



4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium

Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures: Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges

19-20 February 2026
Center for Language Learning (CLL),
The University of the West Indies,
St. Augustine Campus



**Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures:
Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges**
4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

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Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures: Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges

4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

WHO
WE
ARE

Founded in 2020 by The University of the West Indies and Brock University, the Canada-Caribbean Institute (CCI) was established to positively contribute to the quality of life of communities in Canada and the Caribbean. Today, CCI is a collaborative network of colleges and universities from across both regions. Our member institutions include:

- Victoria University
- Northern Caribbean University
- George Brown Polytechnic
- Brock University
- McMaster University
- The UWI
- University of Toronto
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- York University
- University of Belize
- University of Guyana
- University of Trinidad and Tobago
- Sir Arthur Lewis Community College



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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Institute is to provide a forum

- to connect academic institutions, scholars, the business and public sectors, civil society, the cultural and diaspora communities
- to inform and encourage collaboration across Canada and the Caribbean
- to advance important social, environmental, and economic issues that are vital
- to the shared prosperity and advancement of both regions; and
- to identify impediments and opportunities related to such progress.

The objectives of the institute are to:

- Create awareness of the need to have detailed studies on Canada-Caribbean relationships and issues.
- Provide a platform for cross-fertilization of ideas related to Canada-Caribbean relationships in a multi-disciplinary manner.
- Provide education and a forum for research into Canada-Caribbean studies, inclusive of cultures, language, history, philosophy, politics, sociology, economics, geography, religion, medicine, and other multi-disciplinary perspectives.
- Establish a platform for capacity-building and mentorship through seminars, teaching, and research.
- Facilitate a collaborative approach to pursuing grants, bequests, gifts, and endowments from international bodies and foundations for research activities related to Canada-Caribbean issues.
- Facilitate through special arrangements, visits of academics and students to be in residence.



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CCI RESEARCH SYMPOSIA 2020-2026

University under the theme “Climate Crisis, Resilience, and Alternative Energy”.

This year, the CCI will host its 4th Research symposium at the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI. The symposium is poised to address some of the central issues that impact “Canada-Caribbean Futures” with discussions on some of the historical and emerging concerns. The symposium will bring together researchers, scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and cross-sectoral stakeholders to exchange ideas, share insights, and explore innovative solutions.

We look forward to the engagement and outcomes of this shared exchange.

Since its establishment, the CCI has continued to grow, with its Research Symposium as a signature event. The inaugural symposium was held in February 2020 at The UWI’s Regional Headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica. Its themes focused on key UN Sustainable Development Goals relevant to Canada and the Caribbean, including Caribbean culture and diaspora, economic growth and trade with Canada, social issues and education, and health and the environment.

After COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, CCI hosted its second Research Symposium at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, in February 2023. Themed “Decoloniality: Past, Present and Future Directions,” it brought together over 30 scholars from Canada, the United States, and the Caribbean. In October 2024, CCI held its third symposium at McMaster



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KEY SPEAKERS



Dr. Rhonda McEwen

President and Vice-Chancellor,
Victoria University in the University of Toronto

Dr. Rhonda McEwen is the 14th President and Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University in the University of Toronto; Co-Chair of the Canada-Caribbean Institute (CCI); Canada Research Chair in Tactile Interfaces, Communication and Cognition; a Professor of Emerging Media & Communication; and a faculty member at the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information & Technology. Dr. McEwen completed her undergraduate studies at The University of the West Indies (UWI). With an MBA in IT, an MSc in Telecommunications, and a PhD in Information, she brings together communication studies and applied and behavioural sciences to examine the social and cognitive effects of technologies.

Her pioneering approach to communication research employs experimental techniques, eye tracking, observations, sensor data, and interviews to investigate human-machine communication. Dr. McEwen has worked with and researched digital communications media for more than 20 years, both in companies providing services and in management consulting to those companies.



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KEY SPEAKERS



Prof. Lincoln Edwards

President, Northern Caribbean University

Dr. Lincoln P. Edwards has served as the 24th President of Northern Caribbean University (NCU) in Mandeville, Jamaica, since 2017. He is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (Special Honours). He later completed a PhD in Pharmacology/Physiology and a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) at Loma Linda University in California.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to academia, Dr. Edwards was awarded the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Commander (CD) by the Government of Jamaica on October 20, 2025. His academic career includes faculty appointments at Loma Linda University and the University of Texas Health Science Center, along with leadership roles in the American Dental Education Association's sections on Oral Diagnosis, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics. Dr. Edwards has also served as Program Chair for the Network of Minority Health Research Investigators (NMRI), an advisory body to the National Institutes of Health. He currently serves as Caribbean Co-Chair of the Canada-Caribbean

Institute (CCI), a collaborative initiative linking higher education institutions across both regions. A published researcher in the areas of diabetes and hypertension, Dr. Edwards has secured two National Institutes of Health grants. He has led numerous mission trips to Jamaica, providing free dental care to underserved communities. Beyond his professional work, he is a dedicated Lay Preacher who has served within the Seventh-day Adventist Church for many years. Dr. Edwards is married to Sandra Taylor, and they are the proud parents of three adult children: Alex, Ross-Andre, and Alexa. A visionary leader, he believes in "doing usual things unusually well" and enjoys gardening and mentoring students.



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KEY SPEAKERS



Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles

Vice-Chancellor,
The University of the West Indies

Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles is Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies. He is a distinguished academic, international thought leader, United Nations committee official, and global public activist in the field of social justice and minority empowerment.

Educated at the University of Hull, Sir Hilary is a Director of SAGICOR Financial Corporation, the largest financial company in the Caribbean region, Chairman of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), the former Chairman of The University of the West Indies Press, Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Commission on Reparation and Social Justice, former President of Universities Caribbean, an editor of the UNESCO General History of Africa series and a Director of the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre. He has also served as an advisor to the UN World Culture Report and Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations on Sustainable Development. He is a past Vice President of the International Task Force for the UNESCO Slave Route Project and a past consultant for the UNESCO Cities for

Peace Global Programme. He sits on the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and is also Chancellor of the United Nations University.

He has Honorary Doctorate Awards from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Hull University, Brock University, University of Glasgow, the University of Johannesburg, North-West University, and the University of London. In 2017, the Town of Hartford in the state of Connecticut (USA), declared 21st March, “Sir Hilary Beckles Day” in recognition of his global contribution to social justice and human equality. Sir Hilary is also the recipient of the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Award for global advocacy, academic scholarship and intellectual leadership in support of social justice, institutional equity, and economic development for marginalised and oppressed ethnicities and nations.

Under his leadership as Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, the institution established a fifth Campus – the Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barbuda, and debuted in the prestigious Times Higher Education Ranking in 2019 when it was ranked in the top 4% of the world’s best universities.

Sir Hilary has lectured extensively in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas and has published over 100 peer-reviewed essays in scholarly journals and more than 20 academic books.



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KEY SPEAKERS



Prof. Rose-Marie Belle Antoine

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal,
The UWI, St. Augustine Campus

Prof. Rose-Marie Belle Antoine (DPhil-Oxon, LL.M-Cambridge, LL.B-UWI), is an attorney, award-winning scholar, international consultant, temporary Court of Appeal judge and activist. She has published 15 books and numerous scholarly articles. Her awards include the Eminent Jurist-Pioneering Woman Award (CCJ), the Inspirational Women's Award (IWF), and the "Outstanding Alumnus" Award from The University of the West Indies. She is also the recipient of two Vice-Chancellor's Awards, for Research and for Public Service.

She has served as a consultant to Caribbean governments, as well as to institutions in the UK, Venezuela, the USA, and Canada, and to the judiciary and numerous international organizations, including the EU, OAS, IADB, World Bank, CDB, CARICOM, UNDP, OECS, UNICEF, ILO, UNIFEM, CAREC, PANCAP, UNAIDS, UNDCP, and ECLAC. Her work includes drafting legislation and authoring path-breaking policy reports that prioritize legal development.

Consequently, governments, international sources and others describe her as the "foremost labour-law expert," "leading" authority in International-Financial Law, and HIV in the region, "change agent" and social-justice champion. Elected President, IACHR, Washington, Honorary-Fellow of STEP, UK; OAS Rapporteur: Persons of African Descent, for Indigenous Peoples and Head-OAS Economic-Social Rights Unit, CARICOM Chairs: HIV; Commission on Marijuana; Trustee -IPPF Board, UK and a classical singer.



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KEY SPEAKERS



His Excellency Michael Ryan Callan

High Commissioner for Canada to
the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

His Excellency Michael Callan holds a BA (Hons) in Political Studies from Queen's University (2000) and an MSc in International Security from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (2002).

Prior to joining Global Affairs Canada, Michael Callan served in the Canadian Armed Forces, worked with the Aga Khan Foundation in Bangladesh, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Moscow. Upon joining the Canadian International Development Agency in 2004, Mr. Callan took on assignments with the Humanitarian Assistance Division and the Afghanistan Task Force.

Abroad, Mr. Callan was Canada's first civilian deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, where he served as director, development, for Canada's Provincial Reconstruction Team (2005 to 2006). His subsequent deployments included assignments as head of aid in Khartoum (2008 to 2010) and Director, development, for the Middle East and North Africa in Cairo and Amman (2012 to 2016).

Mr. Callan was seconded to the Privy Council Office (2016 to 2017) where he was responsible for the Middle East and North Africa, before taking up a fellowship with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University (2018). Mr. Callan served as Director of conflict prevention, stabilization and peacebuilding (2019 to 2021) prior to his appointment as Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria (2021-2024). In 2016 Mr. Callan was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor General of Canada for service rendered in Afghanistan.



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KEY SPEAKERS



Honorable Senator Dr. Natalie Chaitan-Maharaj

Parliamentary Secretary
Ministry of the People, Social Development and
Family Services

Hon. Senator Dr. Natalie Chaitan-Maharaj is a long standing servant of the People. She first chose to serve as a medical doctor – having trained at UWI Mona and St. Augustine. She served at the NCRHA Mt. Hope Women’s Hospital for 15 years delivering compassionate care and innovative solutions to her patients.

After forging a distinguished 15 year career as a medical doctor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Dr. Chaitan went on to hone business skills as part owner of her own medical center. As a partner at First Call Medical Services she extended her impact beyond the hospital, making quality healthcare more accessible to the community. In addition, she was an Associate Lecturer at The University of the West Indies, training and nurturing the next generation of medical professionals.

With an unshakable work ethic and a heart for service, Dr. Chaitan-Maharaj is ready to expand her impact by transitioning from community-focused service to the national level. Her vision at the MPSDFS is clear: to ensure that the most vulnerable in our society are empowered to reach their full potential.



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KEY SPEAKERS



Dr. Gervan Fearon

President, George Brown Polytechnic

Dr. Gervan Fearon is the President of George Brown Polytechnic and the former President of both Brock University and Brandon University. Prior to his leadership roles in academia, Dr. Fearon served in government at the Ontario Ministry of Finance (Treasury Board) and at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Economic and Policy Branch and the Deputy Minister's Office). In the private sector, Dr. Fearon served at Chase Econometrics, a Division of Chase Manhattan Bank.

Dr. Fearon serves on a number of Boards, including the Ontario Centre of Innovation; Ingenium – the consortium overseeing three of Canada's museums; Royal Ontario Museum (ROM); and Colleges Ontario. He has also previously served on several other boards, including the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Niagara Health, United Way Niagara, Council of Ontario Universities, and as a member of the Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Council. He was a co-founded the Canada Caribbean Institute with Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor, The University of the West Indies, and previously served as president of the Board of Directors for

Tropicana Community Services Organization. Additionally, he has served as the 2025 Honorary Chair for the "Walk the Path Walkathon" with the Walnut Foundation for promote awareness and treatment for prostate cancer.

Amongst Dr. Fearon's many accolades are his appointment to the Order of Ontario in 2023, the 2024 Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award, the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum and Diamond Jubilee Medals, The Michaëlle Jean Foundation Influencer Award and The City of Toronto's Bob Marley Day Humanitarian Award.

Dr. Fearon holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Western University and received his Master's and Bachelor of Science degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of Guelph. He holds a Chartered Professional Accountant designation (CPA, CGA) and an Institute of Corporate Directors designation (ICD.D).



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KEY SPEAKERS



Ambassador Bob Rae

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Canada to the United Nations

Bob Rae is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York. Mr. Rae served as Premier of Ontario from 1990-1995, and interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada from 2011-2013. He was elected to federal and provincial parliaments 11 times between 1978 and 2013. Mr. Rae received his Honours B.A. in Modern History from the University of Toronto, an M.Phil in Politics as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law in 1977. He was named a Queen's Counsel in 1984.

As a lawyer in private practice, Mr. Rae led the restructuring of the Canadian Red Cross, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and chaired the board of the Royal Conservatory of Music. He also wrote "Lessons to be Learned" on the Air India bombing, and "Ontario a Leader in Learning"

- a study of the Ontario higher education system. He was also named to the Security and Intelligence Review Committee by then Prime Minister Chrétien.

Mr. Rae's return to Parliament for the constituency of Toronto Centre in 2008 led to his appointment as Foreign Affairs spokesman for his party, and to his election as interim Leader in 2011. Between 2013 and 2020 he taught law and public policy at the University of Toronto, and was a partner and senior counsel to the law firm OKT LLP, specializing in indigenous law and constitutional issues.

Mr. Rae is a Fellow of the Forum of Federations (an organization he co-founded in the 1990's), Massey College, and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights. He served as the Chief Negotiator for the 9 First Nations that are members of the Matawa Tribal Council in Northern Ontario between 2013 and 2018. In October 2017, Mr. Rae was appointed as Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar. In this role, he engaged in diplomatic efforts to address the crisis in the country's Rakhine State and wrote the report "Tell Them We're Human" in 2018. In March 2020, he was named by Prime Minister Trudeau to be Canada's Special Envoy on Humanitarian and Refugee Issues. This led to his report "A Global Pandemic Requires a Global Response", which was made public shortly before his appointment as Ambassador to the UN.

Bob Rae is a Privy Councillor, a Companion of the Order of Canada, a member of the Order of Ontario, and has numerous awards and honorary degrees from institutions in Canada and around the world. In addition to several government reports, he is the author of five books. Along with music, reading, and writing, he loves tennis, golf, and fishing. He is married to Arlene Perly Rae, writer and public advocate on issues affecting women and children. They have three daughters and five grandchildren



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KEY SPEAKERS



Prof. Andy Knight,

Faculty of Arts - Political Science Department,
University of Alberta

Prof. W. Andy Knight, PhD, LLD (Hon), FRSC, is a globally recognized scholar of international relations whose work exemplifies research excellence, innovation, humanity, and multidisciplinary collaboration. A Distinguished University Professor at the University of Alberta and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. His scholarship bridges disciplinary, geographic, and institutional boundaries, championing anti-racist, inclusive, and decolonial approaches to knowledge production.

As Provost Fellow for Black Excellence and Leadership, he helped shape his university's strategic response to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Born in Barbados and educated in Canada, Knight's intellectual journey is rooted in Caribbean and Canadian contexts, with a commitment to fostering global engagement and institutional transformation.

He has served as Director of the Institute of International Relations at The University of the West Indies; Co-founder and Director of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean; Vice Chair of the Academic Council on the United Nations System; and Governor of Canada's International Development Research Centre. In recognition of his global impact, he received an honorary Doctor of Laws from McMaster University in 2023. Knight is a graduate of McMaster University (Hons BA), Dalhousie (MA), and York University (PhD).



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KEY SPEAKERS



Callixtus Joseph

Assistant Director for Policy, Strategy, and Innovation,
CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and
Security (IMPACS)

Mr. Callixtus Joseph currently serves as the Assistant Director for Policy, Strategy, and Innovation at the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS), the region's multilateral architecture for coordinating collective responses to the crime and security priorities of CARICOM Member States.

He brings over seventeen (17) years of experience in regional and international security policy and has contributed and authored critical security strategies, including the Caribbean Maritime Security Strategy (2023), the CARICOM Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2018), and the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy (2013).

In support of the Agency's mandate, he has contributed to key negotiations and supported the advancement of numerous cooperative agreements and strategic partnerships with regional and international counterparts, strengthening security cooperation and institutional capacity.

In 2023, he spearheaded negotiations that resulted in the CARICOM Declaration on Autonomous Weapons Systems, advancing a Caribbean position on emerging military and law enforcement technologies.

From 2015 to 2020, Callixtus served as an expert facilitator for the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control, advising national authorities (including Thailand, Georgia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina) on arms control, peacebuilding and security cooperation.

He previously lectured on International Security at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine (2008–2010), and served as an advisor to the CARICOM Diplomatic Team during the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty negotiations (2010–2013).

Callixtus has actively contributed to global and regional initiatives focused on establishing normative and political frameworks for international peace and security.



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KEY SPEAKERS



Ed Watal

Founding Member
World Digital Governance

Mr. Ed Watal is the Founding Member of World Digital Governance (WDG.org), a global initiative to advance Data Ownership and Digital Sovereignty. He architected a 500 million-job AI employment model endorsed by CTU and CARICOM and co-authored the Caribbean Digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resolution, which has been adopted by multiple governments. He is a founding member of JobCreation.ai and Universal Skills Employment (USE) initiatives, which presents a skills-based alternative to Universal Basic Income and builds a scalable AI workforce pipeline for emerging economies. He also established, AI Academy (Jamaica), designed as a Youth-Created National AI-engineering model linking training, employment, and sovereign data centers curricula. This work has been extended through his role as lead faculty, spearheading the New York University AI Masterclass.

His core expertise span across areas of digital sovereignty and policy design, inclusive economic development, artificial intelligence and data governance, agentic AI architecture and multi-agent orchestration. He remains a global advocate driving the “Digital Future with Guardralis” initiative with island nations and Global South Partners.

He has been named among the top global changemakers Worth Magazine for ethical AI and digital governance. His work has been featured alongside leaders including Amina Mohammed (UN Deputy Secretary-General) and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (WTO Director-General). His upcoming Forbes (2026) book on Our AI Future: From Slavery to Freedom, explores the intersection of AI, data rights, and human dignity



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Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures: Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges

4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

DAY 1 EVENT SCHEDULE

DATE: Thursday February 19th, 2026

TIME: 9:00am - 5:30pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

TIME	TOPIC
8:30am - 9:00am	Registration
9:00am - 11:30am	Opening Ceremony
11:45am - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm - 2:30pm	<p>Panel 1: Biodiversity, Natural Capital and Climate Action Location: CLL Auditorium</p> <p>Panel 2: Boosting Economic and Social Security Location: CLL Lecture Room</p>
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Performance
3:00pm - 4:30pm	<p>Panel 3: Cultural Reparation and Preservation as Strategies for Securing Canada-Caribbean Futures: Intergenerational Perspectives and Lived Realities Location: CLL Auditorium</p> <p>Panel 4: Politics of Identity, Representation and Human Rights Location: CLL Lecture Room</p>
4:30pm - 5:30pm	Youth Forum (Livestreamed) Location: CLL Auditorium



Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures: Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges

4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

OPENING CEREMONY



DATE: Thursday February 19th, 2026

TIME: 9:00am - 12:00pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL) Auditorium, The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

LINK: <https://sta-uwi-edu.zoom.us/j/91747116009?pwd=1c8Z4iTIS7sj6nXaoW2Vk1duA37rH5.1>

Co-Chairs: Pro Vice-Chancellor Sandra Maynard and Dr. Talia Esnard

WELCOME REMARKS

Dr. Talia Esnard

Head, Department Behavioural Sciences,
The UWI, St. Augustine Campus
Chair, CCI Scholarship and Research Committee

REMARKS

Prof. Rose-Marie Belle Antoine

Pro-Vice Chancellor and Campus Principal
The UWI, St. Augustine Campus

REMARKS

Dr. Rhonda McEwen

President and Vice-Chancellor,
Victoria University, University of Toronto
Co-Chair, Canada-Caribbean Institute

REMARKS

Prof. Erica Sturridge representing

Prof. Lincoln Edwards

President,
Northern Caribbean University
Co-Chair, Canada-Caribbean Institute

REMARKS

Honorable Senator Dr. Natalie Chaitan-Maharaj

Parliamentary Secretary
Ministry of the People, Social Development and
Family Services

REMARKS

Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles

Vice-Chancellor,
The University of the West Indies

CULTURAL ITEM

UWI Dance Group

REMARKS

Dr. Gervan Fearon

President,
George Brown Polytechnic

REMARKS

Mr. Michael Callan

High Commissioner of Canada to Trinidad and
Tobago

KEYNOTE

Ambassador Bob Rae

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Canada to the United Nations

MUSICAL ITEM

Ms. Kendra Hope

VOTE OF THANKS

Ms. Sandra Maynard

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Affairs
The University of the West Indies



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Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures: Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges

4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

DAY 1 PANELS

DATE: Thursday February 19th, 2026

TIME: 1:00pm - 2:30pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

PANEL 1 Biodiversity, Natural Capital and Climate Action

Chair: Dr. Ronald Roopnarine, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Location: CLL Auditorium

- Seaweed and Survival: Socio-Economic and Gendered Impacts of Sargassum Invasions in Barbados - Carol Sutherland, Toronto Metropolitan University
- The Extraction of Cellulose from Bambusa vulgaris (Bamboo) Biowaste for the Synthesis of Useful Products for Environmental Purposes - Bhanumattee Ramdhanie, Dhurjati Prasad Chakrabarti, Faisal Mohammed, Sharad Maharaj, Khadir Manwah and Oshaine Blake
- Resource acquisition, competition, or conservation? The influence of ecosystem type on tree weight allocations of South American mangroves - Sabrina Dookie*, Sirpaul Jaikishun and Abdullah Adil Ansaric, University of Guyana
- Climate Change, Climate Policy and Macroeconomic Analysis: The Case of Jamaica - Samuel Braithwaite, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus

PANEL 2 Boosting Economic and Social Security

Chair: Dr. Kegan Farrick, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Location: CLL Lecture Room

- Opening Speaker - Dr. Gervon Fearon, George Brown Polytechnic
- Bridging Black Economic Futures: Lessons from Canada's Black Communities for an Inclusive Canada - Nancy Mitchell and Tamara Thermitus, The Diversity Institute, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Driving Formalization "From Below": Domestic Worker Organizing in the Caribbean - Simon Black, Brock University
- Old Wine, New Bottles? An Analysis of Budgetary Promises for the Agricultural Sector in Trinidad and Tobago - Fareena Alladin and Anand Rampersad, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus
- Findings from a wine and chocolate pairing event - John Belgrave, Vice President, St. Catharine's Twinning Association



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**Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures:
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DAY 1 PANEL

DATE: Thursday February 19th, 2026

TIME: 2:30pm - 3:00pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

MUTTERTONGUE: A Performance

Performers:

- Lillian Allen - Ontario College of Art and Design University (OCAD)
- Gregory Betts - Brock University

Location: CLL Auditorium



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Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures: Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges

4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

DAY 1 PANELS

DATE: Thursday February 19th, 2026

TIME: 3:00pm - 4:30pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

PANEL 3

Cultural Reparation and Preservation as Strategies for Securing Canada-Caribbean Futures: Intergenerational Perspectives and Lived Realities

Chair: Trecia McLennon, Ethicul Group Inc.

Location: CLL Auditorium

Presenters: Clelia Kimana; Trecia McLennon; Richard Ndayizigamiye; Jean Ntakirutimana, Brock University

PANEL 4

Politics of Identity, Representation and Human Rights

Chair: Dr. Timothy Affonso, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Location: CLL Lecture Room

- Invisible Inequalities: The Overlooked Reality of Fat Discrimination in Trinidad and Tobago - Keisha C. Samlal, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus
- Securing Deaf Childhoods in Trinidad and Tobago: A Canadian-Caribbean Collaboration - Kristin Snoddon, Toronto Metropolitan University and Ian Dhanoolal (Deaf Empowerment and Advancement Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago)
- Tanty Pedagogy in Fugitive STEM Spaces: Canadian-Caribbean Kinship, Care, and Rigor in Montreal - Sabi Kamilah Hinkson, Mc Gill University
- Negotiating Identity and Advocacy: Indo-Caribbean Canadian Ethnic Media as Sites of Social Interaction - Sujaya Devi Rampersad-Singh, University of Toronto
- The Qoolie Mundane: The Politics of Everyday Queer Fête-Making and the Cultivation of Queer Caribbean Home(s) - Ryan Persadie, University of Toronto



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Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures: Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges

4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

DAY 1 PANEL

DATE: Thursday February 19th, 2026

TIME: 4:30pm - 5:30pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

LINK: <https://sta-uwi-edu.zoom.us/j/91747116009?pwd=1c8Z4iTIS7sj6nXaoW2Vk1duA37rH5.1>

YOUTH FORUM



The forum aims to center the experiences and perspectives of young people across Canada and the Caribbean, while creating opportunities for collective dialogue, exchange and action. This is framed as a strategic initiative to drive regional and international collaboration and to co-produce youth-lead recommendations to drive gender-responsive educational reforms.

Chair: Dr. Colwick Wilson, President, University of Southern Caribbean

Location: CLL Auditorium

Presenters: Dr. Beverly Jean Daniel (Toronto Metropolitan University), Prof. Carl James (York University) and Dr. Lisa Edwards (University of Guyana)

Participants:

- Nikita Cruickshank - Trinidad and Tobago
- Lachelle Gopaul - Trinidad and Tobago
- Shanique Joseph - Trinidad and Tobago
- Nickayala Inglis - St. Lucia
- Lorenzo Gunter - Jamaica
- Harriet Foster - Jamaica
- Kien Azinwi - Canada
- Anjalique Raghunauth - Canada
- Kwame Owusu-Ansah - Canada
- Sadia Bajwa-Canada



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**Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures:
Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges**
4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

DAY 2 EVENT SCHEDULE

DATE: Friday February 20th, 2026

TIME: 9:00am - 7:30pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

TIME	TOPIC
8:30am - 9:00am	Registration
9:00am - 10:15am	Opening Presentations
10:15am - 10:30am	Break
10:30am - 12:15pm	Panel 5: Artificial Intelligence, Citizenship and Institutional Practice Location: CLL Auditorium
12:15pm - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm - 2:30pm	Panel 6: Celebrating, Complicating and Reframing Black Caribbean Womanhood in Canada Location: CLL Auditorium
	Panel 7: Children and Adolescents Location: CLL Room 8
	Panel 8: Trauma, Mental Health and Wellbeing Location: CLL Lecture Room
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Presentation
3:00pm - 5:00pm	Panel 9: Resistance, Solidarity and Reparations Location: CLL Auditorium
5:00pm - 5:25pm	Closing Ceremony
5:30pm - 7:30pm	Networking Event



**Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures:
Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges**
4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

DAY 2 OPENING PRESENTATIONS



DATE: Friday February 20th, 2026

TIME: 9:00am - 10:15pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

LINK: <https://sta-uwi-edu.zoom.us/j/91747116009?pwd=1c8Z4iTIS7sj6nXaoW2VklIduA37rH5.1>

Chair: Prof. Juliet Daniel, McMaster University

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Understanding the Interregnum: Challenges to the Existing World Order

Prof. Andy Knight

University of Alberta

MUSICAL ITEM

Mr. Emmanuel Joseph

PRESENTATION

Securing Caribbean Futures: Regional Security Cooperation in an Age of Competition, Geopolitical

Mr. Callixtus Joseph

Assistant Director for Policy, Strategy, and Innovation,
CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)

CULTURAL ITEM

Colors of Guyana: Rooted and Rising

- **Mr. Keon Heywood** - University of Guyana
- **Mr. Marshall DeSouza** - University of Guyana
- **Ms. Safira-Abraham-Williams** - University of Guyana



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**Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures:
Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges**
4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

DAY 2 PANELS

DATE: Friday February 20th, 2026

TIME: 10:30am - 12:15pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

PANEL 5

Artificial Intelligence, Citizenship and Institutional Practice

Chair: Dr. Letetia Addison, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Location: CLL Auditorium

- Opening Speaker - Mr. Ed Watal, World Digital Governance (WDG)
- Bridging the Divide: A Framework for Sustainable AI-Driven Agriculture in the Caribbean - Mithra Ramoutar, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus
- Artificial Intelligence in Caribbean Social Work Practice: Emerging Threats and Ethical Risks for Human Service Organizations - Cheryl-Ann Sarita Boodram, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus
- Handling Challenges of Generative AI Disruptions in Education - Xavier Fernando, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Combating Disinformation in Canada and the Caribbean through Citizenry Engagement-Amit Ramkissoon-The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus



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Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures: Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges

4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

DAY 2 PANELS

DATE: Friday February 20th, 2026

TIME: 1:00pm - 2:30pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

PANEL 6

Celebrating, Complicating and Reframing Black Caribbean Womanhood in Canada

Chair: Dr. Marsha Myrie Obi, University of Guelph

Location: CLL Auditorium

Presenters: Myrtle Henry Sodhi, Marsha Myrie Obi, Orlando Thompson, Tatiana Walters and Kristin Vanderpool and Sonia Lewis

PANEL 7

Children and Adolescents

Chair: Dr. Christine Descartes, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Location: CLL Room 8

- Rethinking the Rehabilitation of Adolescents with Behavioural Challenges in Trinidad and Tobago - Mala Ramesar, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus
- Building Capacity for Inclusion in St. Vincent and the Grenadines - Margo Horne (Brock University), Monique Somma (Brock University), John Freer (St Clair College), Sheila Bennett (Brock University)
- Collaborative Futures: Two-Eyed Seeing and Indigenous Youth Resilience in Canada-Caribbean Contexts - Zaida Rahaman, Brock University

PANEL 8

Trauma, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Chair: Dr. Katija Khan, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Location: CLL Lecture Room

- Exploring Mental Well-being and Psychological Distress in Caribbean EMS/Fire Providers: A Cross-Sectional Study - Dr. Hezedean A. Smith, Global Emergency Services Consulting Group
- Systems Mapping Mental Healthcare: Applying Lessons from a Project with Black Caribbean Youth in Ontario, Canada - Fatimah Jackson-Best, McMaster University
- Trauma and Mental Health - Tyehimba Salandy, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus
- Decolonising Systemic Policing Entanglements: The "Frame Case" as a Counternarrative in 21st Century Trinidad and Tobago - Nathan Chapman, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus



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Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures: Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges

4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

DAY 2 PRESENTATION

DATE: Friday February 20th, 2026

TIME: 2:30pm - 3:00pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

Blood Hole Archives - Trauma and the Embodied Record

Presenters: Kalinda-Rondell Benjamin and Jamie J. Philbert, Bois Academy

Location: CLL Auditorium

DAY 2 PANEL

DATE: Friday February 20th, 2026

TIME: 3:00pm - 5:00pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

PANEL 9

Resistance, Solidarity and Reparations

Chair: Dr. Heather Cateau, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Location: CLL Auditorium

- Opening Speaker: Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies
- Haiti as Policy Testbed: From Broker to Connector- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, CERLAC; Schulich School of Business, York University
- The Racial Contract and Philosophy (as Resistance) - Dr. Laura Mae Lindo, University of Waterloo
- The emergence of Bwa Kale, a grassroots community defense movement in Haiti - Magdalee Brunache, University of Toronto
- Community-driven Initiatives and Local Culture as Mediating Factors for Effectiveness of Collective Reparation Process - Remberto De La Hoz Reyes, Universidad Simón Bolívar



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**Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures:
Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges**
4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

CLOSING CEREMONY

DATE: Friday February 20th, 2026

TIME: 5:00pm - 5:25pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Center for Language Learning (CLL), The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

Chair: Pro Vice-Chancellor Sandra Maynard

Thinking Through the Way Forward

Dr. Rhonda McEwen

CCI Co-Chair & President and Vice Chancellor,
Victoria University in the University of Toronto

CCI NETWORKING EVENT

DATE: 5:30pm - 7:30pm AST/GMT-4

VENUE: Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) Lounge, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus



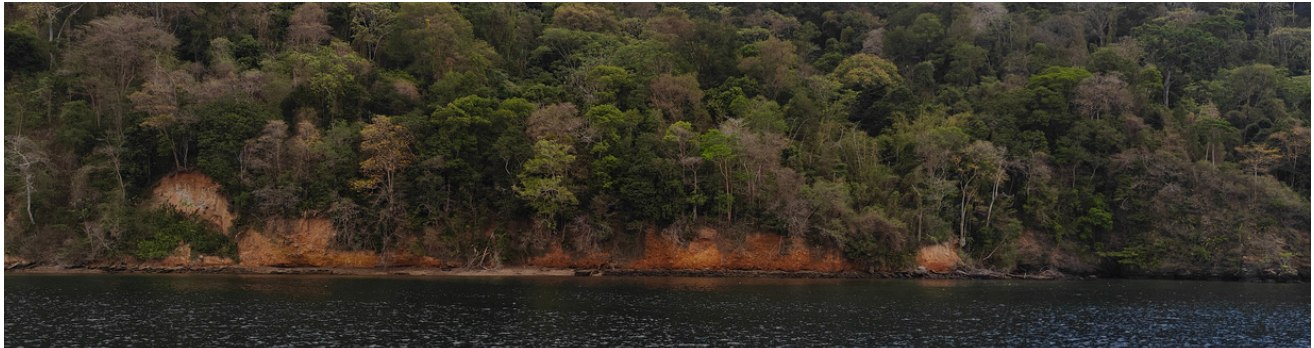
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4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026



PLANNING COMMITTEE

CCI Symposium Planning Committee

Chair: Dr Talia Esnard, The UWI, St. Augustine

Members:

- Mr. Robert Ready - Executive Director, Canada-Caribbean Institute
- Ms. Lisa Braithwaite - Regional Headquarters, The UWI
- Prof. Erica Sturridge - Northern Caribbean University
- Prof. Juliet Daniel - McMaster University
- Ms. Sharyl Bacchus - University of Guyana
- Dr. Karen Naidoo - Toronto Metropolitan University
- Dr. Winston Phulgence - Sir Arthur Lewis Community College
- Dr. Zaida Rahaman - Brock University
- Ms. Joelly Valentine - University of Guyana



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Sandra Maynard

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Affairs,
The University of the West Indies

Ms. Sandra Maynard has been a qualified Barrister-at-Law since 1998 and has practiced both privately (domestic and internationally) and for the United Kingdom's Crown Prosecution Service. Her journey working in academia began in 2012 as a Senior Lecturer and advanced to an Associate Professor in Law. She has held senior leadership and management roles within UK universities across the sectors of law, business and university group subsidiaries nationally, regionally, and internationally, managing multi-disciplinary and multifunctional teams through globally disruptive changes.

As Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Affairs at The UWI, she leads the regional university's global engagement portfolio and coordinates all internationalisation and strategic global initiatives across The UWI system. She is also the CEO of the new International School for Developmental Justice, leveraging the high reputation of the regional university to build capacity and generate revenue as a core part of the University's financial future.

In addition, PVC Maynard leads for The UWI the Hub Chair for SDG 13 (Climate Action), the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI). The UNAI is an initiative that has engaged higher education institutions since 2010. With over 1,800 member institutions in more than 150 countries, the UWI was selected to lead on SDG 13 to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to spearheading the mobilisation of significant funding for The UWI, PVC Maynard has successfully led several flagship initiatives that have helped to bolster The UWI's global positioning.



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Dr. Talia Esnard

Senior Lecturer & Head of Department,
Department of Behavioural Sciences
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Dr. Talia Esnard is the Chair, Research and Scholarship Committee, of the Canada-Caribbean Institute. She is a Senior Lecturer and sociologist within the Department of Behavioral Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus. Her work advances comparative intersectionality as a more situated and layered interrogation of identities and positionalities in the region and beyond. Some of her work has been published in the (i) Journal of Motherhood Initiative, (ii) Women, Gender and Families of Color, (iii) Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership, (iv) Mentoring and Tutoring: Partnership in Learning, and (v) NASPA Journal about Women in Higher Education. Some of her work has been published in regional and international journals, as well as, within edited, coedited, coauthored and sole authored books across key areas of mentoring, leadership, entrepreneurship, mothering and social justice. She serves as a co-editor of Caribbean Educational Research Journal and Associate Editor for (i) Gender, Work, and Organization, (ii) Journal of Organizational Sociology and (iii) Caribbean Journal for Multidisciplinary Studies. She was a former recipient of the Canada Caricom Leadership program with visits to Brock University (2015) and Ryerson University (2018) now Toronto Metropolitan University.



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Prof. Juliet Daniel

Department of Biology
McMaster University

Prof. Juliet Daniel is a Cancer Biologist and is currently the Strategic Advisor to the President for the Canada Caribbean Institute (CCI) at McMaster University after a 4-year term as Associate Dean of Research & External Relations in the Faculty of Science. Dr. Daniel received her primary and secondary education in Barbados before moving to Canada. She received her BSc from Queen's University and her PhD from the University of British Columbia. Dr. Daniel conducted Postdoctoral Fellowships in Tennessee at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Vanderbilt University, before joining McMaster as an Assistant Professor in 1999.

Prof. Daniel cloned and named a new transcription factor Kaiso that plays a crucial role in cancer and normal human development. Her team is currently elucidating the molecular/genetic causes of the disparities in incidence and poor outcomes of triple negative breast cancer in Black women. In recognition of her research and community service, Prof. Daniel has received several awards including the inaugural Canadian Cancer Society Inclusive

Excellence Award, a Barbados Gold Crown of Merit, an Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of the West Indies - Cave Hill, a UWI Vice Chancellor's Award, and a WXN Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award among many others. Dr. Daniel was named Onyx Magazine's Woman of The Year Woman on The Move, recognized as one of 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women and has been featured in "Millenium Minds: 100 Black Canadians" and "Who's Who in Black Canada".

Over the past 25 years, Professor Daniel has been a passionate advocate, mentor and role model for Women in Science and Engineering and for Black students and youth whose potential contributions to Science and Engineering have not been fully realized in Canada and beyond. In 2020, she co-founded the Canadian Black Scientists Network (CBSN).



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Dr. Ronald Roopnarine

Deputy Dean & Senior Lecturer,
Faculty of Food and Agriculture,
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Dr. Ronald Roopnarine is the Deputy Dean for Outreach and Internationalization and a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Food and Agriculture at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. His expertise spans Disaster Risk Resilience, Sustainable Land and Water Resource Management, and Agri-environmental Disaster Risk and Climate Resilience, with a specialized focus on the vulnerabilities and adaptation needs of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Dr. Roopnarine has led and supported numerous initiatives aimed at strengthening community resilience and reducing multi-hazard risk. His work integrates geospatial analysis, participatory methods, and nature-based solutions to address threats such as flooding, drought, and land degradation. He has contributed to the development of Community Flood Early Warning Systems (CFEWS), national landslide and flood risk assessments, and frameworks for integrating Nature-Based approaches into DRM planning. He has played a pivotal role in the national and regional reporting of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 indicators, as well as in the development of a Wastewater Reuse Standard for Trinidad and Tobago. His applied research has supported the design and implementation of projects on water safety planning, salinity and land degradation mapping, slope stabilization, and climate-smart agriculture.



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Dr. Kegan Farrick

Senior Lecturer & Head of Department,
Department of Geography,
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Dr. Kegan Farrick is a Senior Lecturer in Geography and Head of Department at the Department of Geography, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. His research is focused on understanding hydrological processes in tropical systems and how these impact water resource availability under current and future climate scenarios. His work has also looked at land use change impacts on stream dynamics and water use in the agroforest sectors. He is currently one of the regional experts in Isotope hydrology and collaborates frequently with the International Atomic Energy Agency on sustainable water resource projects.



Dr. Letetia Addison

Lecturer
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Dr. Letetia Mary Addison is a Lecturer and Researcher of The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. She is an award-winning educator, statistician, and researcher at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, specializing in data-driven solutions for climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and digital transformation in Small Island Developing States. A Senior Fellow of The UK's Higher Education Academy and Women in Data Science Ambassador, she champions inclusive statistics and data science education, responsible Artificial Intelligence, and interdisciplinary innovation across the Caribbean. She currently serves as UNESCO Lead Expert for the Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Methodology for Trinidad and Tobago and advises on regional and international AI research, policy, and capacity-building initiatives.

LinkedIn Profile:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/letetia-addison/> AI
In Climate Lab: <https://climate.lab.tt/>



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Trecia McLennon

Founder
Ethical Group Inc.

Ms. Trecia McLennon is a Canadian strategist of Jamaican heritage and founder of Ethical Group Inc., a consultancy advancing leadership and governance infused with ethical and cultural intelligence. A former college and university administrator, former assistant professor and author of *Trailblasian (Expat Black Women in East Asia)*, she has also developed open educational resources in intercultural and professional communication. Her lived experience as the parent of an Ojibwe-Jamaican generation alpha child informs her commitment to diaspora-centered research and Caribbean impact through culturally grounded leadership and digital innovation.



Dr. Timothy Affonso

Lecturer
Faculty of Law,

The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Dr. Timothy Affonso is an attorney-at-law with almost 20 years' experience. He is a former State Prosecutor with the Ministry of the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago. He is a national scholarship winner and a Chevening Scholar. He is a Lecturer (On Leave) in the Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies and his research interests include international human rights with a focus on vulnerable groups; post-colonial laws and public international law. He currently is the Administrator General, International Law and Treaties in the Office of the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago.



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Dr. Colwick Mervyn Wilson

President

University of the Southern Caribbean (USC)

Dr. Colwick Mervyn Wilson was appointed as the 29th President of the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) as of July 1, 2021. Dr. Wilson, an alumnus of Caribbean Union College (now USC) is of Guyanese heritage. His career journey has honed for him an impressive vita of academic and administrative experience and professional renown. Dr. Wilson obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) Degree in Theology from Caribbean Union College, a Master of Arts in Sociology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, a Master of Arts Degree in Leadership and Counseling, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dr. Wilson previously served as Provost and Senior Vice President at Oakwood University, Alabama. Before his appointment at Oakwood University, he also served in leadership and academic roles at Loma Linda University, California and the Ohio location of Kettering Health Network. He also possesses nondenominational academic experience and served as an associate professor at the University of Michigan.

An ardent researcher, Dr. Wilson published work appears in several peer-reviewed journals and he has been active as a presenter and participant on the academic conference circuits particularly in the areas of social and health sciences. Dr. Wilson is also experienced in successful proposal and grant writing and has served as the principal investigator for single and interdisciplinary grant awards.



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Dr. Marsha Myrie Obi

Office of Teaching and Learning,
University of Guelph

Dr. Marsha Hinds Myrie is an educational developer, Anti-oppressive and inclusive pedagogies, Office of Teaching and Learning, University of Guelph. She is a Barbadian/Canadian citizen with an ancestral, cultural and intellectual home in Africa. Her lived experience makes identity and transdisciplinary practice two major components to her pedagogical approach. The philosophical mooring for Marsha's interaction with anti-oppressive and inclusive pedagogy come partly out of her PhD research which focused on the ways in which political and cultural experiences shaped the development and creation of intellectual spaces and intellectual thought in Commonwealth Caribbean tertiary institutions.



Dr. Christine Descartes

Lecturer
Psychology Unit,
Department of Behavioural Sciences
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Dr. Christine Descartes is a Lecturer in Psychology in the Department of Behavioural Sciences at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, and serves as Coordinator of the Psychology Programme. Specializing in Developmental Psychology, her research focuses on the behavioural and psychosocial development of children and adolescents. Dr. Descartes currently serves on the UWI Campus Research Ethics Committee and is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma. She previously served on the UWI Press Editorial Committee and was a member of the Board of Management of the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago from 2017 to 2020.



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Dr. Katija Khan

Lecturer

Psychology Unit,

Department of Behavioural Sciences

The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Dr. Katija Khan is a Lecturer in Psychology in the Department of Behavioural Sciences at The UWI. She is a consultant clinical psychologist and neuropsychologist, academic, researcher and mental health advocate with over 20 years' experience. She holds a PhD in Psychology and is an alumna of the University of the West Indies and the University of Hull, England. Her research interests include population mental health and wellbeing, suicide prevention, decolonial and cross-cultural psychology, disaster mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), mental health and psychological assessment, service delivery, and systems strengthening. Dr Khan is passionate about contributing to civil society, increasing the impact of psychology and promoting wellbeing. She works extensively with governmental, corporate, educational, philanthropic and community partners both internationally and across the Caribbean.



Dr. Heather Cateau

Senior Lecturer

History Department,

The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Dr. Heather Cateau is a senior lecturer in Caribbean History at the University of the West Indies' St. Augustine Campus. She has held the positions of Dean Faculty of Humanities and Education, Head History Department and Deputy Dean. In her publications she applies a revisionist approach to reassembling fragments of the lives, relationships and spaces created in a contested Caribbean past characterised by African enslavement and plantation systems. She has held Visiting Fellowships at the University of Iowa, the University of Cambridge and the University of St Andrews. She is also the Senior Research Fellow on the Shared Island Stories Scotland and the Caribbean Project.



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FORUM SPEAKER



Prof. Carl James

Jean Augustine Chair in Education,
Community & Diaspora,
York University

Prof. Carl E. James holds the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora in the Faculty of Education at York University where he is also the Equity Advisor to the Dean; and for 3 years before, he was the Senior Advisor on Equity and Representation in the Office of the Vice President of Equity, People & Culture. In addition to teaching in the Faculty of Education, Carl holds cross-appointments in the Graduate Programs in Sociology, Social and Political Thought, and Social Work. He has served as Affirmative Action, Equity & Inclusivity Officer (2006-2020); was the founding Director of the York Centre on Education & Community (2008-2016), and Director of the Graduate Program in Sociology (2007-2008). A Distinguished Research Professor, James is known for his mentorship of students and colleagues.

A former youth and community worker, Carl holds a PhD in Sociology and is widely recognized nationally and internationally for his research contributions in the areas of race, racialization, racism, and inequity as they affect the

educational, social, athletic, occupational and health experiences of Black community members. Building on this premise, his work explores the ways in which accessible and equitable opportunities in education and employment account for the lived experiences of racialized – particularly Black – community members; the limits to the Canada’s multiculturalism and its promise of equity; the complementary and contradictory nature of sports in the schooling and educational attainments of Black youth; and the health situation and related access to healthcare of Black community members. In advocating for systemic changes in schooling and education, Carl brings attention to the difficulties, obstacles, and barriers that stifle the interests, expectations, ambitions, and dreams of Black youth at all levels of the education system in Canada. He has also researched and written on the experiences of Caribbean peoples in Canada, as well as on the education and inter-island migration patterns and experiences of people in the Caribbean.



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FORUM SPEAKERS



Dr. Beverly-Jean Daniel

Associate Professor,
Toronto Metropolitan University

Dr. Beverly-Jean M. Daniel is a scholar, educator, and community-engaged researcher whose work focuses on Black youth and young adult well-being, educational success, and suicide prevention in Canada and the African diaspora. Her research examines how structural racism, marginalization, and institutional exclusion shape mental health, help-seeking, and educational trajectories, while centring culturally grounded, community-based, and peer-led approaches to prevention and resilience. Dr. Daniel's work spans mixed-methods research, program development, and knowledge mobilization, with a particular emphasis on racially affirming peer support, foster care and justice-involved youth, and pathways to post-secondary access for Black young people. She is actively involved in translating research into practice through community partnerships, policy-relevant scholarship, and leadership development initiatives. Her work contributes to advancing health equity, educational justice, and systems-level change for Black communities in Canada and globally.



Dr. Lisa Edwards

Institute of Gender Studies
University of Guyana

Dr. Lisa Edwards has a multidisciplinary background. It includes Communication, Gender and Development and a doctoral degree in the area of Educational Leadership and Innovation from Arizona State University, USA. Her research focus has included areas on gender, media and suicide, feminist teaching in higher education classrooms. Her other areas of interest include masculinities, sexual violence and education.



**Securing Canada - Caribbean Futures:
Repositioning Traditional and Emerging Challenges**
4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium 2026

**REGISTRATION &
VENUE
INFORMATION**

Registration is **free** for all attendees.

Register via
<https://forms.office.com/r/WnpRZ7wabE>

**Event Venue:
Center for Language Learning (CLL)**



For The University of the West Indies,
St. Augustine Campus Map:

<https://sta.uwi.edu/campus-map/>



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