



# THE MONA ECONOMIST

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER  
VOL. 9 (AUGUST 2022)



**Dr Christine Clarke**  
DEPUTY DEAN



**Dr Heather Ricketts**  
1<sup>ST</sup> FEMALE DEAN  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
THE UWI (MONA CAMPUS)





# EDITOR'S DESK

This edition of the Department of Economics (DoE) Newsletter celebrates Jamaica's 60th year of independence, and notes the critical role The UWI, Mona campus, has played in building Jamaica: through advocacy, through research, and through human capital development.

The DoE in particular has a rich legacy of contributing to the development of Jamaica. Our many graduates can be found in various institutions of government such as the Bank of Jamaica, The Ministry of Finance, and The Planning Institute of Jamaica, to name a few. The rich quantitative skills we provide our graduates are also highly demanded by the private sector, especially the financial sector.

While the development of human capital is a critical aspect of our contribution to Jamaica's development, The UWI is a research institution which teaches. Through research and advocacy DoE faculty contribute significantly to the Government of Jamaica, the private sector, and regional and international agencies operating in Jamaica. These contributions are not to be relegated to issues of business, economics and finance. As examples, we have contributed to research on issues such as the environment and education, including The Patterson Report.

The faculty of the DoE can be found on many public and private boards, providing unique perspectives on the myriad issues of national, regional and international importance. Beyond the board rooms of Jamaica, Jamaicans benefit from our discussions on the issues; whether on TV, the radio, or in the print media.

Should you have any questions or concerns, kindly contact us via email. 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](http://www.uwimona.edu.jm).

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*Congratulations*

**DR HEATHER RICKETTS**  
DEAN, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

As of August 1, 2022, Dr Heather Ricketts became the first female Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, The UWI, Mona Campus. The DoE extends best wishes to Dr Ricketts for a long and successful term.



*Congratulations*

**DR CHRISTINE CLARKE**  
DEPUTY DEAN, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

As of August 1, 2022, Dr Christine Clarke took up the role of Deputy Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, The UWI, Mona Campus. Dr Clarke has served the DoE with distinction and was recently promoted to senior lecturer. We are proud of her and wish her every success in her new role.



*Farewell*

**DR ALRICK CAMPBELL**

The DoE extends best wishes to Dr Alrick Campbell as he embarks on a new journey. We are thankful for the excellent service Dr Campbell has provided to the DoE.



## Class of 2022

### MSc Economics

#### **Distinction**

Shereese D'Andre Bailey  
Brooke-Anne Alyssa Bowen  
Emoy Kedian Young

#### **Pass**

Janice Adrella Anderson  
Shannika Deanna Brown  
Tenea Jenet Cadogan  
Romario Christopher Cameron  
Tarik Doran Dixon  
Richard Anthony Foster  
Johnelle Amanda Grant  
Kisanna Gunn  
Joycelin Itza  
Kenneil Damoi Jackson  
Karissa Anna-Kaye Lawrence  
Shaneil Shauna-Kay Parsons  
Brittney Powell

## Class of 2021 Graduate Awards

Jody-Ann Robinson  
**Top Student Award**  
Best Economics  
Graduate Student

Melissa Foster  
**The Economics Theory Prize**  
Best Student  
Economic Theory

Jody-Ann Robinson  
**The Econometrics Prize**  
Best Student  
Econometrics

Anthony Clarke  
Melissa Foster  
Paul Reid  
Jody-Ann Robinson  
**The George Beckford Prize**  
Best Students  
Economic Development

### **AY 2021/2022 Graduate Scholarships**

Natalia Wilson  
**G. Arthur Brown Scholar**

Camesha Petri  
**Thomas De La Rue Scholar**

# Board/Committee Membership 2020/21

## **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



# The Jamaican Economy Panel



L-R: Dr Nadine McCloud (Head, Department of Economics, The UWI Mona), Dr Stuart Davies (Economist at UNRCO) and Ciara Patterson (UN volunteer based at the UNRCO)



UN Resident Coordinator pays courtesy call on Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI Mona Campus on the occasion of the 11th discussion of the Jamaican Economy Panel.

L-R: Jomain McKenzie (Programme Communications & Advocacy Officer, UNRCO), Dr Olaf de Groot (Economist, UNRCO), Dr. Garry Conille (United Nations Resident Coordinator), Prof. Dale Webber (Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal—The UWI Mona), Prof. Ian Boxill (Deputy Principal, The UWI Mona), Jonathan Archie (Deputy Campus Registrar, The UWI, Mona), Dr. Nadine McCloud (Head, Department of Economics, The UWI Mona).

# **Jamaican Economy Panel Past Topics**

**April 2021:** Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

**May 2021:** Fiscal policy and debt sustainability: Balance between debt reduction and other priorities

**June 2021:** Sustainable Development Goals

**July 2021:** Vaccine Hesitancy

**September 2021:** Carbon Pricing in the Caribbean

**November 2021:** Violence against Women and Children

**December 2021:** Impact of migration in Jamaica

**January 2022:** Jamaica's Looming Obesity Crisis

**February 2022:** Ensuring food systems in Jamaica in the face of climate change

**March 2022:** Climate risks for Jamaica and the Impact on Women

**April 2022:** Disaster risk Preparedness

**May 2022:** Stigma, Discrimination, and Violence against Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups in Jamaica

**August 2022:** Ocean Economy in Jamaica

## **About the Jamaican Economy Panel**

The Department of Economics (DoE), The UWI, Mona, is committed to partnering with domestic, regional and international institutions, so as to contribute to the sustainable economic development of Jamaica, the Caribbean region and the wider world. To this end, the Department of Economics has partnered with the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) and have jointly created the Jamaican Economy Panel (JEP). Through the JEP, economic and public policy experts contribute to discussions on topical issues such as disaster risk preparedness and the ocean economy.

Dr Stuart Davies (UN Resident Coordinator's Office) and Dr Nadine McCloud (HOD, DoE, The UWI, Mona) are the current coordinators of the panel. Dr Olaf de Groot, co-founder of the JEP, has been replaced by Dr Davies. The DoE wishes Dr Olaf de Groot every success in his future endeavors.

# WECON 2022 REPORT

The West Indies Economic Conference (WECON) 2022 was held on March 11th and 12th. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the decision was made to go fully virtual. Nevertheless, it was quite successful.

The conference featured two keynote speakers: Professors Janet Currie and Matias Cattaneo, both from Princeton University. It should be noted that Professor Currie was our first ever female keynote speaker and her presentation on "Child Mental Health as Human Capital" was well received. As was Professor Cattaneo's address "On Binscatter". The conference also highlighted the work of two specially invited speakers – Professor W. Bentley Macleod and Professor Suresh Naidu, both from Columbia University.

Over the two days of the conference, more than 300 people attended the event which shone a spotlight on research work in Energy & Environment, Health & Labour, Growth & Development, Econometrics, and other areas. WECON2022 included over 30 presenters and a panel discussion on "Digital Infrastructure and Development in the Caribbean" sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank.

The Department would like to thank the sponsors of WECON2022 – the Bank of Jamaica, the Inter-American Development Bank, and Sygnus. We look forward to the successful staging of WECON2023 – our first face to face WECON since 2019!

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 9 -10, 2023**

UWI REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
KINGSTON, JAMAICA, W.I.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Department of Economics (UWI-Mona), presents the 5th West Indies Economic Conference (WECON). Papers in every field of economics are most welcome. Inter-disciplinary papers and papers on developing countries are especially welcome.

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

### REGISTRATION FEES

INTERNATIONAL (US \$250), CARICOM RESIDENTS (US \$110)

STUDENTS: INTERNATIONAL (US \$80), CARICOM (FREE)

### Keynote Speakers



George-Levi Gayle  
Washington University (St. Louis)



Rocio Titiunik  
Princeton University

**Guest Speaker: Matias Cattaneo (Princeton University)**

- Abstract Submission Deadline: December 9, 2022
- Notification of Acceptance: January 16, 2023
- Registration & Paper Submission Deadline: February 3, 2023

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

# Scholarly Output (AY 2021/2022)

## Journal Articles:

**Clarke, C., Whitely, P.** and Reid, T. (2022), "Fiscal sustainability in highly indebted countries: evidence from Jamaica", *International Journal of Development Issues*, Vol. 21 No. 3, pp. 347-366.  
<https://doi.org/10.1108/IJDI-01-2022-0003>

**McCloud, N.** (2022). Does Domestic Investment respond to Inflation Targeting? A Synthetic Control Investigation. *International Economics*, 169: 98-134.

**McCloud, N.,** Taylor, A. (2022). Does inflation targeting matter for international trade? A synthetic control analysis. *Empirical Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00181-022-02221-9>

**McCloud, N.,** & Delgado, M.S.(2021). Domestic Interest Rate, Foreign Direct Investment, and Corruption. *Review of World Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10290-021-00435-0>

**Spencer, N.,** Strobl E. and Campbell, A. (2022). Sea Level Rise under Climate Change: Implications for Beach Tourism in the Caribbean. *Ocean and Coastal Management*, 255: 106207.

Khadan, J., **Spencer, N.,** Strobl, E. and T. Bose-Duker (2021). Factors associated with being Overweight or Obese in Suriname. *International Journal of Public Health*, 66:1604101. doi: 10.3389/ijph.2021.1604101.

**Spencer, N.** and E. Strobl (2022). Poverty and Hurricane Risk Exposure in Jamaica. *Geneva Risk and Insurance Review* 47, pages141–157.

## Book Chapters:

**Braithwaite, S.** (2022). "Estimating the economic costs of noncommunicable diseases in CARICOM." In *Contemporary Issues Within Caribbean Economies*, chapter 4, pages 65-82 (Springer).

**Clarke, C.** (2021) "Caribbean Economies and COVID-19: Impact and Prospects for 2021 and beyond." In *COVID in the Islands: A comparative perspective on the Caribbean and the Pacific*, chapter 5, pages 93-124 (Springer).

## Conference Proceedings

Drummonds, A. O., **Henry, J.,** & Mirpuri, K. (2022). An Analysis of Website Phishing Awareness in Jamaica. *IEEE Southeast Conference 2022*, pp. 368-373. doi: 10.1109/SoutheastCon48659.2022.9764050

## Selected Forthcoming Articles, Submitted Papers & Working Papers:

**Braithwaite, S.** "Decentralisation, Ethnic Fractionalisation & The Resource Curse: The Case of Guyana." *Social and Economic Studies*. (Forthcoming)

**Whitely, P.** and Vasciannie, L. "Elections in Jamaica: Voter Registration vs. Voter Turnout." Working Paper, Department of Government, The UWI, Mona.

## Conference/Forum Presentations (AY 2021/2022)

**Samuel Braithwaite**, Sir William Arthur Lewis: Women in the Lewis Model. Black History Month Celebrations Lecture Series: Black Thought Leaders in Economics Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health, Glasgow Caledonian University, October 14, 2021.

**Samuel Braithwaite**, “A Tale of Two Inflation Targeters: Guatemala and Jamaica (WECON)”, March 2022.

**Christine Clarke**, “The Development of a Resilience Index”. WEAI Conference in Portland, Oregon, June 29-July 3, 2022.

**Christine Clarke**, Keynote Lecture at the UCC/NCB Rickert Allen Distinguished Memorial Lecture on COVID-19 Recovery: Perspective of Business and Family April 13, 2022.

**Christine Clarke**, The Russia-Ukraine Crisis: Implications for the Caribbean & International Relations. Panelist, FSS Research Seminar on March 15, 2022.

**Christine Clarke**, Wage Determination in Jamaica: An Exploration of Pay Gaps using the Census presented at Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission’s Inaugural Research Forum November 18, 2021.

**Christine Clarke**, UNESCO’s dialogue sessions themed (Re-)Connecting Research, Policy & Practices, Recovery in Caribbean SIDS; (Re-) Imaging Socio-Economic Recovery, October 28, 2021.

**Christine Clarke**, “Caribbean Economies and COVID-19” FSS Research Seminar on the COVID-19 Pandemic, October 13, 2021.

**Kelly-Ann Dixon Hamil**, “Becoming More Efficient in Your Research Efforts: Citation Managers” FSS Graduate Seminar #2, November 18, 2022.

**Andre Haughton**, “Liveable Wage: Moving Beyond Survival”, Observer Business Webinar, November 24, 2021.

**Jevon Henry**, (attendee: paper presented by co-author.), Drummonds, A., Henry, J., & Mirpuri, K. An Analysis of Website Phishing Awareness in Jamaica. IEEE Southeast Conference. March 26-27, 2022.

**Jevon Henry**, Co-Facilitator – Mona Social Services Training for Parents from surrounding UWI Communities in Using Online Classroom Technologies. February 26, 2022.

**Jevon Henry**, Panelist for WJC Connect Seminar on Managing Your Time and Financial Resources January 20, 2022.

**Nekeisha Spencer**, Climate Change and Beach Tourism in the Caribbean. Conference of the Economy (COTE), November 2021,

**Nekeisha Spencer** (keynote speaker), UNDP Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) Forum, Organized by: UNDP, Indonesia under the theme: “Enhancing Climate Change Action through the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Effort”, Presentation Title - Building Post-Pandemic Resilience: Climate Change and Beach Tourism, October 1, 2021.

**Patrice Whitely**, "Fiscal Sustainability in Highly Indebted Countries: Evidence from Jamaica. 52nd Annual Monetary Studies Conference, September 2021.

## Department of Economics Seminars (AY 2021/2022)

**Collin Constantine** (Guest Presenter), "Throwing Darts and Missing the Bullseye: Fiscal and Debt Sustainability in Open Economies," April 14, 2022. (Guest Presentation)

**Andre Haughton**, "Productivity Drives in the Caribbean," November 25, 2021.

**Dena Spence** (PhD candidate, DoE, The UWI, Mona), "The Definition of Unemployment in Jamaica Revisited," March 31, 2022.

**Mikhail-Ann Urquhart** (PhD candidate, DoE, The UWI, Mona), "Natural Disaster, Impact & Recovery: Evidence from St. Lucian Households," March 24, 2022.

**Mikhail-Ann Urquhart** (PhD candidate, DoE, The UWI, Mona), "Household Adaptation to Disasters: The Role of Climate Finance," November 29, 2021.

**Patrice Whitely**, "Elections in Jamaica: Voter Registration vs. Voter Turnout." October 4, 2021.

### **UNDP Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) Forum (October 1, 2021)** **Keynote Speaker: Dr Nekeisha Spencer**

Organizer: UNDP, Indonesia

Theme: "Enhancing Climate Change Action through the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Effort"

Presentation Title - Building Post-Pandemic Resilience: Climate Change and Beach Tourism

"The COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call for tourist-dependent economies in the Caribbean. The pandemic reduced tourist arrivals resulting in a loss of revenue and widespread joblessness. Although relatively short term, these effects can teach Caribbean economies about what to expect for the impact of climate change on the tourism sector. For example, climate-change-induced sea level rise, a supply shock, can permanently shut down tourism in the long term. So, while, COVID-19 is important, economies need to pay more than the usual attention to climate change. Recent research in the department shows that by the year 2050 and 2100, a lot of Caribbean islands will lose a significant proportion of their sandy beaches, hotel rooms located near sandy beaches resulting in losses as high as 52.5% and 66% of Caribbean tourism income by the year 2050 and 2100 respectively. These estimates leave little doubt that without adaptation, tourism economies will experience more severe and permanent losses in terms of revenue and jobs."

## Losing Sand: How Climate Change Affects Caribbean Beaches\*

Biggest Tourism Revenue Losers	Cost of Beach Nourishment
Antigua and Barbuda – 100%	2.2%
Montserrat – 100%	13.5%
US Virgin Islands – 96.7%	0.4%
British Virgin Islands – 89.1%	1.0%
Grenada – 80.6%	0.9%
Jamaica – 73.6%	0.8%
Trinidad & Tobago – 71.2%	1.4%
Saint Lucia – 61.2%	0.9%

Sandy beaches are important to the Caribbean, and especially to the tourism industry. Worryingly, a recently published paper predicts that climate-change-induced sea level rise will cause a 59% loss in sandy beaches and a 39% reduction in hotel rooms by the year 2100 under a high emissions pathway. These losses translate into a 47% reduction in tourism revenue for the region. A possible low-cost adaptation strategy is beach nourishment which will cost Caribbean governments, an average 1.09% of tourism revenues. Which islands will be the biggest tourism revenue losers by 2100? And what will beach nourishment cost in terms of tourism revenue?

These alarming predicted losses point to the need for the Caribbean to reduce the vulnerability of its tourism sectors and adapt climate-resilient strategies to protect revenues. However, in developing these strategies, quantifying the risks of sandy beach losses due to climate change, and considering the best practices to reduce such losses is important.

*\*Spencer, N., Strobl, E., & Campbell, A. (2022). Sea level rise under climate change: Implications for beach tourism in the Caribbean. Ocean & Coastal Management, 225, 106207.*



## Q&A with Dr Nekeisha Spencer

Q: If you could change one thing so as to combat climate change what would it be and why?

**A: Reduce the demand for fossil energy and significantly increase reliance on renewable energy. Renewable energy is less harmful to the environment.**

Q: How did you end up choosing the field of Environmental Economics?

**A: Seeing how myself and others around me were being affected by extreme weather events nurtured my interest in the area. This put me on a path to quantify the economic impact of such events with the hope that they can inform policy making and help to build resilience against weather attacks.**

Q: Where in Jamaica are you from?

**A: Manchester**

Q: If you are stuck on an island what food would you wish for the most?

**A: pineapple, coconut water, fish**

Q: Do you remember your first Economics course? What was it like?

**A: No. But I gravitated towards economics because of its quantitative nature.**

Q: If you had to choose another profession, what would that profession be?

**A: Environmental Lawyer**

Q: What are the most pressing needs for strengthening and improving your research productivity?

**A: Access to more funding and research assistance.**

Q: You are a prolific researcher, what is your secret?

**A:**

- 1. Time blocking whether in small or large quantities**
- 2. Keeping on the watch for interesting and untapped data.**
- 3. Collaborating with established researchers which enhances skills and critical thinking.**
- 4. Breaking down tasks into manageable portions.**
- 5. Creating a timeline and try sticking to it.**



# Citation

**Dr Peter-John Gordon**  
Appreciation of Service  
(1985 –2022)

Peter-John (PJ) is retiring after 37 years of invaluable service to the Department of Economics. PJ can best be described as the godfather of the economics graduate programme at The UWI, Mona. He cherished the role of coordinator of the graduate programme and held that position for several years.

Initially, the graduate programme was limited to the MSc in Economics and PJ worked assiduously to ensure that the programme maintained international standards. In later years he was instrumental in the development of a PhD programme. PJ ensured a steady stream of applicants to the MSc programme by mentoring undergraduate students and encouraging them to pursue the MSc. In keeping with his philosophy of pushing students to reach their full potential, students who completed the MSc were given any assistance they needed to apply for entry to PhD programmes. Many of those students have obtained PhDs from top universities overseas. It is fair to say that PJ went beyond the call of duty to help the graduate students. PJ's commitment to the graduate programme was also evident in his teaching. He expanded the range of courses available in the graduate programme by introducing courses in game theory and industrial organisation and dedicated himself to effective teaching.

PJ's research in applied microeconomic theory focused on issues in education such as UWI admission policy, tertiary education financing and the effects of elite schools in Jamaica. He also explored moral hazard in health care utilisation. He was actively involved in efforts to build the Department of Economics through his work on the Department's recruitment committee.

The public profile of the Department was enhanced by PJ's wide range of public service activities including membership of Boards of organisations such as Kingston College, the Mico Foundation, Statistical Institute of Jamaica and National Development Bank of Jamaica.

PJ will be remembered as a friendly and collegial member of staff. He spent long hours in his office and could be found there even on public holidays. Being present most of the time he was available to discuss economic issues with students and colleagues.

The Department of Economics thanks PJ for his years of service and wishes him a long and healthy retirement.



# Tributes To Dr Peter-John Gordon

What would life be without this stalwart student advocate? PJ not at Dept. of Econ ... unheard of! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to correct my mistake... for investing in, and encouraging my student and professional journeys.  
A BIG Thank You!

Claney Lattie

PJ has been a tremendous inspiration to me, he is a reference model for dedicated service and professional integrity. From him I have learnt to value brutal honesty ... honesty about my society and myself. For that gift I am truly thankful.

Allister Mounsey

You have been so much more than a teacher to me. You have been my mentor, motivator, support and guide. You believed in me more than anyone has ever believed in me, including myself. Thank you for everything.

Shenelle Guscott

Dr. Peter-John Gordon has contributed significantly to my development as an Economist. Not only has he been a role model but his lessons in and out of the classroom have equipped me with the necessary skills to further widen my capacity and be not just a statistic but a contributing member of society. I can recall one of the many discussions that we had about the applicability of the M.Sc. programme to everyday life, during which he made a statement that becomes more apparent each day " The M.Sc. in Economics will allow you to take complex problems, break them down into smaller solvable ones then put the solutions together"; that's not just Economics, that's life.

Ajornie Taylor

P J, all the best in your future endeavors. As many others are certain to say, you have had a tremendous influence on the lives of many of us. Like many others, I left home with the thought of pursuing an undergraduate degree, and returning home to work. You were the catalyst for me pushing beyond that relatively narrow goal I had set for myself. Thanks for the mentorship, formal and informal.

Glenison France

PJ, Thank you for your dedication to training the next generation of economists for Jamaica, the Caribbean and, indeed, the rest of the world. You have always been a believer in "to do the thing right" you need to have knowledge of the subject matter. Thank you for taking the time to listen, encourage, and share. You made a real difference in my life and in the lives of all the students you taught.

George-levi Gayle

Dr. Gordon was a father to many. The voice of reason we'd seek in our time of uncertainty. He led us the best way he could, which led most of us to the PhD lol. Thank you for the wise words Dr Gordon. This is the beginning of a new journey, so embrace it and continue nurturing the minds of tomorrow!

Jason Christie

In the fall semester of 2013, a group of young ladies bonded over a common goal: "let's get this degree." Unbeknown to us at that time, there was a lecturer who was just as invested in this goal as we were - Dr. Gordon.

With relentless pursuit of our interest and graceful compassion, you encouraged us to ask questions, analyze situations and make sound decisions, taking our lessons from theory to real life. Through sorrow and tragedy, you facilitated us, ensuring that we had the necessary support through the most difficult times. Thank you for everything, you are sincerely appreciated.

Crystal Johnson, Kacian Sutherland, Saschelle Ricketts and Sophie Johnson

Peter-John Gordon is not a lecturer, he is a great teacher that looks out for his students and dedicates his life to passing on the knowledge that he has garnered. No matter how hard your head is, he is always willing to go through questions a million times until you get it. I really appreciate his dedication to his job and to the students' welfare.

Gino Harriott

Thank you for helping to deftly guide the evolution of my curiosity to a genuine appreciation of micro-economics

Ahmad Tijani

PJ has been one of the most influential teachers in my life. I did not have the imagination to consider pursuing a Ph.D. when I entered the Master's program. His role in creating a Master's program that prepared many of us for where we are today has been a quiet contribution to the betterment of the Caribbean's human capital and anyone that we impact.

Linda Bailey-McWeeney

Dr Gordon, you have not only made an indelible mark on the Economic Master's programme but also on the many students that you've taught. You forced us to pay keen attention to details and you would always go the extra mile to ensure that the syllabus is completed. Your passion to maintain the rigour of the programme was much to our benefit. We will never forget the classes held on weekends nor the many jokes you tried to tell.

Sherona Forrester

During the MSC program at UWI, Dr. Gordon never let a day go by without somehow bringing up reasons for us to do our PhD. His encouragement helped me to be where I am today.

On top of writing recommendation letters for me, Dr. Gordon wrote a very strong email to one university that rejected my application because they did not believe Jamaicans speak English. Situations like that tell you how much he cares for his students. He is a very passionate educator, and I am happy to have been his student.

Rushaine Goulbourne

Dr Gordon has consistently and unrelentingly ensured that his students understand his course and be mindful and proactive towards their future. He has exercised flexibility and understanding toward me whenever I struggled with certain topics in Game Theory or Industrial Organization. There were times outside of his office hours and on weekends when he would explain the answers to the problem sets and for that I am truly grateful.

Alvin Harris

Dr. Gordon, I want to express my gratitude for the service you have given to your students. Your passion and commitment to seeing us excel is unequivocal, thank you. You have truly made an impact, one that will never be forgotten. I celebrate with you on your retirement and wish you all the very best in your next steps.

David Bailey

Dr. Gordon embodies what it means to be selfless and committed to what you do. From Sunday to Sunday you can be assured that you'll find him in his office or in a classroom doing what he loves - teaching, mentoring, guiding, serving the next generation of leaders and decision makers. He cares about his students doing well both inside the classroom and beyond and the passion with which he approaches his role is both admirable and enviable.

I recall PJ giving up big portions of his days, even on weekends, to sit with us and guide us through whatever topic we needed explaining. No matter what time or what day, he was always a call or visit or WhatsApp message away, spending as much time as it took to help us to master the various topics. To you the gestures might have seemed small, but to us they meant the world. You have shown us what exemplary stewardship and kindness looks like and we are forever grateful.

Ann-Marie Thomas and the Friday night study posse (2014-2016)

# JODY'S STORY



Jody-Ann Robinson

"Who, she? She naa come to nuttin!" By 16, she a guh breed!". Those were some of the affirmations spoken over my life, ones that I used to route my life in the direction that I want it to go.

At the age of 4 years, I lost my mother to an autoimmune disease. My father, suddenly a single father of two girls, decided that the best thing was to send me and my sister to Manchester to live with my aunt. We lived on a plantation, went to a school that was also located on the plantation and during the summer we attended camp that comprised of missionaries on the plantation.

It was while living on this plantation that I realized how being vulnerable allows people to take advantage of you. At only 4 years old, I was sexually assaulted by an older camp leader. Assault became my reality and a part of my identity—in an environment where I was to feel secure, unwarranted hands touched me; over and over. Traumatized, numb and ashamed. I must be at fault, right? For years I struggled with this knowledge alone; I felt un-worthy and my self-esteem was beyond repair. Sometimes I fought back, but a single voice in my head never allowed me to speak. The summer before starting high school, that voice became numb, as gun to my head, I laid on my bed and saw my flowers stolen from me. I left home the next day to live with my grandmother, without a word of what happened. My silent struggle made me bitter...and argumentative and outspoken. This became my personality, my armour. I would not be broken. Now, many years later I acknowledge my strength in my achievements, and that I am still healing from things that I do not talk about. But, while physical, emotional, sexual, and mental abuse are a part of my story, they are not who I am.

Who I am is fashioned by several other persons, those who God placed in my life to save me from an eminent downward spiral.

My Grade 5 teacher, Mrs. Judith Samuels, was my first mother figure. She saw something in me that I never saw in myself. Even in primary school, I was a talkative child, emotionally scarred and defensive. Mrs. Samuel's mom was the principal of my primary school, so she knew my history prior to entering her class. When I started out, I was just a regular child who did well in her class with the same socioeconomic background as most of her students. However, even at that age, I knew that education was my way out and how I was going to give my father a better life. In that way, my drive was to excel academically even with a speech impediment.

In more ways than just academically, Mrs. Samuels became my mother. By that time, we had moved to live in Harbour View in Kingston after threats were made to my dad's life. Mrs. Samuels lived a 5-minute walk from my home. Because my father was always working and my sister was back in Manchester attending high school, I was left home alone most times. I visited Mrs. Samuels regularly to escape.

When it was time to choose schools for G.S.A.T. my dad didn't know which schools to choose.

Mrs. Samuels selected them, and I remember her saying to me "If I could put my alma mater in all 5 slots I would because that's where you are going." When the results came out, she told everyone else which school they had passed for except for me. I cried because I was so unsure of what happened. "Did I disappoint her?" She laughed and replied, "I already told you where you were going."

After primary school I thought that was it for my relationship with Mrs. Samuels, however she continued to play a pivotal role in my life in high school. By high school my father had reached one of his lowest points financially, so my uncle Ellard Robinson who was beyond proud of my pass to Immaculate Conception High School decided that he would finance my secondary education. I also moved to live now with my extended family on my mother's side, and my older brother, Andre Thomas, also became a critical help financially. Even though I had left my father's home in Harbour View, Mrs. Samuels still supported me in every other way. If you did not know my background, you would think I was from a rich family because of how Mrs. Samuels treated me. Her daughter was also attending Immaculate, so she brought me to and back from school and whoever she sent for her daughter also picked me up. I was never short of anything in high school. She ensured that I was well taken care of.

But, her love was met with resistance from some of my relatives who felt that I did not deserve her kindness. And even though financially I was in good standing, mentally and emotionally I was battling in secret with depression and anxiety. I cried every night for my first year of high school because my attack gave me nightmares. I found classmates who were not good for me as we allowed each other to stray. I was talkative and lacked discipline, and by the end of 7th grade, my friends and I were known. Throughout grades 8-9, the disobedience doubled; visits to the principal's office increased and suspensions and demerits, order marks were accepted with no remorse and a smile on my face. My group of friends was now known as a gang and we were seen as "terrorists". The principal publicly disbanded us over the intercom. But being together was like a drug that we needed to numb whatever pain we were feeling but refused to talk about, so the mischief continued. To say my family was upset was an understatement and the affirmations began. "Who she? She naa come to nutten!"

In 10th grade, my second mother figure, Mrs. Marsha McIntyre, pulled me back from that edge. I knew her from grade 8 and let's just say we never saw eye to eye. Since my dream was to be a lawyer—My principal called me "village lawyer" because I was always defending something—I decided to do History at the CXC level. Mrs. McIntyre, my history teacher, would teach me so much more than history. The first test I did, I got 100% and she said, "If you continue like this you can top Jamaica, maybe even the Caribbean." I found it funny. But it was one affirmation that I worked towards.

One day Mrs. McIntyre came to me and said God said she should talk to me. I found that so weird. My faith wasn't as strong because after all the battles I fought, I wondered if He still existed.

But at that exact moment everything that could go wrong was going wrong in my life and when she came, I was compelled to talk to her. I did, she prayed with me, and we have been praying and speaking every day since then.

Mrs. McIntyre is the mom who I call about everything. Her children call me their sister. Her husband calls me his big daughter. Her family has accepted me.

After that conversation with Mrs. McIntyre, I had a different love for her and History, and I decided I was going to top History. I also began to "behave better". However, even though I was reformed, when it was time to graduate, I had to have a meeting with the committee to see if I was eligible for graduation. I brought my sister, Stacey-Ann Robinson, as my guardian. No one else in my family would have defended me as she did. I was still being judged by my past behaviours. I graduated 8th in my class of over 200 students. This was a major achievement since they average all your grades from grade 8-11, and even though I was well below average in behaviour, I was always a honour student. When CSEC results came out I passed all 8 subjects, and was awarded first in Jamaica and second in the Caribbean for History, and placed in the top 10 for Economics.

I continued to Immaculate's sixth form programme. As I started my final year of high school, I was selected to be Student Council President, which was a dream of mine. I went from going to the Board (for disciplinary hearings) to sitting on the Board. It was by far the hardest and most satisfying job I have ever had. When people who are in power do not believe you deserve something they will find every way to take it away from you. Principal, Sister Angella Harris, despite being sent to her on several occasions in lower school for disruptive behaviour, championed me as Student Council President. She saw through the negative behaviour and to the shining potential. It was possibly through all of those "negotiations" in those disciplinary meetings that I developed a relationship with Sister Angella. She knew me and knew that I deserved that position, so no matter the roadblocks that I experienced, Sister Angella always helped me to navigate through it. At the end of secondary school, I was on my way to casting away the negative affirmations, embracing the positives and creating some of my own.

For the last 6 years, the mental struggles have been easier, as I have had to focus on my studies at university. This does not leave time to dwell on the demons from my earlier years. As I have navigated undergraduate and post-graduate at The University of the West Indies, Mona, my mental and emotional health have improved, where I can now acknowledge and reflect on my experiences and those which have shaped me to be who I am.

*"Abuse is never right nor good. But, I have used my abuse, and my very gradual healing, to fuel my ambitions."*

Abuse is never right nor good. But, I have used my abuse, and my very gradual healing, to fuel my ambitions.

Living by the mantra "what is for me will always be for me", has allowed me to turn all my setbacks and disappointments into something positive. At the UWI, Mona, I met several individuals, lecturers, and classmates, who assisted me throughout my journey, but I must publicly thank an amazing individual Mrs. Ann Gibson who helped me so much through my 3 years of undergrad.

Three years went by quickly. I learned to play sports, participated in many clubs, and continued to do well academically. I was nominated to vie for valedictorian for my graduating class in 2019 for which my dear friend Shamar Hall was successful. I was disappointed but for post graduate studies I set my sight on 3 goals: 1) graduating top of my class, 2) graduating with all A's and 3) graduating with distinction. I accomplished all those goals.

I am coming from the bottom 10%. I have first-hand experience of what it is like to have nothing, to watch a parent give you his or her last and go without. The sacrifices of my father, uncles, aunt, siblings, and strangers who became family have helped me to become the woman I am now. While in my earlier years the voices of negativity were what I knew, over the years I have grown to love myself, which is the first major step in setting and achieving self-made goals.

My journey is far from over. There is so much I want to achieve, so much history I want to create. No matter what life has thrown at me, I know I am living proof of what the mercy of God can do. Now my aim is to help spread awareness about sexual abuse and assist as many young ladies as I can. My silence forced me to suffer alone for years. Maybe, when I am able to help these ladies, I can speak out about my own experiences and heal. Stronger. I am, after all, a Strong Woman.

### Editor's Note:

Jody-Ann is currently an assistant lecturer in the Department of Economics, The UWI (Mona), and graduated at the top of the MSc Economics Class of 2021. Jody-Ann plans to do a PhD in Economics.

## **Strong Woman**

Heard of the rose that grew from concrete?

That's me.

There were days  
everyone doubted me  
stunted on me  
preyed upon me.

A young woman growing up in a society  
destined for failure  
forced to feel like the only power I would have  
is the strength in how my lashes flutter.

Hour-glass figure  
curves chiseled by hands that were not my own.

An indication that time is running out.

Who knew that with growth the demons would come out?

A blessing and a curse  
life's journey has brought me on a rocky road  
but I've finally found that the WOMAN I am today  
is the same girl from yesterday

same story  
same scars  
same rises  
same falls.

But don't confuse the two  
for I am no longer weak.

~ Jody-Ann Robinson



# Trauma

## Q&A with Dr Jhodi-Ann Bowie Dean



**Q: Dr. Bowie Dean, you are an expert in the area of trauma. Can you tell us about some of the main reasons why you have decided to focus on this area in your practice?**

Early on in my mental health training, I had the opportunity to work with women and children who had been abused. I became more passionate about learning about trauma treatment and subsequently decided to specialize in this area. It was important to me to develop the skills necessary to provide the best level of emotional and psychological support for these victims/survivors. Over the years, it has become apparent that there is a great deal of misinformation about the psychological impact of trauma. This makes me even more passionate about providing quality scientifically informed care to my clients

**Q: I have heard of many types of traumas; can you give us a simple definition of trauma? How can people tell if they have experienced trauma?**

A traumatic experience is one in which an individual or a loved one becomes seriously physically, psychologically, and/or emotionally hurt or injured. We can also say that a traumatic event has occurred if there is a perception of imminent threat or danger, even if there is no physical harm or injury. Common types of trauma include but are not limited to, the sudden death of a loved one, domestic violence, sexual assault, physical assault, serious accidents, community violence, and natural disasters.

**Q: We have been impacted by the pandemic, for over two years now. How are the challenges affecting us mentally and emotionally?**

The pandemic has been incredibly stressful for humans all over the world. For some, the pandemic itself has spawned other traumatic events, since millions of individuals worldwide have become seriously ill or died as a result of the COVID-19 disease. Others have been left terrified of the potential effects of the disease on themselves and their loved ones. Many persons have experienced burnout, feelings of depression, social anxiety, generalised anxiety, and even post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of this difficult time. While studies on the mental health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still emerging, it is safe to say that most individuals have suffered mentally to some degree over the last two years.

**Q: There are some individuals who have experienced the direct effects of trauma in their homes during the pandemic, others may have indirectly. Can you offer us with some advice on how to might pick up the pieces to begin a healing journey?**

The effects of trauma can be difficult to deal with. However, each individual deals with trauma in his or her own way. Some initially shut down and become emotionally numb, while some experience deep pain. These reactions, as well as others, are not uncommon within the first few months following a traumatic experience. Within these months, it is important to dedicate time to talk or write about your thoughts and feelings surrounding the experience. This is critical since it facilitates the processing of the trauma, which later on may help us to make meaning or get to a place of acceptance about the experience. Processing our trauma also helps us to express our emotions in ways that are behaviourally healthy. Suppressing the experience can lead to a variety of distressing emotional and behavioural responses. If you are still experiencing significant emotional distress or impairment in your day-to-day functioning after several months, it is prudent to seek out the services of a professional psychotherapist. It is critical to remember that trauma recovery begins with safety and stabilisation. The process of healing can be difficult if an individual's daily experiences still feel chaotic or unsafe.

**Q: Now that we are resuming face to face, are there any helpful tips on how someone who has experienced trauma can reintegrate in the academic setting?**

Understanding how your trauma has impacted your psychological and behavioural functioning is very important. This helps us to understand our own limits and boundaries. We can then communicate this to others where necessary, and ensure that we do not operate outside of those boundaries unnecessarily. Identify any potential triggers and establish strategies for coping in the event that you encounter any of these triggers. Keep in mind that these strategies for managing difficult emotions tend to work best when they are practiced repeatedly, even in the absence of the trigger. For instance, if one has established deep breathing techniques or muscle relaxation in response to emotional stressors, these strategies will work faster and be more effective if they are routinely incorporated throughout the day. Finally, please note that the university offers counselling services for students who may struggle to recover from a traumatic experience. The contact information for the Health Centre is provided below:

UWI HEALTH CENTRE  
[www.mona.uwi.edu/healthcentre/](http://www.mona.uwi.edu/healthcentre/)  
(876) 927 2520 | 970 0017  
[healthcr@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:healthcr@uwimona.edu.jm)

**Dr. Jhodi-Ann Bowie Dean** is a psychologist and lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Psychology, and Social Work at the University of the West Indies, Mona. Dr. Bowie Dean also works in private practice and is trained in the treatment and assessment of psychological conditions through the use of psychotherapy and other rigorous assessment techniques. For over 12 years, she works with clients struggling with a wide range of difficulties, including depression, anxiety, adjustment challenges, and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.

# Alumni Corner



**Dr Wayne Robinson**



**Prof. George Levi-Gayle**

**Dr Wayne Robinson** is a career central banker. A Commonwealth scholar, he was educated at the School of Economic Studies, University of Manchester where he received a PhD in Economics in 2002 and at The University of the West Indies Mona, where he received Bachelors (Honours) and Masters degrees in Economics in 1994 and 1996, respectively.

Dr Robinson started his career at Bank of Jamaica in the Information Systems Department but fell in love with economics and transitioned to the Research Division, where he has focused on economic policy and central banking.

His areas of expertise are econometric modeling and forecasting, monetary and financial economics. He has published on monetary and financial issues in a number of international journals, including IMF Staff Papers, Macroeconomic Dynamics and Journal of International Money and Finance.

He has played a leading role in the design of Jamaica's economic programme and in the design and implementation of monetary policy and financial market reforms. This is in addition to contributing to the strategic management of Bank of Jamaica.

Dr Robinson is married with two daughters.

**George-Levi Gayle** is the John H. Biggs Distinguished Professor of Economics at Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Economics. Before joining Washington University, he was an Instructor of Economics, Assistant professor of Economics, and Associate Professor of Economics and Strategy at Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University, from 2003 to 2010. Professor Gayle received a BSc and MSc in Economics from the University of the West Indies-Mona in 1996 and 1998, respectively. He earned a PhD in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh in 2004. Before entering the UWI, he was a student at Black River Secondary School (later renamed Black River High School) and Stratford High School in St Elizabeth.

His academic research investigates topics in the field of labor economics, broadly defined. He focuses on three main areas: family and gender issues in labor, the effect of information friction on earnings and compensation, and the estimation of semi-parametric models. His recent work investigates discrimination and gender gaps in labor market outcomes, the link between fertility, labor supply, parental time investment in children, intergenerational persistence in education and earnings, and the estimation of dynamic general equilibrium models of labor markets with incomplete information.

His academic research has been published in the world's top Economics, Accounting, and Finance journals, including American Economic Review, the Journal of Political Economy, Econometrica, The Review of Economics Studies, and The Journal of Accounting Research, among others. He is currently the associate editor for the International Economic Review and the Quarterly Journal of Finance and Accounting. His work has been featured in the popular press, including the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Philadelphia Business Journal, the US News and World Report, the Chicago Tribune, the New York Times, the Atlantic magazine, and the Boston Globe among others.

He has received many awards and honors throughout his career, including The Richard Thorn Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2000. The Andrew Mellon Research Fellowship, 2001. The Rueben Slesinger Research Paper Award, 2001. The Richard M. Cyert Undergraduate Economics Teaching Award, 2006. The BP Junior Research Chair, 2007–2008. The Roman Weil Prize for the Best Problem-Solving Paper by an Untenured Faculty, 2008. The Faculty Giving Junior Research Chair, 2009–2010.

He is a research fellow at The Research Fellow at Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, where he was previously a Staff Economist at the level of Research Officer. He was recently elected to the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) as a research associate. He has been a member of the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity – Markets Group of the Becker-Friedman Institute and the University of Chicago since 2013. Recently, he was awarded a half million USD grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study the Optimal Design of Parental Leave Policies in the Presence of Statistical Discrimination and Child Development.



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