The International Conference on Caribbean Literature

RAÍCES VIVAS

African and Latinx Routes to New Caribbean Scholarship

November 18–20, 2026 • Zel Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

All sessions meet in the conference meeting room at Zel Punta Cana unless noted. No sessions run at the same time.

Presenters: Please bring your presentation on a laptop or USB drive and arrive 10 minutes before your session to meet your chair. Questions? Contact iccl@morehouse.edu.

Wednesday, November 18

8:30–9:45 AM Registration

Outside the conference meeting room

9:45–10:15 AM Opening Welcome

Dr. Leah Creque, Director, International Conference on Caribbean Literature

10:30–11:45 AM Session A

Living Legacies: Research, Teaching, and Afro-Caribbean Crossings

Chair: Kareem Joseph, Emory University

- **Nicole Carr**, Morehouse College, "On Touching the Living and the Dead: Research Tools and Methods"
- **Aisha T. Spencer**, The University of the West Indies, Mona, "Making Space: Reflection and Response as Practices of Becoming in the Teaching of Caribbean Poetry"
- **Al-Yasha Williams**, Spelman College, "Islanded: Audre Lorde Scholarship in the 21st Century"
- **James Peterson**, Delaware State University, "'Poetic Knowledge, Dangerous Words': Literacy and Decolonial Consciousness in Lynn Joseph's The Color of My Words"

11:45 AM–1:00 PM Lunch on your own

1:00–2:15 PM Session B

Hemispheric Interstitiality: Africanized Latinness, Latinized Blackness, and the Caribbean

Chair: Ben V. Olguín, University of California, Santa Barbara

- **Lexxus Coffey Edison**, University of California, Santa Barbara, "A Testimonio of a (R)evolutionary: Black Autobiography, Transnationalism, and Insurgent Traditions"
- **Kyler Henderson**, University of California, Santa Barbara, "The Best We Can With What We've Got: Earl Lovelace and Caribbean Cultural Philosophy"
- **Michael Andrew Parra**, University of California, Santa Barbara, "Ma Chérie Petit Bon Ange: Global (Bl)Access, Haitian AfroIndigeneity, and Self-Making in René Depestre's Hadriana in All My Dreams"

2:30–3:45 PM Session C

Roots in Motion: Caribbean Creative Voices in Poetry, Dance, and Fiction

Chair: Marie Sairsingh, University of The Bahamas

- **Maygen Daley**, University of The Bahamas, "Raíces en tránsito: Roots on the Move"
- **Wedsly Guerrier**, Bronx Community College, CUNY, "Dance as Critical Mechanism in Félix Morisseau-Leroy's Poetry"
- **Craig Smith**, University of The Bahamas, "Spinning and Dancing, Unpacking Madness in Miller's Warner Woman"

4:00–5:00 PM Welcome Reception

Hotel garden

Thursday, November 19

9:30–10:45 AM Session D

Sacred Crossings: Spirit, Memory, and Cosmology in the Black Atlantic

Chair: Consuella Bennett, Morehouse College

- **Mahamadou Diaby-Kassamba**, Winston-Salem State University, "The Transmission of Spiritual Knowledge Across the Black Atlantic: I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem, The Bridge of Beyond, and Yeelen"
- **Harold V. Bennett**, Morehouse College, "Constructing a Sacred Caribbean Cosmology: Bob Marley and Responsible Reader Agency"

- **Dominique Townsend**, Xavier University of Louisiana, "Ghosts as Guides: Feminine Community Construction in Beryl Gilroy's In Praise of Love and Children"
- **Tiffany Y. Boyd Adams**, Winston-Salem State University, "Tituba's Return: Decolonizing the Introduction to Literature Classroom Through Caribbean Witchcraft"

11:00 AM–12:15 PM **Session E**

Diasporic Verses: Memory, Gender, and Blackness in Caribbean Poetry and Theory

Chair: Kareem Joseph, Emory University

- **Denzel Bethel**, University of The Bahamas, "Rewriting Caribbean Memory: African Diaspora, Gender, and Living Roots in the Poetry of Marion Bethel and Nancy Morejón"
- **Taja Hudson**, University of The Bahamas, "Divergent Blackness: Race, Gender, and Transformation in the Poetry of Nancy Morejón and Nicolás Guillén"
- **Marie Sairsingh**, University of The Bahamas, "Creolizing Theory and Expanding Possibilities for Reading Culture"
- **Cristiana Fimiani**, University of The Bahamas, "The Deaf Sea Has Changed Every Name: Homeric Routes and Living Roots in Derek Walcott and Nancy Morejón"

12:30–1:15 PM **Lunch on your own**

1:30–2:45 PM **Keynote Address: Melania Luisa Marte, Author and Poet**

Book signing follows. Every participant receives a copy of Plantains and Our Becoming.

3:30–4:45 PM **Session F**

Sovereign Selves: Refusal, Desire, and Reimagined Time in Caribbean Literature

Chair: Simone A. James Alexander, Lehigh University

- **Simone A. James Alexander**, Lehigh University, "Dissident Subjectivities: Aesthetics of Refusal; Caribbean Women Writers Re/Fashioning the Self"
- **Randi Hodgen**, Lehigh University, "In Search of Pleasure and Peace: Female Sexual Desire as Decolonial Practice in Caribbean Literature"
- **Jordan Ho**, Lehigh University, "(Re)Orienting the Past as Future: Caribbean Authors' Uses of Critical Fabulation and Non-Linear Narrative Strategies"

5:00–6:15 PM **Session G**

From Rara to YouTube: Caribbean Performance as Living Tradition

Chair: Kareem Joseph, Emory University

- **Rithoria Emmanuel**, University of The Bahamas, "Beyond the Border: Haitian Rara and Dominican Gagá as Living African Traditions in Hispaniola"
- **Elijah J. Dupigny**, Morehouse College, "The Economic and Sociological Dimensions of Carnival"
- **Suzette Spencer**, College of William & Mary, "From Yard to YouTube: Caribbean Storytelling, Diaspora, and the Rise of the Digital Veranda"

Friday, November 20

10:00–11:15 AM **Session H**

Raíces que hablan: Living Roots in Afro-Caribbean Poetry and Afro-Latina Culture

Chair: Consuella Bennett, Morehouse College

- **Astra Bowlin**, University of The Bahamas, "La poesía negra: A Living Root of Poetry in the Hispanophone Caribbean"
- **Simone Jacques**, Spelman College, "Stolen Spaces of Pop Culture: Afro-Latina Visual Feminist Narratives Reshaping Understandings of Misogynoir"
- **Deaundra Jackson**, Clark Atlanta University, "Haiti Poems"

11:30 AM–12:15 PM **Founder's Tribute**

Honoring Melvin Rahming: Professor, Diasporic Intellectual, Mentor

Presiding: Dr. Craig Smith, Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, and Dr. Marie Sairsingh, Professor of English, University of The Bahamas

Video tribute with remarks from Dr. Rahming's former students

Remarks and closing: Dr. Leah Creque, ICCL Director, and Dr. Consuella Bennett, ICCL Co-Director, Morehouse College

12:15 PM **Lunch on your own · Conference concludes**