Spirit, Place and Caribbean Identity Formation

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This paper speaks to the ways in which Caribbean writers and filmmakers negotiate identity through an investment in spiritual spaces. This association of spirit residing in place and identity may be traced in the works of Lamming, Brodber, Brathwaite, Senior and Walcott amongst many others. However, in this paper I wish to explore the ways in which relatively new works engage questions of multiple affiliations through their adherence to, or interrogation of religious sites and rituals and the ways in which the treatment of these spaces enable a thinking through of what it means to be Caribbean.

The paper will explore specifically the concepts unfolding in the work of Yao Ramesar, in particular in his ethnographic films and his feature films which use specific filmic techniques. This evolution of a unique style becomes one of the ways through which identity as process is evoked.

Jennifer Rahim's use of Orisha, Catholic and ancestral spaces will form a counterpoint to this analysis.