The Asian Experience in the Caribbean and the Guyanas

Labor and Migration, Literature and Culture
November 1-3, 2007

A Caribbean Literary Studies Conference
University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida
THE ASIAN EXPERIENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE GUYANAS

LABOR AND MIGRATION, LITERATURE AND CULTURE

A CARIBBEAN LITERARY STUDIES CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 3, 2007

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Director, Caribbean Literary Studies, University of Miami

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Caribbean Literary Studies
Department of English, University of Miami
P.O. Box 248145 Coral Gables, Florida 33124-4632
caribbeanlit.english@miami.edu or http://cls.miami.edu/general/html

The Asian Experience in the Caribbean and the Guyanas 1
November 1, 2007

Dear Conference Participants:

I am pleased, as President of the only North American University, to boast membership in the University of the West Indies Consortium to have the opportunity to send greetings and to welcome you to the University of Miami.

It is fitting, indeed, that we host this year's conference *The Asian Experience in the Caribbean and the Guyanas: Labor and Migration, Literature and Culture.* Participants have been asked to engage in a cross-cultural dialogue that envisions not only the reconfiguration of a Trans-Atlantic geographic and historic paradigm of slavery and colonization to include the coerced migration of South Asians and East Asians to the Americas, but also the exploration of the roles of and contributions of Asian communities during colonial, post-independence, and contemporary Caribbean society. Our University is committed to “playing a leading role especially in those fields of knowledge related to its unique setting—such as locations in the sub-tropics, proximity to the ocean and the Caribbean Sea and to other nations and peoples.”

As you convene your activities at UM, please accept my best wishes for a wonderful and engaging conference.

Sincerely,

Donna E. Shalala

Office of the President
PO. Box 248006
Coral Gables, Florida 33124-4600
305-284-5155
Fax: 305-284-3768
October 31st, 2007

Dear Conference Participants, Colleagues, and Friends:

Welcome to The Asian Experience in the Caribbean and the Guyanas: Labor and Migration, Literature and Culture, a conference sponsored by Caribbean Literary Studies at the University of Miami with the active support of the Department of English and the Creative Writing Program, the Center for Latin American Studies, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

A developing interest in the field of Asian Studies everywhere around us prompted the desire in part to explore links with Caribbean Studies, which has long celebrated the contributions of Asian immigrants to the development of Caribbean societies. The recent celebration of the 200th anniversary of Chinese arrival in Trinidad prompted further interest. There was also the desire to seek the cross-fertilization of ideas across various disciplines in East Asian and South Asian discourses in the Caribbean and Guyanas and the Greater Americas, stimulated as these discourses are by continuing patterns of migration within and beyond the Caribbean to myriad destinations in the Americas, Asia, and Europe. We plan to publish a special issue of Anthurium: a Caribbean Studies Journal to mark this event and are soliciting submissions from all those who participate.

The work of Caribbean Literary Studies has been sustained in partnership with my colleague Dr. Patricia Joan Saunders and a pool of amazing graduate students who work tirelessly to support our efforts. Certainly, I want to recognize and thank our conference coordinators, Nadia Johnson and Lara Cahill, who have managed all aspects of this conference, nothing less than a monumental task for two outstanding graduate students who are also working on their dissertations. With the active support of Sheri-Marie Harrison, who coordinated our 2005 conference on Calypso and the Caribbean Literary Imagination, they are responsible for the planning and execution of this conference, and I wish to express my deepest appreciation for all their efforts on behalf of Caribbean Literary Studies.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you for responding to our conference call, for recognizing the value and importance of the work that we do as Caribbean artists and scholars both at home in the Caribbean and abroad. It is a pleasure to have you in attendance.

Cordially,

Sandra Pouchet Paquet
Professor of English and Conference Chair
spaquet@miami.edu
Screening and panel discussion
with filmmaker
Cheuk Kwan

College of Arts and Sciences
Gallery
1210 Stanford Drive

Wednesday, October 31st at
7:30-9:30 pm
Refreshments will be served
THE ASIAN EXPERIENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE GUYANAS
LABOR AND MIGRATION, LITERATURE AND CULTURE

NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 3, 2007

WEDNESDAY, 10/31

7:30pm -- 9:30pm  PRE-CONFERENCE FILM AND DISCUSSION  CAS GALLERY
Cheuk C. Kwan’s *Chinese Restaurants: On the Islands*
Panel Discussion: Walter K. Lew, Marsha Pearce, and Cheuk C. Kwan
Moderator: Patricia J. Saunders

THURSDAY, 11/1

8:30am – 9:00am  REGISTRATION  UC, 2ND FLOOR
Continental Breakfast

9:00am -- 9:15am  WELCOME REMARKS  FLAMINGO A/B
Dr. Daniel L. Pals, Senior Associate Dean of College of Arts & Sciences,
Professor of History and Religious Studies, University of Miami
Dr. Mihoko Suzuki, Graduate Director of English Department,
Professor of English, University of Miami
Dr. Sandra Pouchet Paquet, Director of Caribbean Literary Studies,
Professor of English, University of Miami

9:15am -- 10:15am  PLENARY LECTURE  FLAMINGO A/B
SESSION 1  Dr. Walton Look Lai, History, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
Images of the Chinese in West Indian History

10:25am – 12:05pm  CONCURRENT SESSIONS #2 & #3
SESSION 2  THE POLITICS OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY  FLAMINGO A/B
Moderator: Dr. Andrea Shaw, Humanities, NOVA Southeastern University
Ms. Sangita Chari, Anthropology, University of Florida
The Impact of Interracial Marriages between Indo-Trinidadian Women and Afro-Trinidadian Men on Gender and Identity in the Indo-Trinidadian Community
Ms. Savena Budhu, English, Broward Community College
“You can drop yuh stinking mangoes all over now”: Racial Segregation, Sexual Awakening, and Co-opt Communism in Oonya Kempadoo’s *Buxton Spice*
Ms. Sheri-Marie Harrison, Graduate Student, English, University of Miami
“Yes, ma’am, Mr. Lowe”: Lau A-Yin and the Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Patricia Powell’s *The Pagoda*
Ms. Rhonda Harrison, English & Modern Languages, Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica
Petticoat Government: Recreating India on Feminine Terms

SESSION 3  METAPHORS OF BECOMING  FLAMINGO C/D
Moderator: Ms. Nadia Johnson, Graduate Student, English, University of Miami
Dr. Louis Regis, English, UWI, St. Augustine
Metaphors of Becoming in Joy Mahabir’s *Jouvert*

Ms. Kai Abi Barratt, Graduate Student, Philosophy, UWI, Mona
“I found my East Indian beauty”: Locating the Indo Trinidadian Woman in Trinidadian Soca Music

Ms. Tanita Muneshwar, Graduate Student, Interdisciplinary Studies, York University
So You Want to be a Coolie Woman? : The Negotiation of “Cooliehood” in Janice Shinebourne’s *The Last English Plantation*

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<td>12:05pm – 1:00pm</td>
<td>Luncheon</td>
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<td>Plenary – Readings &amp; Book Signing</td>
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SESSION 4
Dr. Rajandaye Ramkissoon-Chen
Dr. Joy Mahabir

SESSION 5
**Race, Difference, and the Limits of Hybridity**
Moderator: Dr. Harvey Neptune, History, Temple University

Dr. Atreyee Phukan, English, University of San Diego
More than Cane: The Paradox of Hybridity in Clem Maharaj’s *The Disposessed*

Dr. Donette A. Francis, English, Binghamton University
Beyond Economic Citizenship: The Shop as Space of Cultural Creolization

Dr. Jennifer Rahim, English, UWI, St. Augustine
Travesaou or “Half-Doogla,” Three Into One Can’t Go: Race Difference and the Limits of Hybridity

Dr. Patricia J. Saunders, English, University of Miami
Nationalist Terrains and Ethnic Currency: Gender and Identity Politics in Alfred Mendes' "Her Chinaman's Way"

SESSION 6
**Indo-Caribbean Intellectual Traditions**
Moderator: Dr. Tim Watson, English, University of Miami

Dr. Ashmita Khasnabish, Women’s Studies, Brandeis University
The Theme of Globalization: Jamaica Kincaid through Indian Philosophy

Dr. Paget Henry, Africana Studies, Brown University
Philosophical Foundations of the Indo-Caribbean Intellectual Tradition

Dr. Joy Mahabir, English, SUNY Suffolk
Poetics of Survival: Adesh Samaroo, Mahadai Das

SESSION 7
**Foods: A Poetics of Relation**
Moderator: Dr. David Luis-Brown, English, University of Miami

Dr. Yvette Fuentes, Modern Languages and Literatures, Grand Valley State University
The Three Origins: The Cuban Ajiaco and Chinese Cuban Voices in the Narrative of Mayra Montero and Daina Chaviano

Dr. Winnie Chan, English, Virginia Commonwealth University
Transcultural Curry and Transgression in Shani Mootoo’s *Cereus Blooms at Night* and David Dabydeen’s *The Counting House*

**Ms. Marsha Pearce, Graduate Student, Cultural Studies, UWI, St. Augustine**

Sequins & Ginger: Playing Mas Behind Chinese Kitchen Doors in the Caribbean

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**5:30pm – 7:00pm**

**DINNER BREAK**

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**7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**PLENARY – EXHIBITION & READING**

**CAS GALLERY**

**SESSION 8**

**AN EVENING WITH WILLI CHEN—A VISUAL KEYNOTE**

Reception to follow reading

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**FRIDAY, 11/2**

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**8:30am – 9:00am**

**REGISTRATION**

Continental Breakfast

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**9:00am – 10:00am**

**PLENARY LECTURE**

**FLAMINGO A/B**

**SESSION 9**

Dr. Brinda Mehta, French and Francophone Studies, Mills College

Subversive Creolizations and Dougla Liminality: Framing Indo-Caribbeaness in French Caribbean Literature

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**10:10am – 11:50am**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS #10 & #11**

**SESSION 10**

**HYBRIDITY AND DISCOURSES OF MIXED RACE**

Moderator: Dr. Brenna Munro, English, University of Miami

**Ms. Ann Marie Alfonso-Forero, Graduate Student, English, Univ. of Miami**

“A Whole New Race”: Chinese Cubans and Hybrid Identities in Cristina García’s *Monkey Hunting*

**Dr. Monica Ayala-Martinez, Modern Languages, Denison University**

Migración en un instante eterno: la representacion de lo chino en *La eternidad del instante* de Zoé Valdés/ Migration in an everlasting instant: The representation of the Chinese in *La eternidad del instante* by Zoé Valdés

**Dr. Maria de Jesus Cordero, Languages, Philosophy, and Speech Communication, Utah State University**

El esclavo chino y la mujer: la liberacion al nivel del cuerpo y de la escritura en *La eternidad del instante* de Zoe Valdes/ The Chinese slave and the Woman: Liberation at the level of the body and the text in Zoe Valdes’s *La eternidad del instante*

**Ms. Evelyn J. Boria-Rivera, Graduate Student, Institute of Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame**

Yemayá Meets Buddha: Transcultural Religion in Cristina García’s *Monkey Hunting*

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**SESSION 11**

**LITERATURE, ART, AND CULTURAL PRACTICE**

Moderator: Dr. Faith Smith, English, Brandeis University

**Dr. Roslin Khan, Communications & Language Arts, SUNY Suffolk**

Perpetuating Perceptions of Self-hood in Caribbean Nationalism: A Cross-Cultural Reading of Plays by Mustapha Matura

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*The Asian Experience in the Caribbean and the Guyanas*
Dr. Rohini Bannerjee, Modern Languages & Classics, St. Mary’s University
The “Kala Pani” Connection: Francophone Migration Narratives in the Indo-Caribbean Writing of Raphaël Confiant and in the Indo-Mauritian writing of Ananda Devi

Dr. Anjali Nerlekar, English, Ithaca College
“Properize it in your best English”: David Dabydeen’s Poetry

11:50am -- 12:50pm  LUNCHEON  FLAMINGO A/B

1:00pm -- 2:15pm  PLENARY -- READINGS & BOOK SIGNING  FLAMINGO A/B

SESSION 12
Cyril Dabydeen
Dr. Jennifer Rahim

2:25pm -- 4:05pm  CONCURRENT SESSIONS #13 & #14

SESSION 13  CREOLIZED AND DIASPORIC ASIAN CARIBBEAN IDENTITIES  FLAMINGO A/B
Moderator: Dr. Supriya Nair, English, Tulane University

Dr. Timothy Chin, English, California State University
The Shop as Matrix and Metaphor in Chinese Jamaican Literature and Culture

Dr. Gautam Premnath, English, University of California, Berkeley
Behind the Humming Bird: Sam Selvon’s Diasporic Romance

Dr. Supriya Nair, English, Tulane University
Rhizomatic Ethnicities: Figurations of India in Zadie Smith and Andrea Levy

Mr. Cyril Dabydeen, English, University of Ottawa
Enigma of Departure: A Literary Response

SESSION 14  DIASPORIC CONSCIOUSNESS AND IDENTITY  FLAMINGO C/D
Moderator: Ms. Sheri-Marie Harrison, Graduate Student, English, University of Miami

Dr. Andil Gosine, Sociology, York University
Imagining the Indo-Caribbean in Canada: ‘Race,’ Gender, Class, Sexuality

Ms. Rehanna Siew, Graduate Student, Sociology, York University
Reconstructing Agency: The Immigration and Settlement Story of Working Class Indo-Trinidadian Women

Ms. Karen Naidoo, Graduate Student, Environmental Studies, York University
The Journey of Guyana’s Politics to Toronto

Ms. Omme-Salma Rahemtullah, Graduate Student, Immigration and Settlement Studies, Ryerson University
Interrogating Indianness: Diasporic Consciousness and Identity Amongst Twice Migrants

6:00pm -- 8:30pm  PLENARY – READINGS & BOOK SIGNING  CAS GALLERY

SESSION 15
Lelawattie Manoo-Rahming
Jan Lowe Shinebourne
Reception prior to readings

SATURDAY, 11/3

SESSION 15

9:00am -- 9:30am  REGISTRATION  UC, 2ND FLOOR
Continental Breakfast
CONCURRENT SESSIONS #16 & #17

SESSION 16  B INDI: THE MULTIFACETED LIVES OF INDO-CARIBBEAN WOMEN  FLAMINGO A/B
Moderator: Dr. Rosanne Kanhai, English and Women’s Studies, Western Washington University

Dr. Sherry Ann Singh, History, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
Women in the Ramayana Tradition
Ms. Brenda Gopeesingh, Retired President, Hindu Women’s Organization
(Trinidad & Tobago)
Identity, Activism and Spirituality in the Art of Bernadette Persaud

10 min. Break

Dr. Shaheeda Hosein, History, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
Unlikely Matriarchs: Indo-Trinidadian Women in the Domestic Sphere
Dr. Halima-Sa’adia Kassim, Deputy Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, Gender Affairs, CARICOM Secretariat, Guyana
Rings, Gifts and Shekels: Marriage and Dowry within the Indo-Muslim Community in Trinidad

SESSION 17  M IGRATION AND DIASPORAS  FLAMINGO C/D
Moderator: Ms. Lara Cahill, Graduate Student, English, University of Miami

Dr. Sean Metzger, English and Theater Studies, Duke University
The Cuba Commission Report and the Unsettling Chinese
Dr. Anne-Marie Lee-Loy, English, Ryerson University
Inscribing Middle Men and Aliens: A 19th century legacy in 20th century literature
Dr. St. John Robinson, Modern Languages and Literatures, Montana State University, Billings
Assimilation and Continuity: Asian Groups in Belize

10 min. Break

Dr. León Chang Shik, International and Second Language Studies, University of Arkansas, Little Rock
Las hazañas de los culíes chinos a través de la perspectiva martiana / The achievements of the Chinese Culies through the Vision of Martí
Dr. Veronique Helenon, History and ANWS, Florida International University
Guadeloupean Indians and the Colonial Administration in Africa

11:40am –12:30pm  CLOSING BOOK SIGNING – MULTIPLE AUTHORS  FLAMINGO A/B
Refreshments
PARTICIPANT PROFILES

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & GUESTS

Willi Chen is a former refinery operator, a reputable baker, and the founder of several companies. He currently manages Printex Converters-Paragon publishers, a printing and packaging plant, and US Chemicals, a chemical production company for the petroleum industry. Mr. Chen is not only a businessman, but also an award-winning writer and internationally recognized multi-media artist. His short stories and poetry have been published in London Magazine, Malahat Review, Calalloo and other journals. His collection of short stories, Chutney Power, was short-listed for the 2007 Commonwealth Writers’ Prize – Best Book, Canada- Caribbean. He is a playwright and sometimes designs and builds the sets for his plays. Freedom Road Play was performed in Canada and the BBC aired his radio drama. A prize-winning painting by Mr. Chen hangs in Shell’s London office. His Solar Marinorama (60’x14’) is on permanent display at the Central Bank Port of Spain. His Escriva light tower, commissioned by Petrotrin, is a permanent outdoor installation. The Triumphant Christ, a 30’ x 14’ metallic, is the entrance frontispiece in Roman Catholic Church in San Fernando.

Cyril Dabydeen is an acclaimed poet, short-story writer and novelist; he has written eight books of poetry, five of stories, and four novels. His novel, Drums of My Flesh (TSAR), was a recent co-winner of the Guyana Prize for Best Fiction. This novel was also nominated for the prestigious International IMPAC/Dublin Literary Prize, 2007. Dabydeen also edited two key anthologies: A Shapely Fire: Changing the Literary Landscape (Mosaic Press, Canada) and Another Way to Dance: Contemporary Asian Poetry in Canada and the U.S. (TSAR, Toronto). A Sandbach Parker Gold Medal winning poet from Guyana, his work appears in over 60 literary magazines and anthologies in Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Australia, Asia and the Caribbean, and he has been nominated for the Pushcart and other magazine prizes. A former Poet Laureate of Ottawa in the mid-80’s, he is an editor for the Journal of Caribbean Studies. His other recent books are: Play a Song Somebody: Selected Stories (Mosaic Press), Imaginary Origins: Selected Poems (Peepal Tree Press, UK). In 2000 and 2006, Dabydeen juried for Canada’s Governor General’s Award for literature (poetry), as well as for the Neustadt International Prize for Literature. He ended his formal education with post-graduate degrees in English and Public Administration from Queen’s University, Ontario. His work experience and activism include work for over a decade in human rights and race relations in the federal and municipal governments in Canada. He teaches sessionally with the Dept. of English, University of Ottawa.

Cheuk C. Kwan grew up in Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan. After his university education in the U.S., he immigrated to Canada in 1976 and began a 20-year career in information technology. In 1978, he co-founded The Asianadian, a magazine dedicated to the promotion of Asian Canadian arts, culture and politics. The following year, he helped lead a nation-wide fight for equality for Chinese Canadians. His first five films from the Chinese Restaurants series, Song of the Exile, On The Islands, Three Continents, Latin Passions and Beyond Frontiers, bring together his personal experiences, love of travel and appreciation of Chinese culture worldwide.

Dr. Walton Look Lai, a national of Trinidad and Tobago, studied law at Oxford University, England, and studied history at New York University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1990. He lectured in Caribbean and Third World History in New York for 14 years (1972-1986), and at the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, for 11 years (1995-2006). In 1990-1991, he was a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow at the Asian American Center at Queen’s College of the City University of New York.

He is author of Indentured Labor, Caribbean Sugar: Chinese and Indian Migrants to the British West Indies, 1838-1918, published by Johns Hopkins University Press and funded by an award from the

**Jan Lowe Shinebourne** was born in Guyana in 1947. She grew up and received her early education there. She was a newspaper reporter and also part of a young band of writers and artists who produced *Expression* magazine and organized their own exhibitions and readings. In 1970, she moved to the U.K, first to London where she lived until 2005 when she moved to the Sussex countryside.

In London, she was a cultural and political activist, involved in anti-racist campaigns, and organizing events for the Black and Asian community. She was also a regular books reviewer and editor on several journals, including *Everywoman*, *Spare Rib*, *The Southall Review* and *Race Today*. She also did her postgraduate studies at the University of London, then taught at several London colleges. In 1992, she was a visiting fellow at New York University.


Currently, she is completing a third novel and writing a fourth.

**Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming** is an engineer, a poet, a fiction and creative non-fiction writer and an essayist. Her poetry and stories have appeared online and in numerous publications in The Bahamas, the Caribbean, the USA and Europe. She has won poetry, essay and art awards in The Bahamas. Internationally, she has won the David Hough Literary Prize from *The Caribbean Writer* (2001) and the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association 2001 Short Story Competition. Her first book of poetry, *Curry Flavour*, was published in 2000 by Peepal Tree Press, Leeds, England. She is currently seeking publication of her second poetry collection and working on her first collection of short stories.

Manoo-Rahming participated in the University of Miami Caribbean Writers Summer Institute Fiction Workshop (1994) with Olive Senior and Poetry Workshop (1995) with Lorna Goodison. She also participated in the Cropper Foundation Fiction Workshop (Trinidad, 2000) with novelist Merle Hodge and the OAS/CARICOM “Writing Children’s Literature” Workshop (Jamaica, 2000). She was a featured writer at the Miami Book Fair International (1996 and 2000); one of the women poets featured at the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture, Duke University, 2002 and was the featured poet at the University of The Virgin Islands, St Croix Campus Humanities Week, 2004.

In addition to her writing, Manoo-Rahming also expresses her creativity and seeks enlightenment through sculpture and drawing. She is a practicing Mechanical/Building Services Engineer in the Bahamas and she is a Chartered Engineer registered with the Engineering Council in the UK.

**Brinda J. Mehta** is Trefethen Chair and Professor of French and Francophone Studies at Mills College in Oakland, California, where she teaches postcolonial African and Caribbean literatures, Francophone Studies, and transnational feminist theory. She is the author of three books: *Rituals of Memory in Contemporary Arab Women's Writing* (Syracuse UP. 2007); *Diasporic (Dis)locations: Indo-Caribbean Women Writers Negotiate the Kala Pani* (University Press of the West Indies. 2004); *Corps infirme, corps infâme: La femme dans le roman balzacien* (Summa Publications, 1992); Winner of the Caribbean Philosophical Association's Frantz Fanon Award for Outstanding work in Caribbean Thought (2007) and Honorable Mention for the Caribbean Studies Association's Gordon K. Lewis Prize (2007); a co-edited...
volume of the CLR James Journal with Paget Henry on Indo-Caribbean/Afro-Caribbean Intellectual Traditions (2003); a forthcoming co-edited issue of *L'Esprit Créateur* with Renée Larrier titled "Francophone Indian Ethnoscapes: The Writings of Indenture"; numerous articles on postcolonial literature that have appeared in journals such as the *South Atlantic Quarterly, Meridians, Callaloo, Journal of Caribbean Literature*, among others. She has just completed her fourth book, *Framing Diaspora in Francophone Caribbean Women's Writing from Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Haiti*.

**Dr. Rajandaye Ramkissoon-Chen** is a consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist and the author of short stories and four volumes of poetry. She is a Fellow and Life Member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, London and was the 2003 recipient of the Trinidad and Tobago National Chaconia Gold Award for her meritorious service in the field of medicine. The demands of her medical career often left little time for her creative work, but since the 1980s, she has found more time to write. Her first short story “In the Train,” about the experience of a student traveling through India by train, appeared on the Final Short List of the BBC Commonwealth Short Story Competition, London 1997. Her short story “Josiah’s Escape” won the 1996 Longman Trinidad Short Story Contest. She has published four volumes of poetry: *Ancestry* (1997), *Mirror Eye* (2001), *Many Sides of Red* (2006), and *Meenachi* (2007). She resides in Trinidad, West Indies.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTERS**

**Ms. Ann Marie Alfonso-Forero** received her B.A. in English and Spanish from Boston University and her M.A. in English at the University of Miami where she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in English. Her research interests include postcolonial studies, Anglophone Indian and Caribbean writing, and ethnic American literatures. Her dissertation focuses on how the novels of Bharati Mukherjee, Edwidge Danticat, Cristina García, and Jhumpa Lahiri work towards theorizing the postcolonial female subject in ethnic American literature. She currently works as a Teaching Assistant in English Composition at the University of Miami.

**Dr. Monica Ayala-Martinez** received a Masters Degree in Spanish from the University of West Virginia in 1992 and a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Miami in 1998. She is an Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Her current research is a comparative analysis of Brazilian and Cuban contemporary writers’ portrayal of national projects.

**Dr. Rohini Bannerjee** is an Assistant Professor in International Francophone Studies in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics at Saint Mary’s University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Her primary area of research is contemporary Indo-Mauritian Francophone literature and Cultural Studies, in particular, the works of Ananda Devi and of Shenaz Patel. In addition, Rohini’s interest in Women’s Studies and in 19th century exoticism has resulted in articles examining migrant queer identity in modern day Québec and the role of *la femme exotique* in the novels of Emile Zola and of Théophile Gautier. Bannerjee also has a cross appointment as Assistant Professor with the Department of French Studies at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada where she teaches translation via Distance Studies.

**Ms. Kai Barratt** is an MPhil student at the Institute of Cultural Studies, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica where she also completed a MA in Communication Studies. She teaches Communication Studies at the University of Technology, Jamaica. Barratt has a strong interest in examining the construction and deconstruction of gender and sexual roles in the Caribbean context. Her project entitled “Redefining Female Sexuality in Trinidadian Soca Music” aims to examine the role of Trinidadian female soca artistes in destabilizing the patriarchal discourse on female sexuality.
**Ms. Evelyn Boria-Rivera** is currently the Kaneb Visiting Teaching Fellow at New York University and a Ph.D. candidate in English at the University of Notre Dame. Her area of specialization is US Latino/a literature with an emphasis on Caribbean-origin Latino/as. Her dissertation project, entitled “Policing the Maternal: Figurations of Maternity in Post-Containment Latina Literature,” outlines the ways in which the maternal Latina body functions in contemporary US American Literature by Latina/o writers and the methods by which that body’s reproductive and parental capabilities have historically been monitored and controlled. Boria-Rivera holds a B.A. from the Oglethorpe University in Atlanta and a MFA in Creative Writing from Emerson College in Boston.

**Ms. Savena Budhu** was born in Guyana and raised in South Florida. She is an Assistant Professor of English at Broward Community College in Davie, Florida. As a doctoral candidate at Florida Atlantic University, her literary specialization is contemporary South Asian Writers in Diaspora with a concentration on Indo-Caribbean literature. The purpose of her dissertation project is to explore West Indian novels as a distinct and necessary space in the South Asian Diaspora through the intersectional influences of historical journeys, colonial legacy, political turmoil, and inter/intra cultural stereotypes.

**Dr. Winnie Chan** is an Assistant Professor of post/colonial Anglophone literatures at Virginia Commonwealth University. Before returning to Virginia in 2006, she taught as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN, and Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. She is currently working on a book called *Imperial Gastronomy*, which examines the relationships among gastronomic consumption, imperial power, and post/colonial identity in Anglophone literatures from the East Indies to the West Indies. Her dissertation was revised as *The Economy of the Short Story in British Periodicals of the 1890s* and published by Routledge in January 2007.

**Ms. Sangita Chari** received her MA in Anthropology from the University of Florida in 2005. Her thesis "One Together One Apart: Interracial Marriages between Indo-Trinidadian Women and Afro-Trinidadian Men," based primarily on in-depth interviews, explores how perceptions of gender, race and ethnicity are influenced by an Indo-Trinidadian woman's decision to marry a person of African descent. Ms. Chari has worked with a number of NGO's including Amnesty International, the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, the Atlanta Women's Foundation and Boat People SOS and currently works as the Foundation and Government Relations Manager for the National Building Museum. She received her BA in International Relations and Anthropology (1991) from American University.

**Dr. León Chang Shik** was born in Caracas, Venezuela. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Spanish in 2007 at Florida State University and has been appointed Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Department of International and Second Language Studies at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. His areas of research are Nineteenth-and-Twentieth-Century Spanish-American Literature; Modernism; Diaspora Studies; Travel Literature, and Post-Colonial Studies.

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Dr. Ashmita Khasnabish is a scholar in feminist postcolonial theory, psychoanalysis, and twentieth century literature. She is the author of *Jouissance as Ananda: Indian Philosophy, Feminist Theory and Literature* (2003) and *Humanitarian Identity and the Political Sublime: Intervention of a Postcolonial Feminist* (forthcoming Spring 2008).

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Dr. Atreyee Phukan is an Assistant Professor of English at University of San Diego, CA, where she teaches courses on Post-Colonial and World Literature. She is interested in constructions of “Indianness” and its significance in both the Indo-Caribbean and South Asian Diasporas. Most recently, she conducted fieldwork among the Siddi, a community of African-descent in Karnataka, southern India, in order to document the making of Siddi kawandi (quilts). Her work on South Asia appears in the anthology 19th and 20th Century World Writers (2004) and a book she co-edited Home and the World: South Asia in Transition (2006).

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Dr. Jennifer Rahim is a lecturer in English in the Department of Liberal Arts at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. She is also a prize-winning poet and writer of short fiction. She is the author of three volumes of poetry, Mothers Are Not The Only Linguists, Between the Fence, The Forest and You are Morning in Me, and most recently, Songster and Other Stories published by Peepal Tree Press.

Dr. Louis Regis is a Calypso scholar. He holds two graduate degrees in Calypso research and is the author of Black Stalin: Kaisontian, The Political Calypso: True Opposition in Trinidad 1962-1987, Black Stalin: The Caribbean Man, and Maestro: The True Master as well as many articles on the Calypso. At present he teaches Literatures in English at the St. Augustine campus of the UWI, specializing in West Indian poetry. He also teaches the course The Trinidad Calypso: History, Development Meaning at the Centre for the Creative and Festival Arts, St Augustine.

Dr. St. John Robinson is a native of Belize who grew up in New Orleans. He holds a Ph.D. in Spanish from Louisiana State University and is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Modern Languages at Montana State University at Billing where he teaches Spanish and Latin American culture.
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CARIBBEAN LITERARY STUDIES

HISTORY
The Caribbean Literary Studies Group started in 1999 with the goal of creating imaginative and productive spaces to hold discussions about Caribbean Literature, Culture and the Arts. CLS wishes to continue the presence of bold and active scholarship began by the Caribbean Writers' Summer Institute which ran at the University of Miami from 1991-1996. Following the CWSI, the English Department was accepted into the UWI Consortium and hosted the XVIth Annual Conference on West Indian Literature. CLS facilitates Caribbean scholarship by hosting group activities including guided discussion groups on Caribbean texts and theories, scholarly presentations, film screenings, talks by guest speakers, and international, interdisciplinary conferences and symposiums.

The group is made up of graduate students (M.F.A., M.A., and Ph.D.), alumnae, faculty and other interested parties from the University of Miami community and the Greater Miami area who have a serious interest in topics related to Caribbean culture. Since 1993, the University of Miami has seen a steady increase in the number of graduate students interested in Caribbean Literary and Cultural Studies.

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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI AFFILIATIONS
Envisioning Caribbean studies as a discipline enriched by its connections with Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, Cultural Studies, American Studies, Atlantic Studies, Transnational Studies, Comparative Literatures, History, the Fine Arts, and other academic foci, the Caribbean Literary Studies Group fosters an interdisciplinary approach to reading the literatures of the Caribbean. CLS is located in the Department of English and enjoys the active support of the Dean of Arts and Sciences. CLS is also a Center for Latin American Studies niche group (2000-present). Gratefully, we acknowledge our affiliation with the African-American Studies Program, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, the Humanities Colloquium, the Atlantic Studies Group, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, the Department of History, and the Creative Writing Program.

CURRENT AND ONGOING PROJECTS

CARIBBEAN WRITERS SUMMER INSTITUTE (CWSI) & ARCHIVES
The Caribbean Writers Summer Institute was a pioneering workshop-style gathering of writers, scholars, and intellectuals housed and hosted at the University of Miami from 1991-1996. The CWSI began with an endowment from James A. Michener, who, during his three-year residence at UM as distinguished visiting professor of English, wrote the novel Caribbean (1989), and a grant from the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center at the University of Miami, a public policy studies center.

The archival and disposition of CWSI materials, including several thousands of hours of videotaped lectures, readings, and interviews, thousands of photographs, and paper files, began during the 2001-2002 academic year. CLS is pursuing a joint initiative with the Otto G. Richter Library that would expand the current Digital Archives to include a searchable photographic database from the CWSI, and acquire and preserve the work of Caribbean authors whose corpi are currently unavailable to the public.

CLS CONFERENCE SERIES
Contextualizing the Caribbean: Redefining Approaches in an Era of Globalization, September 2000
In September 2000, CLS hosted an academic conference with the cooperation and support of several University Departments and Programs. Over 120 scholars attended the three-day congress, which included keynote lectures by Peter Hulme and Carole Boyce Davies and readings by writers Zee Edgell and Elizabeth Nunez.

Caribbean Currents: Navigating the Web and the Word, March 2003
In March 2003, CLS co-hosted the XXIInd Annual Conference on West Indian Literature, Caribbean Currents: Navigating the Web and the Word. This conference featured over 25 panels with a little over 100 scholarly presentations and included a keynote address by Kamau Brathwaite and readings by Margaret Cesaire-Thompson and Olive Senior.

Calypso and the Caribbean Literary Imagination, March 2005
Our next major conference, *Calypso and the Caribbean Literary Imagination* co-sponsored with the Historical Museum of South Florida, took place in March 2005. The three-day conference featured panel and film presentations, and keynote addresses by M. NourbeSe Philip, Gordon Rohler and Earl Lovelace.

*Archaeologies of Black Memory*. June 2007
As part of its Ford Foundation Grant project entitled Diasporic Knowledges, *Small Axe* joined efforts with the Caribbean Literary Studies Program and Anthurium at the University of Miami to host its second conference, *Archaeologies of Black Memory*, that explored the relationships between archive, collective memory and public criticism in African Diaspora Studies. The program included two different modules aimed at providing participants with a broad range of opportunities for dialogue, project and curriculum development, research and scholarship. The two day symposium will feature senior scholars in political science, history, literature, visual arts and popular culture. Symposium presenters will included Robert Hill (History, University of California, Los Angeles), Brent Edwards (English, Rutgers University), Saidiya Hartman (English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University), Krista Thompson (African Diaspora Art, Northwestern University), Michael Hanchard (Political Science, Northwestern University), M. Nourbese Philip (Poet and independent scholar, Toronto), and Gordon Rohlehr (Languages and Literature, University of the West Indies). The seminar portion involved a curriculum development workshop for junior faculty, graduate students and high school teachers who will be selected based on their individual interests in incorporating or developing critical links to archival collections and material as part of their pedagogical strategies for teaching New World Black Diaspora Studies.

**Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal**
*Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal* is a bi-annual, peer-reviewed journal that publishes original works by Caribbean writers and scholars worldwide exclusively in electronic form. The journal promotes a lively exchange among writers and scholars in the arts, humanities, and social sciences who hold diverse perspectives on Caribbean literature and culture and offers a mixture of fiction, poetry, plays, critical essays, cultural studies, interviews, and visual art. Book reviews and bibliographies, special thematic issues, and original art and photography are some of the features of this international journal of Caribbean arts and letters.

*Anthurium* is a non-profit publication and project of Caribbean Literary Studies in the Department of English at the University of Miami. It is published in association with the University's Richter Library Digital Media Lab, supported solely by the University of Miami.

*Anthurium* is accessible at [http://scholar.library.miami.edu/anthurium/](http://scholar.library.miami.edu/anthurium/). Please visit the website to view the Spring 2007 issue featuring the artwork of Puerto Rican visual artist Myrna Baéz, scholarly essays by Jeffrey C. Barnett, Maria de Jesus González, Cynthia James, Nadia I. Johnson, Anne-Marie Lee-Loy and Hanétha Vete-Congolo, poetry by Annisha Cook and Jennifer Rahim, and a review by Lara Cahill. The Fall 2007 issue is guest edited by Dr. Jennifer Rahim. This special issue is dedicated to scholarship presented during the *V.S. Naipaul: Created in the West Indies* symposium, hosted by the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, on April 19, 2007 as part of their 2007 Nobel Laureate Celebration Events.
Music, Memory, Resistance
Calypso and the Caribbean Literary Imagination
Edited by Sandra Pouchet Paquet, Patricia J. Saunders and Stephen Stuempfe

This collection of essays brings together critical perspectives from a wide variety of Caribbean artists, about Caribbean culture and its connections to political traditions in the African Diaspora. These issues are discussed in four sections:

- Music as Memory, Rebellion and Political Context;
- Sans Humanité: The Song, the Singer and the Story;
- Ten to One is Murder: Gender, Sexuality and the Body Politic;
- When All the World's a Stage: Performing Cultural Identity at Home and Abroad

Each section reflects key critical concerns addressed both in calypso and literature, sometimes in relationship to its literary counterpart, other times in relation to other 'cultural texts' such as Jamaican music, cricket and dance.

Preface  Sandra Pouchet Paquet and Stephen Stuempfe

Introduction: Mapping the Roots / Routes of Calypso in Caribbean Literary and Cultural Traditions  Patricia J. Saunders

Eric Williams's Vision for the Development of Carnival Hollis 'Chalkdust' Liverpool
Calypso as Political Context: Reflections on the Legend of Eric Williams Louis Regis
In the Battle for Emergent Independence: Calypsos of Decolonization Ray Funk
Fugues, Fragments and Fissures: A Work in Progress Marlene NourbeSe Philip
Carnival Cannibalized or Cannibal Carnivalized: Contextualizing the 'Cannibal Joke' in Calypso and Literature Gordon Rohlehr
Calypso and the Bachanal Connection Earl Lovelace
Unmasking the Chantwell Narrator in Earl Lovelace's Fiction Funso Aiyejina
Jamette Carnival and Afro-Caribbean Influences in the Work of Jean Rhys Cynthia Davis
'Big Fat Fish': The Hypersexualization of the Fat Female Body in Calypso and Dancehall Andrea Shaw
Men in the Yard and On the Street: Cricket and Calypso in Caribbean Literature Claire Westall
With a Tassa Blending: Calypso and Cultural Identity in Indo-Caribbean Fiction Paula Morgan
Bop Girl Goes Calypso: Containing Race and Youth Culture in Cold War America Michael S. Eldridge
(Not) Knowing the Difference: Calypso Overseas and the Sound of Belonging in Narratives of Migration Jennifer Rahim
'Everybody do the Dance': The Politics of Uniformity in Dancehall and Calypso Kezia Page

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The Caribbean Literary Studies Group is grateful to Mary Dulik and Lydia Starling of the English Department for their support of this and every CLS event. CLS also thanks its Conference Coordinators, Consultants, and Assistants—your hard work and dedication to CLS has made this conference possible!