she continues to champion youth-led, data-driven solutions across the Caribbean, merging sustainability, equity, and innovation in every sphere of her work.

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## **Ties That Travel: Investigating the Impact of Youth Migration on Caribbean Family Resilience Using Quantitative Methods**

Over the past two decades, youth migration from the Caribbean has intensified, with large numbers of young adults seeking educational and economic opportunities abroad. While the financial impact of remittances is well established, far less attention has been given to the social and structural consequences for the families and communities left behind. This qualitative study investigates how youth emigration is reshaping family resilience and adaptation in fifteen Caribbean countries, using a cross-sectional quantitative approach that integrates original household survey data with regional migration statistics. Findings reveal that youth migrant households that possess nuclear structures are more likely to report higher economic stability and resilience, while single-parent and extended family households face increased economic vulnerability. Remittance flows remain a critical source of household income, providing essential support for core expenses such as education and healthcare. However, the absence of youth also exposes gaps in public services and places additional emotional and practical burdens on left-behind families. The results highlight the complex, multifaceted impact of youth migration and underscore the need for policies that better support the well-being and adaptation of transnational Caribbean families.

Keywords: Family, resilience, youth, migration, kinship patterns



**Ornella H. Mattoo** is currently pursuing a PhD in Business Administration with a specialisation in Marketing at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. She has taught courses on Insights into Consumer Behaviour, Marketing Research, International Marketing Management, and International Business Management within the Department of Management Studies at The UWI as a Part-time Lecturer. Ornella holds a double major in Economics (BSc) and Management Studies (BSc). She has also obtained a Master of Science in Management Studies with a specialisation in Marketing, all from The UWI.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Ornella has served as a reviewer for papers presented at the ALBUS 2023 Conference Proceedings themed "Driving Sustainable Business Development in Latin America: Innovative Strategies for a Changing World." In May 2025, Ornella's research was accepted for the Doctoral Consortium presentation at the Academy of International Business, Latin America and the Caribbean, Monterrey Mexico, where she represented the Department of Management Studies, The UWI.

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### **Who, How & What! Determinants of Consumer Brand Attitudes Following Product Failure & Recovery: Virtual Chat Agent Vs Human Chat Agent Compensation Recovery!**

The study aims to investigate the customer journey in product failure and recovery from an online context by examining the role of 'Who', 'How' and 'What' is involved in product failure and recovery and its impact on customer brand attitudes. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has acted as a catalyst for the acceleration of digitalization across industries. As governments worldwide implemented lockdown measures and restricted physical interactions, businesses were forced to find alternative ways to operate and serve their customers. This led to the evolution of the online digital landscape which transformed traditional service encounters to service encounters 2.0. As a result of this shift, there is a need for research to explore how customers react to AI driven services, especially in failure and recovery situations. Therefore, the objective of this research is to determine how do customers' perception of causality following the types of product failure impact customer brand attitudes, and do compensation recovery by VCAs vs HCAs, and types of recovery options on the customers' perceptions of freedom have a moderating effect on that relationship? For the methodology, the study uses hypothetical written scenarios which will manipulate a 2 (Product Failure Types: manufacturer defects, ignoring instructions and warnings) x 2 (Recovery Agent: VCAs, HCAs) x 2 (Recovery Option: Refund, Replacement) between subjects/group factorial design; followed by the conduct of focus groups. Data Analysis Technique includes: MANCOVA, Structural Equations Modelling (AMOS), and Thematic Analysis (NVivo). This paper will make its contribution to the marketing literature by building on a multi-directional connection such as a triadic design (firm-customer-brand). It adds to novelty by contributing insights on the effectiveness of VCAs vs HCAs services. Lastly, the paper will provide recommendations and delve into the managerial implications for businesses.

Key words: Brand Attitudes, Human Chat Agent (HCA), Recovery, Product failures, Virtual Chat Agent (VCA)



**Carol-Ann McKenzie** is a strategic communication and behaviour change specialist with over 20 years of experience designing evidence-based communication strategies that close knowledge gaps, correct misconceptions, address cultural norms, and guide audiences toward recommended practices. As a researcher, Carol-Ann applies social psychological theory to predict, understand, and promote adaptive behaviours in disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation contexts. Her work examines determinants of hazard-adaptive action and their translation into effective behaviour change interventions. Carol-Ann completed a Master's degree in Communication for Social and Behaviour Change at The University of the West Indies (October 2025) and has a BSc in Agronomy and an MPhil in Crop Science.

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### **Determinants of Hurricane Preparedness in the Caribbean: A New Framework for Disaster Communication Interventions.**

This study aimed to predict how cognitive and sociocultural factors influence hurricane preparedness (HP) behaviour across five Caribbean countries. It contributes to building resilient Caribbean futures by proposing an evidence-based disaster communication framework to inform preparedness interventions that reduce vulnerability to recurrent hurricane threats.

A 49-item online survey was administered via SurveyMonkey between May 6 and June 6, 2025, across Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados, Dominica, and St. Lucia. Eligible participants ( $N = 632$ ) were adults aged 18–84. The study integrated Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) constructs with additional cognitive and sociocultural constructs to predict hurricane preparedness behaviour.

Findings revealed a mean Caribbean Hurricane Preparedness Index (CHPI) score of 50.0 out of 84, with critical gaps in family emergency planning and structural and financial preparedness. In the best-fitting model, descriptive norms, risk knowledge, perceived behavioural control, and preparedness intention were significant positive predictors of hurricane preparedness, while homeownership status, employment, and income were significant negative predictors.

Sociocultural factors, namely, prior experience with hurricanes, preparedness message fatigue, and belief in divine control over hurricane safety and survival, were not significant predictors.

By identifying these determinants, risk communicators have a framework to guide the design of persuasive, targeted disaster communication campaigns that motivate and empower communities to perform recommended hurricane preparedness actions.

**Key Words:** Hurricane preparedness, Theory of Planned Behaviour, risk communication, descriptive norms, risk knowledge, perceived behavioural control.



**Noor-ud-din Mohammed** is a linguistics graduate student at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. His research on linguistic 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, the TESOL International Association and the University of Witwatersrand. Inspired by his experience teaching high-school English, he now explores theories and approaches to improve education for Caribbean Creole and vernacular speakers.

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## **Translanguaging for Creole Education: A Caribbean-Centered Approach.**

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

The call for Creoles in education has always been a call for affirming pedagogy— for treating Caribbean cultural and linguistic practices as valuable while enabling students to access dominant cultural and linguistic patterns. Since the Mobility turn<sup>[i]</sup> and Multilingual turn<sup>[ii]</sup>, Caribbean language use is increasingly described as mixed<sup>[iii]</sup> and multi-normative<sup>[iv]</sup> and there are advocates for new ways of studying and teaching language that reflect how people combine all their languages in everyday life<sup>[v]</sup>. In this vein, the dominant theory is Translanguaging, which has started framing education and intervention for Caribbean Creole-speakers abroad<sup>[vi]</sup>. However, so far, all Translanguaging theory and practice has been developed outside the region in contexts that deviate from the sociolinguistic complex within the Caribbean<sup>[vii]</sup>.

This paper examines how (or if) the theoretical positions offered by translanguaging account for language use in the Caribbean. It assesses two conceptualizations of Translanguaging: the Unitary perspective<sup>[viii]</sup> and the Integrated Multilingual perspective<sup>[ix]</sup>. Through critical comparative analysis, it appraises how each perspective explains grammaticality judgments, code-switching and co-occurrence restrictions, relating each parameter to how Caribbean variationist sociolinguistics has explained them in the past. It outlines considerations for Caribbean-centered Translanguaging and makes recommendations for future research.

Key Words: Translanguaging; Caribbean Language Education; Creole and Vernacular Studies; Affirming Research.

[i] [Blommaert \(2010\)](#).

[ii] [May \(2014\)](#).

[iii] [Jackson \(2023\)](#).

[iv] [Meer and Deuber \(2020\)](#).

[v] [Ali et al \(2023\); Bullen and Adams \(2023\)](#),etc.

[vi] [Smith \(2020\); Smith \(2024\); Jocelyn and Rose \(2025\)](#).

[vii] [Prilutskaya \(2021\); Huang and Chalmers \(2023\)](#).

[viii] [Otheguy et al. \(2015\); Otheguy et al. \(2019\)](#).

[ix] [MacSwan \(2017\); MacSwan \(2022\)](#)



**Oneika Pacheco** recently completed her Master of Science in Agri-Food Safety and Quality Assurance at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. She currently works as a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in the Health Policy, Research and Planning Unit at the Ministry of Health, where she assists with the development of evidence-based policies and supports data-driven decision-making for public health programs. She possesses a strong passion for food safety and the intersection of agriculture and public health. Her interests also include advancing sustainable food systems and improving health outcomes in the Caribbean through evidence-based research and policy development.

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## **Perception and Awareness toward Pesticide Residues on Fruits and Vegetables Among Local Consumers in Trinidad, West Indies**

**Authors: Ms. Oneika Pacheco and Dr. Marsha Singh**

Fruits and vegetables, valued for their nutrition and health benefits, may carry postharvest pesticide residues that pose risks to food safety and public health. This study examines consumer awareness and knowledge of the health and environmental effects of pesticide residues on fruits and vegetables in Trinidad, along with attitudes toward pesticide management strategies. Additionally, it investigates whether demographics and consumption frequency influence their awareness and perception.

A cross-sectional survey of 394 consumers across Trinidad was conducted using a structured questionnaire, and data were analysed using SPSS. Most respondents reported consuming fruits and vegetables frequently. Significant associations were found between education level and pesticide knowledge ( $p=0.002$ ), and consumption frequency ( $p=0.014$ ). Urban residents demonstrated greater awareness ( $p=0.027$ ), and higher knowledge was linked to more frequent intake ( $p=0.010$ ). Lower-educated respondents expressed less concern about pesticide health effects ( $p=0.002$ ). Strong support was observed for management strategies ( $p<0.001$ ), particularly education, regulatory enforcement, continuous monitoring, awareness campaigns, and promotion of organic and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices.

This research aligns with the conference theme by addressing critical food safety and public health concerns in the Caribbean and highlights the need for targeted consumer education and IPM policies to ensure safer food systems and improved well-being.

**Keywords:** pesticide residue, fruits and vegetables, public health, environmental health, Trinidad



**Dr. Li-Shann Paul-Mullings** is a fourth-year resident in the DM Paediatrics programme at UWI Mona and is currently employed at the Bustamante Hospital for Children. She is a dedicated, optimistic Jamaican who believes 'God + hard work= success'

She enjoys spending quality time with her husband, family and friends. She also enjoys activities that include the beach, zip lines and roller coasters.

She is pursuing a career in Paediatrics because she admires the spirit of children and their willingness to endure. She believes their drive to fight, their outlook in the midst of adversity, their formidable nature makes her job worth it. Paediatrics allows her to contribute to the future of Jamaica and by extension, the world, by ensuring our children are healthy.

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## **Prevalence and Clinical Characteristics of Infants with Urinary Tract Infection and Concomitant CSF Pleocytosis: A Single-Centre Retrospective Study**

**Authors:** N. McNeil-Beecher, L. Paul-Mullings, S. Young-Peart, K. Innis

**Background** – Studies have identified a relationship between UTI and CSF Pleocytosis in infants, with varying prevalence of 11% to 43%. No published studies have assessed this association in infants in the Caribbean, and few international studies assessed this association in infants over 6 months.

**Aim and Objectives** - We aimed to describe the clinical characteristics of infants 29 days to 12 months admitted to the Bustamante Hospital for Children in Jamaica, from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2023, with urinary tract infections and determine the prevalence of concomitant sterile CSF pleocytosis.

**Methodology:** This is a single-centre retrospective study. Ethical approval was obtained. Those fulfilling the inclusion criteria were reviewed and data extracted electronically by Google Forms. Data was analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 29 (SPSS 29.0.0.0). A P-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** 127 patients were identified with UTI. 85.8% were male. The most common presenting symptom was fever (40.9%). Other common symptoms included irritability (35.4%) and decreased appetite/activity (23.6%). *Escherichia coli* (37.8%) was the most common pathogen, followed by *Klebsiella* species (28.3%), *Proteus* species (16.5%) and *Enterococcus* sp. (12.6%). Of 83 infants who had a lumbar puncture, 26.5%(n=22) had concomitant sterile CSF pleocytosis. Patients in the CSF pleocytosis group had a higher CSF protein count ( $p=0.024$ ) compared to the non-CSF pleocytosis group.

**Conclusion:** Those with CSF pleocytosis had higher levels of nonspecific markers, suggesting systemic inflammation . Further studies are needed to determine the relationship between UTI and CSF pleocytosis in our population, enabling informed decisions and protocols for patient care.

**Keywords:** Urinary tract infection; Cerebrospinal fluid pleocytosis; Infants.



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## **Strategising Public-Private Partnerships in Maritime Export Operations: A Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Perspective in Trinidad and Tobago**

**Authors:** Leroy F. Quildon, Kit Fai Pun

Maritime exports operations are integral to economic diversification of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Public private partnerships (PPP) have emerged to improve efficiency for large enterprises in maritime services projects in many developing countries. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are crucial for economies like T&T, accounting for over 85% of registered firms. Despite government support, challenges such as insufficient funding, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and inadequate technical skills training persist in the maritime services sector. It is less straightforward exploring PPPs' adoption and impact on SMEs' operations performance. The objective is to understand how, and the extent to which SMEs' maritime exports operations depend on strategizing PPP interventions to improve value creation and competitiveness. This paper reports main findings of a recent survey on factors affecting value creation, diversification, and SMEs competitiveness in exporting maritime services in T&T. Data on SMEs' interaction with research institutions, government agencies, industry associations, business networks, and academia were analysed using SPSS V27. Empirical evidence shows that PPP can safeguard governance on capacity building, resource allocation, knowledge sharing, and financing in the sector. Implementing PPPs can foster operations efficiency. This study sheds lights on strategic inter-organisational collaboration between public and private entities for improving SME competitiveness in T&T. Future work will engage SMEs on PPP collaboration through focus group meetings, and guide policymakers on implementation.

**Keywords:** PPP, value creation, SMEs, maritime services, Trinidad and Tobago



**Sian Ramdass** is a PhD Biochemistry candidate in the Department of Life Sciences, The UWI, St. Augustine Campus and is supervised by Dr. Milena Mechkarska. Her research explores the anticancer potential of plant extracts, focusing on the internationally sourced muscadine grape and traditional bush medicine used in Trinidad and Tobago.

Her work integrates laboratory approaches such as cytotoxicity assays and cell cycle analysis, with ethnobotanical fieldwork. She is deeply passionate about her research and the possibilities it holds in the area of plant-based cancer therapies.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Sian is a Food Microbiology Engineering Technician in the Department of Chemical Engineering, contributing her technical expertise to support research and teaching laboratories.

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### **Uncovering the Anticancer Potential of Bush Medicine in Trinidad and Tobago**

Cancer is a leading cause of mortality in the Caribbean, prompting continued exploration for plant-derived anticancer therapeutics. This study aims to scientifically validate traditional bush medicine in Trinidad and Tobago by investigating the cytotoxicity of extracts from understudied plants used as cancer-healing remedies.

Following ethical approval, thirty consenting local bush medicine practitioners were interviewed using structured questionnaires. Five plant species were collected and vouchered at the National Herbarium. Plant parts were macerated in 95% ethanol, yielding eight crude extracts: BB, CH, MaR, MS, JBB, JBF, JBL, and JBS. Cytotoxicity against A549 and H1299 (lung), MDA-MB-231 and MDA-MB-468 (breast), and PC-3 (prostate) cancer cell lines were assessed via MTT assay. Non-tumourigenic HaCaT keratinocytes were used to evaluate selectivity (SI).

MaR exhibited anticancer activity across all cell lines ( $IC_{50} = 5-60 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ), with strong preference for MDA-MB-468 ( $IC_{50} = 5.84 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ). BB was potent against H1299 ( $IC_{50} = 4.58 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ). The cytotoxic effects of MaR and BB were dose-dependent and selective towards cancer cells (SI = 6.53 and 25, respectively).

These findings highlight the pharmacological value of bush medicine. The research aligns with SDG 3 and SDG 12 by advancing plant-based therapies and promoting the sustainable use of local biodiversity and traditional knowledge.

Keywords: bush medicine, cancer, cytotoxicity, scientific validation



**Priya T. Ramdial** currently serves as a Research Officer, Special Projects at COSTAATT, where she works closely with senior leadership to analyze institutional performance metrics, develop strategic benchmarks, and produce data-driven reports that informs planning. Priya holds an MSc in Applied Psychology (Distinction) and is currently pursuing a PhD in Psychology at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Her doctoral research investigates the impact of fear of crime on perceived stress and state-trait anxiety, using a data-driven approach integrating HEXACO personality traits within the Trinidadian context. Priya's expertise spans statistical analysis, research design, and cross-sector collaboration, with a strong passion and commitment to equity, mental health, and evidence-based decision making.

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## **Fear of Crime, Psychological Distress, and Personality Traits in Caribbean Adults: A Thematic Review of Literature**

This study examines how fear of crime relates to psychological distress and personality traits by drawing on international and Caribbean literature to highlight existing gaps and deepen an understanding of its psychological impact in the region. Existing studies rarely integrate personality frameworks, consider underexplored factors such as media exposure, social disorder, and coping strategies, or address methodological limitations. Aligned with The Social Imagination Framework, it highlights how marginalized groups experience heightened psychological vulnerability. The research questions answer how fear of crime influences perceived stress and anxiety and what role might HEXACO personality traits play in shaping these outcomes. A structured search of EBSCOhost, Google Scholar, JSTOR, and ProQuest (2000–2024) aligned with the themes of fear of crime, stress/anxiety, and personality traits initially identified 220 studies, which were subsequently narrowed to 65 based on thematic relevance. The demographic patterns of fear of crime indicate higher levels among women, young adults, ethnic minorities, and low-income groups. This review contributes new knowledge and insights by highlighting these underexplored factors, particularly the absence of HEXACO personality frameworks in Caribbean studies. It therefore calls for more culturally grounded research that advances social justice and informs interventions aimed at reducing the psychological burden of fear of crime among vulnerable groups.

**Keywords:** fear of crime, psychological distress, HEXACO personality, Caribbean, thematic review



**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 the 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 recognised through presentations at both regional and international conferences.

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### **For Home from Abroad: Muriel Petioni and the Trinidad and Tobago Gayap Organisation**

Building on the pioneering scholarship of Irma Watkins-Owens, Winston James, Lara Putnam, Tammy Brown, and most recently, Tyesha Maddox, the paper examines the prolific life of Muriel Petioni and the ways in which her community activism in Harlem, N.Y., extended to Trinidad and Tobago. Arriving in Harlem in 1919 at the age of five, Muriel followed in the footsteps of her father, Charles Petioni, making her mark in medicine and advocacy, gaining her the title of "Mother of Medicine in Harlem". While this classification is certainly merited, her Caribbean roots and its continuous influence on her commitment to advocacy, activism and promoting women, healthcare, housing and education amongst blacks through community organising, is often sidelined in the historiography.

Departing from the traditional male-centered immigrant narratives, For Home from Abroad, delves into Muriel Petioni, the black Caribbean woman, leader and philanthropist. The paper illuminates her prominent role in radical activism in Harlem and abroad, whilst situating her and the Gayap organisation within Harlem's historiography of Caribbean women in immigrant mutual aid societies and benevolent associations. Methodologically, the paper employs a qualitative approach with a Caribbean lens. Adopting Carole Boyce-Davies's Diasporic Movements concept as an analytical tool, the paper provides the fresh perspective that Gayap facilitated the transnational movement of ideas and aid, allowing Muriel to "return" home by working for home from abroad. This perspective is evidenced by interviews, personal papers, correspondence and newspaper articles, housed at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library, Harlem, NY.

Keywords: Muriel Petioni, Gayap, Diasporic Movements and Circulations



**Dr. Deepak Ramsingh** (MBBS) completed undergraduate degree at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus in 2012. He is currently employed at Mt. Hope Hospital, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex in Trinidad and Tobago as a surgical resident and pursuing his DM in Otorhinolaryngology. He is interested in sub-specialising in otology with a special interest in neuro-otology. Combining a strong passion and interest in computer science and robotics with his current studies, he also wishes to introduce and create technologies to continuously improve ENT practices and education. Over the years, he has presented at several conferences and is noted for producing unique and provocative presentations. A proud husband and father, he devotes himself strongly to his family and his practice.

## **Ramsingh, Dr. Deepak**

### **The Role of Ki-67 in the Prognosis of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Systematic Review**

#### **Sub-theme: Cancer Biomarkers and Prognostic Tools**

**Introduction:** Ki67 is a nuclear protein indicative of cellular proliferation. Its use has been well implemented in management of breast cancer and has garnered attention as a potential biomarker for predicting tumour aggressiveness and prognosis in OSCC.

**Aim:** To evaluate the utility of Ki-67 as a prognostic biomarker for predicting recurrence and survival in Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma (OSCC).

**Objective:** To analyse published data on the association between Ki-67 and OSCC with focus on prognosis to ascribe statistical significance to its utility.

**Methodology:** A search of PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science, was conducted to identify studies investigating Ki67 expression in OSCC, using keywords “Ki67”, “Oral Squamous Cell Cancer”, “Oral Cancer”, “Prognosis”. Studies were imported into a collaborative online platform called Covidence where included, if they assessed the correlation between Ki67 levels and clinicopathological parameters, survival outcomes, or disease recurrence. Exclusion criteria encompassed non-English studies, case reports, and reviews without original data. Five independent reviewers initially sorted titles and abstracts whereas two reviewers performed full-text reviews, data extraction and quality assessment. Methodological quality was assessed using QUIPS tool. A systematic review of 13 retrospective studies (n=813) was conducted using PRISMA guidelines.

**Results:** Findings were heterogeneous. Ki-67 cut-offs varied widely (>0% to >69.5%) with no consensus amongst authors. Overall Survival measurement accounted for 75% of analyses followed by Disease Free Survival (18.6%) and Disease Specific Survival (6.3%). 68.8% of analyses showed no significant link between Ki67 and OSCC. Subset analysis revealed that Ki67 and Disease Specific Survival are significantly related. Large variability in testing methods was employed amongst studies. Multivariate analyses similarly showed 57% of predictors used were non-significant.

**Conclusions:** The prognostic value of Ki-67 in OSCC remains inconclusive due to significant methodological heterogeneity and variable reporting standards.

Keywords: Ki-67, Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Prognosis, Biomarker, Systematic Review



**Rhonda Rattansingh** is a PhD candidate in Business Administration, at The UWI, St. Augustine, in the final stage ahead of her viva. Her research examines how multisensory semantic cue congruence influences online consumer attitudes. She holds an MSc and BSc in Management Studies (UWI), has presented at the AIB-LAC 2025 Doctoral Symposium, and was a reviewer for the ALBUS Conference, 2023. Rhonda has lectured in Marketing and Management at private tertiary institutions and worked as a Research Assistant in UWI's Department of Management Studies. She has also held management roles at CALATEL, TSTT, and Massy Communications. She is a Christian songwriter and recording artist, happily married, and a mother of three.

## **Rattansingh, Rhonda**

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### **The Impact of Uni-Sensory and Multi-Sensory Semantic Cue Congruence on Online Consumer Product Attitude**

The online environment is limited in sensory input, and it remains unclear whether congruence within a single cue type (unisensory) or across multiple cue types (multisensory) more effectively influences product attitude. Research directly comparing these strategies in online contexts is scarce, hence a gap in understanding their relative impact on product attitude exists. This thesis bridges this gap by using two studies to investigate the impact of semantic cue congruence on product attitude, mediated by conceptual fluency and moderated by ad type (banner vs. pop-up), ad audio tempo (fast vs. slow), and consumer biological sex. Data was collected from 260 respondents in Study 1 and 276 in Study 2 recruited via Amazon MTurk. Structural Equation Modeling via AMOS was used to test mediation and moderation effects, while MANCOVA was used to compare product attitude scores for unisensory and multisensory manipulations as well as model comparison via AMOS. Results indicated that multisensory semantic congruence produced higher conceptual fluency and more favorable product attitudes than unisensory congruence. Contrary to expectations, however, semantic congruence had a significantly stronger effect among male respondents. Banner ads also outperformed pop-ups, and fast-tempo audio ads produced stronger conceptual fluency and product attitudes than slow-tempo conditions. This research provides a valuable contribution to the field of sensory marketing by comparing the impact of unisensory versus multisensory semantic cue congruence on product attitude in the online setting. This study also contributes to the multisensory marketing literature by recognizing conceptual fluency as a mediator with ad type, sex, and audio tempo as moderators. Practically, it offers insights for advertisers, web designers, and content creators seeking to optimize sensory alignment in digital content.

Multisensory semantic cue congruence, Unisensory semantic cue congruence, conceptual fluency, distraction, interruption, background colour, product attitude.

Keywords: Multisensory semantic cue congruence, Unisensory semantic cue congruence, conceptual fluency, product attitude.



**Rajne M. Reynolds** is a PhD candidate and adjunct assistant lecturer in the Department of Geography and Geology, at The UWI Mona Campus, specialising in palaeoclimatology. He investigates sediment cores recovered from mangrove ecosystems to document periods of environmental change and extreme weather that extend beyond the current instrumental meteorological record. In addition to palaeoclimatology, Mr. Reynolds has also been trained by regional and international institutions in disaster risk financing and predictive weather hazards, and has served as a member of one of the Caribbean's foremost thinktanks on climate studies: The Climate Studies Group, UWI Mona (CSGM) since 2016. He has collaborated in significant research outputs, including serving as a researcher in the preparation of the State of the Caribbean Climate Report (2020) and assisting with research with the CSGM on drought early warning systems through the 2023 internship with the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF). Mr. Reynolds has also co-authored the Climate Profile for Jamaica for the "COP26 Futures We Want - Jamaica Country Profile" with researchers from the Cambridge University (2021). His long-term goal is for his research to provide information on the frequency and intensity of prehistoric tropical cyclones that impacted the Caribbean region to improve climate adaptation efforts.

## **Reynolds, Rajne M.**

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### **A Comparative Reconstruction of Environmental Change in Jamaica: Insights from Sedimentology, Foraminifer and Geochemistry in Manatee Bay and Turtle Crawle Bay, Jamaica**

**Author:** Rajne M. Reynolds, Sherene J. Williamson

The Caribbean region is the second most susceptible region globally to hydrometeorological hazards. Given this reality, resilience-building is crucial. Environmental archives offer tools to anticipate future climate risks. This study investigates environmental archives from two coastal regions: Manatee Bay and Turtle Crawle Bay, to reconstruct the last 1000-year environmental history by comparing sedimentology, foraminifera, and carbon/nitrogen geochemical proxies. We investigate if the depositional environment at both sites affects how environmental change is recorded at the sites. Sediment cores were recovered from a lagoon in Manatee Bay and from mangrove ecosystems at Turtle Crawle Bay. Sedimentological descriptions were recorded for each core and the sediments were subsampled for Loss-on-ignition (LOI), foraminifer and geochemistry analysis. Preliminary results indicate that Manatee Bay experienced a major storm event at 1091 CE and the period 1565–1985 CE was marked by increased aridity. For Turtle Crawle Bay, a storm event was detected at 1483 CE, and between 1561–1755 CE, the coastline shifted from semi-enclosed bay to a restricted bay. Both sites are found to be sensitive to environmental change and could give insights into cyclic environmental patterns. Further research on environmental change, particularly hazard incidence may inform Caribbean governments for proper disaster risk management planning.

**Keywords:** Foraminifera, Sedimentology, Mangroves, Palaeoclimatology, Jamaica.



**Hazel Roberts** is a Vincentian PhD student in the Department of Food Production, Faculty of Food and Agriculture at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus where her research focuses on Food quality and Safety. She loves cooking, and is passionate about introducing Front-Of-Packaging Labelling with Nutritional Warnings to consumers and promoting healthy eating habits.

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# **Stating the Potential Benefits and Barriers of Implementing a Front-of-Packaging Nutritional Warning Labelling System in the Caribbean: A Literature Review**

**Authors:** Hazel Roberts, Neelia Badrie and Sa'eed Bawa

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the Caribbean, like many countries worldwide, are driven primarily by poor dietary habits and are of great public health concern. Therefore, the Governments of the Caribbean Community are in the process of selecting a Front-of-Packaging Nutritional Labelling system (FOPNL), a public health tool that will provide citizens with additional information on processed and ultra-processed foods. This study was undertaken to explore the potential benefits and barriers of implementing the FOPNL system in the Caribbean.

**Objective:** to explore the potential benefits and barriers to the implementation of an FOPNL system in the Caribbean region.

**Design:** A review of 30 studies, published between 2019 and 2025, that examined the design, consumer awareness, benefits, and barriers of implementing an FOPNL system in the Caribbean.

**Results:** Studies in the region demonstrate that after exposure to the FOPNL system, consumers improved their dietary behaviours, reduced the consumption of critical nutrients, and reduced NCDs. Participants prefer warning labels, especially those from lower literacy and financial demographics. The industry's presence on the regional FOPNL committee opposes labelling regulations and is delaying the implementation of the system.

**Conclusions:** The findings reveal that many Caribbean countries have agreed in principle to an FOPNL system, but several barriers are hindering its implementation.

Keywords: The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Front-of-Packaging Labels with Nutritional Warnings (FOPNL)systems, Consumer Health, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), ultra-processed food, policy tools.



**Mark Salina** is pursuing his doctorate in Teaching and Learning with Emerging Technology at The University of the West Indies, Global Campus. His area of focus is Technology Acceptance in Secondary Schools in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mark has an MSc and a BSc in Management Studies, both from The University of the West Indies. He also has a law degree from the University of London, as well as a Certificate in Online Facilitation and Project Management from The University of the West Indies, Global Campus.

Mark is a part-time instructor at The University of the West Indies, Global Campus. He has facilitated courses such as Change Management, Introduction to Trade and Foreign Business and Trust and Corporate Law.

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### **An Exploration of Trinidadian Teachers' Acceptance of Technology in Two Government and Two Denominational Secondary Schools**

The study explores teachers' perceptions of technology acceptance in two government and two denominational schools in Trinidad. The main research question is: How do teachers' perceptions of technology differ in denominational and government schools in Trinidad? This exploratory, convergent mixed-methodology employed thematic analysis, the Mann-Whitney U test, and correlation analysis. The study employed non-probability purposive, convenience, and snowball sampling methods. Criterion-based purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample of 11 teachers for the interviews and convenience and snowball sampling techniques were utilised to distribute the adapted online questionnaire to the teaching fraternity in Schools A, B, C and D. Thematic analysis were utilised to analyse the qualitative data, and correlational analysis and Mann Whitney were used to analyse the quantitative data. Thematic analysis revealed that perceived usefulness was influenced by student engagement, learning collaboration and communication, curriculum integration, analysis of performance, productivity, increased motivation, and learning styles. Furthermore, it revealed that perceived ease of use is influenced by design, user experience, productivity, efficiency, training, resource management, student attention timespan, and technophobia/digital immigrants.

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



**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 (The UWI), Mona Campus, pursuing a PhD in Organisational 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 Campus, 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.

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### **An Investigation of the Learning Organisation and Psycho-socio-cultural Predictors of Institutional Effectiveness in Three Jamaican Higher Education Institutions**

This study investigates institutional effectiveness in higher education institutions (HEIs), with a focus on learning organisation practices (LOPs) and psycho-socio-cultural (P-S-C) factors. In an era of increasing uncertainty and disruption, the resilience of HEIs depends on their ability to integrate agile, evidence-based strategies while drawing on historical legacies to ensure sustainable performance. This research aligns with the conference theme, Building Resilient Futures, by exploring how human-centred and learning-focused approaches contribute to institutional success. The study's objective was to examine the extent to which P-S-C factors—trust, justice, respect, psychological safety, and defensive mechanisms—along with LOPs, predict IE in HEIs. A descriptive correlational design was adopted, and data were collected from a convenience purposive sample of 190 academic, administrative, and ancillary staff across three Jamaican HEIs using a 110-item online survey. The sample included a university, a teacher-training institution, and a community college. Participants were full-time staff employed for at least one year and worked at various levels across the HEIs. The instruments were adapted from standardised measures for effectiveness, LOPs and P-S-C factors. Results from regression analyses revealed that both P-S-C factors and LO practices significantly predicted IE. Trust (a P-S-C factor) and concrete learning practices (an LO dimension) emerged as the strongest predictors. The study concludes that institutional effectiveness can be strengthened through the development of trust-based cultures and supportive learning environments. These findings provide actionable insights for HEI leaders and policymakers seeking sustainable transformation.

**Keywords:** Institutional Effectiveness Learning Organisation Psycho-socio-cultural Factors Higher Education Organisational Resilience



**Tamara Scott McFarlane** is an educator, researcher, and higher education administrator in Jamaica, recognised for her impactful contributions to language education, curriculum development, and educational leadership. Tamara currently serves as Director of Student Services and Lecturer in Language and Communication at Excelsior Community College. She is a certified teacher mentor, who has played a pivotal role in mentoring new educators and shaping student success initiatives. Her work reflects a strong commitment to inclusive and student-centred learning environments. She is presently pursuing MPhil/PhD studies in Curriculum Instruction and Development at The University of the West Indies (Mona Campus), where her academic research focuses on second chance education, educational partnerships, and curriculum innovation. Tamara is a member of several professional organisations and most recently served as President of the Association of Graduate Researchers in Education (AGRE). As a public speaker and advocate for transformative education, she continues to engage audiences on issues of access, equity, and lifelong learning.

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### **Using McClusky's Theory of Margin to Investigate the Lived Curriculum of Adult Learners in Second Chance Education Programmes**

This concept paper is designed to examine second-chance education (SCE) as a strategic response to inequality in higher education. SCE programmes are designed to re-engage individuals whose formal education was interrupted by social, financial, or personal barriers. This ongoing ethnographic study, anchored in McClusky's Theory of Margin, will investigate how mature learners navigate the tensions between their load (life demands - work, family, and health) and power (motivation, social support, and institutional assistance). The study will use ten purposefully selected adult learners enrolled in SCE programmes at a Jamaican community college. Data will be collected using semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and field notes, with thematic analysis guided by McClusky's constructs. Early insights suggest that balancing competing responsibilities with educational goals is a defining feature of the learners' lived curriculum. Emerging themes also point to institutional practices that can either reinforce barriers or expand learners' capacity to succeed. The proposed findings are likely to extend the application of McClusky's model in higher education research and offer guidance for designing responsive programs that enhance equity, persistence, and lifelong learning. The findings have implications for policymakers and educators committed to strengthening resilience and success among non-traditional student populations in Jamaica.

Keywords: Second-Chance Education, Lived Curriculum, Resilience, McClusky's Theory of Margin



**Dhanielle Smith** is a PhD candidate and career central banker from Trinidad and Tobago, with a background in economics and public policy research. She is driven by a deep interest in what it truly takes for people to live with dignity. Her current research focuses on estimating a living wage for Trinidad and Tobago, with the aim of informing wage policy and supporting inclusive development. With experience in macroeconomic analysis, she brings a policy-oriented perspective to issues of wellbeing and generational resilience.

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## **A Living Wage for Trinidad and Tobago**

This study estimates a living wage for Trinidad and Tobago, providing results for 2022, 2023, and 2024. It asks: What is the adequate level of income required to sustain a decent standard of living for households in Trinidad and Tobago? This study argues that inadequate wages perpetuate poverty and dampen growth prospects, while the imprecise conceptualisation and measurement of poverty distort policy decisions – making the distinction between a living wage, a poverty line, and a minimum wage essential. A living wage is the minimum income needed to sustain an adequate standard of living for employees and their families. While its calculation resembles that of a poverty line, a living wage is less focused on frugality, and unlike the minimum wage, it is directly tied to meeting the living requirements of the family. The approach utilised for Trinidad and Tobago draws on international living wage frameworks, primarily, the Anker living wage methodology. Ten spending categories are incorporated, including food, housing, education and health. The findings highlight the gap between prevailing wages and the calculated living wage, underscoring the policy relevance for poverty reduction in Trinidad and Tobago. The research finds that for a standard family of four (one adult male and female, and two children, aged 12 and eight), the gross monthly living wage approximated \$12,558.90 in 2022, \$13,416.31 in 2023 and \$13,276.70 in 2024.

Keywords: Living Wage; Minimum Wage; Standard of Living



**Satesh Sookhai** is a third-year PhD candidate and Research Assistant at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, specialising in small businesses and human resource management. His current research examines how rewards impact employee motivation within small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries. Beyond this, Satesh has actively contributed to research on entrepreneurial intentions, technology and AI acceptance, food import dynamics in the Caribbean, and reward management strategies in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). He is deeply committed to supporting young entrepreneurs through education and training initiatives.

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## **Engineered for Business: A Comparative Study of Entrepreneurial Intentions in Management and Engineering Students**

**Authors:** Satesh Sookhai, Prashant Birbal, Celine Suchit, Areeb Mohammed, Priscilla Bahaw, Gabrielle Simbhoo, Natasha Ramkissoon-Babwah

This study examines the influence of entrepreneurial education and motivation on entrepreneurial intentions among management and engineering students. The research aims to determine whether these factors affect the two groups differently and to identify the stronger predictor of entrepreneurial intentions. Using an explanatory research design, data were collected through an online survey of 176 students. Factor analysis and linear regression were conducted to analyze relationships among variables. The findings reveal that both entrepreneurial education and motivation positively impact entrepreneurial intentions. However, entrepreneurial education exhibits a more decisive influence than motivation, particularly for engineering students compared to management students. Motivation, while significant, demonstrated a relatively equal impact across both groups. Intentions had the strongest association with entrepreneurship ( $ML = 0.74$ ), followed by motivation ( $ML = 0.61$ ) and education ( $ML = 0.59$ ). Notably, the hypothesis that motivation substantially affects management students more than engineering students was not supported. These findings highlight the need for discipline-specific entrepreneurial education strategies. Engineering students benefit more from structured entrepreneurial programs, while management students require motivational interventions. This research contributes to entrepreneurial education literature by emphasizing the varying impacts of education and motivation across disciplines and offers insights for universities and policymakers in developing targeted entrepreneurship curricula.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurial Education, Entrepreneurial Motivation, Entrepreneurial Intentions, Management Students, Engineering Students

## Group Paper Presentation: Sookhai, Satesh et al.



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## Group Paper Presentation: Sookhai, Satesh et al.



**Shania Sookhai** is a dedicated professional in the field of Management Studies, holding a Master of Science (MSc) in Management Studies and a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Insurance and Risk Management. Her academic and research interests focus on workplace engagement, employee turnover, job satisfaction, and psychological capital. Driven by a passion for understanding the human dynamics of work, she aims to contribute to evidence-based practices that enhance organizational performance and employee well-being. Her work supports the development of strategic human resource and organizational development initiatives grounded in research and real-world impact.

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**Celine Suchit** is a committed research professional with a Master of Science in Food Security from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Natural Resource Management with a minor in Management Studies, as well as an Associate Degree in Environmental Management. Currently serving as Research Assistant to the Dean of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, Ms. Suchit brings experience in proposal writing, academic presentations, event coordination, and administrative support. She is analytical, detail-oriented, and adept in critical communication and research. Her passion for sustainable development, stakeholder engagement, and environmental education continues to guide her in producing impactful and high-quality research.

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## Group Paper Presentation: Sookhai, Satesh et al.



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**Satesh Sookhai<sup>1</sup>, Areeb Mohammed<sup>2</sup>, Widmark Ramgoolie<sup>3</sup>, Gail Narinesingh<sup>4</sup>, Shania A. Sookhai<sup>1</sup>, Celine Suchit<sup>5</sup>, Melissa Steele<sup>6</sup>**

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### Preparing Tomorrow's Doctors for Climate Change: Insights from Medical Student Perceptions

This study explores medical students' perceptions and attitudes toward climate change, focusing on their awareness, concern levels, and sources of climate-related information. As future healthcare professionals, understanding their views is essential to guide curriculum development and enhance climate-health education. A cross-sectional online survey was administered to 113 medical students across various institutions. The questionnaire included Likert-scale and multiple-choice items assessing beliefs about climate change, concern levels, information sources, and perceptions of institutional support. Descriptive statistics, Spearman and Pearson correlation analyses, and ANOVA were used for analysis.

The majority of students (99.2%) agreed that climate change is occurring, with 70.4% attributing it mainly or entirely to human activity. Concern was widespread, with 50.4% being "very" or "extremely worried." Social media (25.0%) and television (19.2%) were the most frequently used information sources, while university-based sources accounted for less than one-third. A statistically significant but weak positive correlation was found between awareness and concern (Spearman's  $\rho = 0.263$ ,  $p < 0.005$ ; Pearson's  $r = 0.274$ ,  $p < 0.003$ ). No significant differences in awareness or concern were found by gender, age, or level of study. These findings highlight the need to strengthen climate-related content in medical education and better prepare students for climate-related health challenges.

Keywords: Climate Change, Medical Students, Climate Education



**Daniel J. Thomas** is a Medical Doctor and Junior Research Fellow at the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit (TMRU), in the Caribbean Institute for Health Research Department, at The The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Mona Campus.

After graduating from medical school, and completing his internship, Dr. Thomas began his journey in the world of research, initially working as a Clinical Research Fellow with the research team of UWI SODECO (Solutions for Developing Countries) a research entity whose aim is to solve one big medical question: "what are the molecular mechanisms underlying the greatly increased risk of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, stroke and heart attack affecting populations, poor for generations, who adopt western economic." Following his time at UWI SODECO he transitioned to become a part of the academic staff at TMRU, The UWI.

Dr. Thomas is also currently a PhD candidate in Human Nutrition at The UWI. His research currently has a focus on plant-based nutrition, in particular protein quality, additionally highlighting its role in the dietary management of chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

Dr. Thomas has a passion for promoting wellness and empowering others to make healthier lifestyle choices and was the recipient of a Queen Elizabeth Scholarship where he underwent training in Innovative Approaches to Diabetes Prevention and Control at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

Outside of his academic and professional endeavours, he enjoys good food and is a travel aficionado. He has a penchant for studying languages and is a lover of music, and has often been alluded to as the "singing doctor" by his friends and colleagues.

His mission in life is to inspire others and to leave this world a better place than he found it.

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## **Assessment of the Nutritional Properties of Jamaican Red Kidney Beans: A Food for Health and Well-Being**

**Authors:** Daniel Thomas, Carolyn Taylor-Bryan, Asha Badaloo, Matthew Nosworthy

**Background and Objectives:** Consumption of pulses is considered supportive of good health. This study aimed to measure antioxidant properties, protein, fat and starch (macronutrient) composition, starch and protein digestibility of Jamaican Miss Kelly red kidney beans (RKB) (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.), and their protein quality (PQ), ability to provide adequate indispensable amino acids (IAA).

**Methods:** RKB were acquired from Bodles Agricultural Research Station, Jamaica. Measurements (n=3) were made using established in vitro methodologies, and a novel in vivo isotopic technique was used to measure individual IAA digestibility in 10 human subjects. PQ was derived as in vitro Protein-Digestibility-Corrected-Amino-Acid-Score (PDCAAS), and in vivo Digestible-Indispensable-Amino-Acid-Score (DIAAS).

**Results:** Antioxidant properties and macronutrient composition were within expected ranges. Protein, fat and starch composition (mean $\pm$ SD) were 23.8 $\pm$ 0.5%, 1.8 $\pm$ 0.1%, and 41.6 $\pm$ 0.7% respectively, slowly digestible or resistant starch comprising 28.3 $\pm$ 2.4% of starch content. Protein digestibility was 83.0 $\pm$ 1.3 and mean IAA digestibility was 79.4 $\pm$ 0.5. PQ scores were PDCAAS 0.78 and DIAAS 0.77, both limited by IAA methionine.

**Conclusions:** RKB are a good dietary protein source (PQ score  $> 0.70$ ), however they should be complemented with foods high in methionine, e.g. cereals. The starch profile, low fat and antioxidant properties support evidence for the benefit of pulse consumption in the management of non-communicable diseases, possibly serving as a leading food group for global food security and nutrition.

Keywords: Pulses, Kidney Bean, Protein Quality, Health and Nutrition, Food Security, NCDs



**Dr. Chloe Thompson** is a compassionate and dedicated physician with over five years of clinical experience, known for her excellent work ethic, clinical acumen, and strong commitment to collaborative care. She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree and completed her internship at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), where she laid the groundwork for a broad and versatile medical career.

Following her internship, Dr. Thompson expanded her clinical experience by serving in locum positions in neurosurgery and the Accident & Emergency Department. These roles sharpened her diagnostic and acute care skills, particularly in high-pressure and multidisciplinary environments.

For the past two years, she has been a valued member of the Cardiology Department at QEH, where she has contributed significantly to the care of patients with cardiovascular conditions. Her work in cardiology has further strengthened her foundation in acute care, cardiovascular health, and clinical decision-making—expertise that is highly relevant to athletic and physically active populations.

Driven by a passion for sports and exercise health, Dr. Thompson is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Sports Medicine. Her goal is to merge her clinical experience with specialised knowledge to improve performance, prevention, and rehabilitation strategies for athletes and active individuals.

### **Thompson, Dr. Chloe**

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## **Prevalence of Low Energy Availability Among Adult Female Cricketers in Barbados**

Low Energy Availability (LEA) occurs when an athlete's energy intake is insufficient to meet training demands and physiological functions. It is a key contributor to Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport. Despite growing global recognition, there is limited research on LEA among Caribbean female athletes. This study aligns with the conference sub-theme "Exploring the Hidden Cost of the Game" by investigating LEA in adult female cricketers in Barbados.

The aim was to determine the prevalence and awareness of LEA. A cross-sectional survey using the LEAF-Q and a researcher-designed 13-item awareness questionnaire was conducted. All 20 adult female cricketers  $\geq 18$  years who were registered with the Barbados Cricket Association completed the instruments via interviewer administration on the zoom platform. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. LEAF-Q scores  $\geq 8$  were indicative of a risk of LEA.

Findings revealed that 52.6% of participants were at risk for LEA. Only 22.2% reported being "very familiar" with LEA, indicating low awareness.

These findings highlight the need for targeted education, routine screening, and nutrition interventions to support female athletes in Barbados. This research also provides a foundation for regional policy development and future studies on RED-S in Caribbean sport.

Keywords: Energy deficiency, female Athletes, energy availability



**Shara Williams-Lue** is a PhD Candidate currently enrolled in the Organisational Behaviour programme within the Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) at The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Mona Campus. She holds a BSc in Psychology and a MSc in Applied Psychology, both from The UWI, Mona Campus. She also holds a Change Management Professional (CMP) Certification from the Acuity Institute. Her research interests include ageing, retirement, organisational support, and change management.

Mrs. Williams-Lue has over ten years of experience as a Research and Planning Officer, conducting qualitative research alongside Jamaican research teams. She has collaborated with institutions such as the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Pan American Health Organisation, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, and the Planning Institute of Jamaica. She has extensive experience in focus groups, in-depth interviews, and qualitative data analysis.

Her dissertation study, "Workplace Support for Retirement in Jamaica: A Resource-Based Dynamic Perspective," explores how Jamaican retirees experienced the transition from work to retirement and the organisational support they received, found helpful, or needed. Using a phenomenological approach, the study drew on semi-structured interviews with retirees aged 66 to 73 across St. Andrew, Clarendon, and St. Catherine, analysed using thematic analysis.

## **Williams-Lue, Shara A.**

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### **Workplace Support for Retirement in Jamaica: A Resource-Based Dynamic Perspective**

This study applied the Resource-Based Dynamic Model for Retirement Adjustment to explore how Jamaican retirees aged 66–73 experienced the transition from work to retirement and the workplace support needed to navigate it effectively. Moving beyond the traditional focus on financial preparedness in Jamaican literature, the study examined six interrelated resource domains, physical, financial, social, emotional, cognitive, and motivational, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the retirement transition. Guided by a qualitative, phenomenological design, data were collected through 30 face-to-face semi-structured interviews that captured retirees' lived experiences and culturally situated perspectives. Findings revealed that retirement was experienced as a complex, emotionally charged transition shaped by organisational inefficiencies, cultural norms, and organisational withdrawal at the point of exit. While resources such as health coverage, financial seminars, farewell rituals, and knowledge-transfer opportunities supported the transition, they were inconsistently delivered and often arrived too late to be effective. Where formal support was absent, retirees relied heavily on family, church, and peer networks, which provided critical buffers. The analysis also identified contextual resources, such as timing, organisational structures, post-retirement engagement, gendered transitions (e.g., menopause), and crisis responsiveness (e.g., COVID-19), as crucial yet often overlooked aspects in workplace support. The study highlights the importance of workplaces adopting personalised, proactive, and culturally responsive strategies to ensure early and continuous engagement with employees approaching retirement. These findings necessitate a strategic reevaluation of policies and practices to enhance workplace support and foster more equitable, organisationally-supported retirement transitions in Jamaica.

**Keywords:** Retirement Transition; Workplace Support; Resource-Based Dynamic Model; Qualitative Research; Jamaican Retirees; Retirement.

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