



**17th Biennial Conference of the
Association of Caribbean
Women Writers and Scholars**

...

**Global Feminist Leadership in a
Time of Crisis:
Scholarship, Advocacy, Activism,
Creativity, and Pedagogy**

**The University College of the Cayman Islands
June 12-14, 2025**

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Coffee and Registration: 8:30 am – 9:00 am

Sir Vassel Johnson Hall

Opening and Welcome: 9:00 am – 9:55 am

Sir Vassel Johnson Hall

Professor Livingston Smith, Acting President and CEO, UCCI

Gilbert McLean, Chair of Board of Governors, UCCI

Dr. Stephanie Fullerton-Cooper, Associate Professor, UCCI

Professor Carol Bailey, President of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars

Professor Simone A. James Alexander, Chair of Conference

Keynote: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Sir Vassel Johnson Hall

Merle Collins, Professor Emerita, University of Maryland, College Park

Title: “Unknown Bards”: Community Philosophers, Political Thinkers, and the Shaping of Scholarship.

Session I: Panel I: 11:15am - 12:30pm

LIB 1

Laboring Subjects: Women’s Labor and Activism

Chair: Daniele Bobb

Reimagining Women’s Labour and Advancement in Times of Crises

Daniele Bobb, The University of the West Indies, Cavehill

S(he) hath founded it upon the seas: Interrogating the seminal role of Women's Labour in a Historical context in the Cayman Islands

Mikana Scott, Independent Scholar

Heels on the Glass: Power, Pettiness, and Gender Politics
#TheOtherGlassCeiling

Kadeshah Swearing, UCCI

Session I: Panel II: 11:15am - 12:30pm

LIB 4

Disciplinary and Exploratory Strategies: Inclusive Critical Pedagogy

Chair: Erica Gordon, UCCI

A Conscious Call to Duty: Caribbean women and the making of a gendered Black Nationalism

Natayna Duncan, Queens College, CUNY

Singing Feminism: The Anthem of Haitian Women

Sabine Lamour, Brown University/ Université d'Etat d'Haïti

Plug In: A BIPOC Future in Clean Energy

Michelle Miller, Franklin Cummings Tech

Lunch Plenary: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Sir Vassel Johnson Hall

Her Story, Our Nation: Reframing Women's Roles in the Making of the Cayman Islands

JA Roy Bodden, Cayman Author, President Emeritus, UCCI

Session II: Panel 1: 2:45pm - 4:00pm

LIB 1

Lessons from the Past: Four Centuries of Caribbean Women's Activism

Chair: Rosamond S. King

Surfacing Women's Work: Female Leadership, Conflict, and Erasure in Colonial Latin American Documents

Karen Graubart, University of Notre Dame

Caribbean Queens: How the Public Remembers Women's Revolt

Rosamond S. King, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

Cultivating Inclusive Futures: Queer and Trans Activism & Transformational Leadership

Angelique V. Nixon, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

Session II: Panel 2: 2:45pm - 4:00pm

LIB 4

Resistance and Reclamation: Digital and Oral Storytelling

Chair: Belinda Blessitt Vincent, UCCI

"I Speak to Survive": A Black Caribbean Woman, Oral Storytelling, and Poetic Resistance

Judy DeRosier, Teachers College Columbia University

Deep-fake pornography: The new frontier in technology facilitated gender-based violence

Kaia Boodoo, University of Baltimore

An Exploration of Women's Chemistry Self-efficacy in Undergraduate Courses: Impact of a Mathematics Intervention
Antoinette Gayle, UCCI

Session III: Panel 1: 4:15pm - 5:30pm

LIB 1

Literary Voices of Resistance

Chair: Carol Bailey

Gender Power and Modes of Resistance in Jeanne Thompson's Father's Day

Marie Sairsingh, University of the Bahamas

Activist Literature: Reading, Writing and Teaching in a Time of Crisis

Carol Bailey, Amherst College

From Guerrilla Mode to Open Combat: Creating Authentic Creole Voices in the Novel, The Road to Timnath

Sylvia Gilfillian, Independent Scholar

Session III: Panel 2: 4:15pm - 5:30pm

LIB 2

Womanism, Spirituality, and Ancestral Calling

Chair: Chenzira Davis Kahina

AfRaKan Womanism in Caribbean Sovereign and Colonial Spaces

Chenzira Davis Kahina, University of the Virgin Islands

Bringing our ancestors together-A Practice

Janet Arelis Quezada, Independent Scholar

African Odyssey: Sacred Dance, Womanist Spirituality, and the Griot's Calling

Olubayo Jackson, Independent Scholar

Opening Reception: 6:00pm

Sir Vassel Johnson Hall

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Coffee and Registration: 8:30 am – 9:00 am

Sir Vassel Johnson Hall

Session 1: Panel 1: 9:00am - 10:15am

LIB 1

Writing the Future: Female Flight and Resistance in Speculative Fiction

Chair: Giselle Anatol

Female Flight & Fright: Boo-Hags as a Figure of Resistance in Eden Royce's Root Magic

Giselle Anatol, University of Kansas

Imagining a Past/Future Self: Intention and Choice in Nalo Hopkinson's Midnight Robber

Rhonda Frederick, Boston College

Session 1: Panel 2: 9:00am - 10:15am

LIB 2

Reproductive Health, Religion, and the Environment

Chair: Paulette Wright-Hall, UCCI

Compounded Islamophobia: The Impact of Anti-Black Racism and Gender-Based Discrimination on Black Women's Mental Health

Fatimah Jackson-Best, York University

Reproductive Identity Narratives of Adolescent Girls in Kenya

Pavita Singh, Teachers College, Columbia University

Session II: Panel 1: 10:30am - 11:45am

LIB 1

Contours and Challenges: Navigating the Changing Tides of Global Female Leadership

Chair: Simone A. James Alexander

Fostering Female Leadership Within and Beyond the Ivory Tower

Simone A. James Alexander, Lehigh University

Caribbean Culture Club: Student Leadership and Advocacy

Lya Joseph, Lehigh University

Voice, Vision, and Visibility: Practicing Leadership as a Student Journalist

Emmanuella Agyemang, Lehigh University

Session II: Panel 2: 10:30am - 11:45am

LIB 2

Cultural and Alternative Religious Practices

Chair: Antoinette Gayle

‘Beware the Obeah Woman’: Writing Literature, Afro-Caribbean Religious Text, and their Cultural Icons

Elise Barnett, UMASS, Amherst, Independent Scholar

Protestant Pilgrim to The Trap Witch: The Diverse Spiritual Legacy of Caymanian Women

Annikki Hill, Cayman Islands, Independent Scholar

Brujas, Borders, and Resistance: The Hidden Power of Vudu in Hispaniola

Nairobi Sanchez, Comunidad Consulting, Independent Scholar

Session III: Panel 1: 12:00 - 1:15pm

LIB 1

Sounding Resistance: Cultural and Poetic Performances

Chair: Geraldine Skeete

A Poetic Tribute of Resistance: Jennifer Rahim’s “Miss Miles, Elevated”

Geraldine Skeete, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

Black Women’s 21st Century Leadership: Case Study New Jersey

Hyacinth Miller, Rutgers University, Newark Campus

Finding Our Voice Amidst Colonial Sound Storms

Nasaria Suckoo Chollette, Cayman Islands, Independent Scholar

Session III: Panel 2: 12:00 - 1:15pm

LIB 2

Feminist Geographies UnBound and Unbothered

Chair: Rosamond S. King

*Boundless Worlds: An Examination of Afro-Caribbean
Queer/Feminist Texts and the Geographies They Produce*

Cyprene Caines, Duke University

*Freedom, Justice and the Fight Against Systemic Oppression in
Neruda on the Park by Cleyvis Natera*

Nicole Roberts, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine

Poems “Broom Closets” and “Served in Ipanema”

Melodie Rodgers, Nightingale College

Lunch Plenary: 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Sir Vassel Johnson Hall

Out of the Kumbla Revisited

Professor Elaine Savory, The New School (Emerita)

Professor Carole Boyce Davies, Cornell University

Dr. Aza Weir-Soley, Florida International University

Professor Giselle Anatol, University of Kansas

Session IV: Panel I: 3:00pm - 3:30pm

Author Meet-and-Greet

Sir Vassel Johnson Hall

Session V: Panel 1: 3:45pm - 5:00pm

Sir Vassel Johnson Hall

Leading Change: Interdisciplinary Dialogues on Female Leadership in the Cayman Islands

Chair: Prof Livingston Smith, Acting President & CEO, UCCI

Dr Christopher Williams, Associate Professor of History, UCCI
Natalie Urquhart, BEM, Director, National Gallery of the
Cayman Islands

Theresa Pitcairn, Resident Director, Merrill Lynch Bank and
Trust Company

Cindy Scotland, OBE, CEO of the Cayman Islands Monetary
Authority

Cultural Event: 5:45pm

The National Gallery, Cayman Islands

SATURDAY JUNE 14

Session 1: Panel 1: 10:00am - 11:15 am

LIB 4

Self-Fashioning and Transformative Female Leadership

Chair: Stephanie Fullerton-Cooper

*“Self-Fashioning as Resistance: A Creative-Theoretical Reading
of Sojourner Truth’s Life and Legacy”*

Aza Weir-Soley, Florida International University

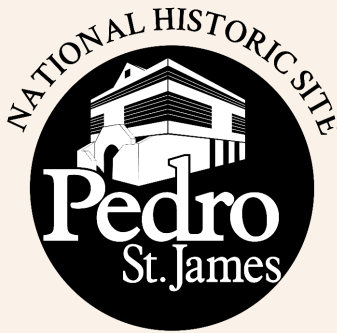
*Portia Simpson-Miller: A Model of Transformative Leadership
for the Global Arena*

Renée Latchman, Morgan State University

*Black Women Challenge Neocolonial Narratives of Aid in Africa
and the Caribbean by Reclaiming Marginalized Voices Through
Digital Storytelling*

Denise Jarrett, Morgan State University

ISLAND TOUR 11:45am - 3:00pm



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