



# Bulletin

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Association of Caribbean Historians  
Association des Historiens de la Caraïbe  
Asociación de Historiadores del Caribe  
Associatie van Caribische Historici

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## Message from the President

**Carla Pestana**

Distinguished Professor & Joyce Appleby  
Endowed Chair of America in the World  
Department of History  
UCLA



Dear colleagues,

It is my honor to address you as the President of the Association of Caribbean Historians, after serving for over nine months as the organization's Interim President. I hope to lead the ACH judiciously; I have great respect for the Association and its traditions.

We enjoyed an excellent meeting in Santa Marta, hosted by the Universidad de Magdalena. We heard many superb papers, and the discussions were enthusiastically described as the best in recent years. Conference Coordinator Claire Palmiste and Secretary-Treasurer Randy Browne were both unable to be present, but they worked just as energetically from their remote locations to keep us informed and to smooth out details of our visit. All present were grateful for their many messages. Although the two local organizing committee members were notable for their absence from the proceedings, they arranged for an excellent colleague to care for us. Alison Fontalvo Navarro and her team were attentive hosts, and the university proved a good site for our gathering. Santa Marta, which boasts the status of the oldest city in Spanish America, offered an interesting setting, and our members enjoyed touring it and the surrounding region. Some attendees went on a field trip to sites associated with Gabriel Garcia Marquez to round out the week.

The Association is coming back from the pandemic and from the death of its previous President, although such healing takes time. We eagerly look forward to a well-planned meeting in 2025, to be hosted by the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, in Trinidad in early June. Dr. Gelien Matthews presented a detailed proposal for that meeting, which the membership was happy to accept.

In the coming year, we hope to expand our membership, attracting more participants and attendees from the West Indies and beyond. As always, the ACH welcomes members speaking any of the many languages represented in the Caribbean. We ask that you share news of the organization, its annual

conference, and its many awards, with friends and colleagues interested in Caribbean history. In the coming months, I will be consulting with the EC and some of our members as we work to locate a site for the 2026 meeting. I welcome suggestions (and especially volunteers to host). In the meantime, I thank you for your support and understanding.

I look forward to working with you to make the ACH a stronger organization, one that will promote Caribbean history for years to come.

Sincerely,

Carla Pestana

## 2024-2025 Executive Committee

### OFFICERS:

#### **Carla Pestana, President**

Distinguished Professor & Joyce Appleby Endowed  
Chair of America in the World  
Department of History  
UCLA  
E-mail: [cgpestana@history.ucla.edu](mailto:cgpestana@history.ucla.edu)

#### **Javier Alemán Iglesias, Vice President**

Catedrático Auxiliar  
Departamento de Historia  
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Email: [javier.aleman4@upr.edu](mailto:javier.aleman4@upr.edu) or  
[jaleman8\\_8@hotmail.com](mailto:jaleman8_8@hotmail.com)

#### **Randy Browne, Secretary-Treasurer**

Professor  
Department of History  
Xavier University  
Email: [achsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:achsecretary@gmail.com)

#### **Claire Palmiste, Conference Coordinator**

Associate Professor  
Department of English Studies  
University of French Guiana  
Email: [achconference@gmail.com](mailto:achconference@gmail.com) or  
[claire.palmiste@icloud.com](mailto:claire.palmiste@icloud.com)

### AT LARGE MEMBERS:

#### **Marjoleine Kars**

Senior Scholar  
Department of History  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Email: [kars@mit.edu](mailto:kars@mit.edu)

#### **Dexnell Peters**

Lecturer  
Department of History and Archaeology  
University of the West Indies, Mona  
Email: [dexnell.peters@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:dexnell.peters@uwimona.edu.jm)

#### **Chelsea Schields**

Associate Professor  
Department of History  
University of California, Irvine  
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## Call for Executive Committee Nominations

Each year positions become available on the ACH Executive Committee, the governing body charged with administrative oversight of the organization. Terms are for one year, although members can be re-elected for a second year. All candidates for election are chosen by a Nominating Committee selected at the Annual General Meeting. The following individuals have agreed to serve in 2024-25:

### Margo Groenewoud, Chair

Independent Scholar

Email: [margogroenewoudresearch@gmail.com](mailto:margogroenewoudresearch@gmail.com)

### Clara Palmiste

Université des Antilles

Email: [cpalmiste@yahoo.fr](mailto:cpalmiste@yahoo.fr)

### Shani Roper

University of the West Indies Museum

Email: [shani.roper@gmail.com](mailto:shani.roper@gmail.com)

If you are interested in learning more about serving on the Executive Committee or would like to nominate someone for the next election please contact this year's Nominating Committee Chair. Any member of the ACH in good standing may propose names for consideration, or self-nominate to serve on the Executive Committee. Nominations must reach the Nominating Committee Chair no later than October 31, 2024. Ballots will be distributed in the winter issue of the Bulletin. Details for casting your vote will be provided prior to our next Annual Conference.

## In Memoriam: Frederick W. Lange (1944-2024)

By Jerome Handler

Frederick Lange (Fred), my long-time friend and collaborator, passed away on March 17, 2024 in Tucson, Arizona; he was almost 80 years old. I first met and befriended Fred sometime in the autumn of 1962 when I began teaching anthropology at Southern Illinois University (Carbondale, Illinois) where his father was chair of the Department of Anthropology. He was then a senior in high school. I followed Fred's career as he went on to undergraduate work at Beloit College (Wisconsin) and later when he received his PhD in anthropology (1968), with a specialty in archaeology, at the University of Wisconsin (Madison). Although Fred's special area of research was in central America (particularly Nicaragua), around 1969-70 I was seeking an archaeological collaborator (I am not an archaeologist, but, as a cultural anthropologist, had some understanding of the field) to join me on a research project in Barbados. This project was intended to utilize archaeology and documentary/historical research to explore the daily life and customs of the island's enslaved population—research I had started a few years earlier. Fred, who had no prior experience in the Caribbean or slavery, eagerly joined the venture and organized and directed the archaeological research and field strategies in Barbados. The project ultimately led to excavations in an enslaved burial ground at Newton plantation, today still the largest undisturbed enslaved cemetery known in the Caribbean. Fred played a major role in interpreting the archaeological data. Now owned by the Barbados Museum, the cemetery is recognized as a site of national importance in Barbados and enjoys a unique position in the historical archaeology of the Caribbean.

The work resulted in several publications, the principal one being *Plantation Slavery in Barbados: An Archaeological and Historical Investigation* (Harvard University Press, 1978). The book reported on the results of our research which was the first large scale project in the Caribbean (and British North America) to combine archaeological and documentary research to address the lives of the enslaved—a population rendered virtually silent in the documentary record.

Aside from the Harvard book, other publications and conference papers that Fred and I co-authored and on which both our names appear include:

1978, Mortuary Patterns of Plantation Slaves in Barbados. *Proceedings of the Conference of Caribbean Historians, 1977 Conference Papers*. Cave Hill, Barbados, pp. 487-529

1979, The Archaeology of Mapp's Cave: A Contribution to the Prehistory of Barbados. Eighth International Congress for the Study of Pre-Columbian Cultures of the Lesser Antilles, St. Kitts, West Indies (published as *The Archaeology of Mapp's Cave: A Contribution to the Prehistory of Barbados. JI. of the Virgin Islands Archaeological Society* 9 (1980): 3-17.

1979, Carnelian Beads in Necklaces from a Slave Cemetery in Barbados. *Ornament: A Quarterly of Jewelry & Personal Adornment* 4: 15-18 (with C. Orser).

1979, Plantation Slavery on Barbados, West Indies. *Archaeology* 32: 45-52

1980, Application of the South Ceramic Formula on Barbados, West Indies [and] The Newton (Barbados) Slave Cemetery: Patterns, People, When and Where the Twain do Meet. Society for Historical Archaeology, Albuquerque, New Mexico

1985, The Ethnohistorical Approach to Slavery. In T. Singleton, ed., *The Archaeology of Slavery and Plantation Life* (New York: Academic Press).

## 2024 Andrés Ramos Mattei-Neville Hall Article Prize Winners:

**Randy M. Browne, Joan Flores-Villalobos, Lisa A. Lindsay,  
Elise A. Mitchell, and John Wood Sweet**

The Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 Andrés Ramos Mattei-Neville Hall Article Prize in recognition of excellence in the field of Caribbean history. We commend all of the scholars who submitted articles. The prize committee awarded this year's prize to the authors of three articles: co-authors **Randy Browne** (Xavier University), **Lisa A. Lindsay** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and **John Wood Sweet** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill); **Joan Flores-Villalobos** (University of Southern California); and **Elise A. Mitchell** (Princeton University). The prizes were awarded at the 55th Conference of the ACH, which was hosted by the University of Magdalena in Santa Marta, Colombia, in May 2024.

The prize committee, chaired by Kathryn Dungy (University of New Orleans), announced: This year's slate of articles was exceptional and the prize committee was impressed with the quality of scholarship. We have chosen to award the 2024 Andrés Ramos Mattei-Neville Hall Article Prize to three articles that stood out from the rest. Each of the awarded articles contributed something unique to the scholarship of Caribbean history in their strength of argument, quality and use of evidence, felicity of prose, style and clarity of expression, and originality and significance for the study of Caribbean history.

In no particular order, the prize committee congratulates **Randy Browne, Lisa A. Lindsay, and John Wood Sweet** for their article "**Rebecca's Ordeal, from Africa to the Caribbean: Sexual Exploitation, Freedom Struggles, and Black Atlantic Biography**," *Slavery & Abolition* 43, no. 1 (March 2022): 40–67. This admirable work of co-authorship draws on British, Dutch, and Guianese archives and newspapers to reconstruct how the Middle Passage, sexual predation, and slavery shaped the life of a woman known to us only as Rebecca. Through a painstaking reading of Rebecca's brief testimony in a Demerara Protector of Slaves report, the authors illuminate how she may have understood her own life story. In particular, they emphasize how West African understandings of kinship and maternity served as a basis for her case for freedom. The authors highlight their impressive archival work in recreating the experiences of a Black woman in the pre-emancipation era. Their work is a model for how to reconstruct the life histories of enslaved people with limited sources.

**Joan Flores-Villalobos's "Thrifty, Morality, and Migration in the Barbados Savings Bank,"** *History Workshop Journal* 95 (Spring 2023): 154–74. Flores-Villalobos' work ties together histories of banking, the post-emancipation Caribbean, and 20th-century immigration to the United States to recast the history of "thrifty" as a category of

colonial dominance. By tracking the way Caribbean migrants acquired the “show money” they were required to produce for U.S. officials, Flores-Villalobos offers a new methodological approach to vernacular practices of banking. By prioritizing relationships and mobility rather than simple economics, Flores-Villalobos’ article takes the often impersonal subject of economic history and personifies it. The subjects covered in this article are not often studied in conjunction with one another, but Flores-Villalobos does so in an innovative way that uncovers different and nuanced stories of post-emancipation Caribbean and U.S. history. This article makes important historiographic and methodological interventions to the field of Caribbean History.

**Elise A. Mitchell’s “Morbidity Crossings: Surviving Smallpox, Maritime Quarantine, and the Gendered Geography of the Early Eighteenth-Century Intra-Caribbean Slave Trade,”** *William & Mary Quarterly* 79, no. 2 (April 2022): 177–210. This beautifully written piece explores the intersection of gender and illness in the southeastern Caribbean slave trade to show how they impacted women and girls. By emphasizing the embodied experiences of trafficked Africans, Mitchell proposes a new epistemological approach to the study of the slave trade, one which focuses not on volume and scope but on the social and cultural histories of enslaved people. Making deft use of documents from the Archivo General de Indias, Mitchell carefully reconstructs a lesser-studied branch of the intra-colonial trade. Her attention to the experiences of people subjected to this trade demonstrates that scholars need to look beyond death rates to understand how those who were trafficked understood mortality, illness, and surveillance, with implications for understandings of slavery in the Caribbean and beyond. This article makes an important intervention in the field of Caribbean History.

*The Andrés Ramos Mattei-Neville Hall prize was launched in 1996 and is a biennial award for the best article in the field of Caribbean History. The award is named jointly for late ACH members Puerto Rican historian Andres Antonio “Tony” Ramos Mattei (1941-1988) and Jamaican historian Neville Hall (1936-1986).*

#### **2024 Andrés Ramos Mattei-Neville Hall Article Prize Committee**

**Kathryn Dungy, Chair**  
University of New Orleans

**Tyesha Maddox**  
Fordham University

**Tessa Murphy**  
Syracuse University

If you would like more information on the award, please contact the ACH Secretary-Treasurer at [achsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:achsecretary@gmail.com). The next award will be made at the 57th Annual Conference in 2026. The call for submissions will be issued after the 56th Annual Conference in 2025 and will cover publications in 2024 and 2025.

## Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Award Winner:

### Laura De Moya Guerra

At the 2024 annual conference, the Executive Committee awarded the Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Award to **Laura De Moya Guerra** (Rutgers University). She presented a paper entitled “The Chinese in the Barranquilla (Colombia) Carnival: Gender and Diplomacy 1960-1980” and received a \$500 stipend to offset the costs of attending the conference.

*The Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Award was established in 2008 by two long-standing ACH members, Virginia Gould and Gail Saunders, in memory of their late husbands, Geoffrey L. Gould, M.D. and Winston Saunders, CMG, respectively. Its purpose is to provide assistance for graduate students and, in some cases, junior scholars, from universities and other institutions in the Caribbean and Central America to attend the ACH conference.*

## Call for the Elsa Goveia Book Prize

The ACH is pleased to invite nominations for the 2025 Elsa Goveia Book Prize. Previously awarded every three years, the ACH book prize has been awarded every two years since 1995 and recognizes excellence in the field of Caribbean history.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Any scholarly history or general work acceptable as an historical work published in 2023 or 2024 is eligible for this year's competition.
- Any press or place of publication will be considered.
- Publication may be in English, Spanish, French or Dutch.
- Work should be marked by felicity of prose style and clarity of expression.
- Only first editions of original works will be considered.
- Multi-authored collections, anthologies, and other such edited works are not eligible.

### Call for Submissions

Authors, publishers, managing or marketing editors, or others must submit nominations to the prize chair and adjudicating committee by December 31, 2024 (submissions received after the deadline will not be considered). The winner will be announced at the 56<sup>th</sup> ACH Annual Conference in 2025. It is important that one copy of the book nominated be sent directly to each member of the committee. Please ensure that all charges connected with mail or courier services are pre-paid.

Please contact the ACH Secretary-Treasurer with any questions at [achsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:achsecretary@gmail.com).

### Elsa Goveia Prize Committee Members and Mailing Addresses:

#### Heather Cateau, Chair

c/o The History Department  
The University of the West Indies  
St. Augustine  
Trinidad

#### Frederik Thomasson

Department of History  
Uppsala University  
Please send electronic books only to:  
[fredrik.thomasson@hist.uu.se](mailto:fredrik.thomasson@hist.uu.se)

#### Sharika Crawford

United States Naval Academy  
107 Maryland Avenue  
Mailbox 12C  
Annapolis, MD 21402



**Preliminary Information for the 56th Annual ACH Conference  
University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, June 1-5, 2025**

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**

The ACH Executive Committee is pleased to announce that its 56th Annual Conference will be held at the **University of the West Indies, St. Augustine**, from **June 1 to June 5, 2025**.

For the 56th Annual Conference, the overall theme will be “Multilingual connections and under-represented geographies.” We invite paper, poster, and panel proposals on any aspects of the above theme as well as on other topics in Caribbean history.

For those proposing panels, please note that we seek linguistic and geographic diversity and representation. Applicants may also wish to consider that the ACH promotes diversity among panelists regarding institutional affiliation and academic experience.

Preference is given to applicants who did not present at the previous conference (2024).

Proposals must include:

1. The appropriate form for either a [paper/poster](#) or [panel](#) proposal;
2. A 250-word abstract for each proposed presenter (abstracts must indicate what new information or approach the work provides as well as the archival or oral sources consulted. Abstracts must be submitted in 3 languages: English, French and Spanish. Proposals submitted in fewer than 3 languages will not be considered for the conference.
3. A brief CV (no more than 3 pages)
4. A brief Bio (no more than 300 words)

Graduate students in advance stages of their studies are welcomed to submit papers based on extensive dissertation research.

Please see Application Instructions here: <https://associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/application-instructions/>

All documents should be combined into ONE (1) Microsoft Word document (please do not submit a PDF). The deadline for proposal submission is **October 14, 2024** using the appropriate online form. Any questions can be communicated to Claire Palmiste, Conference Coordinator at [achconference@gmail.com](mailto:achconference@gmail.com).

**Application Instructions**

**There are THREE WAYS to participate in the 2025 ACH Conference:**

**A) PAPER: You can apply to present an individual paper. These applications are reviewed by the Executive Committee by theme and composed into panels. This requires:**

1. The appropriate form for either a [paper/ poster](#) proposal
2. A 250-word abstract (abstracts must indicate what new information or approach the work provides as well as the archival or oral sources consulted. Abstracts must be submitted in the 3 languages: English, French and Spanish. Proposals that are submitted in less than 3 languages will not be considered for the conference)
3. A brief CV (no more than 3 pages)
4. A brief bio (no more than 300 words)

**B) PANEL: You can also apply as part of a panel of 3 or 4 papers. This requires:**

1. A [panel proposal](#) form;

2. A 250-word abstract for each proposed presenter (abstracts must indicate what new information or approach the work provides as well as the archival or oral sources consulted. Abstracts must be submitted in the 3 languages: English, French and Spanish. Proposals that are submitted in less than 3 languages will not be considered for the conference)
3. A brief CV (no more than 3 pages)
4. A brief bio (no more than 300 words)

**Please note** that while panel organizers may propose a chair, final assignment of chairs is the prerogative of the Executive Committee. Proposed chairs should be experts in the panel field.

**C) POSTER: You can also apply to participate in our poster session. This is intended as a fast-paced, fun session for newer scholars or for those embarking on a new project. This requires:**

1. A [poster proposal form](#); this is the same as the paper proposal form—just check that you are applying to offer a poster.
2. An abstract of no more than 250 words (abstracts must be submitted in the 3 languages: English, French and Spanish. Proposals that are submitted in less than 3 languages will not be considered for the conference.)
3. A brief CV (no more than 3 pages)
4. A brief Bio (no more than 300 words)

All documents should be combined into ONE (1) Microsoft Word document (please do not submit as a PDF).

The deadline for proposal submission is **October 14, 2024** using the appropriate online form. Any questions can be communicated to Claire Palmiste, Conference Coordinator at [achconference@gmail.com](mailto:achconference@gmail.com).

**A few more important notes:**

- Graduate students in advance stages of their studies are welcomed to submit papers based on extensive dissertation research.
- All participants must be current members of the ACH by the time they present.
- ACH presentations include (1) a pre-circulated paper written in English, French, or Spanish, which must be no longer than 25 typed, double-spaced pages using 12-point font, including notes and references and (2) a brief presentation of no longer than 4 pages.
- Presentations are intended to introduce the highlights of this written work, and so are strictly limited to 10 minutes.
- Poster presentations include both a shorter pre-circulated paper summarizing research to date (no more than 10 typed, double-spaced pages using 12-point font, including notes and references). Presentations at the conference will be limited to no more than 5 minutes and 10 PowerPoint slides.
- Papers for both panels and for poster presentations will be made available online at the ACH website in advance of the conference and can be accessed only by those who pay their registration fees.
- To allow time to format and post material, presenters should email papers (as a Microsoft Word file) **NO LATER THAN March 24, 2025** to: Claire Palmiste, ACH Conference Coordinator, at [achconference@gmail.com](mailto:achconference@gmail.com)

If, after your proposal has been accepted, you find you are unable to attend, please inform the ACH Conference Coordinator as soon as possible in order to allow us to adjust the program.

**The deadline for proposals is October 14, 2024. We look forward to your submissions.**



## Minutes from the Annual General Meeting, Colombia, 2024

**PREPARED BY:** Marjoleine Kars, Executive Committee member, and Randy Browne, Secretary-Treasurer

**PRESENT:** Laura Rosanne Adderley, Kristen Block, Bridget Brereton, Mégane Coulon, Kaysha Corinealdi, Heather Freund, Felicia Fricke, Dexter Gabriel, Rebecca Goetz, Margo Groenewoud, Gad Heuman, Anasa Hicks, Rosemarijn Hoefte, Marjoleine Kars, Joy Lewis, Tyesha Maddox, Gelien Matthews, Elise Mitchell, Kathleen Monteith, Melissa Morris, Celia Naylor, Carla Pestana, Dexnell Peters, Donate B. Philbert-Nievel, Lara Putnam, Suzanne Schwarz, Allison Ramsay, Shani Roper, Jenny Shaw, Gunvor Simonson, Fredrik Thomasson, Nuala Zahedieh.

ACH President **Carla Pestana** called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM.

**Moment of Silence:** A moment of silence was observed for ACH past president **Jean-Pierre Sainton**, who passed away since the 2023 AGM.

**Confirmation of the December 2023 General Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the special general meeting that had been called to address financial matters were distributed and displayed on the screen. After one correction was accepted (a typo in the penultimate line of the minutes: “seconded my Michelle,” should be “by” Michelle), **Gad Heuman** made a motion to approve, which was seconded by **Rebecca Goetz**. The minutes were approved, with 30 ayes, no nays, one abstention.

**Report of the Ramos Mattei-Hall Article Prize Committee:** In the absence of any committee member to make the report, **Carla Pestana** presented the prize. The prize committee, chaired by **Kathryn Dungy** and including **Tyesha Maddox** and **Tessa Murphy**, awarded this year’s prize to the authors of three articles: **Randy Browne, Lisa A. Lindsay, and John Wood Sweet**, for “**Rebecca’s Ordeal, from Africa to the Caribbean: Sexual Exploitation, Freedom Struggles, and Black Atlantic Biography**,” *Slavery & Abolition* 43, no. 1 (March 2022): 40–67; **Joan Flores-Villalobos**, for “**Thrift, Morality, and Migration in the Barbados Savings Bank**,” *History Workshop Journal* 95 (Spring 2023): 154–74; and **Elise A. Mitchell**, for “**Morbid Crossings: Surviving Smallpox, Maritime Quarantine, and the Gendered Geography of the Early Eighteenth-Century Intra-Caribbean Slave Trade**,” *William & Mary Quarterly* 79, no. 2 (April 2022): 177–210. The citations (see pp. 4-5 above) were read and Mitchell, who was in attendance, accepted her certificate. **Carla Pestana** thanked the committee members for their service.

**Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Award Presentation:** **Carla Pestana** presented the Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Award to **Laura De Moya Guerra** (Rutgers University). Her paper, “The Chinese in the Barranquilla (Colombia) Carnival: Gender and Diplomacy 1960-1980,” explored a little known aspect of Colombian history: the involvement of Chinese woman in carnival. She found this involvement had diplomatic as well as personal aims. De Moya Guerra was not present to receive her certificate.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, members paused to discuss a question raised by **Fredrik Thomasson** about the criteria for ACH prizes. After a discussion of the criteria and of the membership’s desire to see the accomplishments of West Indian scholars acknowledged, the meeting considered ways to increase the pool for the awards. Suggestions were made to appoint someone (NOT a member of the prize committee) to solicit submissions from non-U.S. universities and other institutions around the Caribbean, as well as from publishers, to submit articles and books.

**Kathleen Monteith** wanted to know, in the interest of greater transparency, how many articles had been submitted for the article prize, how many were shortlisted, and how the committee worked. **Tyesha Maddox**, who was by that time present at the meeting, reported that the committee received about 20 submissions, that 6 were shortlisted, and that winners were picked on the basis of the quality of the scholarship only. **Carla Pestana** reminded everyone that only the Gould-Saunders award specifically favored Caribbean scholars in granting the award. **Rosemarijn Hoefte** urged institutional, geographical, and linguistic diversity on prize committees as that shapes views on articles and books.

**Nominations for the Elsa Goveia Prize Committee (2023-24 publications):** **Marjoleine Kars** nominated **Heather Chateau, Sharika Crawford, Rebecca Goetz, and Fredrik Thomasson** self-nominated. All agreed to serve and members agreed that the EC would choose three people from the nominees and designate a chair.

**Report of the Executive Committee and Secretariat, 2023-24:** The 2023-24 Executive Committee (EC) included: **Carla Pestana** (Interim President), **Javier Alemán Iglesias** (Vice President), **Randy Browne** (Secretary–Treasurer), **Claire Palmiste** (Conference Coordinator), **Terencia Joseph**, **Marjoleine Kars**, and **Rose Mary Allen**. The EC formally met twice—on Nov. 3, 2023 and on May 28, 2024 to prepare for this year's Annual General Meeting. The main item of the November agenda was the 55th Annual Conference academic program. The Conference Coordinator indicated that 11 panel proposals, 2 poster proposal, and 39 papers were submitted. The EC accepted 6 panels and 19 papers. The final conference slate was 29 papers on 11 panels, including one local panel. This year, the EC also worked to address the ACH's banking and tax status, opening new accounts at Bank of America and contracting a Certified Public Accountant to apply for status as a 501(c)(3) (tax-exempt) organization in the U.S. (application pending). **Carla Pestana** provided background on the banking issue for the benefit of new members. Members commented that the non-profit status for ACH in the U.S. might encourage fundraising efforts.

### **ACH Membership and Dues Information**

Over the past year, the ACH has welcomed many new members and welcomed back several returning members. These include (as of May 30, 2024):

- **8 new Life Members:** **Alan Cobley** (UWI–Cave Hill), **Anne Eller** (Yale University), **Marjoleine Kars** (MIT), **Lydia Lindsey**, **Lara Putnam** (University of Pittsburgh), **Walter Rucker**, **Gunvor Simonsen** (University of Copenhagen), and **Joseph Starr** (Independent Scholar).
- **2 Benefactors:** **Carla Pestana** (UCLA) and **Anonymous**
- **0 Donors**
- **0 Institutional Members**
- **42 New Members or Member Renewals:** names and institutions of these members appeared, or will appear, in the January and July 2024 issues of the *ACH Bulletin*
- **10 New Student Members or Member Renewals:** names and institutions of these members appeared, or will appear, in the January and July 2024 issues of the *ACH Bulletin*

### **Activities of the Secretariat**

#### **General**

The ACH published two issues of its newsletter, the *Bulletin* (July 2023 and January 2024), which included the 2024 conference program. We also used social media (Facebook and Twitter) to circulate information about the conference. We continued online registration and paper distribution systems. This fostered enhanced coordination between the Secretariat and Conference Coordinator and allowed for the effective management of conference paper collection, reformatting, and posting to the web, as well as communications with the LOC. A portion of conference registration revenue (\$4,000) was advanced to the LOC in April 2024 to contract various services, including translation (a second and final payment will be made after the conference, in June, with remaining registration revenue). For the 2024 conference, all membership and registration payments were again accepted only online via PayPal (i.e., no checks or cash were received via mail or in person during the conference), which simplified accounting and provided greater security.

#### **Finances**

One portion of ACH funds (\$55,753 as of May 21, 2024) is invested in a Flexible CD at Bank of America, earning 3.93% interest; the balance is in a Business Advantage Relationship checking account (\$55,799 as of May 21, 2024—note that this balance does not reflect the final transfer of conference registration revenue to the LOC or other transactions after May 21, 2024). As of May 21, 2024, the ACH had received approximately \$6,911 in net membership revenue and \$7,501 in net conference registration revenue. **Carla Pestana** explained that the ACH retains all membership revenue but disburses all conference registration revenue to the LOC; she also noted that **Randy Browne** has kept Secretariat expenses low by enlisting friends and family members to assist with translation and website management and by requesting funding from his university to pay for his ACH travel. **Kathleen Monteith** asked for clarification about the meaning of “net” in the financial report and Carla Pestana explained that “net” referred to the amounts received after the deduction of PayPal fees.

#### **Evaluation of the 2024 Conference**

**Kathleen Monteith** thanked **Carla Pestana** on behalf of all participants for her sterling work in seeing to the smooth running of the conference, especially given that there was no LOC present. Kathleen also noted the help of **Alison Fontalvo Navarro** (University of Magdalena) and various student volunteers. She also recognized

**Marjoleine Kars** for stepping up to assist Carla. **Rebecca Goetz** thanked the university staff (i.e., Alison and all the others who helped in various ways). **Laura Rosanne Adderley** stressed that in spite of the absence of the LOC, the conference location (the University of Magdalena and the city of Santa Marta) was a success and that we may want to return. **Bridget Berenson** and **Gad Heuman** noted that the quality of the papers was extremely high and discussions were excellent. They would have preferred that the sessions were more spread out over the four days so rather than four panels each on Monday and Tuesday and only two on Wednesday and none on Thursday; it would have been better to have three panels on the first three full days and two on Thursday. In their view, we need a complete 4-day conference. **Randy Browne** explained that the LOC had prevented late changes to the program, even as some participants withdrew and panels needed to be reorganized, citing translators' established schedules. The preferred schedule would also have allowed for some more time at the end of the day to read the next day's papers, rest, swim, or sightsee. Several people noted that the LOC's behavior was unreliable and unprofessional.

There were suggestions to do more outreach to get more papers in languages other than English and by non-academics. For this reason, translators are important. Contracts for translation service should specify that last minute changes in schedules may be necessary. **Margo Groenewoud** suggested using translators known to ACH members so we can count on high quality. Since translation can be accomplished remotely, the translators do not need to be in the conference location.

The necessity of supplying translation services was reiterated, and some suggestions were made about how to facilitate that work. The new practice of submitting a four page transcript of the presentation should ease the work of translators (if we continue the practice), and the more difficult work occurs in the Q & A period. We were also reminded that robust translation is required to make non-English speakers feel welcome. It is crucial that speakers speak slowly so translators can keep up.

We should also ask speakers and attendees about translation needs so we can tailor our services better. There was also a suggestion to do more outreach in the future to local scholars and organizations—and perhaps this should not fall on the LOC but be done by ACH members with connections.

### 2025 Conference Update

**Gelien Matthews** presented her plans for next year's conference in Trinidad and even sang her invitation to a calypso tune. The proposed conference would be held June 1-6, 2025, on the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies. Gelien has a Local Organizing Committee in place; has lined up four hotels/inns and several receptions; offered an idea for an excursion; and described a proposed site for the fête. She has also designated a person to check the requirements for immigration, visas, vaccinations, etc., for people traveling from various locations. Since the Peruvian embassy plans to sponsor a reception, one member suggested that we reach out to Peruvian scholars who work on the Caribbean. **Shani Roper** suggested approaching the French embassy as well. **Carla Pestana** pointed out that Gelien's presentation is a model of how we like to see preparation for the next annual meeting (and presentations to the AGM) done.

### Report of the Nominating Committee

**Carla Pestana** delivered the report, as none of the members of the Nominating Committee, chaired by **Tara Inniss**, were present. Carla thanked outgoing EC members Terencia Joseph and Rose Mary Allen. As there were no contested positions on the EC, there was no election this year. Instead, the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of unopposed candidates who will make up the 2024-2025 Executive Committee:

**Carla Pestana**, President  
**Javier Alemán Iglesias**, Vice President  
**Randy Browne**, Secretary-Treasurer  
**Claire Palmiste**, Conference Coordinator  
**Marjoleine Kars**, Member  
**Dexnell Peters**, Member  
**Chelsea Shields**, Member

### Nominations to the 2024-25 Nominating Committee

**Claire Palmiste** nominated **Clara Palmiste** and **Mael Lavenaire**. **Kathleen Monteith** protested Lavenaire's nomination on the grounds that he had too little experience and nominated **Shani Roper**. **Margo Groenewoud** self-nominated. Clara, Shani, and Margo agreed to serve and members assented.

Any Other Business

**Celia Naylor** suggested that we think about appointing ACH ambassadors to do outreach. **Gunvor Simonsen** suggested that we work harder on getting graduate students to participate in the ACH. She pointed out that in continental Europe, Caribbean scholars, including post-graduate students, are isolated. Suggestions were made to do away with the advisor letter currently required for graduate students to submit a paper to the ACH, and to think about adding a professional development panel for students to further their careers (and to help them justify getting university funding), or perhaps even expanding such a panel to a whole day for graduate students and prospective students. **Margo Groenewoud** has experience doing this at a previous conference in Curaçao. A proposal by **Carla Pestana** to request the EC think about these issues, particularly the graduate advisor letter, was endorsed after a motion from **Rebecca Goetz**, seconded by **Celia Naylor**, was approved. Several suggestions were made for locations for the 2026 conference, including St. Eustatius, Aruba, St. Lucia, and Guadeloupe. **Joy Lewis** reminded everyone of the need for accessibility. **Laura Rosanne Adderley** wanted to note for the record that **Gail Saunders** also passed away this year. **Carla Pestana** acknowledged her passing and noted that we honored her with a moment of silence in Puerto Rico in 2023. Regarding the theme for next year's conference, there were two suggestions: multilingual connections and under-represented geographies. It was noted that they could perhaps be combined.

**Carla Pestana** adjourned the meeting at 11:37 AM.

## ACH Financial Report, 2023-24

### ACH Commercial Checking (all amounts appear in U.S. Dollars):

Beginning balance (as of June 30, 2023): **\$48,171.04**

### INCOME

A. 2023-2024 Membership Dues Income (NOTE: PayPal fees vary for U.S. versus non-U.S. transactions)

*Gross Dues Revenue (through May 31, 2024):* **\$7,425**

Life Members	(6x \$500, less \$17.94 PayPal fee per transaction = \$2,892.36) (2x \$500, less \$25.44 PayPal fee per transaction = \$949.12)
Institutional Members	\$0
Tenured Members	(13x \$75, less \$3.11 PayPal fee per transaction = \$934.57) (11x \$75, less \$4.23 PayPal fee per transaction = \$778.47)
Full Members	(12x \$50, less \$2.24 PayPal fee per transaction = \$573.12) (9x \$50, less \$2.99 PayPal fee per transaction = \$423.09)
Student/Teacher/Retiree Members	(9x \$25, less \$1.36 PayPal fee per transaction = \$212.76) (2x \$25, less \$1.74 PayPal fee per transaction = \$46.52)
Benefactor	(2x \$150, less \$5.73 PayPal fee per transaction = \$288.54)
Donations	\$0

**Net Membership Revenue: \$7,098.55**

**B. 2024 Conference Registration Income***Gross Registration Revenue (through May 31, 2024): \$8,510*

Full Registration (2x \$185\*, less \$6.95 PayPal fee per transaction = \$356.10)  
 (11x \$170, less \$6.42 PayPal fee per transaction = \$3,925.92)  
 (x \$170, less \$8.97 PayPal fee per transaction = \$3,381.63)  
 \*Registered using previous year's website link

Student Registration (2x \$95, less \$3.81 PayPal fee per transaction = \$182.38)

Caribbean Student Registration \$0

Guest Registration (3x \$100, less \$5.48 PayPal fee per transaction = \$283.56)

**Net 2024 Conference Registration Revenue: \$8,129.59****TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCE + 2023-24 INCOME = \$63,399.18****ACH Gould-Saunders Fund**

Note: All funds from Money Market Account at Citizens Bank (\$54,493.74) were transferred to Bank of America on Sept. 25, 2023 and invested in a 12-month Flexible CD on Oct. 11, 2023.

Beginning balance (as of Oct. 11, 2023): \$54,493.74A. Interest rate: 3.9%B. Annual percentage yield: 4.00%C. Interest earned not paid (as of June 30, 2024): \$126.14D. Interest paid Oct. 11 through Dec. 31, 2023: \$358.50**CURRENT BALANCE (as of June 31, 2024) = \$55,939.29****EXPENSES**A. Website/Communication-Related Fees: \$843.84

Constant Contact (email listserv): \$589.94

- \$48.60 on July 23, 2023
- \$48.60 on Aug. 28, 2023
- \$48.60 on Oct. 12, 2023
- \$48.51 on Oct. 26, 2023
- \$48.51 on Nov. 26, 2023
- \$48.51 on Dec. 26, 2023
- \$48.51 on Jan. 26, 2024
- \$48.51 on Feb. 26, 2024
- \$48.51 on March 26, 2024
- \$48.51 on April 26, 2024
- \$48.51 on May 26, 2024
- \$56.06 on June 26, 2024

Website: \$253.90

- \$92.02 on Nov. 21, 2023 for Go Daddy
- \$161.88 on Jan. 20, 2024 for Web Hosting Hub

**B. Conference Expenses: \$12,076.37**

- \$500 wire transfer on July 1, 2023 to Christopher Montague for 2023 Gould-Saunders Award
- \$536.52 check on July 13, 2023 for transfer of final conference registration revenue to P.R. LOC
- \$1,638 check on Aug. 3, 2023 for P.R. conference transportation
- \$500 PayPal transfer on Oct. 4, 2023 to Arti Ramsaroop for 2023 Gould-Saunders Award
- \$4,000 advance of registration revenue on April 3, 2024 to Colombia LOC for conference expenses
- \$108.68 PayPal transfer on May 20, 2024 to Carla Pestana to reimburse for gift to Colombia LOC
- \$500 PayPal transfer on June 18, 2024 to Laura de Moya Guerra for 2024 Gould-Saunders Award
- \$4,293.17 wire transfer to Colombia LOC for conference expenses

**C. Other Expenses: \$637.51**

- \$37.51 PayPal transfer on May 28, 2024 to Randy Browne for mailing and printing expenses
- \$600 bank transfer on June 24, 2024 for IRS filing fee (tax-exempt status application)

**TOTAL EXPENSES for 2023-24: \$13,557.72****ACCOUNTS SUMMARY:**

<b>FINAL CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE (as of June 30, 2024):</b>	<b>\$50,793.78</b>
<b>FINAL CD BALANCE (as of June 30, 2024):</b>	<b>\$55,939.29</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ACH BANK ACCOUNTS (as of June 30, 2024):</b>	<b>\$106,733.07</b>
<b>ACH PayPal BALANCE (as of June 30, 2023):</b>	<b>\$1,749.04</b>



## Welcome to Our New and Renewed Members

The following people have joined—or rejoined—the ACH since January 1, 2024.

Affiliations are listed for all members who provided them upon request.

*(Don't see your name? You were in the January issue if you joined before January 1, 2024.)*

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

Gunvor Simonsen, University of Copenhagen

Alan Cobley, UWI-Cave Hill

Lydia Lindsey

### **MEMBERS and MEMBER RENEWALS**

Donate Philbert-Nieveld, Protestant Theological  
University

Matthew Mulcahy, Loyola University Maryland

Lillian Guerra, University of Florida

Sharika Crawford, United States Naval Academy

Juan Sebastian Gomez

Elise Mitchell, Princeton University

Diana Paton, University of Edinburgh

Megane Coulon, Susquehanna University

Heather Freund, University of Copenhagen

Janelle Edwards

Anasa Hicks, Florida State University

Kathleen Phillips Lewis

Suzanne Schwarz, University of Worcester

Shani Roper, UWI-Mona

Joseph Clark

Jose A. Fernandez Montes de Oca, Universidad de  
Costa Rica

Melissa Morris

Felix Jean-Louis

Willie Mack, University of Missouri

Armindia Ruiz, Independent Scholar

Margo Groenewoud, Independent Scholar

Dexter Gabriel, University of Connecticut

Celia Naylor, Barnard College

Allison Ramsay, UWI-St. Augustine

Kathleen Monteith, UWI-Mona

Yevan Terrien, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Kaysha Corinealdi, Rutgers University

### **STUDENT MEMBERS AND MEMBER RENEWALS**

Alejandro Gerena, New York University

Annika Bärwald

John Balz

Laura Carolina De Moya Guerra, Rutgers University

### **BENEFACTORS**

Carla Pestana, UCLA

### **DONORS**

None

### **INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS**

None

## Become a Member

Join the hundreds of scholars who have already joined the Association of Caribbean Historians. Our membership year runs from **June 1 to May 31**.

Benefits include:

- Electronic subscription to the semi-annual ACH newsletter, the Bulletin.
- Early notification of conference calls for papers and registration.
- Eligibility for ACH awards and prizes.
- Notification of other events and programs beneficial to members.
- Inclusion in the premier academic institution of pan-Caribbean studies.

More importantly, you will be part of a unique multi-lingual organization that offers an unparalleled opportunity for scholarly exchange.

Join online:

<http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/membership.htm>

There are six (6) membership categories:

**Non-tenured Faculty, Caribbean-based lecturers (\$50 a year):** for faculty, public history, or governmental positions.

**Tenured professors and other established researchers (\$75 a year):** for tenured faculty, public history, or governmental positions.

**Teachers (primary/secondary), Students, and Retirees (\$25 a year):** a special rate for primary/ secondary teachers; graduate and undergraduate students and retirees.

**Institutional Members (\$100 a year):** for colleges, universities, libraries, museums, and other cultural and educational organizations.

**Benefactor (\$150 a year):** a higher category of giving to support the organization's activities.

**Life Membership (\$500):** the best membership bargain—equivalent to 10 years of regular annual membership, but valid for life.

### Association of Caribbean Historians

<http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org>

**President:** Carla Pestana, UCLA

**Vice-President:** Javier Aleman Iglesias, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Randy Browne, Xavier University

**Conference Coordinator:** Claire Palmiste, University of French Guiana

