Caribbean Partnerships II: Co-Constructing Transformative Economic Policy
Exploring a Heterodox and Feminist Approach
23-25 May 2016, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Context
In 2015, governments adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a universal development framework applicable to countries in each region of the world, along with the Paris Agreement on climate change. This year of landmark global agendas also included agreements on financing sustainable development (the Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and, the previous year, on small island developing states (the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action, or SAMOA Pathway). Together, these frameworks shape a global context that will significantly impact how the Caribbean addresses challenges of development, debt, renewable energy, climate change, and gender inequities.

Implementing these global agendas will pose specific challenges for the Caribbean, particularly in light of uneven progress in MDG implementation across the sub-region. As the Caribbean initiates its process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, non-State actors and regional institutions will play central roles in guiding governments to define and implement development policies in line with the SDGs and with national and regional priorities. The accountability of Caribbean state and private institutions must be central to achievement of the new global agenda. Meaningful partnerships between state, non-governmental, regional, and academic entities is essential in addressing the economic, social, and ecological constraints and priorities of the Caribbean region.

“Caribbean Partnerships II: Co-Constructing Transformative Economic Policy” will explore heterodox and feminist approaches and envision new, creative ways of working amongst Caribbean civil society, Finance, Planning and Gender Ministries, academics, the private sector and regional institutions, towards implementation of these new global agendas. Co-convened by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow and St. Augustine Units, University of the West Indies (UWI) and Regions Refocus, in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), this three-day workshop will build on key strands of analysis and action identified at the initial Caribbean Partnerships meeting in January 2015:

1) Advancing transformative economic analysis and policy-making towards economic and gender justice;

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1 According to the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), “Although the Caribbean [had seen] gains in environmental sustainability, there were still major challenges in energy, water stress and scarcity, climate change impacts, and waste disposal and management. Furthermore, Caribbean countries had high debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratios and did not record adequate successes in developing partnerships for development. [It was] recommended that the sub-region work to strengthen the appropriate enabling environment (legal, governance, policy, fiscal, and regulatory) by enhancing strategic partnerships.”
2) Rethinking partnerships among civil society, the private sector and government toward greater accountability of governments, IFIs/development institutions, and the corporate sector;

3) Strengthening multi-stakeholder modes of engagement to enable civil society to substantively contribute to regional development choices; and

4) Fostering solidarities among gender and youth groups, LGBTI collectives, academia, community groups, indigenous peoples, the elderly, people with disabilities, and other popular movements.

The Caribbean Partnerships process serves as a vehicle for cross-regional learning on transparent and inclusive governance, as part of a longer-term process of advancing heterodox and feminist policy analysis and practice in the region. Through sharing and learning from a range of sectoral and thematic perspectives, Caribbean Partnerships II will stimulate policy engagement and lay the groundwork for co-constructing progressive policy. One of the desired outcomes of this follow-up is the creation of a sustainable mechanism for citizen and civil society engagement in policy decisions and action locally, regionally, and internationally. The initiative will promote opportunities for public participation in local, regional, and international policy towards an inclusive mode of development that benefits Caribbean people and societies.

Objectives

The second Caribbean Partnerships workshop is envisioned as a “slow thinking space” to build a community of both thought and praxis, towards the following objectives:

➢ Explore new, heterodox and feminist conceptual frameworks to analyze macroeconomic policies in the context of Caribbean regional realities and development priorities;

➢ Identify proposals for progressive, regional and national policy emerging from civil society; government ministries (Finance, Planning, Gender); and regional institutions;

➢ Share lessons learned from engaging institutions at national and regional levels to assess what is and what is not working, and to revitalize public engagement and state support for progressive policy as part of SDG implementation;

➢ Reimagine national and regional mechanisms, including a framework for multi-stakeholder engagement, to promote transparency and accountability of state and corporate actors.
Draft Agenda

Caribbean Partnerships II includes three elements: 1) **teach-ins on heterodox and feminist economic policy**, deconstructing theory and policy to cultivate a shared understanding amongst a cross-section of groups, ministries, and sectors; 2) **envisioning a structure of collaboration between civil society and regional policy mechanisms**, towards SDG planning, finance, and implementation; and 3) **strategic planning to revitalize public engagement and State support for progressive policy**.

### Part I. Heterodox Economic Policy in the Caribbean: Realities and Possibilities

- Analyze macroeconomic policy and globalization from a progressive and feminist perspective
- Critically examine the landscape of economic development and climate finance in the Caribbean

### Day 1: Monday, 23 May 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:15</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and Introductions</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Welcome: <strong>Professor Clement K. Sankat</strong>, Principal, UWI St. Augustine;</td>
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<td><strong>Patricia McKenzie</strong>, Vice President of Operations, Caribbean Development</td>
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<td><strong>Bank; and Cäcilie Schildberg</strong>, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (15 min)</td>
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<td>Participant Introductions and Expectations: All (40 min)</td>
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<td>Workshop Rationale, Methodology, and Materials: <strong>Anita Nayar</strong>, Regions</td>
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<td><strong>Refocus, Tonya Haynes</strong>, Institute for Gender and Development Studies:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nita Barrow Unit, UWI, and <strong>Kathryn Tobin</strong>, Regions Refocus (20 min)</td>
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<td>10:15 – 11:30</td>
<td><strong>Opening Session: Present Macroeconomic Policies in the Caribbean</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Jason Jackson</strong>, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania (30 min)</td>
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<td>Discussion (45 min)</td>
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<td>Discussant/Moderator: <strong>Mariama Williams</strong>, South Centre</td>
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<td>11:30 – 11:45</td>
<td><strong>Tea Break</strong></td>
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<td>11:45 – 13:15</td>
<td><strong>Teach-in 1: Fiscal Space for Public Investments in Social Services and</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Domestic Financial Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Isiuwa Iyahen</strong>, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean (20 min)</td>
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<td>Group Activity (30 min)</td>
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<td>Discussion (40 min)</td>
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<td>Discussant/Moderator: <strong>Anne-Marie Mohammed</strong>, Economics Department, UWI</td>
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<td>St. Augustine</td>
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<td>13:15 – 14:15</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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14:15 – 15:45 Teach-in 2: Industrial Policy Toward Transformative Economic Diversification
  • Jason Jackson, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania (20 min)
  • Group Activity (30 min)
  • Discussion (40 min)

Discussant/Moderator: Judith Wedderburn, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung/Institute for Law and Economics

15:45 – 16:00 Tea Break

16:00 – 17:30 Roundtable 1: Policy Initiatives on Fiscal, Industrial, and Trade Policy
  • Valerie Leon, Ministry of Finance, St. Lucia (10 min)
  • Rosalea Hamilton, Institute for Law and Economics (10 min)
  • Marsha Caddle, Caribbean Development Bank (10 min)
  • Discussion (50 min)

Discussant/Moderator: Gabrielle Hosein, Institute for Gender and Development Studies: St. Augustine Unit, UWI

19:00 – 21:00 Dinner at The University Inn

Day 2: Tuesday, 24 May 2016

9:00 – 10:00 Roundtable 2: Reformulating HIPC for the Caribbean
  • Ian Durant, Economics Department, Caribbean Development Bank (10 min)
  • Don Marshall, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, UWI Cave Hill (10 min)
  • Discussion (40 min)

Discussant/Moderator: Mariama Williams, South Centre

10:00 – 11:30 Teach-in 3: Climate Finance
  • Mariama Williams, South Centre (20 min)
  • Group Activity (30 min)
  • Discussion (40 min)

Discussant/Moderator: Jason Jackson, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

11:30 – 11:45 Tea Break
11:45 – 13:00 **Roundtable 3: Organizing for Climate and Ecological Justice**
- **Attilah Springer**, Idakeda Group (10 min)
- **Michele Irving**, Productive Organisation for Women in Action/CatchAFyah (10 min)
- **Akilah Jaramogi**, Fondes Amandes Community Re-forestation Project (10 min)
- Discussion (40 min)
Discussant/Moderator: **Dessima Williams**, Grenada Education and Development Programme

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 15:15 **Roundtable 4: Experiences of Government Policy Making**
- **Farmala Jacobs**, Directorate of Gender Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda (10 min)
- **Mareeca Brown**, Planning Institute, Jamaica (10 min)
- **Kyra Paul**, Bureau of Gender Affairs, Dominica (10 min)
- **Lavern Browne**, Ministry of Social Transformation, Antigua & Barbuda (10 min)
- Discussion (40 min)
Discussant/Moderator: **Julie Xavier**, UNDP/Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission

15:15 – 15:30 **Tea Break**

15:30 – 17:15 **Roundtable 5: Experiences of Trade Union and Civil Society Policy Advocacy**
- **Malaika Brooks-Smith-Lowe**, Groundation Grenada (10 min)
- **Ida Le Blanc**, National Union of Domestic Employees (10 min)
- **Lionel Dunstan Whittingham**, Jamaica Vendors, Higglers, and Markets Association (10 min)
- **Ozzi Warwick**, Joint Trade Union Movement (10 min)
- **Sandra Massiah**, Public Services International-Caribbean (10 min)
- Discussion (50 min)
Discussant/Moderator: **Gia Gaspard Taylor**, Network of Women Rural Producers Trinidad and Tobago

18:15 **Transport Departs for Reception**
The University Inn, Lobby

18:30 – 20:30 **Caribbean Partnerships II Reception**
Shalom House, 24 Windsor Road, Valsayn

20:30 **Transport Returns to The University Inn**
Part II. Revitalizing Public Engagement with National and Regional Institutions

- Share experiences of civil society/popular movement engagement with state bodies
- Plan towards a mechanism for civil society engagement with regional policy-makers
- Strategize towards public mobilization for progressive policy proposals.

Day 3: Wednesday, 25 May 2016

9:00 – 10:30 Roundtable 6: Progressive Partnerships with Regional Policy Institutions
- Marsha Caddle, Caribbean Development Bank (10 min)
- Shantal Munro-Knight, Caribbean Policy Development Centre (10 min)
- Dwayne Gutzmer, Institute for Law and Economics (10 min)
- Discussion (40 min)

Discussant/Moderator: Peggy Antrobus, Founder, DAWN

10:30 – 12:30 Group Activity: Strategies to Advance Heterodox and Feminist Policy (Tea Break taken while working)
- Group 1 Facilitator: Malaika Brooks-Smith-Lowe, Groundation Grenada
- Group 2 Facilitator: Kyra Paul, Bureau of Gender Affairs, Dominica
- Group 3 Facilitator: Rosalea Hamilton, Institute for Law and Economics

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:30 Group Report-Backs and Discussion
- Group 1 Facilitator: Malaika Brooks-Smith-Lowe, Groundation Grenada (10 min)
- Respondent: Ernesto Kesar, Movement for Social Justice (5 min)
- Discussion (25 min)

- Group 2 Facilitator: Kyra Paul, Bureau of Gender Affairs, Dominica (10 min)
- Respondent: Shantal Munro-Knight, Caribbean Policy Development Centre (5 min)
- Discussion (25 min)

- Group 3 Facilitator: Rosalea Hamilton, Institute for Law and Economics (10 min)
- Respondent: Judith Wedderburn, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung/Institute for Law and Economics (5 min)
- Discussion (25 min)

Discussant/Moderator: Tonya Haynes, Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit, UWI

15:30 – 15:45 Tea Break
15:45 – 17:15  **Next Steps and Closing**  
- Marsha Caddle, Caribbean Development Bank  
- Anita Nayar, Regions Refocus  
- Tonya Haynes, Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit, UWI  

Discussant/Moderator: Kathryn Tobin, Regions Refocus

18:30  **Transport Departs for Dinner**  
The University Inn, Lobby

19:00 – 21:30  **Dinner: Crews Inn Hotel and Yachting Centre**  
Point Gourde, Chaguaramas Bay

21:30  **Transport Returns to The University Inn**