



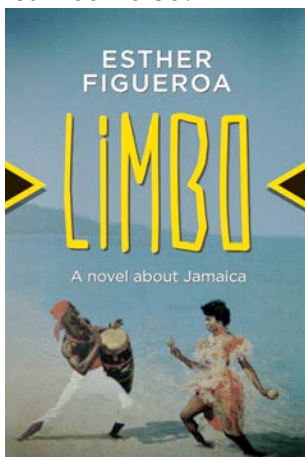
**IGDS**  
INSTITUTE FOR GENDER AND  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Department  
of Literary, Cultural and  
Communications Studies



**Esther Figueroa**

Esther Figueroa, Ph.D. is a Jamaican independent filmmaker, writer and linguist. With thirty years of media making including television programming, documentaries, educational videos, multimedia and feature film, her activist filmmaking gives voice to those outside of mainstream media. Figueroa writes in a variety of genre – fiction and nonfiction, prose and poetry – on a wide range of topics. Her publications include Sociolinguistic Metatheory, and At Home the Green Remains. Her films include the award-winning feature documentary Jamaica for Sale. She lives in Jamaica.



Books will be available and on sale.  
Please walk with cash.

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies invites you to a  
**Joint Reading and Book Launch**

in collaboration with the  
**Dept. of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies**  
and the **Bocas Lit Fest**

## Esther Figueroa

# LIMBO

Wednesday, April 23rd, 2014

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Alma Jordan Library, The UWI, St. Augustine Campus

Flora Smith, Jamaican scientist and head of tiny NGO Environment Now, dedicates her life to getting Jamaicans to care about the natural environment. Flora is confronted by the nagging reality of not having enough money to keep her organization afloat, but relief may be in sight when sand is stolen from a planned resort owned by a wealthy developer, who promises a hefty donation if she can help. In Jamaica, the land of "No Problem Mon," everything is known but off the record. Can Flora get anyone to be held accountable? Can she find solutions for any of Jamaica's problems? When people start to disappear, including those she holds dear, will she be able to avoid becoming embroiled in corrupt politics, dirty money, and even a murder?

Limbo is a humorous, sensuous romp, detailing one woman's struggle to find ways to effectively achieve change while making peace with herself and her island, which she loves more than anyone. As we keep pace with the indefatigable, irrepressible Flora, we experience the not-so-tidy challenges of balancing a valiant public persona with a chaotic personal life. Through her attempts at transforming the world and herself, we encounter deep friendship, new love, and the complexities of contemporary Jamaica, a place of achingly exquisite but threatened beauty, routine brutality, and poorly hidden secrets.

An environmental novel about Jamaica, officially released – March 4 and published by Arcade. Trailer on youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yln3Aq2NQSg>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/273440459499765/>

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Website: <http://sta.uwi.edu/igds/> | facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/IGDStAugustineUnit/>

## PRAISE FOR LIMBO BY ESTHER FIGUEROA

"The evocation of the Jamaican landscape is a magnificent achievement"

- **George Lamming**, author of *In the Castle of my Skin*

"In Limbo, Esther Figueroa deftly navigates between steamy romance, backdoor deals and dangerous plunges into the inferno of Jamaica's environmental disasters. But the novel's other side is its tender and evocative celebration of love, friendship, place and belonging. The author (like her heroine) emerges triumphant at the end of this breathtaking limbo dance. Despite its darker themes, the overriding humour and irreverence make for an enjoyable read. Limbo is a page turner that will make you want to start all over again when you come to the end.

In Esther Figueroa's skilful hands, the tropical paradise is in Limbo but not yet lost. It should evoke in every reader a passionate desire to redeem what is left clinging to the exposed roots."

-- **Olive Senior**, author of *Dancing Lessons*

"This is a proud-making work by Jamaica's Esther Figueroa – more than a novel or rather what a 'novel' could or should be – an exquisitely serious nativist imaginary – down-to-earth grounded – composed in 'standard' narrative & nation-language (Jamaica-speak) & angst & hope & vision, wit and an urgent sense of justice for the human, humane and tourism/environmental issues of today – especially today's Jamaica & the 'being developed world'; based on Miss Esther's breathing-fill-it-burns – but cool – knowledge of her crisis country and its people 'high' & 'low' & of all genres. Limbo (we know her already for her documentary films like *Cockpit Country* and her 'activism') – is not just word-saying but a world-saving allegiance to what some people politically call The Green. Her description of the source of the Martha Brae (witch & river), for instance, especially coming where it does in the novel, is one of the most lyric & healing moments in Caribbean literature." --

**Kamau Brathwaite**, Poet, Professor Emeritus Caribbean Lit/Culture, New York University

In this brave and witty new novel, Esther Figueroa takes us into the dark side of tourism's uncontrolled development. The work is intelligent, clear-eyed and unforgiving; Figueroa does not avert her gaze - the devastation of land and wildlife is harrowing. Esther's passionate concern for the future of Jamaica and the Caribbean, and ultimately for the future of our planet makes Limbo a landmark work of extraordinary importance.

-- **Patricia Powell**, author of *The Pagoda and The Fullness of Everything*

"LIMBO is a courageous, audacious, indeed reckless work by a writer passionately in love with a country she knows intimately. Esther Figueroa speaks truth to the powerful and complacent in this novel that takes the reader down the broad, well-travelled highways as well as the convoluted paths, the hidden, pot-holed ways of the island, Jamaica, and of her Jamaican people. A true-true tale, not to be missed!"

-- **Pamela Mordecai**, author of *Pink Icing*, and *Subversive Sonnets*

"A compelling and incisive look at political intrigue and environmental destruction in Jamaica, Esther Figueroa's Limbo also boasts the brilliant, sexy, and adorably anxious Flora Smith, one of the most charming heroines I've encountered in recent fiction. In Limbo, Figueroa achieves something all too rare—a deadly serious story lightened by laugh-out-loud humor and genuine warmth. This is a novel for readers who look to be educated, inspired, and delighted!"

-- **Shawna Yang Ryan**, author of *Water Ghosts*

"Jamaica is a small island; everything might be known, but everything is off the record" according to Esther Figueroa's sly, funny environmental mystery Limbo. Flora, its heroine, has to dig through the Jamaican sand to find out who's moving it. Every character and every deal to reclaim the island is fraught with Escher-like compromise. "For those who discharge sewage into the ocean, let them drink it," she says, declaring the degradation Dantean."

-- **Terese Svoboda** author of *Tin God* and *Black Glasses Like Clark Kent*

"The temporary damage inflicted when a hurricane strikes land is called a disaster, while the permanent destruction wreaked upon nature by duplicitous men is commonly known as development. In Esther Figueroa's finely written Limbo, Flora Smith, an accomplished environmental activist, fights courageously to save what remains of her beloved Jamaican homeland -- and she just might have the strength to succeed."

-- **Michael Baughman** author of *Mohawk Blood*