



75 ROOTED
READY
RISING
1948 - 2023

THE MONA ECONOMIST

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER
VOL. 10 (AUGUST 2023)



Dr Patrice Whitely
NEW HOD
(DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS)



Prof Kari Levitt
100TH
BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

EDITOR'S DESK

On October 4, 1948, 33 medical students attended their first class, and the inaugural class of The University of the West Indies (University College of the West Indies as it was called then). That inaugural class was a chemistry lecture by Professor Cedric Hassall. The 33 medical students comprised of 23 men and 10 women.

The Department of Economics (DoE), The UWI, Mona Campus, joins with our colleagues across the length and breadth of the Caribbean Sea to celebrate our "light rising from the west". The UWI celebrates 75 years of academic excellence and a substantial body of deep and varied contributions to the welfare of Caribbean people at home and in the diaspora.

This tenth edition of The Mona Economist celebrates the rich legacy of The UWI as a whole and the Mona Campus in particular. This celebration includes the recognition of the work of our staff and students, and the 100th birthday celebration of Professor Kari Levitt, whose work places her in the pantheon of economists who have contributed to the body of economic theory coming from the Caribbean.

On a sad note, we share in the grief of the families of the late Ambassador Richard Bernal and Dr Havelock Brewster. Both men have made significant contributions to the myriad issues of international trade which are of great importance to the Caribbean.

In the new academic year (2023/2024) the DoE will be led by our new head of department, Dr Patrice Whitely. We wish her every success for a successful tenure.

In closing, I wish to thank every person who has contributed in some form to this edition of The *Mona Economist*. Should it become necessary for corrections to be made, the most updated version of each DoE newsletter will be placed on the DoE's [website](#).

Editor: Samuel Braithwaite
samuel.braithwaite@uwimona.edu.jm



Congratulations

PROF DENSIL WILLIAMS

The DoE extends best wishes and support to Prof Densil Williams on his ascendency to the seat of Principal of The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. Prof Williams earned a BSc in Economics through the DoE here at Mona.



Thank You

DR NADINE MCCLOUD-ROSE

We wish to extend profound thanks to Dr Nadine McCloud-Rose for leading the DoE during the most testing of times occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr McCloud-Rose led with patience, grace, love and concern for the welfare of the members of the DoE. We are eternally thankful for your unwavering stewardship.



Congratulations

SUSAN GROSSETTE

We extend heartiest congratulations to Mrs Susan Grossette for graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Sociology (major) and Psychology (minor); upper second class honours. Do continue the good work.

Farewell

ROMAE MUSCHETTE

The DoE extends best wishes to Mrs Romae Muschette as she embarks on a new journey. We are especially thankful for the excellent service Mrs Muschette has given to the DoE over the years.



Class of 2023

MSc Economics

Distinction

Jiovanne Dixon
Jody-Ann Thompson-Campbell
Natalia Wilson

Merit

Juwayne Gordon
Camesha Petrie
Brianna Palmer
O'Neil Taylor

Pass

Daniela Anderson
Akeem Carter
Antonica Clarke
Reneisha Craig
Alrick Livingston
Chevelle Skervin
Diana Spencer
David Thomas
Roshane Vassell
Brandon Whittaker

Class of 2022 Graduate Awards

Brooke-Anne Bowen
Top Student Award
Best Economics
Graduate Student

Brooke-Anne Bowen
The Economics Theory Prize
Best Student
Economic Theory

Emoy Young
The Econometrics Prize
Best Student
Econometrics

Joycelin Itza
The George Beckford Prize
Best Student
Economic Development

AY 2022/2023 Graduate Scholarships

Dadrian Lewis
G. Arthur Brown Scholar

Othandrea Downes
Thomas De La Rue Scholar

Board/Committee Membership 2022/23

Samuel Braithwaite

- Member, PIOJ Inclusive Growth Index Committee
- Editorial Committee Member, Social & Economic Studies (SALISES)
- Editorial Board, Transformation Journal (University of Guyana)

Kelly-Ann Dixon Hamil

- Member, Ardenne High School Board

Christine Clarke

- Member, Bank of Jamaica (BoJ), Board of Directors
- Member, JETCON Corporation Board

Romae Finegan

- Member, PIOJ Inclusive Growth Index Committee

Peter-John Gordon

- Member, Kingston College Board
- Member, Consumer Protection and Welfare Working Group

Andre Haughton

- Member, Students Loan Bureau Board
- Member, Jamaica Stock Exchange Best Practices Awards Committee
- Chair, Students Loan Bureau Pensions Committee

Jevon Henry

- Member, Stakeholder Consultation Group for Youth for the Ministry of Finance's Open Government Partnership National Action Plan
- Member, Board of Directors, The Jamaican Association for Debating and Empowerment

Nadine McCloud-Rose

- Member, PIOJ Board
- Member, Bank of Jamaica (BoJ) Monetary Policy Committee
- Co-founder & Department Representative Jamaican Economy Panel (JEP)
- Member, Editorial Board, Journal of International Trade & Economic Development
- Member, Selection Committee: Recruitment of the Fiscal Commissioner for Jamaica's Independent Fiscal Commission
- Associate Editor, International Journal of Finance & Economics

Nekeisha Spencer

- Member, Editorial Board, International Journal of Disaster Risk Science
- Chief Examiner of CSEC Economics
- Member, Subject Awards Committee, CSEC Economics

Patrice Whitely

- Member, St Andrew Parish Church Foundation Board

WECON 2023 REPORT

This year's staging of WECON was a very special one because it was our first face to face WECON since the pandemic. It was a pleasure to be back in the Regional Headquarters and to interact with academics from around the world in person. WECON2023 featured over 25 presenters, two keynote addresses, one specially invited speaker and one guest speaker. More than 100 individuals were in attendance, including academics, industry players and graduate students.

The first keynote address, given by Professor Rocio Titiunik, was on "Analysis and Interpretation of Multi-Dimensional Regression Discontinuity Designs". The second keynote address, which was on "The Importance of Family Structure and Within Household Allocation for Economic Policy and Human Capital Development", was given by Professor George-Levi Gayle. It should be noted that Professor Gayle is the first keynote speaker we have had who is an alumni of the Department's MSc Econ programme. Overall, we were blessed with one and a half days of insightful, engaging, and cutting-edge presentations, thought provoking discussions, and productive collegiality.

Another standout feature of this year's WECON was a Special Industry Panel sponsored by NCB Capital Markets which featured informative and educational presentations about the role that capital markets play in achieving economic development and sustainable long-term growth. One of these presentations was given by a recent graduate of our MSc Economics programme, Ms. Jamelia Jalaalwalikraam. In fact, quite a few of our past students who now work at NCB Capital Markets were in attendance at the event. They were able to share their experiences with the current students and to encourage them to work hard and to reach for the stars.

We would like to thank all of this year's sponsors – NCB Capital Markets, Sygnus and BOJ. We look forward to their continued support for future instalments. WECON2024 is scheduled for March 7th and 8th and will include a keynote presentation by Professor Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak of Yale University.

Dr Patrice Whitely (WECON Chair)

Our Sponsors





Department of Economics
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
AT MONA, JAMAICA

WECON
WEST INDIES ECONOMIC CONFERENCE
MARCH 7-8, 2024
UWI REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
KINGSTON, JAMAICA, W.I.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Department of Economics, The UWI (Mona), presents the 6th West Indies Economic Conference (WECON). Papers in every field of economics are welcome. Inter-disciplinary papers and those on developing countries are of great interest.

Abstracts should be submitted using the link below:
[Abstract Submission Link](#)

Abstract submissions must include:

- *Title of Paper
- *200 words or less
- *At least TWO JEL code classifications
- *Name of author(s), affiliation, address, telephone number, and e-mail address



Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak
Yale University

Keynote Speaker

REGISTRATION FEES

CARICOM Participants: US \$140 (STUDENTS - FREE)
International Participants: US \$280 (STUDENTS - US \$100)

- Abstract Submission Deadline: December 31, 2023
- Notification of Acceptance: January 15, 2024
- Registration & Paper Submission Deadline: February 2, 2024

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

Scholarly Output (AY 2021/2022)

Journal Articles:

Braithwaite, S. (2021) Decentralisation, Ethnic Fractionalisation, and the Resource Curse: The Case of Guyana *Social and Economic Studies*, 70(3/4), 106-136. [Actual publication of issue delayed to 2023]

Dixon Hamil, K., Zephirin, T., & Dickerson, D. (2023). Quantitative Methodological Approaches to Understand the Impact of Interventions: Exploring Black Engineering Student Success. In 2023 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition.

Book:

Haughton, A., & Ivey, W (2023). *Overcoming Productivity Challenges in Small Countries: Lessons from Jamaica*. Palgrave McMillan

Technical Reports:

Tennant, David and Tennant, Sandria (2023) “Determinants of Access to Climate Finance: Nuanced Insights for Jamaica and Other SIDS” Produced for the United Nations (52 pages)

Tennant, David and Tennant, Sandria (2023) “A Targeted Approach to Promoting Sustainable Development in SIDS through Diversification, Complexity and Productive Capacities: The Jamaican Case Study” Produced for the United Nations (105 pages)

Dixon Hamil, K., Alexander, P. Williams, Y., Blake, R., Thorburn, D. (2023). “Fair Pay: The Wage Gap Barrier to Women’s Empowerment”. Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI) through funding from the European Union (52 pages)

Lunch Time Policy Series

Department of Economics & Department of Government Lunch Time Policy Series

This new initiative was developed by Nekeisha Spencer & Yonique Campbell from the DOE and DGOV respectively; Andre Haughton is also a co-convener of the Policy Series and also serves as chair of the Economics Department’s Research Committee. The Policy Series examines a range of pertinent economic and socio-political issues affecting Jamaica’s development. The Series intends to generate research ideas and initiatives and forge collaborations between the UWI community, industry experts, the government and International organizations.

To date, four events have been planned and executed on topics relating to finance, crime and governance and health. It will continue to feature important topics relevant to the development of the Jamaican economy.



The first batch of medical students outside Gibraltar Hall, Mona, Jamaica (1948)
Photo Credit: The UWI

Conference/Forum Presentations (AY 2022/2023)

Samuel Braithwaite, “Resolving Jamaica's Productivity Challenge” presentation at World Productivity Day Forum (Jamaica Productivity Centre), June 20, 2023 - Kingston, Jamaica.

Andre Haughton, “Government's new Wage Package for public sector workers: Inflation and Wages” presented at the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union Seminar

Jevon Henry, "The Impact of Phishing on Smart City Development: Can Behavioral Economics Provide an Explanation?" presented at the Caribbean Sustainable Cities Conference, November 16-18, 2022. (Co-authored by Anthony Drummonds).

Jevon Henry & Denarto Dennis, “Crime Rates and Court Performance: An Empirical Interrogation of Rational Choice Theory” presented at the 26th Annual Conference on the Americas. University of Georgia, USA. February 17-18, 2023

Jevon Henry, “Explaining Financial Exclusion: Insights from Jamaica” presented at the West Indies Economic Conference, March 9-10, 2023

David Tennant, “Promoting Sustainability and Resilience in SIDS Through Targeted Economic Diversification” presented at the West Indies Economic Conference, March 9-10, 2023. (Joint paper with Stuart Davies, Sandria Tennant and **Patrice Whitely**)

Kelly-Ann Dixon Hamil, “Quantitative Methodological Approaches to Understand the Impact of Interventions: Exploring Black Engineering Student Success” presented at ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, June 25-29, 2023. (Joint paper with Tasha Zephirin and Daryl Dickerson)



HEADS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

DAVID J. MORGAN	1955-1959
W. ARTHUR LEWIS	1959-1961
CHARLES M. KENNEDY	1961-1966
GEORGE E. CUMPER	1966-1972
GEORGE BECKFORD	1972-1973
OWEN JEFFERSON	1973-1974
ALFRED A. FRANCIS	1974-1979
STEVEN DECASTRO	1979-1981
ALFRED A. FRANCIS	1981-1982
MARK FIGUEROA	1982-1983
MICHAEL WITTER	1983-1985
MARK FIGUEROA	1985-1987
WILBERNE PERSAUD	1987-1991
CLAUDE PACKER	1991-1992
ALFRED A. FRANCIS	1992-1999
MICHAEL WITTER	1999-2007
CLAREMONT KIRTON	2007-2010
DAMIEN KING	2010-2016
DAVID TENNANT	2016-2018
MARIE FRECKLETON	2018-2019
NADINE MCCLOUD-ROSE	2019-2023
PATRICE WHITELEY	2023-

This list of heads of the DoE is an extension of the list of HODs found in the 2018 newsletter.



The Principal's Research Awards (Faculty of Social Sciences)

PROFESSOR EDWARD GHARTEY

BEST RESEARCH PUBLICATION 2020 (ARTICLE)

*“Asymmetries in exchange rate pass-through and monetary policy principle:
Some Caribbean empirical evidence”*

The North American Journal of Economics and Finance, January 2019

DR CHRISTINE CLARKE

BEST RESEARCH PUBLICATION 2021 (BOOK)

“Contextualising Jamaica’s Relationship with the IMF” (with Dr Carol Nelson)

DR NADINE MCCLOUD

BEST RESEARCH PUBLICATION 2021 (ARTICLE)

*“Determining the Number of Effective Parameters in Kernel Density Estimation”
Computational Statistics & Data Analysis, March 2020 (with C. F. Parameter)*

DR NEKEISHA SPENCER

MOST OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER 2020 & 2022

Published six academic articles in the academic year 2018/2019

Published five academic articles in the academic year 2020/2021

Art and Professor Alleyne

It is with great pleasure that we welcome back to the Mona campus our colleague, Professor Dillon Alleyne, who left the Department of Economics 14 years ago, and served as Deputy Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, based in Port of Spain. He will serve as an honorary Research Fellow at SALISES from November 2023. We are pleased to inform you that Professor Alleyne is also an accomplished artist who held a solo exhibition, of over 40 pieces, at the University of the West Indies Regional Headquarters in March 2019. Professor Alleyne has graciously allowed us to show three of his pieces. Some of his other works can also be viewed at dillonalleyne.wordpress.com

Coconut Man

Oil on canvas (49"x34.5")

I have watched the coconut vendors, many a Saturday, at the Coronation Market in Kingston Jamaica and admired their unfailing precision. Each blow, with machete struck, wastes not a single drop of the precious syrup.



Casting Nets

Oil on canvas, (26"x32.5")

I met this young fisherman on the small jetty of the St James's Club and Villas in Antigua. He told me that he was a former LIAT pilot, who was laid off during Covid-19 pandemic and still hoped to fly. Meanwhile he was casting his net for bait, which he sold to support himself and family.



Flamboyant Morning

Oil on Canvas (23.5"x22.5")

We are all enthralled by the poui trees in full bloom with their colorful pods blanketing the landscape like a sumptuous carpet below. But nothing could take away from this splendid Flamboyant tree, at its best, this sunny morning.

The purpose and functions of Fiscal Services Units

PROF DILLON ALLEYNE*

When the Honourable Dr Nigel Clarke, Jamaica's Minister of Finance and the Public Service, announced in his 2023 budget presentation that the Government of Jamaica will supplement the budgetary grant extended to The University of the West Indies ("UWI") by \$200 million as a down payment to endow a Fiscal Research Institute within the Department of Economics, at The UWI Mona, it was music to the ears of many who have long advocated for such a relationship. In this note I take a broad view of both the purpose and functions of such units or institutes. First, while such units take on various names as Fiscal Units, Fiscal Services Unit, Fiscal Research Institutes, Fiscal Research Centres and so on, they function usually to offer high quality fiscal policy advice on fiscal issues to their governments.

Not surprisingly, several such institutions, such as the Hungary Fiscal Council(2008), Slovenia Policy Council (2010), were created in response to the fiscal challenges that arose after the global financial crisis. These institutes, however, are so far, largely a feature of developed countries. Notwithstanding, their emergence clearly reflect the need for fiscal support to governments — finance ministries possess neither the time nor the capacity to do the analytical work involved in evaluation of fiscal policy stances. There are also spectacular cases, as in Hungary, where a well functioning fiscal unit got in the way of government fiscal excesses and was rendered ineffective, even after initial bipartisan support.

The independence of such units is important. Even more important is the transparency of their analysis which helps to support public policy as the trade-offs are more visible. High quality advice requires leadership trained by professionals who are competent, experienced, and reinforced by a small cadre of support staff. This cannot be conceived of as a part time operation precisely because often routinely, for the principals directly involved, many of the requests from government may require real time analysis. One example that comes immediately to mind is preparing fiscal notes for a Minister of Finance. The models, however, vary from those placed outside the Ministries, as contemplated in the relationship of the Department of Economics and the Government of Jamaica, to ones where Ministry staff can offer support.

To be effective and build their credibility, such units are bolstered by bipartisan support and are expected to span consecutive and diverse administrations. However, at the end of the day, since they have no coercive authority, such units prove their worth by demonstrably providing useful and timely advice. While this process stakes time, the learning curve of such units tends to be steep, if they are to deliver high-quality products at short notice. For this reason, networking with similar agencies in the early phases can be very helpful, to learn best practices.

The terms of reference of such units tend to include according to Kopits (2011), preparation of estimates and forecasts of the fiscal and macroeconomic consequences of proposed measures in time for consideration by Parliament during the legislative debate and before enactment. Prior to submission of the budget bill, such units produce "short- and medium-term no-policy-change forecasts" to serve as baselines for subsequent forecasts that incorporate the proposed fiscal measures. Additionally, they prepare periodically, quantitative long-term scenarios and sensitivity analyses for specific policy options, with clearly spelled out macroeconomic and demographic policy assumptions. As part of their remit, and depending on the nature of the relationship, there should be an assessment of fiscal stance and debt sustainability — including monitoring compliance with fiscal rules or targets, if any — through real-time evaluation of the budgetary effects of all legislative proposals. This work should not duplicate the efforts of other institutions; in the case of Jamaica this would be the PIOJ and the BOJ.

It should be noted that the forecasts of such units might not necessarily be more accurate than other official or private forecasts, but they should report with clarity their underlying data and methodology. Such units may also manage micro simulation tax models to determine the revenue losses and gains of particular policy measures and distributional consequences. Over time as their capacities expand, apart from their regular products, they can tackle issues of tax reform and conduct public expenditure reviews and budget incidence analyses. In the course of time they may even provide services to governments outside their jurisdiction to raise their own resources and expand their capacity.

One area of considerable importance is that when linked to a department in a university, as the case of the Fiscal Services Centre at Georgia State University (GSU), it provides an opportunity to conduct rigorous, high-level research, teaching and training in public finance and public policy.

In terms of good practice, several lessons are suggested in the literature. First, such units must be home grown and aimed at addressing local needs such as improving fiscal discipline, and examining issues of equity and transparency. Secondly, they must be independent, demonstrably competent and operate in a non-partisan manner, with the leadership that is well trained, and has a track record of working/publishing in the area of public finance and related fields or able to source such support. Third, the leadership must be accountable and those involved must be able to serve beyond one administration. Accountability could be accomplished through peer review and assessment of its work, such a review could also be done additionally by the PIOJ and BOJ. Fourth, the capacity to deliver high quality useful advice will depend on sourcing data in a timely manner from the government.

I know personally that in the relationship between the Fiscal Research Centre at GSU and the State of Georgia, the centre is able to acquire very sensitive data to do very impactful analysis. Finally, the nature of its communication with the public and what is communicated would need to be clarified so that there is no misunderstanding and unnecessary conflict in the relationship with the government.

***Professor Dillon Alleyne** is a former faculty member of the DoE, and recently served as Deputy Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (Port of Spain). He will serve as an honorary Research Fellow at SALISES (The UWI, Mona Campus) from November 2023. He can be reached at dill_all@yahoo.com

References

Calmfors Lars and Simon Wren-Lewis (2011). What should fiscal councils do? *Economic Policy*. Vol. 26, No. 68 (October 2011), pp. 649, 651-695. Published By: Oxford University Press.

Debrun, X., and M. S. Kumar (2007), "Fiscal Rules, Fiscal Councils and All That: Commitment Devices, Signaling Tools or Smokescreens?", *Fiscal Policy: Current Issues and Challenges*, pp. 479-512, Banca d'Italia, Rome.

Kopis, George (2011). *Independent Fiscal Institutions: Developing Good Practices*. Prepared for the 3rd Annual Meeting of OECD Parliamentary Budget Officials. Stockholm, Sweden. APRIL 28-29.

"To be effective and build their credibility, such units are bolstered by bipartisan support and are expected to span consecutive and diverse administrations. However, at the end of the day, since they have no coercive authority, such units prove their worth by demonstrably providing useful and timely advice. While this process stakes time, the learning curve of such units tends to be steep, if they are to deliver high-quality products at short notice. For this reason, networking with similar agencies in the early phases can be very helpful, to learn best practices."

Kari Levitt: Celebrating the Centenary of a West Indian Intellectual Icon

- *Bryan Khan*

An earlier version of this piece was published in the *Stabroeknews* on June 12, 2023.

June 14th 2023 marked the 100th birthday of Professor Kari Polanyi Levitt. Kari is Emerita Professor of Economics at McGill University in Montreal, but more importantly, she is an icon of independent Caribbean thought. She was born in Vienna, Austria in 1923 as the only child of Karl Polanyi – famed Austro-Hungarian economic historian, and Ilona Duczyńska, a Polish-Hungarian revolutionary. Despite her heritage and roots in European social movements, and career in Canada, the Caribbean has always very much been Kari's intellectual and cultural home.

In celebration of her centenary, two conferences were held in Kari's honour. One was hosted by the UWI Institute of International Relations (St. Augustine Campus), and the other hosted by the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy (Concordia University, Montreal). Both conferences featured speakers from all over the world contributing presentations on Kari's work and legacy. Kari has written, co-authored, or edited more than fifteen books – many of which have been translated into other languages or re-published – and has authored over a hundred articles which have been published in various international journals and editions all over the world. Two of her most celebrated works are her 1970 book 'Silent Surrender: The Multinational Corporation in Canada', a widely cited criticism of Canadian political economy, and her 2013 collection of essays 'From the Great Transformation to the Great Financialization' which builds on the Karl Polanyi tradition of criticising the embedded market-economy.

Kari's lifelong professional relationship with the Caribbean region began in the early 1960s, where she joined Prof B.S. Keirstead (a celebrated Professor of Economics at McGill University) to visit Jamaica to undertake a study on 'Inter-territorial Freight Rates and the Federal Shipping Service' within the West Indian Federation. Since 1974, Kari has served as a visiting professor at the University of the West Indies, and has spent much time in Jamaica and Trinidad in particular. At the Mona campus, she served as a Visiting Professor the Department of Economics (1978-1980), and at the Consortium School of Graduate Studies, (1989-1995), also holding the Beckford Chair at the Department of Economics (1995-1997). The research Kari conducted on Caribbean Economics, and the lecturers she gave while at the Consortium Graduate School of Social Sciences (later SALISES), were key in developing her unique perspectives on the history of economic thought, development, and political economy, and were no doubt influenced greatly by the Jamaican colleagues with whom

she shared close relationships on the Mona Campus.

More generally, during her visits to the Caribbean, she would lecture on Caribbean Development issues, comment on the state of the Caribbean economy, and inspire generations of young Caribbean economists. Her work on Caribbean Political Economy was published as 'Reclaiming Development: Independent Thought and Caribbean Community' in 2005. This book has become important reading for students of Caribbean Economic Development courses, and consolidates much of Kari's contributions which were developed while she was at the Consortium Graduate School. It should be stressed however, that Kari contributions were not only academic, as she actively consulted with Caribbean governments and regional institutions on matters concerning economic policy. For example, in 1979, she completed a study on 'Transnational Corporations in the Bauxite Industry of Caribbean Countries: Recent Developments in Jamaica' for ECLAC/CEPAL.

In terms of her legacy in the region, Kari's most famous and influential work is the 'Model of the Plantation Economy', developed in collaboration with Trinidadian economist Lloyd Best. The essence of this model is that the colonies of exploitation – from which Caribbean states emerged – inherited very specific structural characteristics which persist even after formal political independence. This results in limits to the domestic economy's ability to develop, and entrenches colonial-era inequalities and external-dependencies. Plantation economy has become not just an explanation of Caribbean economics, but is used as a framework for understanding Caribbean society, political history, and international relations. Still to this day, this model is used as a tool to explain the patterns of extractivism within the economies of various developing countries, particularly in the Caribbean.

Kari has been the recipient of multiple honours by institutions all over the world, including an Honorary Fellowship at The Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2004), the John Kenneth Galbraith Prize from the Progressive Economics Forum (2008), an Honorary Doctorate from the University of the West Indies (2008), the Order of Canada (2014), and the Golden Merit Sign of the State of Vienna (2018). These awards were for her work in international development, as well her contribution to the political economy of the Caribbean. On the occasion of her award in Vienna, the celebratory event at the Austrian National Bank was even titled 'A West Indian from Eastern Europe: Development economist Kari Polanyi-Levitt'. Most significantly however, she was awarded the 2020 Hummingbird Medal Gold for her contributions to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in the field of Economics and Education, symbolising a formal recognition of her contributions to the region by a Caribbean government.

Kari was part of a group of Caribbean intellectuals called the New World Group, who were concerned with issues of Caribbean development, politics, and international relations. Among the group's contributors were prominent West Indian intellectuals from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds, from across the social sciences and humanities. The Group's vision was to provide a space for unique Caribbean-centred thought, and to enrich social dialogue through rejection of colonial legacies of scholarship, education, and advocacy. After all, Caribbean problems need Caribbean solutions formulated by Caribbean people. The first issue of the Group's publication – the New World Quarterly - was produced in Georgetown in 1963, after which the publishing base shifted to Mona in Jamaica.

Kari has worked in the Caribbean for some six decades, and has often been called upon by Caribbean Governments and regional institutions to advise on economic policy matters, including implementing national accounting systems, management of relationships with international institutions like the IMF, and formulation of economic development strategy. She was particularly sought after for her expertise in 'Input-Output' tables, and their use in economic planning.

Kari's writings and lectures on Caribbean Economics have often included commentaries on developments in Jamaica, many of which are contained in her 2005 book *Reclaiming Development*. The chapter 'The Persistence of the Plantation Legacy in Contemporary Jamaica' engages in a historical and institutional analysis of the Jamaican economy, and is part of Kari's broader work on the Plantation Economy Model. The chapter 'The Origins and Consequences of Jamaica's Debt Crisis, 1970-1990', focuses on political and economic circumstances in post-Independence Jamaica which shaped this particularly challenging period in the country's history. The entire of Part III of the book consists of three chapters dedicated to commentary on 'The Michael Manley Legacy'. The first essay 'Democratic Socialism in Jamaica: Manley's Defeat – Whose Responsibility' demonstrates Kari's deep understanding of the complex relationship between Jamaican domestic politics and economics, and in this commentary, Kari provides keen advice to the governments of developing countries in managing their relationships with the IMF. The second essay titled 'From Socialism to Neo-Liberalism: The Michael Manley-Kari Levitt Letters' reproduce a series of written exchanges between Kari and the former Prime Minister (in the mid 1990s), discussing the issue of economic and political transformation in Jamaica. These remarkable letters are surely recommended reading for any student concerned with the political and economic history of Jamaica.



Photo Credit: Talisman Brolin

Reflecting on her vast body of work, there are many lessons that remain critically relevant to Jamaica (and the wider Caribbean) today. The first lesson might be the importance of a renewed focus on domestic agriculture, not just for the sake of economic development and trade, but as an effort towards food security, ecological sustainability, and self-determination. Second, is the importance of collaboration within the region – both politically and economically – as a necessary element of any Caribbean vision of inward-driven development. Third, Kari and the New World Group stressed the importance of strategic economic planning. This is more important than ever, given the challenging state of the Jamaican economy, and the plantation model legacy from which it emerged. In particular, the threats of increased financialization of the economy cannot be ignored, as Jamaica – like many of its Caribbean sister states – struggles with managing its integration into the liberalised global economy. The key point is that for economic strategy to be transformative, development should come from within the culture and society of West Indian peoples, rather than be driven by the interests of foreign capital which perpetuate patterns of inequality and external dependency.

Kari's contributions to the wider Caribbean region have spanned six decades since the days of the West Indian Federation, and her influence on the state of West Indian politics and economics has been immeasurable. However, we should see her contributions to the region as not just academic and intellectual, but as advocacy for meaningful development which promotes inclusivity, cultural diversity, and the preservation of human dignity. For those who have the honour of knowing her personally, she is one of the kindest, friendliest, and most genuinely compassionate souls to grace the Caribbean landscape. Remarkably, at the age of 100, she continues to act on her passion for and dedication to Caribbean development and transformation. The people of the Caribbean will always remain indebted to this adopted daughter for her remarkable contributions, and so on this occasion of her centenary, we take the time to recognise and celebrate her work and legacy.

Havelock R H Ross-Brewster, better known as Havelock Brewster, passed away in Maryland, USA in May 2023 at the age of 86. Havelock was born in Guyana (then British Guiana) in February 1937 and has Barbadian heritage (his paternal and maternal grandparents were Barbadian). He attended Queen's College in Georgetown for his secondary education. He later attended King's College, Durham University in the UK where he was awarded the B.A. degree in Economics with First Class Honours in 1962. He then migrated to Canada where he completed his M.A. degree in Economics with Distinction at Dalhousie University in 1964.

Havelock joined the Department of Economics at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) as a lecturer in 1964 where he developed his reputation as one of the region's most distinguished and astute economist. Some of his colleagues during his attachment to the Department (1964 to 1968) included such eminent economists as Charles Kennedy, George Cumper, George Beckford, Owen Jefferson, Norman Girvan, Clive Thomas, Al Francis, Lloyd Best and Alister McIntyre.

During his sojourn at the Mona Campus, Havelock was intimately involved in the work of the **New World Group** which sought "to develop an indigenous theory that explains the dynamics of Caribbean economies and societies". Havelock's research and publications focused on labour market behaviour especially on the wage-price-productivity relationship, employment determination and incomes policy and on international trade policy especially on regional economic integration. He was a very prolific and respected lecturer during his years at Mona. Havelock is well known for his seminal monograph with Clive Thomas entitled *The Dynamics of West Indian Integration* (ISER, UWI, 1967) which outlined the basic theoretical and empirical principles for using economic integration as a strategy for the development of the small economies in the Caribbean region. His work on Caribbean labour market behaviour indicated that the neoclassical relationship linking wages, prices and productivity was inappropriate for analyzing the Caribbean situation especially since changes in prices are not endogenously determined. His empirical result on the labour market suggested that "the growth of private consumption (of domestic goods) was the single most influential variable in employment determination" in the Caribbean. He also wrote on the general development problems of the region, namely, the role of the private sector, the sectoral allocation of resources and industrial development.

HAVELOCK BREWSTER 1937-2023

ECONOMIST, PROFESSOR, DIPLOMAT AND ADVISOR*



Havelock resigned his post as lecturer in Economics in 1968 when the living environment became very challenging for him. He was embroiled in a public controversy on the future of the sugar industry after the publication of his monograph: *Jamaica's Life or Death: The Sugar Industry* (New World Pamphlet, 1967) in which he argued that the industry "should be gradually phased out to its optimal size; and available investible resources incrementally reallocate in a rational manner".

On leaving the UWI, Havelock took up a one-year research economist (economic affairs officer) position at the UNCTAD in Geneva before moving to the Commonwealth Secretariat as deputy director of economic affairs. He was subsequently offered the position of Professor of Economics and Head of the newly established Department of Economics at the Cave Hill Campus of the UWI in 1972 at the age of 35 years. He however recounts that his activities at the Mona Campus in the mid-1960s and the attitude of the Barbadian immigration authorities resulted in a short nine months tenure in the position. He resigned the position effective June 1973 and returned to UNCTAD, where he stayed until the mid 1990s serving as Senior Economist, Departmental Chief, Officer in Charge/Director and finally Special Research Advisor dealing primarily with international trade policy in commodities. He was highly regarded for his technical economics expertise through the organisation.

While at UNCTAD, Havelock co-authored with Adlith Brown "*A Review of the Study of Economics in the English-speaking Caribbean*" (*Social and Economic Studies*, March 1974) which pointed to "the conceptual and theoretical limitations of explanation of the functioning of the economic system as a whole and the lack of co-ordination and integration within the discipline" (p.57). The review also pointed to a "relative dearth of empirical testing of current hypotheses..... [which] may well help to explain the gap between the conclusions or possible prescriptions of current Caribbean economic thought and policy" (p. 58). This seminal review which is nearly 50 years old needs to be updated to determine whether the concerns raised by Havelock and Adlith have been adequately addressed.

When Havelock left the UNCTAD, he became a consultant in international trade and finance. He was appointed an Alternative Executive Director and later Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and sought to promote a greater examination of Caribbean economic issues and the employment of more Caribbean economists within the Bank. He was concerned that not enough attention was being placed on Caribbean economic issues by the Bank and that few Caribbean economists were employed by the Bank.

He later took up a diplomatic position as Guyana's Ambassador to the European Union, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands (1997 to 2000) during the Presidency of Bharrat Jagdeo. He was able to make good use of his experience as an international economist and his fluency in French and Spanish. Havelock also served as Economic Adviser to the President of Guyana, Dr Cheddi Jagan, just prior to his diplomat posting.

When the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) was established in 1997 as "the principal regional intergovernmental organisation mediating the Caribbean's encounter with the global trading system", Havelock was invited to join the organisation as a Senior Associate (2000 to 2002) providing technical advice on various trade negotiating positions. He was also able to rekindle his earlier interest in Caribbean economic integration as the region was seeking to develop a CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). He delivered two important lectures on the CSME and its challenges namely the 8th Adlith Brown Memorial Lecture (1992) and the Caribbean Public Policy lecture sponsored by SALISES, Cave Hill (**Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies**, 2003) and reviewed *The Report of the West Indian Commission: Time for Action*.

Havelock also worked on several other important Caribbean development projects such as the CARICOM Strategic Development Plan, Trade and Adjustment in the Caribbean, the role of social capital in the development process especially in Barbados, Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean states and The Health and Wealth of Nations and served as a consultant for the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the CARICOM Secretariat.

Havelock's work has been well recognised within the region with the following awards/honours: Honorary Professor of Economics, SALISES, Guyana's Cacique's Crown of Honour (CCH) in 2008 and the Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD), Honoris Causa from the University of the West Indies also in 2008.

I interacted with Havelock from the early 1990s and had a very deep respect for his sharp intellect and views on Caribbean. Up to our last correspondence in January 2023, he was still keen in writing on the economic issues of the day especially development financing. One of his last papers was on "***A New International System is Needed for Financing Climate Change***". He was even considering the preparation of an "issues biography" which would cover issues that he has worked on over the years. It is pity that he did not get a chance to work on this monograph.

Nevertheless, His Excellency the Honourable Professor Havelock H R Ross-Brewster CCH, Hon LLD will be missed but he has made a valuable and lasting contribution to the economic theory and policy landscape of the Caribbean with over 100 publications on employment and wages, economic integration, international trade in commodities and economic development policy. Hopefully, a bibliography and review of his work would be undertaken in the very near future by the University of the West Indies (UWI).

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October 8, 2023

*I acknowledge the comments made by Dr Samuel Brathwaite and Professors Compton Bourne, Mark Figueroa, Maurice Odle and Claremont Kirton. The Tribute is based on publicly available information, personal interaction with Havelock since the early 1990s, recent communication and a short cv provided by his daughter, Professor Rachel Brewster.

RICHARD L. BERNAL OJ 1949 - 2023

This piece is a Desmond Allen interview published by the *Jamaica Observer* (January 2006). It has been edited for brevity.



In the world of intrigue, high drama and raw politics that is Washington, DC, countries, wanting to stay ahead of the game, dispatch only their finest and most astute diplomatic minds. They had better. In the jungle of international conspiracies that is the United States capital, only the strong and the shrewd survive.

For 10 years, Dr Richard Leighton Bernal, a man born, it would seem, to the service of his country, worked the corridors of world power in Washington and held the Jamaican flag high as ambassador to the United States. He walked among the high-powered diplomats as if he were from the biggest and richest country on earth and earned a respect well beyond the size and population of this small island.

When Michael Manley sent him there in 1991, it was just in the nick of time. The world was in a hurry to restructure trade relations through regional arrangements, such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and international super agencies, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). In the global scheme of things, trade-offs were the order of the day and those who could not play the game would be left behind. Bernal brought Jamaican intellect and energy, articulation, charm and a sunny personality that kept Jamaica solidly in the mix. It would earn him the gratitude of a nation and nothing less than the country's fourth highest honour, the Order of Jamaica (OJ).

He stayed in the post longer than any other Jamaican but it was only a stop on a journey that began on the verandah of a civil servant father who sowed the seed of service to country. And when he had completed national service in Washington, it was immediately to the English-speaking Caribbean region that he was assigned, with a mission to articulate and defend the vital economic interests of the fledgling Caribbean Community, through the Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM).

Hopping the bread cart

Richard is the only child of Kathleen Cecelia Maxwell and Franklin Abraham Bernal. Franklin Bernal was a civil servant but is perhaps better known for his seminal work, *Birds of Jamaica*. Shortly after Richard's birth at Victoria Jubilee Hospital on November 30, 1949, his parents moved house to middle class Richmond Park. His main recollection of 1950s Richmond Park was of the many vendors who plied their wares in the community, making it mostly unnecessary to go to the grocery store. They sold fruits, fish, bread, milk and the like.

He delighted in hopping onto the bread cart to drown himself in the irresistible aroma of freshly baked bread. These were innocent days. The supermarket has largely replaced the itinerant vendors of yesteryear.

Richard was sent to Richmond Park Preparatory School, which he says still exists today. It was a small but good school and from there he passed his Common Entrance Exam to high school, gaining a government scholarship in the process. He had selected Kingston College (KC), his father's alma mater, but while they awaited the results of the exam, his parents moved again, this time to the newly built Mona Heights community. When the results came out, he was sent to nearby Jamaica College (JC).

Happy days in Mona Heights

Mona Heights was the first public housing development financed by the Government and built by the Matalons. Many civil servants bought homes there. Bernal says it was the first planned community with three parks; a community centre; two tennis courts and two badminton courts; churches at both ends of the community; a petrol station and paved sidewalks contrasting with the grass or dirt paths that were features of other communities. He spent much time with his maternal grandmother, Gertrude Maxwell, and played with his 12 cousins. Some of the people who lived at Mona included Ward Mills, Dr Michael Witter and Dr Douglas McDonald.

Richard also remembers the many hours he spent reading, something his parents encouraged, and as an only child he had much time to read.... voraciously. Every Saturday they would take him to Sangster's Book Store and he would read anything from the *Hardy Boys* to the Six Volumes regarded as a classic on 11th Century England. They mutually agreed not to have a television in the house and the time was spent reading. "Up till today, I read every night before going to bed," he avows.

George Beckford, Norman Girvan, Trevor Munroe, Walter Rodney

Bernal learnt at the feet of some of Jamaica's and the region's brightest: George Beckford; Norman Girvan; C Y Thomas; Walter Rodney, the Guyanese who would be banned by the Hugh Lawson Shearer-led JLP Administration; Orlando Patterson; Trevor Munroe; Kamau Brathwaite — the all-star list was endless. Importantly, those lecturers reinforced in Bernal the notion of selfless service to country and fellowman. The basic idea was that they had been fortunate enough to get a good education and it was their social duty to contribute to the upliftment of the less privileged by changing the society for the better.

Bernal recalls that on the first day he turned up for classes at UWI, in October 1968, it was to walk into a huge demonstration at the Mona Road entrance. Students were up in arms over the banning of Walter Rodney. He joined the demonstration and marched to Jamaica House, Gordon House where they were dispersed with teargas, and the finance ministry.

Pursuing a degree in economics, Bernal studied regional economic history and accounting, the latter would justify itself when he later entered banking. At UWI he lived on Taylor Hall, recalling that in those days campus life was different and students wore gowns to dinner. On Taylor Hall also were the likes of Dennis Morrison, QC; Clairmont Kirton; Ian Randle; and Dr Paul Wright.

Alister McIntyre, G Arthur Brown, Gladstone Bonnick

Bernal went to work for Alister McIntyre, doing monetary economics, which entailed him travelling across the Caribbean to collect data. In those days, most of the countries did not have a central bank and one had to physically go to them to get files and extract information. McIntyre had taught him when he did his first degree at UWI.

In 1974, G Arthur Brown invited Bernal to rejoin the BOJ under his governorship. It was an interesting time to be at the central bank. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had stationed a man at the BOJ. Bernal noted that the IMF representative was the only one there with a PhD in economics; everyone else had a Masters or a first degree. The Bank decided to send him to be trained at the IMF but Bernal had a desire to pursue a PhD in monetary economics and public finance and applied to the top 20 schools in the US.

The first to reply was the famous Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Bernal went to Wharton for a year. But at the end of the first year, he was looking to do a dissertation on economic development in developing countries. Nobody on the staff was interested in that topic. Determined to follow the path he had set for himself, Bernal switched to the New School for Social Research, now the New School University in New York. Shortly after completing his PhD, Bernal ran into George Beckford in New York. They both shared a taxi and Beckford asked his former student what he planned to do. He said he was not yet sure and Beckford suggested he come to the university to teach.

About the same time, another former lecturer, Norman Girvan, invited him to work as a consultant at the National Planning Agency. Girvan wisely advised him to specialise, in order to master an area and he chose to become an expert on the IMF, with special emphasis on its programmes in developing countries. The move was fortuitous. In the years to come, the IMF would be at the centre of Jamaican consciousness as the Manley Government began a rocky relationship with the Fund that would lead to a crushing political defeat

Our man in Washington

He went to Washington and, building on the work of his predecessors, caused Jamaica's name to be pronounced with pride. Hardly any decision was taken in the US Congress concerning the Caribbean without some reference to Bernal. Jamaican lobbyist George Dalley could hardly believe his ears when Bernal said he wanted to testify before the Congress on several issues of interest to Jamaica and the Caribbean and did. At one stage he was number three in the diplomatic corps in the US capital.

He recalls being first out of the room in Cancun, Mexico when the World Trade Organization talks collapsed and became the man to bring the bad tidings to waiting journalists, hungry for news. He was quoted for days by nearly all the major networks and media outlets in the US saying why the meeting had torpedoed and countering claims that it was the developing countries who were to blame.

With Margaret, a cultural consultant and gracious hostess at his side, he crisscrossed the United States, promoting the island, delighting in the achievements of Jamaicans in the diaspora and boasting of their audacity. "If I am to come back in another life, I would want to come back as a Jamaican," he has repeated often.

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