



UN

EXPECTED

CARIBBEAN
SYMPOSIUM

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE, KS

OCTOBER 18-20, 2018

THE UNEXPECTED CARIBBEAN SYMPOSIUM

Association of Caribbean
Women Writers & Scholars (ACWWS)
KU Institute of Haitian Studies
KU Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
October 18-20, 2018
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

#UnexpectedCaribbean



To view our website, scan with a smartphone.



ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The Unexpected Caribbean Symposium celebrates the surprising interplay between Caribbean cultures and people and the rest of the world. Far from being exotic and isolated islands suitable only as tourist destinations or the site of natural disasters, epidemiological crises, and charity work, Caribbean societies have long been integral to U.S. history, economies, and cultural production. The symposium will offer Kansans the opportunity to explore the Caribbean through a variety of lenses, including through the eyes of Lawrence's acclaimed native son, Langston Hughes.

Through keynote lectures, panel presentations, an art exhibition, film screenings, and literature readings, the symposium will provide spaces for vibrant and complex dialogues about a diverse array of Caribbean communities—including those grounded in the Midwest. Formal and informal discussions will foster a deeper comprehension of how the Caribbean connects to Kansas and Kansans, the larger United States, and various global communities.

The Unexpected Caribbean Symposium began with a conversation between representatives from the Association of Caribbean Writers & Scholars and KU's Institute of Haitian Studies. Additional partners are KU's Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (CLACS), and Departments of English and African & African American Studies. The event takes place in conjunction with "The Ties that Bind: Haiti, the United States, and the Art of Ulrick Jean-Pierre in Comparative Perspective," an art exhibition running at the Spencer Museum of Art from September 8, 2018 to January 7, 2019, and the culmination of a multi-year project supported by the Spencer's Integrated Arts Research Initiative.

Special Thanks:

Christina Allman, Santa Arias, Bay Leaf Indian Restaurant, Casey Mesick Braun, Danny Caine and the Raven Bookstore, Amy Duke, Lisa Eitner, Whitney Fox, Maryemma Graham, G's Jamaican Cuisine, Ayesha Hardison, Michelle Heffner Hayes, Matt Jacobson, Joey Orr, Betsaida Reyes, Murl Riedel, Tina Roberts, Kristin Soper and the Lawrence Public Library, Brenda Wawire, Jennifer Wilmot

The UNEXPECTED CARIBBEAN SYMPOSIUM logo was designed by Anastasia Popova.

Symposium Program Committee:

Chairs:

Cécile Accilien
Giselle Anatol

Committee Members:

Marta Caminero-Santangelo
Rachel Denney
Joo Ok Kim
Aron Muci
Nicholas Natchoo
Brian Rosenblum
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A MESSAGE FROM ACWWS

Greetings! The members of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers & Scholars executive committee enthusiastically welcome you to our collaborative effort with KU's Institute of Haitian Studies and Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies. We appreciate your willingness to travel from near and far to participate in this weekend's important conversations.

Founded in 1994 to continue the momentum sparked by the 1988 Caribbean Women Writers conference organized by Prof. Selwyn Cudjoe (then of Wellesley College), the Association sought to advance creative writing and literary critical work by and about Caribbean women. ACWWS still celebrates and circulates women's literature and orature, but has expanded to encourage multidisciplinary research by or about women, gender, sexuality in the circum-Caribbean; to provide a forum for critical examinations of this body of work; to increase awareness of the Caribbean and its diasporas among the general public; to foster a climate of cooperation among all linguistic and cultural groups in global Caribbean communities.

This symposium marks the first time that an ACWWS gathering will take place in the Midwest, and we're excited to explore all that Lawrence, Kansas, has to offer as our host city. The Association expresses enthusiastic gratitude to all the sponsors and to the members of the University of Kansas organizing committee, who have contributed tremendous efforts into guiding the symposium's intellectual direction and facilitating the arrangements. As you attend the panels, keynote lectures, and other events, we do hope you'll feel affably welcomed by the community and tempted to become involved in the Association's future activities.

The ACWWS Executive Committee

Giselle Liza Anatol, President
University of Kansas

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Vicky Silvera, Archivist, Permanent Collections
Florida International University

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BYENVINI

Dear Symposium Participants:

On behalf of the Program Committee, it is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to the “Unexpected Caribbean” Symposium, 2018, hosted by the Institute of Haitian Studies, the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, and the Department of African & African American Studies and the Department of English at the University of Kansas. We thank the ACWWS Executive Committee for working with us to develop the conference theme and pursue this collaborative intellectual and cultural endeavor.

The theme highlights the need to depart from stereotypical understandings of the Caribbean (as well as other parts of the world) that are consistently represented in flat, simplistic, uncomplicated ways. It underscores the necessity of coming together to refine and redefine our understanding of questions of Caribbean citizenship and agency, but also American citizenship and identity. We are glad to see that this theme has resonated with many people across the university, the region, the United States, and abroad. We hope to increase the number of paper and panel proposals for future incarnations of the topic.

The symposium kicks off on Thursday evening with our first keynote address and a reception, to which all are welcome. The symposium will officially end at 6pm on Saturday; however, there are many activities and events here in Lawrence for those not required to leave early Sunday morning, including a “marathon” reading of Caribbean children’s literature, featuring Popo and Fifina: Children of Haiti, a novel by Langston Hughes and Arna Bontemps first published in 1932. We would like to express gratitude to the members of the Program Committee who have worked so hard to organize the events, and our many co-sponsors. Budget cuts meant that many units were not able to contribute as much as they would have liked, but we came together as a community to pull all the pieces together. This symposium demonstrates the vital need for public funding in support of the humanities. We are especially grateful to Humanities Kansas for their generous contribution, and to the U.S. Department of Education for a Title VI National Resource Center grant.

Thank you for joining us for what we hope will be a set of lively and productive dialogues, new and exciting perspectives, and the unexpected connections that arise during gatherings like these. We look forward to speaking with each of you during the next few days.

Cécile Accilien

Program Committee Chair
Associate Professor and Director of the Institute of Haitian Studies
Interim Chair, Department of African & American Studies
Associate Director, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies
University of Kansas

Giselle Anatol

Program Committee Chair
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Department of English
University of Kansas
President, Association of Caribbean Women Writers & Scholars

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Parking:

University of Kansas Memorial Union
1301 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045

Symposium Parking: Off-street parking is available at the parking garage to the north of the Kansas Memorial Union. Entrance to the garage is accessible from both Mississippi Street and Jayhawk Boulevard. Garage parking is self-pay at a rate of \$1.75 for the first hour, and \$1.50 for each subsequent hour. For more information on parking, please visit the KU Parking website at <https://parking.ku.edu/parking-garages>.

On Saturday, people with cars should be able to park for free in most campus parking lots (excluding the parking garages).

FEATURED EVENTS

FILM SCREENINGS, CHILDREN'S BOOK READINGS, DISPLAYS, DISCUSSIONS, and SEMINARS

Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 4:00-6:00 pm
Burge Union, Forum A

Film Screening: *The Agronomist*, Directed by Jonathan Demme

Followed by panel discussion with:
Assoc. Prof. Cécile Accilien, Dept. of African & African-American Studies
Prof. Giselle Anatol, Dept. of English
Prof. Tamara Falicov, Dept. of Film & Media Studies

Friday, October 19, 2018, 5:30-7:45 pm
Lawrence Public Library

Film Screening: *Murder in Pacot*, Directed by Raoul Peck

Followed by panel discussion with:
Apricot Irving, author & Rachel Denney,
Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Saturday, October 20, 2018, 1:00-4:00 pm
Spencer Museum of Art, Simons Gallery

"The Art Cart: Haitian History and Migration"

A drop-in activity station where children and adults enjoy hands-on art projects together. Learn about Haitian history and migration and create a washi tape collage! The KU Natural History Museum will also be present with biological specimens.

Saturday, October 20, 2018, 7:30-9:00 pm
The Bay Leaf Indian Restaurant and Bar
947 New Hampshire Street

Come join faculty members, students, symposium participants, and attendees for food, drinks, and conversation. Tickets must be purchased in advance (by 5:00 pm on Friday, 10/19): \$25 for faculty, \$10 for students.

Sunday, October 21, 2018

Marathon Reading: Caribbean Children's Books

Popo & Fifina: Children of Haiti by Langston Hughes & Arna Bontemps
Watkins History Museum, 1047
Massachusetts St. @ 1:00- 4:00 pm

Selected Caribbean Children's Literature
Raven Bookstore, 6 East 7th St.
@ 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Please contact Mikaela Warner if you are interested in volunteering to read! (mwarner@ku.edu)

Monday, October 22, 2018, 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Hall Center of the Humanities, 900 Sunnyside Ave.

Colonialism Seminar: Yomaira Figueroa
"The Other & the One: Afro-Latinx Spirituality and Worlds/Otherwise" (Seminar Room 1)

Watson Library, 5th Floor, 1425 Jayhawk Boulevard

Browse the display cases of select Caribbean materials from the KU Libraries

Biodiversity Institute & Natural History Museum

Be sure to visit the display case on the 6th floor, near the Bee Tree, featuring specimens collected in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and other spots around the world.

Spencer Museum of Art, Auditorium**Welcome & Opening Remarks – 5:30–5:45 pm**

Giselle Anatol, University of Kansas Professor of English
 Clarence Lang, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Keynote 1: Ulrick Jean-Pierre – 5:45–6:30 pm

“Krik? Krak! A Conversation with Ulrick Jean-Pierre”

Introduction: Joey Orr, Andrew W. Mellon Curator for Research, Spencer Museum of Art

Facilitators:

Randal Jelks, University of Kansas Professor of American Studies and African & African American Studies

Cassandra Mesick Braun, University of Kansas Curator of Global & Indigenous Art



Ulrick Jean-Pierre was born in Rouseaux, Haiti, in 1955, and has resided in New Orleans since 1997. He is fascinated by the deep connections between the two locations and claims that living in New Orleans has made him feel as if he never left Haiti. Jean-Pierre received his foundational training at the Foyer des Arts Plastiques in Port-au-Prince, where he was influenced by master artists such as Louverture Poisson, Rosemarie Desruisseaux, René and Lavorancy Exumé, Enguerrand Gourgue, and Archibald Lochard. After graduating, he was invited to the United States by the Haitian

Cultural Society and Drexel University in Philadelphia, where his work appeared in a solo exhibition. He continued his training at the University of the Arts (formerly the Philadelphia College of Arts), where he began exploring archives as sources of artistic inspiration. Although his large-format paintings tackle diverse subject matter, all are united by a similar aesthetic and an emphasis on historical figures and events, from Christopher Columbus to Toussaint L'Ouverture, one of the leaders of the Haitian Revolution, to jazz great Louis Armstrong to former U.S. president Jimmy Carter. Jean-Pierre's "Louisiana Historical Series" focuses on prominent Haitian people connected to New Orleans, such as Marie Laveau, Henriette DeLille, James Audubon, and Jean-Baptiste Pointe du Sable.

Special Recognition Ceremony – 6:30–6:50 pm

Opening remarks: Cécile Accilien, University of Kansas Associate Professor of African & African American Studies; Director of the Institute of Haitian Studies; Associate Director of CLACS

Introduction: Jewel C. Laguerre, Chancellor of Peralta Community College District

Honorees: Dr. Bryant C. Freeman, Dr. & Mrs. Peter Rowland, Mr. Serge Danielson François

Spencer Museum of Art, Central Court**Special Performance: “Vini Pi Pre/Come Closer” (a work in progress)**

University Dance Company

Directed by Prof. Michelle Heffner Hayes, Department of Dance

Refreshments will be served. Free and open to the public.

Spencer Museum of Art, Central Court

Additional copies will be available for purchase in the Jayhawk Ink bookstore in the Kansas Memorial Union.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018

DAY 2

Kansas Memorial Union, Malott Room (6th floor)

Registration & Continental Breakfast – 8:30–9:00 am

Welcome & Opening Remarks – 9:00–9:05 am

Cécile Accilien, University of Kansas Associate Professor of African & African American Studies; Director of the Institute of Haitian Studies; Associate Director of CLACS

Keynote 2: Krista Thompson – 9:05–9:45 am

“Photography and Practices of Fugitivity in the Caribbean”

Introduction: David Cateforis, University of Kansas Chair of Art History



Krista Thompson is the Mary Jane Crowe Professor in Art History at Northwestern University. She researches and teaches the modern and contemporary art and visual culture of the Africa diaspora, with an emphasis on photography. She is the author of *An Eye for the Tropics* (Duke University Press, 2006), *Developing Blackness* (The National Art Gallery of the Bahamas, 2008), and *Shine: The Visual Economy of Light in African Diasporic Aesthetic Practice* (Duke University Press, 2015), for which she earned the Charles Rufus Morey Award for distinguished book in the history of art from the College Art Association (2016). Thompson is the co-editor (with Claire Tancons) of *En Mas': Carnival and Performance Art of the Caribbean* (D.A.P., 2015) and her articles have appeared in *American Art*, *Art Bulletin*, *Art Journal*, *Representations*, *The Drama Review*, and *Small Axe*. She has received grants and fellowships from the Andy Warhol Foundation, the J. Paul Getty Foundation, and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and was awarded the David C. Driskell Prize from the High Museum of Art in 2009.

Rethinking Identities: 'Caribbean'? 'Afro-Latin@'? 'Latinx'?

Chair: Yomaira Figueroa (Michigan State University)

José I. Fusté (UC San Diego), "Neither 'Afro' nor 'Latino': Early 20th Century Cuban Racial Subaltern Entanglements with Discourses of Race, Nation, and Black Diasporicity"

Dawn Duke (University of Tennessee), "Poetry As Performance and Vindication: Presenting La Almanegra, María Teresa Ramírez"

Omaris Zamora (U. of Kansas), "Cigüapa Unbound: AfroLatina Feminist Fugitivities"

Music, Dance, and Resistance

Chair: Rachel Denney (University of Kansas)

Omar Ruiz Vega (Center for Puerto Rican Studies/Hunter College), "James Reese Europe and early

Puerto Rico-New York musical relations (1898-1919)"

Alessandra Jacobo (U. of Kansas), "Celia Cruz: Queen of Salsa, Queen of Afro-Latinidad"

Juan Rodríguez Cepero (Louisiana State University), "Silvio Rodríguez, Roy Brown, and Nueva Trova"

Michelle Heffner-Hayes (U. of Kansas), "Lo que queda/That which remains: Dancing Bodies, Historical Erasure, and Cultural Transmission"

LUNCH BUFFET – 1:00-1:45 pm

Place, Space, Protest, and Poetics

Chair: Omaris Zamora (University of Kansas)

Jessica Adams & Evelyn Dean-Olmsted (University of Puerto Rico), "Dispatches from the Edge of Empire"

Patrick Klingner (U. of Kansas), "Manufacturing the Unexpected: Scotland, Panama, and the Union of 1707"

Ande Davis (U. of Missouri-Kansas City), "Detection and the Communist Subject in Padura's Havana Quartet"

Dahlia Nduom (Howard University), "Complexity and Diversity of Housing in Jamaica: Perception vs Reality"

Embodied Knowledge, Decolonizing Knowledge

Chair: Gibette Encarnacion (University of Kansas)

Beaudelaine Pierre (U. of Minnesota), "Rethinking Inter/disciplinarity through Bodily Ecologies"

Michelle V. Rowley (U. of Maryland), "Exploring the Queer Im/possibilities of Respectability Narratives"

Jacqueline Retalis (Boston University), "Fuku vs. Zafa: The Legacies of the Plantation System in Junot Díaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*"

Bus leaves for the Lawrence Public Library – 5:00 pm

Murder in Pacot, Directed by Raoul Peck

Q&A Panel Discussion – 7:45-8:15 pm

Apricot Irving, author of *The Gospel of Trees*

Rachel Denney, U. of Kansas PhD candidate in Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

DINNER on your own – 8:30 pm

Kansas Memorial Union, Malott Room (6th floor)

Registration & Continental Breakfast – 8:30–9:00 am

Keynote 3: Apricot Irving – 9:05–9:45 am

“A Shift in Perspective: On Keeping Our Hearts Open,” with readings from *The Gospel of Trees*
 Introduction: Joseph Harrington, University of Kansas Professor of English



Apricot Anderson Irving is the recipient of a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award and an Oregon Literary Arts Fellowship, and has served on the Advisory Committee of the Oregon Book Awards. Her work has appeared in *Granta*, *MORE Magazine*, *Oregon Humanities* and the anthology *Best Women's Travel Writing*. She has lived in Haiti, Indonesia, and the UK. Her missionary parents moved to Haiti when she was six years old; she left at the age of fifteen. She returned to the north of Haiti in the spring of 2010 to cover the earthquake for the radio program *This American*

Life. She is the founder and director of the renowned oral history project, *Boise Voices*, a collaboration between youth and elders to record the stories of a neighborhood in the midst of gentrification. She has also dug trees in the rain, painted curbs, waited tables, taught in MFA programs and as a visiting writer in high schools, and lugged a microphone across three continents to record the stories of heroic, ordinary people. *The Gospel of Trees* is her first book.

Education and “Assistance”

Chair: Alessandra Jacobo (University of Kansas)

Rachel Denney (U. of Kansas), “INGOs and the Jamaican State: Education in the Postcolonial Context”

Irica R. Dunkley (Independent Scholar), “Jamaican Creole Perceptions and Academic Performance of Preadolescents in Chicago, Fort Lauderdale and New York City”

Jeanne M. Essame (U. of Wisconsin), “A Different Kind of Black: Haitians in the Congo”

Valerie Kaussen (U. of Missouri-Columbia), “‘Passing Through the Orphan Portal’: Technology and Orphan Care in U.S. Faith-Based Organizations”

“Pedagogical Reflections: Critical Digital Scholarship in Haitian Studies”

Introduction: Brian Rosenblum, University of Kansas Libraries, Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities



Crystal A. Felima is the 2017-2019 CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow in Caribbean Studies Data Curation for the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida. Her work explores the emerging trends and best practices in digital humanities and critical pedagogies in Caribbean Studies. Felima’s interdisciplinary background draws from Africana studies and cultural anthropology. Her primary research areas of interest include environmental hazards, development, and governance in Haiti. For her doctoral research, she spent a cumulative 27 months in Haiti to conduct

her fieldwork. Her dissertation focuses on disaster narratives from river communities in northern Haiti.

“The Tried and the New in My Search for Annie Drew, Mother and Muse of Jamaica Kincaid”

Introduction: Giselle Anatol, University of Kansas Professor of English



Daryl Cumber Dance is a renowned folklorist and a professor emerita of English, University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University. In 2013, she served as the Sterling A. Brown Chair of English at Howard University. Dance has also served as the advisory editor of the Black American Literary Forum and editorial advisor of *The Journal of West Indian Literature*. Dance has published ten books, including *Folklore from Contemporary Jamaicans* (1985), *New World Adams: Conversations with Contemporary West Indian Writers* (1992), *Honey Hush! An*

Anthology of African American Women’s Humor (1998), *From My People: 400 Years of African American Folklore* (2002), and *In Search of Annie Drew: Jamaica Kincaid’s Mother and Muse* (2016).

LUNCH BUFFET – 1:15-2:00 pm

Memory and Monuments

Chair: Aundrea Davis (University of Kansas)

Odile Ferly (Clark University), "May '67, or the Genesis of a Militant Memory in Guadeloupe"

Hadley Galbraith (U. of Iowa), "Tracking the Body, Re-Tracing Memory: Archive and/or Repertoire Across Works by Fabienne Kanor"

Giselle Liza Anatol (U. of Kansas), "Queering Time: The Clock Tower in Marcia Douglas' The Marvellous Equations of the Dread"

Religion, Spirituality, and Culture in Caribbean Spaces

Chair: Christopher Peace (University of Kansas)

D.A. Dunkley (University of Missouri-Columbia), "Rastafari and the World: Race and Spirituality"

N. André Siamundele (University of Maine-Farmington), "Caribbean Discourse and African Identity"

Alexis Tate (Fort Hays State University), "Colonialism: A Catalyst for the Hybridity of Cultural Identities of the Caribbean and Africa"

"Create Dangerously"

Facilitator: Cécile Accilien, University of Kansas Associate Professor of African & African American Studies; Director of the Institute of Haitian Studies; Associate Director of CLACS

Poetry: **Jasmin Singletary**, Florida International University

Gregory Crichlow, KU Langston Hughes Visiting Professor of Architecture

Richard Glor, Herpetology Curator, KU Biodiversity Institute

Apricot Irving, Author

Ulrick Jean-Pierre, Visual Artist

Donna Aza Weir-Soley, Professor of English, Florida International University

Bay Leaf Indian Restaurant

947 New Hampshire St.

NOTES

