



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



Greetings, Association Members!

It is my honor to address you as the President of the Association. By my count, I am the twenty-first person to hold the office of President since the organization created a formal structure in 1974. That number is shaped by that fact that presidential terms vary in length from one to three years and that a number of my predecessors returned to serve a second time—Woodville Marshall (1974-77, 1992-94), Jacques Adélaïde Merlande (1977-78, 1997-2000), and Fernando Picó (1990-92, 2010-11).

After more than fifty years, the organization is thriving, although it has changed a great deal since those early days. Our hallmark event remains the annual conference, held somewhere in the Caribbean each year. The exception, as with so much of life, occurred in the period 2020-22, when we held only two meetings (one, combining the 2020 and 2021 meetings, hosted by Société d'histoire de la Guadeloupe, and another, in 2022, organized by the University of the West Indies-Mona). Throughout our history, a feature of our meetings has remained the multiple languages in which presenters and attendees participate, with simultaneous translation of papers in English, French, and Spanish offered at each meeting. Another treasured aspect of our gatherings is the Thursday night fete, a party with dinner and dancing to mark the close of our meeting. Everyone who attends find the ACH conference a supportive and vibrant intellectual community. We expect an excellent meeting in Trinidad, where the organizers have plans well in hand, as you will see elsewhere in this bulletin.

Among those early members who played an important role in the ACH, none was more influential than Professor Adélaïde Merlande, credited with the initial idea for a gathering of West Indian historians. For those who do not know the early history, you can read about ACH's origins here: <https://associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/history/>. Given the role of Jacques Adélaïde Merlande, his passing in November marks an important moment for the ACH. See the memorial statement written by his colleagues in this bulletin. If you attend the ACH in Trinidad in June, you will have an opportunity to

participate in a moment of silence to mark his death along with those of other former members, Edward Cox, Trevor Bernard, and Karl Watson. Recently we learned of the passing of Sir Roy Augier, whose birthday is noted below, and whose life will be more fully remembered in a future bulletin

Despite these losses to our community, the ACH remains a vibrant and active gathering of scholars. In the tradition of Jacques Adélaïde Merlande and others who have gone before, we will carry forward the organization's mission of studying and promoting the history of the Caribbean.

Carla Pestana

2024-2025 Executive Committee

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2025-2026 Executive Committee Nominations and Ballot

The ACH Executive Committee of seven members oversees administration of the Association. All members are chosen by a Nominating Committee of at least three members elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Nominating Committee is charged with ensuring that the Executive, as far as is possible from the members willing to accept nomination, reflects the geographic diversity of the Caribbean, as well as its languages and cultures. All members of the Executive are chosen to serve for one year; positions are renewable for a second year, but the period of service may differ.

The Nominating Committee is finalizing the 2025-2026 Executive Committee ballot, which will be distributed via email as soon as possible. The election will be held online during the 2025 conference.

In Memoriam: Trevor Burnard (1960-2024) By Gad Heuman

Trevor Burnard died from cancer on 19 July 2024 at the age of 63. Born in New Zealand, Trevor received his PhD at Johns Hopkins University. His first job was at the University of the West Indies, Mona, where he taught from 1987-89. Trevor later said that, while at Mona, he “did the archival work on early Jamaica that sustained me for my entire career to date”.

Trevor returned to New Zealand where he taught at the University of Canterbury. In 2000, he moved to the UK and had a succession of posts at Brunel, Sussex, and Warwick universities before moving to Melbourne University in 2011. He returned to the UK in 2019 to become Professor of History and Director of the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation at the University of Hull.

Trevor published extensively on early America, on Jamaica, and on the Caribbean more widely, focussing on slavery and plantation life. His best-known work is a study of the planter Thomas Thistlewood: *Mastery, Tyranny & Desire: Thomas Thistlewood and His Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World* (2004). Although Trevor worked on the planter class, he was also interested in the voices of the enslaved as exemplified in his book *Hearing Slave Voices: Slave Testimony from Barbice* (2010). Moreover, Trevor had an enormous range: one of his last books was *Writing the History of Global Slavery* (2023).

Trevor was a close friend for many years and a colleague at Warwick. He and I co-edited two books on Slavery, including *The Routledge History of Slavery* (2011), and I was one of many people with whom Trevor collaborated. He had a talent for friendship and for working collaboratively. Trevor attended several ACH conferences and enjoyed living, traveling, and researching in the Caribbean. Trevor was also an active member of the editorial board of the journal, *Slavery & Abolition*, and contributed extensively to the journal. One of his important contributions was putting together a Forum on “Black Lives Matter and *Slavery & Abolition*”, a very timely and significant group of essays. But Trevor was no stranger to controversy. Although a very kind and generous scholar, particularly to early career academics, his reviews and review essays could sometimes be forthright and occasionally controversial.

He is survived by his wife Deborah, two children, and many friends, including myself, who will all miss him profoundly.

Gad Heuman
University of Warwick (Emeritus)



Photograph from <https://www.upress.virginia.edu/news/in-memoriam-trevor-burnard/>

In Memoriam: Edward L. Cox (1943-2024) By Alexander X. Byrd

Edward Locksley Cox, emeritus professor of history at Rice University in Houston, Texas, departed this life on September 26, 2024.

For nearly thirty years, Dr. Cox was a beloved teacher, mentor, and scholar at Rice, where he was the founding director of the university's Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, and a longtime faculty advisor to the Black Student Association and the Caribbean Student Association. Indicative of the remarkable challenges he placed before his students and the care with which he guided them toward meeting those challenges, Cox was a four-time winner of the university's George R. Brown Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Upon his retirement from Rice, the Association of Rice University Alumni recognized his contributions to the university with its Meritorious Service Award. Dr. Cox continued his invaluable service to the university as emeritus faculty, continuing to serve on the steering committee of a presidential Task Force on Slavery, Segregation, and Racial Injustice.

Dr. Cox was the author of *The Free Coloreds in the Slave Societies of St. Kitts and Grenada 1763-1833* and many other publications focused on the social and political history of the Caribbean. He served on the Executive Council of the Caribbean Studies Association and chaired the program committee for the association's 1992 conference. Among a plethora of other contributions to the profession, he also served on the Executive Committee of the Association of Caribbean Historians.

Cox was born in Carriacou, Grenada, and educated at the Grenada Boys' Secondary School, where he also taught following his graduation. He earned his BA from the University of the West Indies and his PhD from The Johns Hopkins University. Before his move to Rice, Dr. Cox taught for more than a decade at the University of South Carolina.

In its report to the university community, the Task Force on Slavery, Segregation, and Racial Injustice made the case that the university had two founding moments, neither more important than the other—the endowment and articulation of the university in the early twentieth century, and a re-founding moment following the desegregation of the university in the mid-twentieth century and beyond in which it aimed now to become a university for all and dedicated to the success of all. Edward Cox certainly stands among the founders of the university that Rice presently strives to be.

Alexander X. Byrd
Rice University



Photograph from <https://news.rice.edu/news/2024/celebrated-rice-professor-and-historian-edward-cox-passes-away-81>

In Memoriam: Karl Stewart Watson (1946-2024) By Lennox Honychurch

Dr. Karl Stewart Watson, outstanding Barbadian historian, archaeologist, university lecturer, naturalist, former member of the Barbadian Foreign Service and multifaceted cultural icon, has died. He passed away at his home at the Garrison, St. Michael, Barbados, on Saturday evening, 11 January 2025, after battling with cancer.

Watson was Senior Lecturer in the Department of History, University of the West Indies, and he also taught at the Mona Campus, UWI, Jamaica during the 1980s. He was the Editor of the *Journal of the Barbados Museum* for 20 years and served on the Museum board. He was Secretary (Hon) and for a time President of the Barbados National Trust, Chairman of the George Washington House Restoration Committee, and the Barbados/Carolinas Committee. His publications include, 'Barbados, The Civilised Island, A Social History 1750 to 1816', 'The White Minority of the Caribbean' (with H. Johnson) and 'Old Doll, Matriarch of Newton Plantation', among numerous other articles and papers for both general and academic magazines and journals.

Watson was an expert on the Jewish presence in Barbados and just before his passing he completed a book on the Jewish synagogue in Bridgetown, awaiting publication. He taught archaeology at the Cave Hill Campus and led archaeological fieldwork at sites in Bridgetown, primarily at Jubilee Gardens, the Pierhead, and in the grounds of the Jewish synagogue and at George Washington House site at the Garrison. He was a leader in the archaeology of the African presence in Barbados and had particular interest in the cemetery of the enslaved at Newton plantation. He was also involved in field research of the pre-Columbian indigenous people of Barbados. He developed a master's programme in Heritage Studies.

He was a Latin Americanist, with a special interest in Brazil, and in the run up to Barbados independence in 1966 interpreted for the Latin American delegates, while on the night of the independence celebrations in November, he served as assistant to the representative of El Salvador. He was Chairman of the Barbados-Carolinas Committee promoting awareness of the historical links between the two.

As an officer of the Barbados diplomatic service, he served in Latin America and Europe, attached to consulates in Venezuela, Frankfurt Germany, and Canada. He was fluent in French, Spanish, and German. Even beyond his official position he was 'on call,' prepared to provide information and assistance on various levels to all the Barbadian Prime Ministers of Barbados from independence to the time of his passing. He was awarded the Gold Crown of Merit in 2011 for his services to Barbados.

He was a passionate naturalist with a strong determination to protect Barbadian and Caribbean wildlife, be they birds, monkeys or regional whales. His interests included ornithology, and he was a consultant to the creation of Graeme Hall Bird Sanctuary, persuading financier Peter Allard to purchase the wetlands for protection and preservation. He was also Barbados' Ornithological representative to CITES and a member of the Biodiversity Committee.

Watson used all manner of communications to promote public knowledge of aspects of Barbadian heritage through the popular media and performance and appearance in film documentaries. He acted as George Washington for the weekly 'Dinner with George' events associated with that historic site and conducted tour groups to points of interest throughout the island. His love for Barbados and all things Barbadian and Caribbean was passionate, and his life touched many both within his beloved island and beyond.

Lennox Honychurch



Photograph from <https://barbadostoday.bb/2025/01/13/barbados-museum-mourns-the-loss-of-dr-karl-watson-a-tribute-to-an-extraordinary-barbadian-legacy/>

“Mr CXC” Makes His Century: Sir. Fitzroy R. Augier Turns 100 **By Bridget Brereton**

On December 17 this year, Sir Fitzroy R. Augier (universally known as Roy) turns one hundred years old. Many people in T&T will know of him. Some are lucky enough to have been taught by him at the Mona (Jamaica) campus of The UWI, like me. Many more will have used his co-authored pioneer text, *The Making of the West Indies*, at school or university. And others will have encountered him through the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC).

Augier was born and grew up in St Lucia, where he was educated at the Roman Catholic Boys' Elementary School and St Mary's College, both in Castries. Like quite a few West Indians, as a very young man he volunteered for Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF). After training in Canada and Britain, he took part as a gunner in incredibly dangerous bombing missions during the last two years of World War II.

Thankfully he survived (many did not) and his wartime service enabled him to pursue tertiary education in Britain. He got his MA in history and philosophy at St Andrews University in Scotland, and then did research for his PhD, which he obtained in 1954. His thesis was a pioneering study of Jamaica's political and constitutional history in the 1800s. In that year, he came to the Mona campus of the then University College of the West Indies, first at ISER, and then in the History Department. History was his home from 1955 on, as he climbed the academic ranks up to his official retirement in 1990 and later appointment as a (very active) emeritus professor.

I will briefly consider his work and regional impact in five areas, all closely related (not necessarily in order of importance).

First, he was an important, long-serving administrator and academic leader at The UWI. After some years as Dean of his Faculty, in 1972 he was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor, a post he held up to 1990. As I recall vividly, he was very influential during these decades in all decisions about teaching and research. He was effectively principal of the Mona campus (the post didn't yet exist) for most of this time, because the then Vice-Chancellor, Aston Preston, wasn't an academic and deferred to Augier (and others) on most academic issues.

Second, he was a dedicated teacher, and continued to lecture and conduct tutorials long after he “went over”, as we used to say, to administration. And in addition to history students like me, he lectured to many others, in the Development of Civilisation survey course, and at CARIMAC.

In 1964/65, I was lucky to take his tutorials in the all-year course on the history of the West Indies—Elsa Goveia gave the lectures, a dream team if ever there was one. He was a tough but inspiring teacher, always pushing us to think and to read. When it was your turn to make a class presentation, you were really motivated to perform well, to deal with his probing questions and (sometimes) avoid his sarcastic quips...

Third, Augier was dedicated to producing the materials to allow secondary school teachers throughout the region to teach West Indian history—this in the 1950s to 1970s, before CXC existed. *The Making of the West Indies*, co-authored with the great Jamaican historian Douglas Hall, and two prolific British scholars, Shirley Gordon and Mary Reckord (Turner), appeared in 1960, and has been a very influential and widely used text. In 1962, he and Gordon published *Sources of West Indian History*, a pioneering collection of source documents with editorial comments and explanations.

Fourth, he was deeply involved in CXC from its start (he used to be called “Mr CXC”). He convened the first Caribbean History Subject Panel, which devised the syllabus for the first CSEC exam in 1979. Between

1986 and 1996, he served as CXC Chair, and in this period he spearheaded the development of the CAPE exams to replace British “A” Levels, holding many meetings with regional ministry officials, teachers and principals to get their buy-in for the new syllabi. Augier led many curriculum development and teacher training workshops for CSEC and CAPE preparation.

Finally, and of course this ties in with all the previous points, Augier worked to mobilise resources and people for researching and teaching West Indian history at all levels and throughout the region. He worked with the region’s archivists to improve the various national archives (no documents, no history). He was chair of the Drafting Committee for the UNESCO *General History of the Caribbean*—each time I look at the six fat volumes of this work on my bookshelf, I remember his efforts over a long period to get it completed. He was an early member of the Association of Caribbean Historians, often attended its annual conferences (as recently as 2018), and served as its president.

Roy Augier has been very influential in the development of history teaching at the secondary and tertiary levels all through the region, for many decades from the 1950s on. He has had a significant impact on the development of his beloved regional University, which awarded him its highest honour (The Chancellor’s Medal) in 2020. A life to celebrate...

Bridget Brereton
University of the West Indies, St. Augustine (Emerita)

This piece appeared in the T&T Express on Sir Roy’s 100th birthday (17 December 2024). Sir Roy died peacefully in Kingston, Jamaica, on 26 January 2025. May he rest in peace.



Sr Roy Augier with former students and colleagues, celebrating his 100th birthday on Dec. 17 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Mona, Jamaica. Photograph by Paul H. Williams from <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20241221/mr-cxc-sir-roy-augier-turns-100>

Arrangements for the 56th Annual Meeting Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, June 1-5, 2025

Una traducción al español está disponible en: <https://associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/es/reunion-anual/>

Une traduction en français est disponible à l'adresse: <https://associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/fr/reunion-annuelle/>

The ACH Executive Committee is pleased to announce that the 56th Annual Meeting of the Association of Caribbean Historians will be held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from Sunday, June 1 to Thursday, June 5, 2025. On-site registration opens Sunday afternoon. The conference fête, our annual dinner and dance (which is highly recommended and a central feature of this organization) will be held on Thursday evening, June 5. An optional field trip is scheduled for Friday, June 6.

CONFERENCE VENUE AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The conference will be held at the auditorium of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, located in the capital city, Port-of-Spain, on Wrightson Road.

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has selected **two main hotels** and secured **discounted ACH rates for each**. In addition, **special accommodation for students** has been reserved in Freedom Hall, a student residence on the St Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI). The two hotels, both of which are located on Wrightson Road in Port-of-Spain, are situated opposite each other. It is expected that most participants will walk from the hotels to the Central Bank since the distance is not more than fifteen minutes by foot. A footbridge, with both steps and an elevator, is conveniently located to ensure the safety of pedestrians. However, **daily transportation** will be provided to and from the conference venue for students who are based at Freedom Hall and for the few who, due to physical concerns, are unable to make the short trek on foot between the hotels and the conference centre. *Please note that such persons must inform the LOC ahead of the conference.* The **opening ceremony** will be held on campus and transportation will be provided for those who book at the Port-of-Spain hotels to take them to and from the St Augustine Campus. **Note that if you choose to stay elsewhere, you will need to arrange your own transportation** to and from the conference venue. There are many other hotels, short-term rentals, etc. at various price points within walking distance of the selected hotels.

1. Freedom Hall (residence hall at UWI St. Augustine)

Please note that this option is only for graduate students.

The fees below are quoted per person per night in USD. Please note that breakfast is not included. Double I Block = \$25.00; Single Room – I Block = \$36.00; Single - Four Bedroom Apartment = \$45.00; Single en-suite Room (a/c) = \$50.00. For more information, please contact: Student Accommodation On & Off Campus, Division of Student Services and Development, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Please state that the booking is for the 2025 ACH Conference. Telephone: (868) 662-2002 ext. 82387, Direct Line: (868) 663-0075. Email: UWIHalls@sta.uwi.edu

2. Radisson Hotel (Wrightson Road): <https://www.choicehotels.com/trinidad-and-tobago/port-of-spain/radisson-hotels/tt007>

The link below provides access to a special rate of \$145 USD per night (excluding taxes—including taxes the nightly rate is approximately \$160 USD, single or double occupancy). Rates are inclusive of daily buffet breakfast for all registered guests and Wi-Fi. All guests, including children 6-12, must be registered at time of booking. To book, visit <https://www.choicehotels.com/TT007?ratePlanCode=LUWIHD>. Additionally, UWI Alumni members will receive a 10% discount on food at Olympia Restaurant, Maple Bar, and 360 Restaurant. A valid ID must be presented at check-in to qualify for the discount.

3. Hyatt Regency Hotel (Wrightson Road): <https://www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/en-US/trirt-hyatt-regency-trinidad>

The link below provides access to special rates of \$169/night (single) or \$194/night (double), before taxes and governmental-imposed fees (which are currently 10% and 10.5% respectively), applicable service charges, and/or mandatory fees (e.g. resort or destination fees) in effect at the time of the conference. Rates are inclusive of daily buffet breakfast for all registered guests and Wi-Fi. All guests, including children 6-12, must be registered at time of booking. To book, visit: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/TRIRT/G-UWCA>

TRAVEL TO AND WITHIN TRINIDAD

Air travel to Trinidad is accessed via the **Piarco International Airport**. The airport is situated in the eastern part of the country in a town called Arouca. If your flight stops in Tobago, you will enter the A.N.R. Robinson International Airport but you will still have to enter Piarco International to get to Trinidad.

The distance from Piarco Airport to the city centre, Port-of-Spain, is 27 kilometers, and the travel time is around 20 minutes by taxi with a fare of around \$50 USD. The St Augustine Campus is 10 to 15 minutes away and fare should be approximately \$30 USD.

Note: The Trinidad/Tobago Dollar is indicated with a Dollar sign, or TT\$ to distinguish it from other Dollar currencies. As of this Bulletin, conversion stands at 1.00 US\$ = 6.79 TT\$.

Booking for **taxi service** should be made with the dispatcher at the Customs Exit or with a registered Taxi Driver. The drivers at the airport are uniformed in white shirt jackets, and black or blue trousers with yellow photo identification passes and are authorised to take you to any destination. Taxis are available 24 hours daily, and Tariff Board information is available from the dispatcher at the airport.

- Taxis are readily available outside the arrivals terminal.
- Look for authorized taxi stands to ensure safety and reliability.
- Fares are typically fixed based on your destination; inquire about rates before departing.
- It is advisable to confirm the fare with the driver before starting your journey.
- Taxis can accommodate various passenger numbers; larger vehicles may be available for groups.
- Payment is usually accepted in cash; check if credit cards are accepted beforehand.
- Consider pre-booking a taxi service for convenience, especially during peak travel times.
- Be aware of peak hours that may affect travel time to your destination.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

If you are travelling to Trinidad and Tobago from any of the Caribbean islands (except Haiti), Surinam, Guyana, or the United Kingdom or for no more than 90 days from the USA and the Netherlands, you do not need a visa. Please check the link below to ensure that you meet visa requirements to enter Trinidad and Tobago: <https://www.hinterlandtravel.com/trinidad-and-tobago>

REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH

The LOC is planning a daily lunch at a cost of US\$20.00 per meal. Further details about this arrangement will be shared. Note also that in proximity of the conference centre, there are several outlets providing meals. More information on these outlets will be provided in the conference bags.

OPTIONAL FIELD TRIP

The LOC has planned for participants to visit Nelson Island, one of the five islets on the western coast of Trinidad. The National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago will supervise the trip. It includes land transport to the port, a twenty-minute sea vessel transport to the island, a dramatic recreation of the landing of first peoples at Nelson Island, a guided tour of the island covering artefacts of Indian Indentured labourers once quarantined on the island, a visit to the house where labour leader Uriah Butler was interred during World War II and a survey history of the many uses of Nelson Island. Lunch will also be served including a drink. The cost of the trip is US\$100.00

SAFETY AND SECURITY

We wish to ensure all participants that their safety and security while in Trinidad is one of our top priorities. There is security at the St Augustine Campus, the Central Bank Auditorium and both hotels. At present, a State of Emergency is in effect. However, there is no curfew. This is a temporary measure to deal with specific, localised issues. Movement is not restricted, the build up to Carnival 2025 has begun in earnest, and a number of visitors are already here. Our international students for semester II have also arrived. We anticipate that by June, at the latest, the State of Emergency will no longer be in effect. We therefore look forward to welcoming you for a conference that is academically, socially, and culturally rewarding in the true spirit of the ACH.

MEMBERSHIP AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

All conference attendees and presenters **must be current members of the ACH** and **must register for the conference**. Those who joined at or before the last conference in June 2024 will need to renew at or before this year's meeting; those who joined since the 2024 meeting have a valid membership until just after the conference in Santa Marta. If you have questions about your membership status, please email Secretary-Treasurer Randy Browne at achsecretary@gmail.com.

For those who still need to join, you can do so via the ACH website: <https://associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/membership-giving/>

There are six categories of membership (all amounts below appear in U.S. dollars):

- **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.

In addition to annual membership, there is a **registration fee** for the conference itself to defray local expenses. Registration fees for the 2025 conference appear below. While participants can register at the conference, **speakers and chairs must do so in advance**, and **pre-registration online is encouraged for everyone**—presenting or not—to gain access to all pre-circulated conference papers. **All those presenting or chairing sessions at the conference MUST renew their membership and register for the conference by the time their pre-circulated papers are due on March 15, 2025.**

- **ACH members: \$185**
- **Caribbean-based students: \$65**
- **Non-Caribbean-based students: \$95**
- **Guests: \$100**

Membership and registration can be completed **online** via PayPal at the ACH website: <https://associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/annual-meeting/>. When registering, please be sure you select the appropriate category and corresponding fee. If you choose to register **on site**, fees are still payable via **PayPal (credit card) only**. We cannot accept cash or other forms of payment.

ACCESSING PRE-CIRCULATED PAPERS

ACH presentations include both a pre-circulated 25-page paper and a brief (10 minutes or less) conference presentation. The ACH is making pre-circulated papers available online for those who pre-register. Once the ACH receives your completed registration, you will receive a password to access the portion of the website where papers are housed. Please be aware that papers are not due until March 15; they will not, as a result, be available online until late April. You can pre-register for the conference online at <http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org>. You will be asked to complete an electronic registration form and pay with a credit card.

ACH Conference Presentation Guidelines

A number of 2025 presenters are new to the ACH or returning after some time away. Please take a few minutes to review the conference paper procedures:

1. Every presenter must be a member of the ACH. If you are not currently a member, you can join through the ACH website, <http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org> or in person during registration at the conference (all presenters and chairs must register by March 15, 2025).

2. ACH papers include both a pre-circulated paper and a brief presentation at the conference. Papers can be written in English, French, or Spanish, and can be no longer than 25 typed, double-spaced pages using 12-point font. This includes notes and references. **ALL** presenters must strictly adhere to this format—papers longer than 25 pages or not double-spaced will be returned for editing.

To allow time to format and post material, presenters should email their papers (as a Microsoft Word file) **NO LATER THAN** March 15, 2025 to: Claire Palmiste, ACH Conference Coordinator, at achconference@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: You will be asked to register for the conference and to pay for registration at this time. Presenters who do not provide papers by the March 15, 2025 deadline will be removed from the program and will not be permitted to present.

3. Conference papers posted online will be password protected; only after someone has registered and paid for the conference will they be able to access this portion of the website.

4. Presentations at the conference should serve to briefly introduce information in pre-circulated papers and as such are limited to 10 minutes. It is very important that all presenters strictly adhere to these time limits, and panel chairs will be charged with ensuring that panels proceed on time. Please hand a hard copy of your presentation to translators to facilitate their job.

5. Presentations at the conference can be in English, French, or Spanish; simultaneous translation of all presentations will be provided.

On behalf of the ACH, a warm welcome to those of you presenting for the first time or returning after a period away. Please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Coordinator for more details or if you have any questions.

ACH 2025 Preliminary Conference Program

Multilingual Connections and Under-Represented Geographies

56th Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH)

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, June 1-5, 2025
University of the West Indies, St Augustine AND Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago

SUNDAY, June 1

University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

- 2:00-4:00pm** **Registration**
- 4:00-5:30pm** **Panel 1 (Local Organizing Committee Panel)**
- 5:30-7:00pm** **Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception**

MONDAY, June 2

Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago

- 9:00-10:30am** **Panel 2: Colonial Politics of Health and Disease in the Anglophone Caribbean**

Chair: Juanita de Barros (McMaster University)

Samantha Hosein (The University of the West Indies, St Augustine): "Behind Closed Doors: Unveiling the Realities of Asylum Nursing at the St Ann's Mental Hospital in Colonial Trinidad"

Brittany Merritt Nash (The College of St. Benedict & St. John's University): "Cholera and the Meanings of Freedom in Barbados"

Debbie McCollin (The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine): "Colonial Testing Grounds: The Tobago Malaria Eradication Trial 1948-1952"

- 10:30-10:45am** **Coffee Break**

- 11:00am-12:30pm** **Panel 3: Commerce and Illegal Trades in Colonial Time**

Chair: TBD

Marcus P. Nevius (University of Missouri): "An Historiographic Paradox: Maroon Power and Political Economy in Eighteenth Century Jamaica"

Florian Wieser (University of Edinburgh): "Truchements of the Caribbean: Language and Strategies of Negotiation in the First French-Caribbean Trade System, 1564–1625"

Melissa Morris (University of Wyoming): "Illegal Trade and Illicit Connections on Hispaniola, 1580-1620"

Alison Clark (University of Edinburgh): "An Axis of Capitalism between Scotland and Guyana: The Cotton Frontier in the Southeast Caribbean and the Rise of Sandbach Tinné & Co. 1790–1838"

Nathalie Frédéric Pierre (Howard University): "Second Slavery in Revolutionary Haiti: Trafficked Children and the Invisible Trade"

12:15-1:45pm **Lunch**

1:45-3:15pm **Panel 4: The Mapping and Remodeling of their Worlds**

Chair: TBD

Marley Lix-Jones (Harvard University): “‘Our People’: Mapping the Social Worlds of Enslaved People on the East Coast of Demerara”

Armando García de la Torre (independent scholar): “The Painful Remodelling of Trinidad: The Case of Dominique Dert, 1781”

Michael Becker (University of Maryland): “Bayly v. Ewart: Refashioning the Slave Registry Bill in the Apprenticeship Era British Empire”

Joseph Biggerstaff (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies): “Beyond Words: A Deep History of the Caribbean Gully”

Meha Priyadarshini (University of Edinburgh) and Victoria de Lorenzo (The University of Edinburgh): “Connecting Threads: Reorienting Global Fashion Histories through the Madras Kerchief”

3:15-3:30pm **Coffee break**

3:30-5:00pm **Panel 5: Negotiation(s) and Freedom(s) in the Early-Modern Caribbean**

Chair: Carla Pestana (University of California Los Angeles)

Sophia Monegro (The University of Texas at Austin): “Las Ganadoras: Black Women Enterprising Freedom in Colonial Santo Domingo (1542-1570s)”

Clifton E. Sorrell III (The University of Texas at Austin): “‘Los Palenques’: Inter-Imperial Warfare and Negotiating Black Self-Rule in the Early Caribbean 1655-1660”

Kyle Prochnow (Ursinus College): “Daaga: Yoruba Warfare and a British Army ‘Mutiny’ in Trinidad”

Katharine Gerbner (University of Minnesota): “Adga Tome: Damma’s World, From Gbe to Dutch Creole”

Elizabeth S. Manley (Xavier University): “A ‘Rich, Unexplored Field’: Women, Social Science, and the History of Caribbean Studies”

TUESDAY, June 3

9:00-10:30am **Panel 6: In Perpetual Motion: Colonial Afro- and Anglo-Caribbean Circulations Across the Seas**

Chair: TBD

Natalie Zacek (University of Manchester): “Empire of the Senses: The Creole Sensorium in Georgian London”

Christine Walker (The University of Hong Kong): “‘To Suckle My Daughter Betsy’: The Regional Trafficking of Enslaved Servants Between Antigua and North America”

Gunvor Simonsen (University of Copenhagen): “Free Soil and Restitution of Fugitives in the Nineteenth-Century Lesser Antilles”

Rasmus Christensen (University of Copenhagen): "Small Islands and Scarcity in the Leeward Islands and Virgin Islands, late 17th to 18th centuries"

Tyesha Maddox (Fordham University): "Sons and Daughters of Ethiopia: West Indian Immigrant Mutual Aid Societies and the Impact of the Second Italo-Ethiopian War"

10:30-10:45am Coffee Break

11:00am-12:30pm Panel 7: Shaping a Plural Colony during Revolutionary Times: Trinidad at the Turn of the 19th Century

Chair: Bridget Brereton (UWI St. Augustine)

Cristina Soriano (University of Texas): "Kings, Queens, Dances and Feasts: Insurrection and Multiculturalism in Trinidad's Black Communities, 1805"

Tessa Murphy (Syracuse University): "Slavery on the Frontier: Enslaved Creoles and Intra-American Trafficking to Nineteenth Century Trinidad"

Dexnell Peters (University of the West Indies, Mona): "Francisco de Miranda's Trinidad as a Revolutionary Atlantic World Listening Post"

Catherine Peters (College of William and Mary): "Fishing, Fraternity, and Fugitivity: Asian Men in Early-Nineteenth Century Trinidad"

Patrick Murphy (University of Chicago): "Space, Place, and Empire in Trinidad's Nineteenth-Century Popular Riots"

12:15-1:45pm Lunch

1:45-3:15pm Panel 8: Bringing Caribbean Women out of the Shadows

Chair: Clara Palmiste (University of the French Antilles)

Owen MacDonald (University of Illinois): "Building Community and Empire: Afro-Antillean Women's Labor in Early Porto Velho"

Daniel Livesay (Claremont McKenna College): "Plantation Resistance by Elder Jamaican Women"

Shivalli Ragbir (The University of the West Indies, St Augustine): "Female Invisibility within the Justice System: Accommodation and Safety in Penal Facilities in Trinidad and Tobago 1842-1958"

Takkara Brunson (Texas A&M University): "Afro-Diasporic Womanhood and the Photographic Archive of Eusebia Cosme, 1920s-1950s"

Arti Padmani Ramsaroop (The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine): "For Home from Abroad: Muriel Petioni and the Trinidad and Tobago Gayap Organisation"

3:15-3:30pm Coffee break

3:30-5:00pm Panel 9: Poster session

Chair: TBD

Gabriel José Rivera Cotto (Archivo General de Puerto Rico): "Freedom at Bay: Enslaved Labor and Resistance in the Port of San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1800-1850"

Shantal Cover (The University of the West Indies): “Conceptualizing Cultural Heritage Discourse in 21st Century Jamaica”

Portia Hopkins (Rice University)/ Synatra Smith (The Association of African American Museums): “Bahamians of South Florida: A Visual history”

6:00pm **Book launch and reception**

WEDNESDAY, June 4

9:00-10:30am **Panel 10: The Legacies of British Colonialism**

Chair: Leslie James (Queen Mary University of London)

Olivia Wyatt (Queen Mary University of London): “Caribbean Migrants and the Negotiation of Colonial Pigmentocracy in Britain, 1948-78”

Deanna Lyncook (Queen Mary University of London): “Colonial Legacies within Education: the Migration of Caribbean Children to Post-War Britain”

Christopher Montague (Northwestern University): “Anticolonial Strategists: Norman Manley and Noel Nethersole as Neither Sell-Outs nor Heroes”

Terencia Kyneata Joseph (University of the Southern Caribbean): “A Campaign to Eliminate a ‘Vulgar and Corrupt Dialect’: Kwéyòl in St. Lucia, 1880-1920”

Jan Bant (Radboud University & University of Curaçao): “Sport in Small Spaces: Baseball and the Negotiation of Postcolonial Belonging in the Dutch Caribbean Diaspora”

10:30-10:45am **Coffee Break**

10:45am-12:15pm **Panel 11: Immigration and Caribbean Diasporas in the Amazon and Circum-Caribbean**

Chair: Tanalís Padilla (MIT)

Elaine Pereira Rocha (UWI-Cave Hill): “Paths on the Margins of History: Caribbean Immigrants in Early 20th Century Amazon”

Santiago Silva de Andrade (Universidade Federal de Rondônia): “Crime, Justice and Culture: Afro-Caribbean Workers in Amazon (1912-1930)”

Martha Arguello (Pomona College Academy for Youth Success): “Painting Nicaragua: A Dialogue Between History and the Visual Arts of the Atlantic Coast and Solentiname”

Jeanette Charles-Marquez (University of California): “Crossing Waters: Afro-Atlantic Historical Convergences from Venezuela, Trinidad, and Nigeria”

Cindy Forster (Scripps College): “Afro-Venezuelan Socialism through a Particular History of Fisherfolk: Chuao, where the women sing to their cacao, and a policewoman and schoolteacher forced U.S. and Colombian mercenaries to surrender, face-down, on the sandy pier”

In the tradition of the Association of Caribbean Historians Conference, Wednesday afternoon is left unscheduled to allow participants the opportunity to explore the historic sites and cultural opportunities of Trinidad.

THURSDAY, June 5

9:00-10:30am Panel 12: Trans-Caribbean Connections Across Time & Space: Black Activism in the Nation-State and Anticolonial Geographies (1834-2010)

Chair: Laura Rosanne Adderley (Tulane University)

Chelsey R. Smith (University of Illinois): "Formal and Informal Teaching and Learning in Post-Abolition Afro-Jamaican Communities"

Eloy Romero Blanco (University of Pittsburgh): "From U.S. Expansionism to Cuban Independence: The Cuban Trans-Caribbean Network in the Aftermath of the López Expeditions"

Kiana Knight (Brown University): "Women in Racial Uplift: Bilingual Activism and Education in Panama's Canal Zone, 1945-1960"

Manuel Osvaldo Robles (Hampden-Sydney College): "Padre Glyn Jemmott: The Father of the Afro-Mexican Movement, 1997-2010"

Llana Barber (University of Minnesota): "Decolonization and the Nativist State: A History of Haitians and anti-Haitianism in the Bahamas"

10:30-10:45am Coffee Break**10:45am-12:15pm Panel 13: Protest Movements in 20th Century Caribbean**

Chair: TBD

Melanie R. Holmes (University of South Carolina): "Voice of the People: Barbados, Black Internationalism, and the Rebranding of Black Power"

Willie Mack (University of Missouri): "'Les Noirs Americains, Un Peuple Frere': Haitian Revolutionaries, the US Black Power Movement, and Global Subaltern Politics"

Jeffrey R Kerr-Ritchie (Howard University): "The Diasporic Dimensions of British Caribbean Protest, 1918-1921"

Cristian Padilla Romero (Trinity College): "Afro-Caribbean and Garífuna Garveyism in Caribbean Honduras 1920-1932"

Thomas van Gaalen (Radboud University): "Solidarity as Patronage: the Clandestine Radicalism of Curaçao's Unión General de Trabajadores, 1929"

12:15-1:30pm Lunch**1:30-2:30pm Panel 14: Reshaping Communities, Reshaping Home and Faith**

Chair: TBD

Joanne Collins-Gonsalves (Historical Research International Inc., Canada): "West Indian House and the Caribbean Community in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada"

Alejandro Manuel Gerena-Ortiz (New York University): "Boricua forty-eighter: Betances, French Republicanism and Puerto Rican Nationalism"

Aakeil Murray (UWI, St. Augustine): "Theorising Pentecostal Conversion amongst Hindu Families in Trinidad through the Lens of Luke 14:26"

2:30-4:00pm Annual General Meeting (AGM)

6:00-10:00pm Dinner & Fête

FRIDAY, June 6

Optional Field Trip

Welcome to Our New and Renewed Members

The following people have joined—or rejoined—the ACH between June 2024 and January 1, 2024. Affiliations are listed for all members who provided them upon joining or renewing. (*Don't see your name? You were in the July 2024 issue if you joined before June 1, 2024.*)

LIFE MEMBERS

None

MEMBERS and MEMBER RENEWALS

Joanne Norcup, University of Warwick
 JoAnna Poblete, Claremont Graduate University
 Jo-Anne Ferreira, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
 Antonio Hernandez Matos, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
 Rebecca Goetz, New York University
 Milagros Denis
 April Shelford, American University
 Alberto Ortiz, University of Texas at Arlington
 Lorena Walsh
 Schuyler Esprit
 Wendeline Flores
 Llana Barber, University of Minnesota
 Daniel Livesay, Claremont McKenna College
 Manuel Robles
 Melanie Holmes, University of South Carolina
 Jeffrey Kerr-Ritchie, Howard University

STUDENT MEMBERS AND MEMBER RENEWALS

Amanda Thomas, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
 Rene Kooiker, Yale University

Max Lewontin, Northwestern University
 Leila Nilipour, University of Pittsburgh
 Isaac Rojas,
 Alison Clark, University of Edinburgh
 Gabriel Rivera Cotto, Yale University
 Joy Densmore, Liberty University
 Maria Hernandez
 Alyson Renaldo
 Rafael Garcia, Morgan State University
 Thonya Joseph
 Kiana Knight

INSTITUTIONAL

None

BENEFACTORS

None

BENEFACTORS

None

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