



THE MONA ECONOMIST

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What's Inside?

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**NADINE
McCLOUD-ROSE**
Head of Department
(New Appointment)



Department of Economics Initiatives for 2019-2022

Vision: *To become a renowned hub for the production, dissemination and exchange of cutting-edge knowledge.*

Mission: *To explore new frontiers of knowledge through academic research and to develop, implement and maintain excellent, innovative and relevant programmes in economics and statistics. We are committed to playing an integral role in the struggles of Caribbean societies for sustainable economic growth and development.*

This list is a fraction of the Department of Economics' (DoE) initiatives for 2019–2022, which we will pursue to help bring our vision and mission to fruition. These initiatives are not mutually exclusive:

1. National Research Primacy Initiative: Harness and direct research towards critical national needs, including policy evaluation assessment.
2. National Data Repository Initiative: Collate unique, primary data from various government agencies/ ministries to use in individual or collaborative research.
3. Inter-disciplinary Research Initiative: Increase our inter- and multi-disciplinary research output. This initiative will entail the forging of more research linkages between our department and internationally-renowned and established research groups from various disciplines and institutions.
4. Student Research Support & Services Initiative: Inculcate a spirit of research excellence among our students and increase the quality and impact of students' research output.
5. Tutor Value-Added Initiative: (i) Hone our tutors' professional growth and development and value through formal training, peer and lecturer evaluation, self-reflection and self-recommendations. (ii) Reward our best tutors/ teaching assistants.
6. Student Academic Performance and Throughput Initiative: Be proactive in tracking and providing guidance to underperforming students continually.
7. Administrative Performance Initiative: Recognize the efforts and dedication of our executive staff.

Dr Nadine McCloud-Rose
Head of Department





Retirement

Best Wishes
to

**Professor
Edward Gharthey**



New
Head of Dept.
(2019/2020)

Best Wishes
to

**Dr Nadine
McCloud-Rose**



Professorial
Appointment

Congratulations
to

**Professor
Mehmet Orhan**

Welcome!!!
New Colleagues

**Dujon Dunn, Sherona Forrester,
Susan Grossette & Wesley Hughes**

Resignations

**Jan Keil
Terrence Campbell**

The DoE extends heartfelt thanks to
Jan and Terrence for their contributions to the
department and wishes them well in their new jobs.

Citation

Professor Edward Ghartey

Appreciation of Service
(1993 –2019)

Professor Edward Ghartey joined the Department of Economics as a Lecturer in 1993, and was steadily promoted to the rank of Professor in 2010.

His main areas of teaching and research include: Macroeconomics Theory and Policy, Monetary Economics, International Finance, Public Finance, Econometric Theory, and Time Series Analysis.

Over the years, Prof Ghartey has held membership in 13 international professional associations, and served as a reviewer for 19 regional and international journals. He has published 24 journal articles, 3 book chapters, and presented 59 conference papers. Prof Ghartey is also the recipient of 29 awards, grants or scholarships in relation to his research.

Professor Ghartey's record of service includes President and Director of the African Finance and Economics Association, Executive Officer of the Allied Social Science Associations, and President of the Ghanaian Association in Jamaica. Since 2004, he has also served as Associate Editor, *Frontiers in Finance and Economics*, and Senior Fellow, Institute of Economic Affairs, Ghana. He previously served as a Fellow at Dalhousie University and Acadia University in Canada. In addition, he has served on departmental and faculty committees at UWI.

In recognition of his contribution, the Faculty of Social Sciences salutes Professor Edward Ghartey for 26 years of outstanding service.



MSc Economics Class of 2019

Distinction

Gonzales, Mikiela
Smith, Shanice
Taylor, Oneka

Chambers, Kedeem
Douglas, Kirk
Gordon, Neika
Green, Marissa
Gustavus, Richard
Lawrence, Chrisana
Marks, Janelle
Morgan, Jodi
Purcell, Kerry-Ann
Reid, Ricardo
Richards, Brian
Salmon, Dwanye
Swaby, Nickard
Taylor, Ajornie
Thomas, Carlton
Welch, Tajrie
White, Charnelle

Faculty of Social Sciences

Best Research Awards 2018/2019

Dr Alrick Campbell and Professor Edward Ghartey received individual awards for the best research publication in the article category in the faculty of social sciences for the academic year 2017-2018.

Dr. Alrick Campbell, Article: "Price and Income Elasticities of Electricity Demand: Evidence from Jamaica", published in the journal, *Energy Economics*.

Professor Edward Ghartey: "Financial Development and Economic Growth: Some Caribbean Empirical Evidence, published in the *Journal of Economic Development*.

Dr. Nekeisha Spencer's interdisciplinary work with the Climate Studies Group, Department of Physics won the award for Research Project Attracting the Most Research Funds in the Faculty of Science and Technology. The collaborative work was part of a series of papers written from research done under the Caribbean 1.5 Project. The specific paper under this project that Dr. Spencer was part of is entitled: "Estimating damages from climate-related natural disasters for the Caribbean at 1.5 C and 2 C global warming above preindustrial levels", which is published in the journal *Regional Environmental Change*.

Faculty of Social Sciences



Stephanie Pinnock hands over the FSS award for best graduate teaching, AY 2018/2019, to Dr Nadine McCloud-Rose.



Dr Nadine McCloud-Rose presents a plaque to recently retired Professor Edward Ghartey for his years of service to The UWI.



& Awards Ceremony



Dr Patrice Whitely (left) , Dr Kelly-Ann Dixon Hamil and Victor Hamil.

Publications (AY 2018/2019)

Journal Articles:

Braithwaite, S. (2019). "Subsistence Sector Advancement in the Lewis Model." *Journal of Developing Areas*, 53(4).

Ghartey, E (2019), Asymmetries in Exchange rate Pass-through and Monetary Policy Principle: Some Caribbean Empirical Evidence. *North American Journal of Economics and Finance*, volume 47, 325-335.

Spencer, N & Urquhart M. (2018). Hurricane Strikes and Migration: Evidence from Storms in Central America and the Caribbean', *Weather, Climate and Society*, 10:3, 569–577.

Burgess, C.P., Taylor, M.A., **Spencer, N.** et al. (2018). Estimating Damages from Climate-related Natural Disasters for the Caribbean at 1.5 °C and 2 °C Global Warming above Re-industrial Levels', *Regional Environmental Change*, 18: 8, 2297-2312.

Spencer, N., Urquhart, M-A., & **Whitely, P.** (2019). Class Discrimination? Evidence from Jamaica: A Racially Homogeneous Labor Market. *Review of Radical Political Economics*.

Spencer, N. and Liu, Z. (2019). Victimization and Happiness: Evidence from a High Crime Country, *Social Indicators Research*, 144(1), 475-495.

Mohan, P., **Spencer, N.** and Strobl, E (2019). Natural Disasters and Production Efficiency: Moving Closer to or Further from the Frontier? *International Journal of Disaster Risk Science*, 10(2), 166-178.

Spencer, N and E. Strobl (2019). Crime Watch: Hurricanes and Illegal Activities, *Southern Economic Journal*. DOI: 10.1002/SOJ.12376.

*Highlighted authors are faculty of the Department of Economics.

Department of Economics Seminars (AY 2018/2019)

Nadine McCloud Rose and Peter-John Gordon, "Do Elite Schools Matter? Empirical Evidence from Jamaica." February 28, 2019.

Nicholas Wright, Georgia State University, "Need-Based Financing Policies, College Decision-Making, and Labour Market Behaviour." November 22, 2018.

Graduate Student Presentations

Janelle Marks, "Vector and Water Borne Diseases in SIDS: An Economic Analysis." The St Augustine Conference on the Economy (COTE), October 17, 2018.

Carlton Thomas, "An Empirical Investigation into the dynamics of Economic Growth and Birth Rates in Latin America." The St Augustine Conference on the Economy (COTE), October 17, 2018.

Tajrie Welch, "The Impact of Hurricanes on Export in the Caribbean: A Gravity Model Analysis." West Indies Economic Conference (WECON). University Regional Headquarters, March 22, 2019.

Etel Williams, "The Impact of Education on Intentional Homicide: An Empirical Analysis." Southwest Social Sciences Association Research Conference.

Etel Williams, "The Impact of Education on Intentional Homicide: An Empirical Analysis." West Indies Economic Conference (WECON). University Regional Headquarters, March 22, 2019.

Conference Presentations (AY 2018/2019)

Christine Clarke, "Towards Developing an Index of Resilience for Small Island Developing States." Jamaica Red Cross/UWI Faculty of Social Sciences Symposium, August 18, 2019.

Andre Haughton, "An Economic Impact Assessment of Community Colleges in Jamaica." The Annual Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica Conference, January 10 - 12, 2019.

Andre Haughton, "Cannabis as an Instrument to Engage at risk Youths." The Caribbean Summit on Youth Violence Prevention, George Town Guyana, January 15 - 16, 2019.

Jan Keil, "Relationship Banking and the Administration of Loans." Humboldt University (department-internal presentation), October 29, 2018.

Nadine McCloud-Rose, "Calculating Degrees of Freedom in Multivariate Local Polynomial Regression." Annual Meeting of the Latin American Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society (LAMES). Guayaquil, Ecuador, November 8-10, 2018.

Nekeisha Spencer, "Hurricanes and Household Welfare: The Role of Savings and Remittances." 50th Annual Monetary Studies Conference, Barbados. November 6-8, 2018.

Patrice Whitely and **Nekeisha Spencer**, "Class Discrimination? Evidence from a Racially Homogeneous Labour Market." St Augustine Conference on the Economy (COTE), October 17, 2018.

Patrice Whitely, "A" is for Attendance: The Impact of Class Attendance on Student Performance." Aston Preston Hall, September 26, 2018.

West Indies Economic Conference (WECON) March 21-22, 2019, Kingston, Jamaica

Samuel Braithwaite, "Has The GATT/WTO Promoted CARICOM Merchandise Trade?"

Alrick Campbell, "Efficiency Analysis and Setting the X-factor: An Application of Double Bootstrap DEA to Electricity Networks in Island States."

Edward Ghartey, "Taylor Principle versus Exchange Rate Principle: Empirical Evidence about their Effectiveness in Developing Countries."

George-Levi Gayle, **Peter-John Gordon**, Prasanthi Ramakrishnan and Devon Lynch, "Estimating the Welfare Cost of Moral Hazard in Healthcare from a Large Scale Policy Experiment."

Tasha Zephirin, **Kelly-Ann Dixon Hamil** and Darryl Dickerson, "Exploring Black Engineering Success: A Split Population Survival Analysis."

Jan Keil, "Do Relationship Lenders Manage Loans Differently?"

Amira Karimova, Esra Simsek and **Mehmet Orhan**, "Policy Implications of the Lucas Critique Empirically Tested along the Global Financial Crisis."

Nadia Grant-Reid, "Effect of Vocational Training on Employment and Wage Premium: Evidence from Jamaican Panel Data."

Nadine McCloud Rose and **Peter-John Gordon**, "Do Elite Schools Matter? Empirical Evidence from Jamaica."

Daniel Henderson, **Nadine McCloud-Rose** and Christopher Parameter, "A Partially Parametric Model."

Nekeisha Spencer and Eric Strobl, "The Impact of Decriminalization on Marijuana and Alcohol Consumption."

Research Days UWI Mona 2019

Research Days 2019 (RD2019) was held from February 6-8, 2019. The Department of Economics in collaboration with the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) hosted an interactive display on how changes in the prices of items in the basket of goods impact inflation. Visitors to the booth were able to use an app to select the percentage change for each of the 12 categories in the basket of goods. As these changes were made, a histogram illustrating the percentage change was displayed, along with the data table showing the impact of the change. Including students and other members of the public, the Principal, the Vice Chancellor, Minister of Education and members of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) were also visitors to our display. In general, our presentation was well received.

In addition to our main attraction, four colleagues showcased their research.

2019 Research for Development Publication
Professor Memhet Orhan:
Are Sovereign Ratings by CRAs Consistent?

Posters:

Dr Nadine McCloud (HoD):
Domestic Interest Rate and Foreign Direct Investment under Institutional Uncertainty

Dr Alrick Campbell:
Efficiency analysis and setting the X-factor: An application of double bootstrap DEA to electricity networks in island states

Dr Kelly-Ann Dixon Hamil:
Using Relationships from Misaligned Data to Improve Predictions

Thank you to all those who assisted in making this a success. This includes our undergraduate and graduate students who manned the booth and those who contributed their intellect and time. Special mention is given to Mr TaVoy Reid and Mr Ainsworth McDonald, two of our graduate students who made the department proud as they interacted with the Vice Chancellor, Sir Hilary Beckles and the then Minister of Education, Ruel Reid. Additionally, we thank our colleagues, especially, Ms Marjorie Bryan, Mr Terence Campbell, Mr Shamar Bennett and Mr Sherdon Saunders. We also thank Dr Samuel Braithwaite who assisted with conception and gave invaluable feedback.

Dr Kelly-Ann Dixon Hamil
Dept. of Economics, Research Days Coordinator

Intra-Faculty Cooperation Remembering The Grenada Revolution

On Wednesday, March 13, 2019, the Faculty of Social Sciences and SALISES, hosted a public forum to mark the 40th anniversary of the Grenada Revolution. The forum was coordinated by Dr Samuel Braithwaite of the Department of Economics, with the support of the Faculty Office and the Director of SALISES, Professor Henry-Lee, and her excellent staff. The programme was chaired by former faculty member of the Department of Economics, retired Professor Claremont Kirton. Professor Kirton was the ideal chair, having worked for the Peoples Revolutionary Government as a senior economist in the Ministry of Finance.

A rich selection of presenters spoke about their experiences and research on the revolution. The panel comprised of: Mr Victor Burke, Professor Clinton Hutton, Dr Heather Ricketts, Professor Rupert Lewis, Professor Bryan Meeks, and Dr Jermaine McCalpin.

A video recording of the event can be seen on [YouTube](#).



Clockwise from top right: Dr Heather Ricketts, Dr Dacia Leslie, Prof. Claremont Kirton and Prof. Clinton Hutton.

THE THIRD **WECON** Annual Conference March 21-22, 2019

The third installment of the West Indies Economic Conference (WECON), was held on March 21 and 22, 2019. This year's keynote speaker was none other than Professor Jeffrey Wooldridge from Michigan State University, who delivered an excellent address on heterogeneous treatment effects. The conference featured approximately 30 presentations from researchers all over the world including the United States, Ecuador, Barbados, Switzerland, and of course, Jamaica. WECON 2019 presented panels on "Health and Labour", "Econometric Modelling and Development", "Environment and Energy", "Finance and Real Estate", "Tourism and Trade" and "Education". There was rich, enlightening discourse on many issues relevant to the country, the region, and the world at large. Specific topics that were explored included, the impact of hurricanes on fertility, education and crime, teacher quality and high school performance, the impact of vocational training on employment and wage premiums and the impact of the decriminalization of marijuana. The department would like to extend a hearty thanks to the sponsors of WECON 2019 – the Bank of Jamaica, Jamaica Money Market Brokers Bank and Wisynco. The conference ended with a dinner at M10, in Vineyard Town, where participants were treated to authentic, traditional Jamaican dishes, and were able to relax and take in the Jamaican "vibe". Information was exchanged that will hopefully lead to a continuation of the important discussions that were had, and future productive partnerships. The department looks forward to WECON 2020 where we will be pleased to have our first female keynote speaker, Princeton University Professor, Janet Currie!

Dr. Patrice Whitely
Conference Chair, WECON 2019



Conference Picture



WEST INDIES ECONOMIC CONFERENCE
MARCH 12-13, 2020
KINGSTON, JAMAICA, W.I.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Department of Economics, UWI-Mona, presents the 4th West Indies Economic Conference (WECON) on March 12-13, 2020. Papers in every field of economics are welcome. Inter-disciplinary papers and papers on the issues of developing countries are especially welcome.

Abstracts should be submitted to:
The Coordinator
WECON 2020
Tel.: 876.977.1188
Email: wecon@uwimona.edu.jm

Abstract submissions must include:
*Title of Paper *200 words or less
*At least TWO JEL code classifications
*Author's (and co-author's) name, affiliation,
address, telephone number, and e-mail address

REGISTRATION FEES

INTERNATIONAL (US \$250), CARICOM RESIDENTS (US \$110)
STUDENTS: INTERNATIONAL (US \$80), CARICOM (FREE)

Guest Speakers
Prof. Suresh Naidu, Columbia University
Prof. W. Bentley Macleod, Columbia University

Keynote Speaker
Professor Janet Currie
Princeton University

- Abstract Submission Deadline: December 31, 2019
- Notification of Acceptance: January 20, 2020
- Registration & Paper Submission Deadline: January 31, 2020

Contact us or see website for more information <http://wecon-mona.org/>

Exchange Rate & Inflation Targeting: Are two targets better than one?

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS & BANK OF JAMAICA
PUBLIC FORUM, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

Panelists: Dr Andre Haughton, Department of Economics; Dr Constant Lonkeng, Resident Representative, IMF; Dr Manuel Ramos-Francia, Former Deputy Governor, Bank of Mexico & Director General of CEMLA; and Mrs Janelle Pantry Coke, Creative Director/Owner, Spaces Jamaica.



Post Budget Panel Discussion

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS & SALISES
UWI-MONA UNDERCROFT, MARCH 27, 2019

Panellists: Mr Mark Golding, Opposition Spokesman on Finance and Planning; Mr Hugh Johnson, President of Small Business Association of Jamaica; Mr Danny Roberts, Head of the Hugh Shearer Labour Studies Institute; Mr Raul Pinnock, Corporate Finance Executive, Barita Investments; Dr Christine Clarke, Department of Economics; and Dr Kevin Williams, Research Fellow, SALISES.



RESEARCH CORNER

Do Elite Schools Matter? Empirical Evidence from Jamaica (Unpublished)

Nadine McCloud & Peter-John Gordon

In Jamaica, there is a standard examination taken by all students in the final year of primary school. The placement mechanism of the Ministry of Education assigns students to government-funded high schools based on the results of this examination and their ordered preferences stated by parents before the examination period. The probability of being assigned to a preferred school increases with the score obtained on the examination. The secondary schools which are more highly preferred admit students with higher scores on the placement exam. Parents invest a significant amount of money in private classes and time to assist their children in preparing for the transition examination. After the assignment of students to secondary schools, there is also considerable energy exercised in seeking transfers from one school to a more preferred one. No doubt parents think that there are advantages for their children in attending secondary schools with higher average incoming scores on the entrance examination.

In Jamaica, the Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) examinations were used to place primary school students into high schools. The GSAT is externally set and graded. High schools declare the number of spaces by gender, which they have available for each incoming group of students. The Ministry of Education uses a serial dictatorship method in allocating students to schools, i.e. the highest-scoring child is placed first, then the next highest, in that order. For each student, if there is no more space available in her first choice school, then she is considered for her second choice. If space is not available in her second choice school, then she is considered for her third-most preferred school, in that order. If a student's grade is not sufficiently high to qualify for any of her preferred schools, the Ministry of Education administratively places her. Students or schools cannot manipulate the assignment mechanism since they do not know the cutoff scores before the examination period begins.

The score of the child who occupied the last available place in an oversubscribed school is known as the cut-off score. Generally, scoring above the cut-off score for a listed school will lead to admission to that school, unless the student qualifies for a space in a school ranked higher on her preference list. Scoring below the cut-off score means that the placement mechanism assigns that child to a less preferred school.

Five years after entering secondary school, students take a set of high-stake exit examinations, the Caribbean Secondary Examination Certificate (CSEC). These examinations are externally set and graded. That is, the Council set and grade CSEC examinations outside of the school which the student attended. These examinations are common to all students taking them irrespective of the school attended. Some students do take some of these examinations before the fifth year of high school; we refer to these students as early takers.

We can track students from primary through secondary schools. We compile a data set from several sources. Our data set contains each student demographic data (such as age and gender), GSAT and CSEC results (including early takers), proxies for their social-economic status. At the school level, our data include the student-pupil ratio, teacher qualification and experience and school resources.

We seek to determine if there is, in fact, a school effect (or a peer effect). We will use a regression discontinuity methodology. We compare children who scored just above the cutoff scores to those who scored just below the cutoff scores. These borderline students have very similar scores. Attending different schools means that they interact with diverse peers. That is, on average, scoring above the cutoff subjects a child to higher-achieving peers and below to lower-achieving peers. We seek to determine if the outcome, as measured by CSEC results for equal students exposed to different peers, differ after five years.

RESEARCH CORNER

Has The GATT/WTO Promoted
CARICOM Merchandise Trade?
(Unpublished)

Samuel Braithwaite

This paper investigates the impact of the GATT/WTO trade framework on bilateral trade of CARICOM member states i.e. bilateral intra CARICOM trade and bilateral trade between CARICOM countries and non-CARICOM countries. To this end, data for the period 1980-2014 are analysed within a Poisson Pseudo Maximum Likelihood (PPML) gravity model framework. While the primary focus is on the GATT/WTO, the model's other important binary variables include a variable which captures the EU-CARIFORUM-EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement) and a variable representing intra-CARICOM trade. Data for the project were obtained from CEPII (Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales).

The data were divided and analysed along two lines i.e. exports and imports. The results show a "lowering" of both CARICOM exports and imports as evidenced by the results of the variables representing the EPA (post 2008) and the WTO (post 1994). The model also includes two other variables which are related to the EPA and the WTO variables, these additional variables account for bilateral trade with EU countries and with members of the GATT (the precursor to the WTO). In the case of exports, trade with EU countries and with members of the GATT results in higher levels of trade relative to non-EU or non GATT countries. On the other hand, trade with EU countries and members of the GATT are lower than for non-EU and non-GATT members, when CARICOM imports are analysed. These results show that the relationships between the members of CARICOM and members of the EU, and the GATT, have been beneficial as regards exports. These benefits seem to have been "exhausted" so much so that the EPA (post 2008) and the WTO (post 1994) have not added "additional benefits" as regards CARICOM exports. The foregoing aside, the binary variable representing intra-CARICOM trade suggests that trade was enhanced, or created, in terms of both imports and exports, for the entire period under consideration.

Cross-scale contradictions in
ecological relationships.
Landscape Ecology, 31(1), 7-18.

Dixon Hamil, K. A., Iannone III, B. V.,
Huang, W. K., Fei, S., & Zhang, H. (2016).

Failure to account for spatial heterogeneity in ecological analyses can cause modelled relationships to vary across spatial scales, specifically as it relates to different levels of spatial resolution. These varying results not only hinder the utility of data collected at one spatial scale for analyses at others, but also make it difficult to determine the true effect of underlying processes.

This research briefly reviews existing methods used for analysing data collected at multiple scales and highlights the effects of spatial heterogeneity on the utility of these methods. Additionally, using simulated examples, we show how not accounting for the drivers of spatial heterogeneity in statistical models can cause contradictory findings regarding relationship direction across spatial scales.

Our proposed solution uses mixed effects models to uncover the true underlying relationship by treating the drivers of spatial heterogeneity as random effects. As these drivers are usually unknown, suitable proxies are chosen. In the case of ecological studies, a suitable proxy sub-divides the area into scales which best captures the spatial heterogeneity. Typically, these are established ecological spatial units such as the ecological sub-regions of the USA developed by Cleland et al..

Mixed effects models are beneficial as it not always necessary to know the influential explanatory variables that cause the spatial heterogeneity. Moreover, there is no need to collect additional data to resolve the issue. Finally, this approach is not only well documented and can be applied to data having various distributions, but it is easily executable using multiple statistical packages.

Reparative Justice *OR* White Man's Burden?

"...I was never particularly keen on the idea of reparations, for the simple reason that I think the damage done by colonialism was so immense that it is essentially unquantifiable, how do you put a value on the literally millions of lives lost..... Any sum of reparations that is payable, would not be credible, and any sum that is credible, would not be payable, so why bother with the reparations route at all? Since this is about reparations, a symbolic £1.00 per year for the next 200 years would do it, because what I'm really interested in is atonement, not money."

The above quote is an excerpt from a speech given at The University of Edinburgh by Indian politician, and former international public servant, Dr Shashi Tharoor. Tharoor was speaking on the issue of reparations due to India for the atrocities of the British Raj. Tharoor's sentiments do not dictate my views on the issue of reparations, rather, they aptly capture my ambivalence on what should constitute an apropos atonement for the oppression and extermination of the forebears of Caribbean peoples, whether of African, Amerindian or Indian ancestry. My ambivalence on the "process" of reparative justice is not meant to dismiss the efforts of our leaders; in academia, in government, in civil society etc. Undoubtedly, the people of Britain should atone for the sins of their fathers. My ambivalence is part of a personal process, through which I contemplate the issue of reparations. It represents a questioning of the current narratives. A questioning of what might appear to some as settled positions. Settled prescriptions of what is required to move forward. Further, my view, my ambivalence, is not meant as a rebuttal, per se, of the dominant narrative. It's a personal journey on a road which I share with others who are contemplating the same issue. We might not arrive at the same destination, but the destination is not of primary importance here. It's about the process, the dialogue, the ability to listen with open minds and hearts, and to work towards solutions. It's through the process that true healing occurs.

While I cannot speak to Dr Tharoor's motives for his position on reparations, my view is grounded in pride. My pride is grounded in the view that no amount of money can compensate for the atrocities meted out to my forebears. My pride is grounded in the view that my forebears were resilient beyond measure, and said resilience overflows within my psyche, and within the psyche of my Caribbean brothers and sisters. My pride is grounded in the view that our wellbeing, our prosperity, and our happiness are ultimately a function of our efforts.



Dr Samuel Braithwaite
Lecturer, Dept. of Economics (DoE), UWI-Mona.

It is ultimately our responsibility. In his celebrated book, *"How Europe Underdeveloped Africa,"* Walter Rodney writes, "[n]one of these remarks are intended to remove the ultimate responsibility for development from the shoulders of Africans. Not only are there African accomplices inside the imperialist system, but every African has a responsibility to understand the system and work for its overthrow."

In what follows, I situate my ambivalence on the "process" of reparative justice within a few scenarios. First, the evidence is there. The evidence has been convincingly articulated by writers, such as Sir Hilary Beckles, in his book, *"Britain's Black Debt"*. The beneficiaries of oppression should voluntarily do what's right. The process of atonement, or reparative justice for our ancestors, in my view, is not akin to justice provided through a westernized international court (metaphorically speaking), where the "oppressed" and the "oppressor" sit on opposite sides of an aisle, in a cold room complete with high priced lawyers, metal detectors and learned judges. Instead, what I see is more akin to the traditional Gacaca court system of Rwanda, notwithstanding its flaws, where the "oppressed" and the "oppressor" dialogue in an atmosphere of conciliation.

Secondly, the finality which comes with agreeing to a given sum will not allow me closure. Dr William Darity, an African-American economist, argues that a goal of reparative justice is closure. Closure, for me, is an individual process, a varied and complex process, beyond monetary compensation. A process that does not require monetary compensation, but is not opposed to it.

Thirdly, we in the Caribbean, while having achieved political control of our lands, remain underdeveloped and economically dependent on the "north". However, we are ultimately responsible for our wellbeing. Notwithstanding the significant challenges which work against us achieving economic independence, I'm wary of any suggestion which borders, even if remotely, on the view that it's the white man's burden to "liberate" us from "penury."

Finally, it has been recommended that perhaps the compensation we receive from reparations could be spent on the creation of drugs, specially created for the bodies of Afro-Caribbean people, who currently have no choice but to use drugs tested on, and ideally created for, other people who are not similarly afflicted. Generally, the plan is an excellent way to use any compensation we receive. However, will the compensation we receive remain within our community or return from whence it came to fund the process of creating medicines? For decades, Rastafari, the epitome of Caribbean cultural expression and resistance, has been preaching methods that can help us prevent chronic diseases. Instead, we choose another path, we consume in ways which we align with a life of “prosperity”, and so hypertension, diabetes and obesity is the price we pay. Is it the white man’s burden to create medicines for us, in a lab, somewhere in temperate climes? Or will we find our own “remedies”?

On July 31, 2019, the University of Glasgow and The University of the West Indies signed an MOU to establish a relationship of cooperation on the issue of reparations, for the enslavement of Africans in the Caribbean. This initiative came about because the University of Glasgow decided it was prudent to commission a study to ascertain the amount of money it indirectly received from the oppression of enslaved Africans. It’s estimated that the university received donations of approximately £200 million in today’s terms. While specific initiatives are yet to be decided upon, this partnership is indicative of what’s possible. It’s a way forward which advances the narrative. It advances the process of reconciliation, through a framework of mutual respect and cooperation, void of punitive undertones. It’s a start, an excellent start.



The Zong Massacre

“The Zong was an overloaded slave ship which crossed the Atlantic in 1781. Due to a navigational error, the ship missed its destination in the Caribbean and had to spend an extra three weeks at sea. Drinking water was growing short and sickness had spread among the slaves and crew.

Approximately 131 African captives were thrown overboard and drowned because if they had died on board, the crew could not claim insurance money on the lost cargo.”

Source:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zqv7hyc/revision/9>



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles (left), Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies and Dr David Duncan, Chief Operating Officer & University Secretary, University of Glasgow, at the signing of the MoU at The UWI Regional Headquarters, July 31, 2019 (Kingston, Jamaica).
 Photo Credit: University of Glasgow

JODI-ANN BENNETT

1989-2018

The following eulogy, for the late Jodi-Ann Bennett, was compiled and presented by Dr Nadine McCloud-Rose, current head of the DoE.

A light from our home is gone. A voice we love so dear is still. Jody, we wish we could have you here, but God's way is not always our way. So sleep on dear child take your rest till we meet in that sweet by and by, Hebrews 9:27 declares "and as it is appointed unto men once to die, but often this is the judgment."

Here is the eulogy for the late Jodi-Ann Bennett A.K.A Sister.

On the 30th of August 1989, a beautiful baby girl was born to a wonderful mother Jocelyn and father Donald. She was a great bundle of joy, and she brightened up the home tremendously. Jodi grew up to be a brilliant, happy, and loving child and started the Happy Heart Basic School in September of 1992 through to 1997.

After elementary school, Sister enrolled in the Negril All Age School from 1995 to 2002. She had a passion for sports and soon started to participate in various activities, including netball. At the age of 12, Jodi sat the GSAT exams and earned a space in the Little London High School. At Little London High School, Jodi also did netball and track and field. She was one of the three (3) top students in principles of business and accounts but excelled much in Mathematics and Accounts. Her teachers would always say that Jodi loved challenges. Because of the exceptional and humble student she was, her teachers, especially Ms Reynolds and Ms Blair, took her under their wings and mentored her. She graduated with seven (7) subjects from Little London High School and went to Frome Technical High School from 2007-2009.

At Frome, Jodi was always on top. She loved educational trips and continued to participate in sports. Her academic performances always placed her above her classmates. Her achievements in C.A.P.E. were eight units, including economics, sociology and of course her favourite subject, mathematics. It was at Frome where she received



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Sister had many excellent and exciting characteristics. She was a tomboy and loved to play marbles and netball. Jodi also loved modelling; Jodi even entered Miss Elegant at Pulse and was in the finals. She had some weird traits too. For example, whenever she was washing her clothes, her two feet would have to be in the bath.

She was a funny, loving, kind, and forgiving soul. She was always smiling and impacting the lives of anyone she met. She cared more about her family and friends than she did about herself. She spent more time catering to others than to herself. When asked about herself, she would say, "meh, alright." Her biggest dream was to provide for her mother so that she could live the life she truly deserves. She was the daughter any mother would love to have. To sum it all up, to know her was to love her: an angel in disguise.

Jodi believed that a good education is a vehicle to bring her biggest dream to fruition. So after leaving Frome, she gained employment to further her studies in Economics and Political Science at the U.W.I. In 2013, she was accepted by the U.W. I. Mona campus to pursue her undergraduate studies.

She had to migrate to Kingston to attend classes. At U.W.I., Jodi was a consummate student. Sister mastered all her exams and made her lecturers feel incredibly privileged to have her as a student in their classes. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Economics and Statistics and graduated with first-class honours in Sept. of 2016. She then tutored and lectured undergraduate students at the U.W. I. for two years; during this time, she completed her Master's degree in Economics.

By every single metric, Jodi was an outlier in our Master's programme!! She was the recipient of the coveted award: Top graduating student in the Masters in Economics programme.

After completing her Masters, she received multiple job offers, but her choice was to work at the Bank of Jamaica. She planned to work for a year then pursue her doctoral studies in Economics. I planned to call my colleagues overseas and tell them to expect her application for their doctoral programmes. Now is the time at which I would be doing just that and writing Jodi's letters of recommendation. The irony is that here I am reading her eulogy that I helped to draft!

These sequence of events go to show that God's plan is not always our plan. After doing her medical, Jodi received the sad news that she had acute leukaemia, which is a cancer of the blood and bone marrow. She was admitted to the U.W. I. hospital for a few days and then was sent home.

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"Man that is born of a woman is of a few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed the bounds that he cannot pass." Job 14:1-2 & 5

However, she got readmitted to the hospital on the 14th of September. Her sister's wedding was coming up in October, and she was the chief bridesmaid. She refused to let her sickness prevent her from attending, so she asked her doctor to allow her to participate in the wedding, but her doctor denied the request. She, however, did not give up; her doctors relented and gave her permission to go to the wedding. At times everyone could see she was in pain, but Jodi held her head high and gracefully played her part. Her sister was overwhelmed to have her there and said she could never get a better wedding present. Upon returning to the hospital, Jodi started chemo. She made a turn for the worst, which placed her in the intensive care unit for ten days.

Job 14, 1-2 & 5 states:

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Unfortunately, on the 13th of November, she succumbed to her illness. She left behind her mother Joycelyn, Father Donald, seven brothers: Lyndon, Vivian, Brenton, Cutie and three others, Sisters: Mello, Tash and Sherona, Grandmothers, Uncles, Aunts Nieces and Nephews, Cousins, dear friend Odaine and a host of other relatives, friends and the fantastic supportive mentors she met in Negril and at U.W.I.

Jodi, you will forever be in our hearts!!!!

ALISTER MCINTYRE

1932-2019

The following tribute by Prof Sir Hilary Beckles has been edited due to space constraints.

Kindly visit <http://www.uwi.edu/siralister#visionary> for the original tribute.



I was but a rookie, in UWI years, when Sir Alister, after blazing a global trail, wheeled and returned to the realm as a Caribbean colossus to serve us as Vice-Chancellor. The timing was perfect. His presence powerful and turbulent. Together, they constituted an image reflective of the ground scorching cover drive we had come to expect of Viv Richards.

The academic community, long accustomed to having its way, wished to be wooed. Alister was not the wooing sort. They braced for the anticipated bruising winds of change. His full blown reputation, sown in the richest soils of Caribbean scholarship and matured in the cut and thrust of post-colonial regional political governance, was respected and celebrated in the global corridors of the United Nations. No one doubted that he was a no-nonsense transformative leader. He arrived at the Mona Campus in the August of 1988, but his identity had departed from Geneva for Kingston in May while the poui bloomed; colourful rumours of his selection were everywhere.

It was the climax of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the University's service to the region. It was the 20th anniversary of the purging of Walter Rodney from the home campus, an action that opened up in a biblical discursive fashion; what wrong had this brilliant man done to deserve such drastic treatment? And, as fate would have it, Sir Alister arrived at the crease to find that not only was the wicket slippery, but the dark clouds were gathering and the skies were about to open up.

Some called it 'an act of God'. We named it Gilbert. Its fury found and focused upon Jamaica while the Vice-Chancellor was meeting and greeting his colleagues. It blew the roof off the Mona Campus. The Vice-Chancellor, then made his debut, on a wicket that was not only sticky but wet and in bad light. He took control of the crease and stamped his authority at the wicket. The pace of his institutional reforms and transformation was hot like fire.

I was his Dean of Humanities at the distant Cave Hill Campus, long considered in the periphery. He was urged by his cabinet to slow it down, but he had no time for medium pace or middle thinking. He was in a hurry. West Indian society, he said, had no time to waste. Haste, he believed, was necessary to guide our flight from the colonial scaffold. Our golden age, he thought, is in the future, not the past. From the rookies at the base of the academic community came a loud applause.

In short order the traditional, British-style three-term structure of the academic year was blown away and the American oriented semester system became the new order. The modernisation of The UWI had begun. He assembled his leadership team to transform its academic operations, restructure its finances, and raise the standards of academic performance.

The decision to explode the age old ad hoc administration of the regional institution arrived with a big bang, and arising from the dust was something sensational-systematic five-year strategic planning. Leading from the front as a development economist, he took senior and middle management into brainstorming retreats to put the Jurassic world behind us. The University took a giant leap into the world of hands-on development.

He rolled out a road map for the OECS, the sub-region that had been left behind in respect of having a university eco-system to infuse national transformation. University degrees were franchised to their community colleges. He demanded a distance education revolution to facilitate human resource development. He developed an access to higher education which was branded the 'Hub and Spokes' model; The UWI was the hub and community colleges were the spokes.

Simultaneously, he engaged the global space initiative to make his case. The United Nations system was called upon to provide funding for capital works to build capacity across the region in areas of science and technology. The global private sector was tapped for support in constructing new dormitories to secure the expansion of student enrolment from the region and internationally. Within this context, he secured the coveted tax exemption status for the American Foundation for The UWI that has since hosted an annual fundraising gala in New York.

Critically, Sir Alister moved with alacrity to institutionalise a culture of formally rewarding academic, administrative and service efforts. The annual Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence have since been the benchmark for accomplishment recognition. The modern UWI in its management dimensions took sustainable shape, and form within his imagination, orations and actions.

In effect, what can be described as 'The McIntyre Moment', born in a hurricane, represents the beginning of a new era. The image, for example, of three landed campuses, stuck in their status as independent-seeking entities, was disrupted and set aside. The new strategic planning process foregrounded the 'One-UWI' principle. In this regard, he might have saved the University from its internal impulse to be too overtly campus-centric.

Last year when Times Higher Education ranked The UWI among the best universities worldwide, my first, visceral reaction on receiving the report, was to thank Sir Alister for insisting upon the highest standard. That, I thought, was his greatest gift to us.

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