

The University of the West Indies, St Augustine  
Department of Liberal Arts

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FIRST THEY MUST BE CHILDREN: THE CHILD AND THE CARIBBEAN IMAGI/NATION  
A CULTURAL STUDIES CONFERENCE  
Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> & Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009  
The Learning Resource Centre, UWI St Augustine

*Programme*

**THURSDAY 21st MAY 2009**

8.00-8.30 am

REGISTRATION

8.30-9.00 am

Welcome

**Prof. Funso Aiyejina**

Dean, Faculty of Humanities & Education

UWI St Augustine

Opening Remarks

**Dr. Paula Morgan**

Coordinator, Cultural Studies

Head of Department, Liberal Arts

UWI St Augustine

9.00-10.30 am

**PANEL 1A: Figuring the Child**

Chair: Prof. Valerie Youssef

“The Child as Progenitor: Trauma and the (Un)making of the Self”

**Dr. Paula Morgan (UWI, St Augustine)**

“‘Always In the Distance’: Enlisting the Child as Transformative Signifier”

**Dr. Jennifer Rahim (UWI, St Augustine)**

“Child’s ‘I’ and Other in Olive Senior’s Narratives of Self-Invention”

**Prof. Barbara Lalla (UWI, St Augustine)**

**PANEL 1B: Behaviour and Learning Environments**

Chair: Dr. Jennifer Mohammed

“Beyond the Rugrats: Child Behaviour, Teacher Response and Behaviour Change in Three Morvant Schools”

**Ms. Sabeerah Abdul-Majied (UWI, St Augustine)**

“Children Learn Best When the Learning Environment is Fun and the Content of Learning Relevant”

**Dr. Rawatee Maharaj-Sharma (UWI, SA)**

“‘We suppose to have fun...’: Voice and Resistance in the Primary Classroom”

**Rowena Kalloo (UTT, Trinidad)**

“Parental and Societal Perspectives on Children; Socio-cultural Influences on Quality Early Childhood Education”

**Carol Logie (UWI, St Augustine)**

10.30-11.00 am

BREAK

11.00-12.30 pm

**PANEL 2A: Carnival Children: Performance and Industry**

Chair: Rawle Gibbons

“Children of Soca”

**Dr. Louis Regis (UWI, St Augustine)**

“Play in Disney-Carni-Land!! The Disneyland Culture of Experience and the Trini Children’s Carnival Product: Exploring Niki-Land”

**Jo-anne Tull (UWI, St Augustine)**

“Dey Say Ah Too Young to Soca : Examining Machel Montano from Child Star to Cultural Entrepreneur”

**Elizabeth Montano (UWI, St Augustine)**

“Children’s Mass and the Notion of Being and Becoming - Claiming the Imagination and Presenting Notions of Identity within the Caribbean”

**Keynwyn Murray**

**PANEL 2B: Troubling Sex and Sexuality**

Chair: Dr Brader Brathwaite

“Troubled Children: Violence and Illicit Sexual Behaviour”

**Dr. Daphne Phillips (UWI, St Augustine)**

“An Ethnographic View of Adolescent Female Sexuality in Trinidad and Susceptibility to HIV”

**Marissa Thomas (UWI St Augustine)**

“What Child is This?”: Same-Sex Desire among Children in the Anglophone Caribbean Short Story”

**Dr. Geraldine Skeete (UWI, St Augustine)**

12.30-2.00 pm

LUNCH (Readings)

2.00-3.30 pm

**ROUNDTABLE: “The Child in Focus - Rights and Issues”**

**Panelists: Dr. Jacqueline Sharpe, Dr. Daphne Phillips, Mrs Theresa Hadad-Maraj Dr Ronald Marshall**

Chair: Dr Wayne Kublalsingh

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

3.30-5.00 pm

**PANEL 3A: Nation, Migration and Belonging**

Chair: Dr. Sharanya Jayawickrama

“‘What if the Baker Won’t Let Me Feel the Bread’:

Alternative Ways of Belonging to the Nationscape for Marginalised Women in Shani Mootoo’s *Cereus Blooms at Night* and Jamaica Kincaid’s *Autobiography*”

**Michelle Ramlagan (University of Miami)**

“Growing up and Moving Away: Identity, Migration, and Gender in Christina Garcia’s *Monkey Hunting*”

**Josune Urbistondo (University of Miami)**

“Trauma and Exile: A Torturous Journey to Selfhood in *Lucy*, and *Breath, Eyes, Memory*”

**Caryn Rae Adams (UWI, Cave Hill)**

“Memory and Desire: A Future Visualized in the Intersections of History”

**Yi Huang (University of Miami)**

**PANEL 3B: (Re) Shaping Children - From Problem to Solution**

Chair: Fr. Stephen Geofroy

“Predicators of Behavioural Problems in Primary Schools within the Laventille East District in Trinidad”

**Marian Taylor (UWI, St Augustine)**

“Corporal Punishment in the Caribbean: Punishing Agency”

**Charrise Clarke (UWI)**

“Residential Institutions as ‘parents’ for vulnerable children: References to selected studies with emphasis on Trinidad and Tobago”

**Dr. Innette Cambridge (UWI, St Augustine)**

“Using Critical Literacy to Teach Character Development in Merle Hodge’s *For the Life of Laetitia*”

**Karen Sanderson Cole (UWI, St Augustine)**

**PANEL 3C: Citizenship, Violation and Responsibility**

Chair: Dr Shilpa Venkatachalam

“First They Must be Defined: A Caribbean View of the Child and Childhood”

**Betsy Ann Lambert Peterson (Trinidad)**

“Parallels Between Adolescent Male Sodomy in *The Kite Runner* and Trinidad Realities”

**Krissy Luke (UWI, St Augustine)**

“The Potential Child and Caribbean Parenting: Male Perspectives on Abortion in Jamaica”

**Keino Senior (UWI, Mona)**

7.00-9.00 pm

**READING and KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**READING**

**Olive Senior**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

“Towards a Poetics of Childhood”

**Prof. Sandra Pouchet Paquet**

**FRIDAY 22nd MAY**

8.30-10.00 am

**PANEL 4A: Literary Fathers: A Dialogue on Kamau Brathwaite**

Chair: Dr Louis Regis

“‘But Heroes Were in Books:’ Representing the Absent Father in Brathwaite’s *Barabajan Poems*”

**Rhonda Cobham-Sander (Amherst College)**

Respondent

**Prof. Gordon Rohlehr (UWI, St Augustine)**

**PANEL 4B: Centering the Child: Need and Agency in the Education Process**

Chair: Dr June George

“Schooling the Poor Child: Learning Experiences of Primary School Children in Institutions in the Context of Challenge”

**Jerome De Lisle el tal (UWI, St Augustine)**

“The Sisterhood of the Exam: Secondary school choice and the centrality of 11+ in the emotional and social lives of female 11+ students”

“The Child as Consumer: Understanding the Role of Children in the Family Dynamics of Secondary School Choice in Trinidad and Tobago”

10.00-10.30 am

BREAK

10.30- 12 noon

**PANEL 5A: Visual and Media Representations**

Chair: Dr Christiana Abraham

“Visual Representation and the Child”

**Dr. Jean Antoine-Dunne (UWI, St Augustine)**

“Crimes Against Children: Challenging their Media Representations”

**Prof. Valerie Youssef (UWI, St Augustine)**

“Videogames and Violence: Impact in Children and Adolescents”

**Luis Alberto Notario (Cuba)**

**PANEL 5B: History, Trauma and Transmission**

Chair: Dr Tia Cooper

“Even little black children cannot be reared like the lambs and calves of the field”: Children, Family and Community in Plantation Society, 1790-1838”

**Tara Inniss (UWI, Cave Hill)**

“The Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma”

**Paige L. Parker (Pacific Oaks College)**

“Brother and Sister, with a Common Pin”

**Rose-Ann Walker (UWI, St Augustine)**

**PANEL 5C: Voicing the Child: Making Stories**

Chair: Dr Giselle Rampaul

“Voices of Children, Visions of Adults: The Child Narrator as Interpreter and Interrogator of his Environment”

**Rhoda Bharath (UWI, St Augustine)**

“The Thing Without a Name: The Child as Narrative Strategy in *Miguel Street*”

**Ryan Durgasingh (UWI, St Augustine)**

“The Influence of Children on the Structure of Pronoun Systems in Young Caribbean Language” **Benjamin Braithwaite (UWI, St Augustine)**

12 noon-2.00 pm

LUNCH (Readings)

2.00-3.30 pm

**ROUNDTABLE: “Writing the Child”**

**Olive Senior, Merle Hodge,**

**Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw, Lawrence Scott**

Chair: Professor Barbara Lalla

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

3.30-5.00 pm

**PANEL 6A: Perspectives on Stories, Fairytales and (re) education**

Chair: Dr Geraldine Skeete

“Black Heart/White Heart: The Chronicles of Narnia as Literary Text in a Creole Space”

**Nicha Selvon-Ramkissoon (UWI, St Augustine)**

“‘Restoring Jim to his White Parents and Repositioning His Blackness’: A Critical Discourse Approach to Jim the Boatman (1845)”

**Reneè Figuera (UWI, St Augustine)**

“‘How the Mirror Broke’: Deconstructing Colonial Fairytales in Joyce Gittens’ / *Remember Pampalam*”

**Dr Giselle Rampaul (UWI, St Augustine)**

**PANEL 6B: Interventions: Nature/Creative Expressions**

Chair: Dr Jean Antoine-Dunne

“Landscaping and Expressing the Inexpressible”

**Dr. Dani Lyndersay (UWI, St Augustine)**

“Children and Nature: The Link to a Healthier Planet”

**Doreen Jodhan (UWI, St Augustine)**

**Arts-in-Action**

7.00-9.00 pm

**SPECIAL EVENT and CLOSING RECEPTION**