



CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Conference on Caribbean Literature

Reconvening with renewed light and purpose

RAÍCES VIVAS

African and Latinx Routes to New Caribbean Scholarship

November 18–20, 2026 · Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

The International Conference on Caribbean Literature returns — alive, energized, and carrying the light of a tradition too vital to remain dormant. Raíces Vivas is both a declaration and an invitation: our roots are living roots, and the routes they have traveled — across the Atlantic, through the African diaspora, along the currents of Hispanic heritage — continue to illuminate Caribbean literature and the scholars who devote themselves to it.

This reconvening is a homecoming and a threshold moment. We return to restore ICCL's legacy as the premier gathering place for Caribbean literary studies, and we open our doors wide to the next generation of scholars whose fresh eyes and new voices will carry that legacy forward into the light.

As we gather this November in Punta Cana, we do so in the spirit of founding director Dr. Melvin Rahming, whose legacy continues to take root in this living tradition. We are pleased to have a new academic partner, the University of California, Santa Barbara — Afro-Latinidades Program to launch this literary revival.

We invite proposals that explore the African and Latin foundations of Caribbean literature — their convergence, their creative tensions, and their ongoing reinvention — as well as work that imagines bold new directions for the field. Submissions are welcome in English, Spanish, French, and Haitian Kreyòl.

Conference Theme

Raíces Vivas — living roots — affirms that the African and Hispanic literary traditions at the heart of Caribbean letters are not relics to be archived but vital, breathing forces that continue to generate new meaning, new forms, and new scholarship. The word routes reminds us that these traditions did not arrive in the Caribbean fully formed: they

traveled, transformed, and took root through the crossings, migrations, and survivals that define Caribbean history and imagination.

The 2026 conference asks how those living routes light the way forward — for emerging scholars entering the field, for established scholars charting new territory, and for the wider communities whose stories Caribbean literature illuminates. We welcome work on the Hispanophone Caribbean and its diasporas, as well as comparative and pan-Caribbean approaches that bring Anglophone, Francophone, and Kreyòl-language traditions into conversation with these roots and routes.

Suggested Tracks

- African diasporic aesthetics, orality, and living memory in Caribbean letters
- Hispanophone Caribbean literary traditions and their ongoing vitality
- Afro-Latinidad, mestizaje, and identity formation in literature
- Spirituality, cosmology, and the sacred in Caribbean narrative
- Caribbean women writers and Afro-Latina voices: illuminating new ground
- Migration, diaspora, and transnational Caribbean routes
- Decolonizing methods and restorative approaches in Caribbean literary studies
- Digital humanities and new light on Caribbean texts
- Film, dance, music, and other cultural dimensions of Caribbean expression
- Teaching Caribbean literature: bringing roots and routes into the classroom
- Emerging scholars forum: new voices, living scholarship

This list is illustrative rather than exhaustive. We warmly welcome proposals that engage the conference theme from other angles and perspectives.

Submission Categories

- Individual paper proposals (20-minute presentations)
- Full panel proposals (3–4 papers organized around a shared theme)
- Roundtable discussions
- Creative readings: poetry, fiction excerpts, and performance pieces
- Workshops on pedagogy, translation, or creative craft

Submission Guidelines

- Individual papers: 250–300-word abstract plus a 100-word biographical note
- Panels and roundtables: a 200-word panel rationale plus individual abstracts for each participant

- Creative readings: a brief description of the piece(s) to be read and approximate reading time
- Workshops: a 300-word proposal describing format, learning goals, and intended audience
- Proposals accepted in English, Spanish, French, and Haitian Kreyòl
- Submit via the conference submission portal or by email below:
- iccl@morehouse.edu or visit www.morehouse.edu/iccl

Key Dates

Abstract submission deadline	August 15, 2026
Notification of acceptance	September 1, 2026
Hotel Registration deadline	October 12, 2026*
Conference Registration fee deadline	October 18, 2026
Final program posted	October 30, 2026
Conference dates	November 18–20, 2026
Suggested arrival	November 17, 2026

Venue

ICCL 2026 will be held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, November 18–20, with arrival suggested on November 17 — a fitting setting where the beauty and vibrancy of the Caribbean surround our gathering. The conference will be hosted at the all-inclusive Zel Punta Cana. Please make your reservations using the link [INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CARIBBEAN LITERATURE](#). *Conference rates may increase after the hotel registration deadline. Any reservations made outside of the conference block will be charged an additional conference registration fee.

Conference Registration

The \$475.00 registration fee includes access to all conference sessions, activities, and the welcome reception, along with commemorative conference merchandise. Please note that hotel accommodations at Zel Punta Cana are all-inclusive and booked separately. Please use the link to the ICCL website to make a secure payment of the registration fee below: www.morehouse.edu/iccl

Organizing Committee & Contact

ICCL 2026 is organized by Dr. Alison Ligon, Chair of the Department of English, Dr. Leah Creque, Dr. Consuella Bennett, and Dr. Michael Janis — the conference's returning

organizing committee, honored to bring this historic gathering back to life. For questions about submissions, registration, or the conference program, please contact iccl@morehouse.edu or visit www.morehouse.edu/iccl.

Raíces Vivas. The roots are alive. The routes are open. The light shines upon us.