Keynote Conversations
31st Annual West Indian Literature Conference
Imagined Nations, 50 Years Later:
Reflections on Independence and Federation in the Caribbean

All events will take place at the Newman Alumni Center (Multi-Purpose Room)

Senior and Miller will discuss their work and the direction of Caribbean fiction on Thursday, October 11, 2012 ~ 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.


Kei Miller is a Jamaican writer currently teaching Creative Writing at the University of Glasgow. His first collection of short fiction The Fear of Stones was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers First Book Prize in 2007. He has published various works which include two poetry collections entitled Kingdom of Empty Bellies (2006) and There is an Anger that Moves (2007). His latest fiction The Same Earth (2008) and The Last Warner Woman (2010) explore migration and social alienation through strong Jamaican women protagonists.

Brereton and Manley will reflect on independence and the contemporary political moment on Friday, October 12, 2012 ~ 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Bridget Brereton is a Professor of History and Deputy Principal at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. She has published extensive research on Trinidadian history. Her works include Race Relations in Trinidad 1870-1900 (1979), History of Modern Trinidad 1783-1962 (1981) and Engendering History: Caribbean Women in Historical Perspectives (1995). She has recently broadened her scholarship interests to incorporate Anglophone and Francophone Caribbean contemporary perspectives on gender and history.

Rachel Manley is a Canadian-Jamaican writer. She is the daughter of former prime minister Michael Manley and granddaughter to Norman Washington Manley, founder of the People’s National Party in Jamaica. Her memoir trilogy explores her family’s political role in post-independence Jamaican society. Her first memoir, Drumblair: Memories of a Jamaican Childhood (1996) won the Canadian Governor General’s Award for non-fiction.

Sponsored by: The College of Arts & Sciences, The Commonwealth Foundation and the Department of English at the University of Miami.