

SIR ARTHUR LEWIS INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL & ECONOMIC STUDIES

Invites you

to a **Research Proposal**

by **Preeya Mohan, PhD Candidate**

on **Thursday 12th April, 2012 at 1.00pm**
in the **SALISES Conference Centre, UWI**

ABSTRACT

ESSAYS IN CARIBBEAN EXPORTS, DIVERSIFICATION AND GROWTH

A burgeoning number of studies provide evidence that history matters for development today. A specific channel by which history can matter is through exports and diversification. The Caribbean has adopted export promotion and diversification as key growth policies since the 1950s with little success. Moreover, there are few empirical studies on the region from which meaningful policies have been derived. The objective of this thesis is to conduct empirical research on exports and diversification for the Caribbean by constructing a large panel data set which includes colonial and post colonial exports from which policy recommendations can be made. The thesis comprises of three main papers. The first paper investigates whether Caribbean countries undergo increasing diversification followed by re-concentration. This is a robust empirical finding in the literature the implication of which leaves little room for policy intervention. The aim of the second paper is to quantify the economic impact of hurricanes on exports as they are the most frequent external shock experienced by the region. And lastly, given the extreme volatility and uncertainty faced by the region the third paper uses portfolio optimization to empirically determine the best export basket for the region.