



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,

Welcome to the ACH January 2026 Bulletin.

I trust you are all keeping well in these increasingly perilous times. The ACH supports colleagues in Venezuela as well as in Jamaica where human malfeasance and natural disaster are creating difficulties. Fortunately, our members in Jamaica assure us that the island is coming back from last year's hurricane, and they hope we will support the island's recovery with our visit for the 2026 meeting.

Since our last bulletin, the Executive Committee and the Jamaica Local Organizing Committee have been at work on the 2026 conference, which will be held in Kingston, 24 through 28 May, with an optional field trip planned for the 29th. The EC reviewed paper proposals, crafting what looks like an excellent program, while the LOC worked on arrangements for our visit to Jamaica. We hope many members—both long-standing and new—will join us for the meeting.

Elsewhere in this bulletin you will find various items of interest: the promised remembrance of our colleague Pedro Welch, who died last year, among them. There is also information about the upcoming meeting. Of particular note is the fact that members have been working on an on-going sponsorship that will support the ACH financially. More will be said of this at the AGM in Jamaica, but the arrangements appear likely to relieve some of the financial burden that comes with hosting the meeting. EC member Dexnell Peters at the UWI-Mona has taken the lead on these discussions, and the organization will owe him a debt of gratitude.

At the AGM in Jamaica, we will consider amendments to the Constitution. These changes were announced a year ago and explained in previous bulletins.

I look forward to seeing you in Jamaica. In the meantime, let me know if you have any questions.

Carla Pestana

2026-2027 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 Committee are chosen to serve for one year; positions are renewable for a second year, but the period of service may differ.

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Gad Heuman, Tyesha Maddox, and Chelsea Schields, nominate the following:

For President: Kathleen Monteith, University of the West Indies, Mona

For Vice President: Claire Palmiste, Université de Guyane

For At-Large Member: Daniel Livesay, Claremont McKenna College

Kaysha Corinealdi (Rutgers University—New Brunswick) and Fiona Rajkumar (University of the Southern Caribbean) will continue on the Executive Committee. Rebecca Goetz (New York University) will continue as Secretary-Treasurer (one year into a three-year term) and José Fernández Montes de Oca (Universidad de Costa Rica) will continue as Conference Coordinator (one year into a three-year term).

The election will be held online during the 2026 conference. We thank the Nominating Committee for its service.

2025-2026 Executive Committee

OFFICERS:

Carla Pestana, President

Distinguished Professor & Joyce Appleby Endowed
Chair of America in the World
Department of History
UCLA
Email: cgpestana@history.ucla.edu

Javier Alemán Iglesias, Vice President

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Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras
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jaleman8_8@hotmail.com

Rebecca Anne Goetz, Secretary-Treasurer

Associate Professor
Department of History
New York University
Email: achsecretary@gmail.com

José A. Fernández Montes de Oca, Conference Coordinator

Docente, Escuela de Historia
Cátedra de Estudios de África y el Caribe
Universidad de Costa Rica
Email: achconference@gmail.com or
jose.fernandezmontesdeoca@ucr.ac.cr

AT LARGE MEMBERS:

Kaysha Corinealdi

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Dexnell Peters

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Fiona Rajkumar

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Email: rajkumarfiona@gmail.com

In Memoriam: Professor Emeritus Pedro L. V. Welch (1960-2024)

The Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH) records with deep regret the passing of Professor Emeritus Pedro Lancelot Virelle Welch, a longstanding member and former Secretary-Treasurer of the Association whose scholarship and service made a sustained contribution to Caribbean History and to the ACH. He passed away on 21 February 2025 at the age of 74.

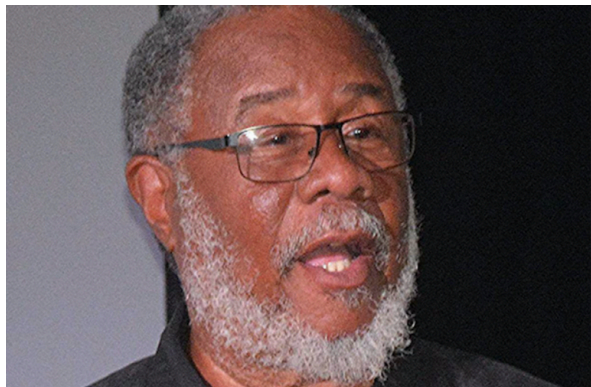


Image of Pedro L. V. Welch from
Barbados Today, 22 February 2025

Pedro Welch was born in Christ Church, Barbados, on 15 April 1950. He pursued his tertiary education at The University of the West Indies, earning a BA (Hons.), a Certificate in Educational Administration, and a PhD, and later completed an MSc in Development Studies at the University of Bath. His academic career was based primarily at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, where he served in both academic and senior administrative roles until his retirement in 2015. He was appointed Emeritus Professor in 2017.

Welch's scholarly work addressed a broad range of themes in Caribbean history, with particular emphasis on urban slavery, gender, medical history, migration, and Atlantic connections. He is best known for his studies of Bridgetown, Barbados, which redirected attention to the city as a central site within slave society. His books *Red and Black over White: Free Coloured Women in Pre-emancipation Barbados* (2000, with Richard Goodridge) and *Slave Society in the City: Bridgetown, Barbados, 1680–1834* (2003) examined the economic, social, and familial roles of enslaved and free populations in an urban context, contributing to wider Caribbean and Atlantic historiographical debates.

Welch's research was grounded in close archival investigation. His command of Barbadian historical records allowed him to reconstruct aspects of social life that are often difficult to access through colonial documentation. In later work, he applied similar approaches to the history of medicine and health, including mental health, situating Caribbean experiences within imperial and post-emancipation contexts. In recognition of his scholarship in this area, he was named The UWI's first Professor of Social and Medical History in 2010.

Pedro Welch maintained a long and active role in the ACH. He was a regular participant in conferences over many years and delivered papers reflecting both established and emerging areas of his scholarship. His commitment to the Association extended well beyond conference participation. Welch served for two terms as Secretary-Treasurer (2004-2010), contributing to the administrative stability and continuity of the ACH.

Welch's commitment to Caribbean history was also evident in his service to academic and cultural institutions beyond ACH. At UWI Cave Hill, he served as Assistant Registrar (Examinations), Deputy Dean, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, and Deputy Principal, while continuing to teach and supervise postgraduate research. He was closely associated with the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, later serving as Editor of its Journal and contributing to lectures and publications that advanced public engagement with history. His research played an important role in the successful UNESCO World Heritage inscription of Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison, supplying historical analysis that linked the urban landscape of Bridgetown to broader Atlantic patterns of trade, militarization, and enslavement.

At the time of his death, Welch had completed a manuscript on nineteenth-century medical history in Barbados, focused on epidemic disease, which is expected to be published posthumously. Pedro Welch's career exemplified sustained commitment to Caribbean historical scholarship and to the collective institutions that support it. His publications, his administrative service, and particularly his long-standing leadership within the ACH form an enduring part of the Association's institutional and intellectual history.

The Department of History, Philosophy and Psychology at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus continues to mourn his loss and extends condolences and support to his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Monica Welch, their two children Dr. Pedro André Welch and Gem Bonnett, and several siblings.

Dr. Tara Inniss, Lecturer, The University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados

Arrangements and Registration for the 57th Annual Meeting Kingston, Jamaica, May 24-29, 2026

Una traducción al español está disponible aquí: <https://associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/es/reunion-anual-2-2/>

Une traduction en français est disponible à l'adresse ici: <https://associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/fr/reunion-annuelle-2/>

The ACH Executive Committee is pleased to announce that the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association of Caribbean Historians will be held in Kingston, Jamaica from Sunday, May 24 to Thursday, May 28, 2026. 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, May 28. An optional field trip is scheduled for Friday, May 29.

CONFERENCE VENUE AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The conference will be held at the Jamaica Conference Centre, located in Downtown Kingston. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has secured a discounted ACH rate for participants at ROK Hotel Kingston, Tapestry Collection by Hilton, which adjoins the conference venue as well as a more budget-friendly option at the Four Seasons Hotel in New Kingston. In addition, special accommodation for graduate students is available at the Halls of Residence at the University of the West Indies Mona Campus. Participants staying at the ROK Hotel will benefit from being about five to seven minutes by foot away from the conference room. A covered footbridge connects the hotel and the conference venue. For those staying at the UWI Mona or New Kingston locations, daily transportation will be provided to and from the conference venue. Please note that such persons must inform the LOC ahead of the conference to facilitate these transportation arrangements. The opening ceremony and the closing fête will be held on The UWI Mona campus and transportation will be provided to and from the main accommodation locations. There are several other accommodation options located in the New Kingston area that will allow you to benefit from daily transportation from the Four Seasons Hotel in New Kingston. Note that if you choose to stay outside of these areas, you will need to arrange your own transportation to and from the conference venue.

Main Hotel - ROK Hotel Kingston, Tapestry Collection by Hilton (Downtown Kingston): Located in the downtown art district, this hotel overlooks the Kingston Waterfront and Harbor. The National Gallery of Jamaica, Institute of Jamaica and the National Library of Jamaica are all within walking distance, and our conference venue is right next door. The hotel has offered the ACH the special rates of US\$221.80/night (single) or US\$234/night (double). Rates are inclusive of all taxes and daily buffet breakfast for all registered guests. All guests, including children 6-12, must be registered at time of booking.

To book, visit this [LINK](#) or you may call the hotel's reservation team at +1876-619-7651 or at 1-800-HILTONS and let them know that you would like to be booked under The University of the West Indies group rate.

Secondary Hotel – The Four Seasons (New Kingston): This hotel, located in Kingston's business district, offers elegant rooms, personalized service, and a welcoming atmosphere. Ideal for both business and leisure travellers, it combines Caribbean charm with modern comfort. The hotel has offered the ACH the rates of US\$120/night (single) or \$130/night (double). Rates are inclusive of taxes and daily buffet breakfast for all registered guests. To book, call +1876-926-8805 or +1876-926-0682 or email reservations@hfsjm.com and asked to be booked under the University of the West Indies 2026 ACH Conference group rate.

Halls of Residence, The UWI Mona. Accommodation will be available at several halls of residence. Please note that this option is only for graduate students. Breakfast is not included but there will be available food options on campus. Single occupancy rates range from US\$35-45. The double occupancy rate is US\$50 per room. To book, email mona-lodgings.ossd@uwi.edu and cc shanickwiou.senior@uwi.edu and kevar.halstead@uwi.edu.

TRAVEL TO AND WITHIN JAMAICA

The conference venue and accommodation options will most conveniently be accessed via the Norman Manley Airport, which is about 20-30 mins away by car. Taxis and Uber are available at the airport. If arriving at the Montego Bay Airport it remains possible to book a reliable and comfortable passenger bus service like the Knutsford Express (www.knutsfordexpress.com), into New Kingston. Please note that this option is at least a 3-hour journey by road as that airport is in the western parish of St. James.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

If you are travelling to Jamaica from any of the Caribbean islands (except British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Haiti), Surinam and Guyana you do not need a visa. You also do not need a visa if you are visiting from the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Europe.

REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH

The LOC is planning to arrange with a caterer to provide daily lunch at the conference venue at an additional cost. Further details about this arrangement will be shared. There are also several outlets near the conference venue providing meals. More information on these outlets will be provided in the conference bags.

OPTIONAL FIELD TRIP

The LOC is making plans for an all-day field trip to Port Royal and Lime Cay on Friday May 29. Specific details will be shared at a later point.

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 last joined before June 1, 2025 will need to renew at or before this year's meeting; those who joined since the 2025 meeting have a valid membership until just after the conference in Jamaica. If you have questions about your membership status, please email Secretary-Treasurer Rebecca Goetz 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 2026 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, 2026.**

- **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-2/>. 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.

Annual General Meeting, Thursday, May 28, 2026

Please note that there will be a discussion and vote on the proposed Constitutional Amendments first introduced at the AGM in 2025 at this meeting. You can read the proposed amendments [here](#).

Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Travel Fund

The Gould-Saunders Fund helps students from the Caribbean and Central America attend the ACH conference. If you think you are eligible, please contact Secretary-Treasurer Rebecca Goetz as soon as possible at achsecretary@gmail.com.

ACH Conference Presentation Guidelines

A number of 2026 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, 2026).

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, 2026 to: José Fernández Montes de Oca, 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, 2026 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

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

A preliminary program for this year's meeting will be available shortly on our website.

Welcome to Our New and Renewed Members

The following people have joined—or rejoined—the ACH between June 2025 and January 1, 2026.
Affiliations are listed for all members who provided them upon joining or renewing.

LIFE MEMBERS

Adriana Chiara, Emory University
Rebecca Anne Goetz, New York University

MEMBERS

Lorena Walsh
Shavagne Scott, The Ohio State University
Viviana Quintero Márquez
Patrick Barker, Miami-Dade College and the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
David Wheat, Michigan State University
Ale Pålsson, Uppsala University
Gillian Downes-Alleyne, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill
Ramona Negron, KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies

STUDENT MEMBERS

Florian Weiser, University of Edinburgh
Kyra Daniel, Yale University
Faith Flavius, University of Miami
Jean-Michel Mutore, Cornell University
Hannah Katharina Hjorth
Sarah Brokenborough, Georgetown University
Lisa Prout
John Balz, University of Wisconsin—Madison
Taylor Charles
Ida Vos, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Louise Salaun, Sorbonne Université/CRM-Mondes Américain
Keith Richards, Tulane University

INSTITUTIONAL

None

BENEFACTORS

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.

For details, or to join/renew, see <http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/membership.htm>

If you have questions about membership, please do not hesitate to contact Secretary-Treasurer Rebecca Goetz achsecretary@gmail.com

Association of Caribbean Historians

<http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org>

President: Carla Pestana, UCLA

Vice-President: Javier Alemán Iglesias, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras

Secretary-Treasurer: Rebecca Goetz, New York University

Conference Coordinator: José A. Fernández Montes de Oca, Universidad de Costa Rica

