



ISSUE 15

Disability, Mental Health, and Disablement

Contributors Biographies

Savitri Persaud's Ph.D. research is supported by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Doctoral Award and explores how mental distress is read and understood in Guyana, specifically analyzing the competing and complementary discourses, aetiologies, and diverse practices employed by Guyanese and Caribbean communities to address and ease distress. Savitri is a Research Collaborator on the SSHRC-funded project "Disability, Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19: Experiences of Women in Guyana". She has contributed to the edited collection *Unmasking the State: Politics, Society and Economy in Guyana 1992–2015* (Bulkan and Trotz 2019), and her work was featured in *The Guardian* and on Al Jazeera's *The Stream*. Her research is rooted in community and scholastic exchanges in the Caribbean and its diasporas, having collaborated with Red Thread Women's Development Organisation, the Guyana Foundation, and the InterGuyanas Feminisms Project.

Fatimah Jackson-Best Dr. Fatimah Jackson-Best is a public health researcher with a specialization in mental health and whose work focuses on communities in Canada and the Caribbean. She holds a PhD from the University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and conducted her dissertation research on Black women's experiences of maternal depression in Barbados. Following this,

Dr. Jackson-Best took an appointment as a Global Health Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Ottawa and conducted a cross analysis of mental illness, HIV/AIDS, and physical disability stigma with a focus on interventions and intersectionality frameworks. Her work has been published in peer reviewed journals such as the Adolescent Research Review, BMC Public Health, Gender and Education, and the Journal of International Women's Studies.

Dr. Jackson-Best's research consultancy includes work with Trinidadian NGO I Am One to pilot 'Your Story', a research study exploring the lived experiences of LGBTQIA people in the Caribbean. In 2018-19 she collaborated with the Black Muslim Initiative and Tessellate Institute to publish a systematic review focused on Black Muslims in Canada.

Currently Dr. Jackson-Best is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact with a joint appointment in the Department of Medicine in the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University. She is also the Project Manager of Pathways to Care where she is designing an intervention to improve access to mental health and addictions services for Black children, youth, and their families in Ontario.

Sue Ann Barratt is Lecturer and Head of Department at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. She is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, holding a BA in Media and Communication Studies with Political Science, MA Communication Studies, and PhD Interdisciplinary Gender Studies. Her research areas are interpersonal interaction, human communication conflict, social media use and its implications, gender and ethnic identities, mental health and gender based violence, and Carnival and cultural studies. She is dedicated to gender awareness and sensitivity training through face-to-face sessions and mass media outreach.

F.J. Genus is a queer Jamaican man of transgender experience. He is best known for his work with TransWave Jamaica – a trans-led non-profit organization focused on enhancing the health and well-being of the Jamaican transgender and non-binary communities. He is also one of the winners of Caribbean Tales' Short Film Challenge 2018 in the Queer & Trans People of Colour category. F.J. is

a software developer by day; whose focus is on building applications which help trans and non-binary people live more authentic lives.

Laura Loth is an Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. Her research interests include Trauma Studies, Disaster Studies, and Environmental Studies within the context of Francophone Literature, particularly the literature of the Caribbean, the Maghreb, and Quebec. She has published on the literature of disasters in *Women in French*, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, and *Research in African Literatures*. Her chapter "Rethinking Caribbean Communities: The Dynamics of Natural Disasters in the Works of Gisèle Pineau" appeared in *Contemporary Caribbean Dynamics: Re-configuring Caribbean Culture* Eds. Beatrice Boufof-Bastick and Savrina Chinian, 2015. Currently, she is pursuing a project that seeks to find models for addressing climate change in narratives of early disasters in the Francophone Caribbean.

Ria Mohammed-Davidson is an attorney-at-law in The Chambers of Mr. Rolston Nelson, S.C. The main areas of focus of her practice are corporate law, tax law and constitutional law/public law.

Mrs. Davidson holds a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School, a Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus and a Legal Education Certificate with a Certificate of Merit from the Hugh Wooding Law School. She has worked at the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago as a Judicial Research Assistant. She has also served as lecturer at the Faculty of Law at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus and the Hugh Wooding Law School.

Mrs. Davidson has a keen interest in contributing to the development of human rights law in the Caribbean region, with particular emphasis on the rights of persons with disabilities. She is a member of the Human Rights Committee of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Social Justice & Pro-bono Lawyering Group (CARIBONO). She also provides legal advice to several disability organisations in Trinidad and Tobago such as the Down Syndrome Family Network (DSFN) and the Consortium of Disability Organisations (CODO).

Karen Naidoo's current research investigates how young Canadian-Caribbean people living in Toronto, understand and respond to mental health issues. Dr Naidoo's research is significant for Canadian-Caribbean peoples, as it interrogates how state institutions use race and culture to determine the ways in which health resources are accessed. She holds a BA in Sociology, a Master's in Environmental Studies, and a Doctorate from York University. Dr. Naidoo's professional experiences include facilitating in the area of Global Citizenship Education and Health in parts of the Anglo-Caribbean. She is also currently teaching in the Caribbean Studies Certification at Ryerson University, Toronto.

Ryan Persadie is a performance artist, educator, and PhD candidate in Women and Gender Studies and Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto. He holds a MA in Ethnomusicology from the University of Toronto. His doctoral research investigates queer Indo-Caribbean diasporas, post-indentureship feminisms, Afro-Asian intimacies, and how performance and specifically Anglophone Caribbean popular music, dance, vocality, and embodiment offer salient archives of erotic place- and self-making for descendants of Indian indenture to transgress, disrupt, and re-imagine coolie geographies beyond hetero-/homonormative notions of sexual citizenship, belonging, home, desire, pleasure, community, and "Pride".

Amílcar Peter Sanatan is an artist, emerging academic and activist. He is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at The University of West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. His research interests include men and masculinities in the Caribbean and Latin America, youth and student development and cultural geography. Sanatan serves as the Trinidad and Tobago representative for the Commonwealth Students' Association. He is also a Steering Committee member of the Global Student Forum and leads the portfolios for COVID-19, Democracy, Human Rights & Solidarity, Racial Justice and the Caribbean & Americas Student Constituency.



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