

Call for Proposals Writing and Mentoring Workshop on

'Caribbean Connections: A View of the Future from "Here"'

'The future, after all, is unimaginable except from the here and now' – Tejumola Olaniyan

The University of the West Indies, Mona and the University of Bristol are hosting an interdisciplinary writing and mentoring workshop in association with the 41st Annual West Indian Literature Conference, to take place on October 9-11, 2023 at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus.

The workshop is aimed at Caribbean-based early-career researchers in literary studies, film studies, or cultural studies whose work speaks to the theme of 'A View of the Future from "Here"'. The aim of the workshop is to support participants in developing their writing skills, preparing their work for publication, building their research profile, and strengthening their professional networks.

Participants will be expected to prepare and submit a 5-7,000 words draft paper ahead of the workshop, and to provide feedback on the draft papers of other participants. At the workshop, they will also receive feedback from experienced scholars who will serve as mentors. Sessions will focus on the peer-review publication process: developing research methods; composing effective abstracts; converting conference papers to journal articles; communicating with journal editors; interpreting journal reviewer reports; and performing revisions. Following the workshop, each participant will be assigned a mentor who will advise them in the process of preparing their paper for publication. The aim is to publish the revised papers as a special issue in a relevant academic journal.

Participants will further have the opportunity to participate in the 41st West Indian Literature Conference. The conference takes place immediately after the workshop (October 12-14) in Kingston, Jamaica.

Participation in the workshop is free. Successful applicants will have the costs for accommodation, meals and mobile data in Kingston covered. (Provision to help cover childcare costs can also be made.) Participants' registration fees for WILC will also be covered.

Eligibility

The workshop aims at early-career academics based in the Caribbean.

- As a minimum, participants must be in the final year of PhD or MPhil studies.
- As a maximum, participants can have up to **six** years of postdoctoral experience.
- Participants should be undertaking work relevant to the workshop theme.
- Researchers currently affiliated with a Caribbean academic institution, **and** independent researchers based in a Caribbean country, are welcome to apply.
- Female academics and scholars from otherwise marginalized groups are especially encouraged to apply.

Organisers

The workshop is organized by

- Dr. Rachel Moseley-Wood, The University of the West Indies, Mona
- Dr. Connor Ryan, University of Bristol

The workshop is made possible with funding from the British Academy and the support of the Department of Literatures in English, UWI, Mona and the University of Bristol.

Workshop Theme: A View of the Future from 'Here'

The workshop will focus on the theme of perspective, specifically the future as viewed from 'here'. It invites participants to examine the ways vantage point informs how the future of Caribbean literature, film, music and popular culture is imagined.

This workshop takes as its starting point the recent surge of scholarly attention toward futurity, especially in response to ongoing developments across Caribbean literature and film that have opened wide new possibilities for study. Some areas of research, such as Afrofuturism and speculative fiction, are overtly concerned with imagined futures. Other approaches adopt the prefix 'post-' to signal their orientation toward the future, as with post-colonial, post-national and post-humanist criticism. Innovations in and increased access to digital technology have sparked questions about the future implications of digital culture for the Caribbean. Meanwhile, the future effects of climate change demand the urgent remaking of relations between humans, non-humans and the natural environment, which the arts and popular culture can help us envision. The future calls for new intellectual approaches to account for the new directions in which Caribbean literature, film, music and popular culture are headed.

Nevertheless, 'The future,' as Olaniyan asserts, 'is unimaginable except from the here and now.' We understand this claim as a reminder of the fundamental significance of the location from which knowledge is formed. To speak of the view 'from here' implies perspective. While Olaniyan insists upon the link between imagined futures as viewed from the temporal present, this represents but one possible interpretation of 'the here.' We propose that the perspective 'from here' can be envisioned in many other ways as well. This workshop will bring together Caribbean-based early career researchers whose work explores the possible futures of Caribbean literature, film, music and popular culture and will encourage participants to reflect upon how the locations from which research is conceptualised, carried out, and written informs the way the future is imagined.

We invite proposals that deal with literature, film, music or popular culture and focus on any aspect of the theme. Topics might include but are not restricted to:

- Audiences of/in the future: new readers, viewers and publics
- Imagining futures: representations in literature, film or music of the future to come
- Past futures: how the future was imagined from past perspectives in literature, film and music
- Digital technology and its future potentials and risks for the arts or popular culture
- Carnavalesque futures: dystopias/utopias
- Abolish and foreclose: the futures of anti-racist struggle
- Decolonial options and the future: the politics, temporalities and epistemologies of liberation
- Women's evolving roles in creative industries and in society at large
- Future ecologies: imagining new relations between humans, non-humans and the environment

How to apply?

Please complete this form and submit it to WritingFutures2023@gmail.com by **31 July 2023**.

Names	
Gender	
Highest academic qualification (degree, subject, year, institution)	
Current affiliation / career status	
Home address	
Email address	
Where would you travel from to Kingston (if different from home address)	
Title of proposed workshop paper	
Abstract of paper (approx. 500 words)	
Motivation statement for the workshop (up to 200 words)	
Would you like to participate in the WIL conference following the workshop?	<p>Yes or no ?</p> <p>If yes, give a brief explanation of your interest and say if you have submitted a paper.</p>