



THE DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMICS
presents

WECON

WEST INDIES ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

MARCH 5 - 6, 2026

UWI REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
KINGSTON, JAMAICA, W.I.

DAY 1: MARCH 5, 2026

Opening Ceremony

8:45 AM – 10:00 AM
THE UWI REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Eon Nigel Harris Council Room

Welcome and Opening Remarks: 8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Patrice Whitely

Head, Department of Economics, UWI, Mona Campus

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Lashauna Colquhoun

*Bank of Jamaica G Arthur Brown Scholar
Department of Economics, UWI, Mona Campus, MSc Programme*



Keynote Address: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Costas Meghir

*Douglas A. Warner III Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
Yale University*

**“The Effect of Education Policy on Crime:
An Intergenerational Perspective ”**

Break: 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM

Banking & Finance I (10:20 - 11:30)

Chair: **Jevon Henry, Department of Economics, UWI, Mona Campus**

- **Brian Langrin:** A Formal Architecture for Regional DLT Settlement Hubs: Integrating Game-Theoretic Incentives with Byzantine Fault Tolerance
- **Lynsey Ward, Allan Wright, Sharon Branch, Jamere McIntosh, Lavashti Dames and Nathan Rolle:** The Cost of Digitization in Banking: Accelerated Bank Runs in an Open Economy Digital Diamond-Dybvig Model

Climate & Environment (10:20 - 11:30)

Chair: **Eric Strobl, University of Bern, Switzerland**

- **Bephyer Parey, Nekeisha Spencer and Eric Strobl:** The Impact of Extreme Climate Events on Mental Health: Evidence from the Kingston Lunatic Asylum (1880-1926)
- **Christina Mounts, Allan Wright, Sharon Branch, Martiniqua Davis, Lynsey Ward and Gianna Conliffe:** The Macroeconomic Effects of Climate-Induced Tourism Shocks in Small Open Economies: The Case of The Bahamas
- **Gary Lyn:** Climate, Inequality and Labor Market Dynamics

Growth & Development (11:30 - 1:00)

Chair: **Shanike Smart, Bucknell University, USA**

- **Sander Baptista, Carina Carolina and Teixeira Santos:** Between Retail and Wholesale: Organized Crime in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo as a Parallel State
- **Shaun Davis:** An Optimal Diversification Strategy: A Computational Model for Reducing Food Import Dependency in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- **Tracy-Ann Hyman, Charles Koomson, Daniel Campbell, Dahlia Plunkett, Katlego Mabote and Kevin Harris:** Models, Policies and Practices towards Sustainable Development for the Afro-Caribbean Region
- **Winston Moore:** Building a Resilient Future: The Growth and Transformation of Barbados' Green Job Market

Society & Culture (11:30 - 1:00)

Chair: **Valerie Mercer Blackman, Regional Economic Advisor, IADB**

- **Eric Strobl and Fabio Gatti:** The Market for Religion: Denominational Competition and Church Location in Colonial Jamaica (1828–1920)
- **Rana Mohie Eldin:** Occupational Licensing, Human Capital, and Gender Differences in Labor Market Outcomes
- **Hyun Soo Suh:** Parental Occupational Choice and Child Development
- **Samuel Braithwaite:** The Economics of Reggae and Dancehall “Riddims”

Lunch: 1:00 - 2:00



Oshane Allen

Retail Wealth Advisor

Monique Pinock

Retail Wealth Advisor

Derrick Harrison

Regional Wealth Manager

Daniel Thompson

General Manager

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Banking & Finance II (2:00 - 3:30)

Chair: Samuel Braithwaite, Department of Economics, UWI, Mona Campus

- **Gideon George:** Competition, Efficiency, and Financial Stability in the ECCU
- **Stephanie Pascal:** Acquisitions and Financial Stability: Evidence from the ECCU
- **Romario Cameron:** Identifying Financial Stress and Safeguarding Economic Growth: The Development of a Domestic Cyclical Systemic Risk Indicator for Jamaica
- **Ywione Darrell:** The Financial Dutch Disease: CGE Insights on Intersectoral Adjustment and Welfare in Bermuda

Public Policy (2:00 - 3:30)

Chair: Jeneshia Jarrett, Department of Economics, UWI, Mona Campus

- **Andrew Stephenson:** Fiscal Discipline under Climate Stress: Sovereign Risk and Disaster Financing in Jamaica
- **Dillon Alleyne:** Public Policy to Support Economic Growth in Jamaica in Light of Vulnerabilities
- **Sandria Tennant and Shanike Smart:** Pushing the Envelope: Exploring the Tension between Fiscal Efficiency, Tax Capacity and Tax Effort – The Jamaican Case Study
- **Yusuf Stafford:** Minding the Gap: Financial Inclusion and Gender Disparity in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU)

End of Day 1

DAY 2: MARCH 6, 2026

Welcome and Opening Remarks: 8:50 AM - 9:00 AM

David Tennant

Conference Chair, Department of Economics, UWI, Mona Campus

Labour & Education (9:00 - 10:10)

Chair: Peter-John Gordon, Department of Economics, UWI, Mona Campus

- **George-Levi Gayle, Andrea Flores and Andrew Shephard:** Divorce Law Reforms, Matrimonial Regimes and Family Behavior
- **Shanike Smart:** Phasing Out Shift Schools: More Instructional Hours Linked to Better High-Stakes Test Scores
- **Jamelia Harris and Dexnell Peters:** Colonial Legacies and its Economic and Labour Market Implications in the Caribbean

Governance & Economic Behaviour (9:00 - 10:10)

Chair: Andrew Stephenson, Georgia Gwinnett College, USA

- **Carol Nelson:** Dominica: The Evolving Discourse of Securitization
- **Richard Sutherland:** Linking Policy and Administration: Unpacking the Capacity-Performance Paradox in Climate Change Governance
- **Vincia Wilson:** Co-Production in Caribbean Small Island States: Structural Realities, Governance Frictions, and Small-State Partnership Models

Break: 10:10 - 10:40

Trade & Fiscal Policy (10:40 - 11:50)

Chair: Andre Haughton, Department of Economics, UWI, Mona Campus

- **Ajornie Taylor:** The Impact of Russian Oil Sanctions on India's Petroleum Sector
- **Ashaud Shirley:** The Effects of Macroeconomic Shocks on Fiscal Dynamics in Jamaica
- **Craig Brown:** Export Risk and The Ricardian View of the Currency Premium

Remittances (10:40 - 11:50)

Chair: George-Levi Gayle, Washington University in St. Louis, USA

- **Natalie Dietrich Jones:** Navigating Food Insecurity: The Impact of Remittances during COVID-19
- **Carey-Anne Williams:** Remittance Patterns in Jamaica (2015–2024) and the Impact of Exogenous Shocks
- **Jeremy Harris, René Maldonado and Pablo Cortés:** Drivers of Individual Remittances and Poverty Impact

Remarks: 11:50 - 12:00

WECON Climate Change Symposium:

Estimating and Financing the True Cost of Climate Change to Small Island Developing States

*Hosted by the Department of Economics and the Climate Studies Group, Mona
The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus*

Welcome and Introduction (4:00pm-4:10pm)

Chairperson – Prof. Winston Moore, Deputy Principal, UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Keynote Address (4:10pm – 4:40pm)

The Cost of Climate Change to Small Island Developing States:
The Role of the International Community in Supporting Resilience Building
Dr. Laura Alfaro – Chief Economist and Economic Counsellor, IDB

Q&A (4:40pm-4:55pm)

Break (4:55pm-5:00pm)

Panel Discussion (5:00 PM—7:05 PM)

The Cost of Climate Change to Small Island Developing States:
Estimating the True Losses from Natural Disasters and Financing Disaster Recovery

Welcome and Introduction (5:00pm-5:05pm)

Chairperson – Dr. Linda Bailey-McWeeney, VP Climate Risk Model Developer, Citi

Panelists' Presentations (5:05pm-7:05pm):

- Contextualizing the Discussion: What is Science Telling us?
Prof. Michael Taylor - Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, UWI, Mona Campus
- The Impact of Natural Disasters on Education
Dr. Nekeisha Spencer - Snr Lecturer, Department of Economics, UWI, Mona Campus
- Exploring Hidden Costs: Valuing Ecosystems and the Impact of Natural Disasters
Dr. Peter Edwards - Officer - Conservation Science, The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Impact of Extreme Natural Disasters on Labour Productivity
Dr. Nadine McCloud-Rose - Snr Lecturer, Department of Economics, UWI, Mona Campus
- Role of Parametric Insurance in Resilience Building for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
Ms. Elizabeth Emanuel – Head, CCRIF Technical Assistance Programme Manager Team & Head, CCRIF Development & Corporate Communications Manager Teams
- Accessing Loss and Damage Funds: Considerations for Detection and Attribution
Ms. Shalenie Madho - Energy efficiency and energy management professional, Climate Finance Access Network, CFAN

Q&A (7:05pm-7:30pm)

Remarks (7:30pm-7:35pm)

Dr. Patrice Whitely, Head of Department of Economics, UWI, Mona Campus

Cocktails (7:35pm-8:00pm)

Symposium Partners



CSGM
CLIMATE STUDIES GROUP MONA



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CLIMATE FINANCE
ACCESS NETWORK



IDB

Inter-American
Development Bank

LIST OF PRESENTERS

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Highlights from past WECON



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