

2. Socare Juniorkonferenz 2021 | Socare Junior Conference 2021

Methods and Theories in Caribbean Studies Digital Interdisciplinary Socare Junior Conference 2021 28 – 30 October 2021

The Socare Junior Conference started with the welcome words of the organizers: Mario LAARMANN (Saarland University) and Arhea V. MARSHALL (Tübingen University). They stressed that the aim of this international and interdisciplinary conference was to bring together PhD candidates on the Caribbean region and to discuss questions of theory and research methodology with established researchers in the respective fields.

Day 1 started with a workshop on Caribbean Studies Resources. Halcyon WILTSHIRE-BUSBY of Cave Hill Campus introduced the audience to the documents and the research possibilities of the West Indies Federal Archives Centre in Barbados, home to the archives of the former West Indies Federation (1958-1962). Afterwards, Dr. Ulrike MÜHLSCHLEGEL and Dr. Annika HARTMANN presented the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin. The IAI's objective is to promote interdisciplinary and diachronic research on Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal. It is considered to be the largest institution for this region. Various research possibilities, including those provided by the Fachinformationsdienst Lateinamerika, Karibik und Latino Studies (FID), were discussed.

After an introductory round of the PhD Candidates from Cuba, Mexico, Jamaica, Trinidad, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Canada, USA, Colombia, Austria, and Germany, the first panel drew together questions of political sciences, social sciences, and history. It was moderated by Dr. Claudia RAUHUT (FU Berlin) and Prof. Anne BRÜSKE (Regensburg University). Jermaine YOUNG (Florida International University) presented his research on socio-politics and states of emergency in Jamaica. Sarah NIMFÜHR (Linz University) discussed the methodology of her project on the Jewish diaspora in the Dominican Republic.

Day 2 first took the discussion to historical and archival questions with the intervention of Vanessa OHLRAUN (Hannover, Leibniz University) on the (non-)reproduction of archival violence and Juan CASTRO MALDONAD (Jena, Friedrich-Schiller University) on the African presence in early 20th century ethnographical and literary texts in the Caribbean and Latin America.

The final three interventions of the day focused on literature: Lina MARIE-SAINTE (Université des Antilles, Martinique) presented her conceptualization of Welto. Anabel AMIL PORTAL (Las Villas Central University) discussed her reading of Maryse Condé's *La Deseada*. Kirsten Behr (Paderborn University) came up with various reflections on ecocriticism and Caribbean literature. The discussions were hosted by Prof. Anja BANDAUF (Hannover, Leibniz University).

The final day of the conference opened with a keynote by Trinidadian novelist Earl LOVELACE. He introduced his works by a reading a passage from Bill Schwarz's *Caribbean Literature after Independence: The Case of Earl Lovelace* (2008) which he found represented him best as



a novelist. He then read various excerpts from his short stories “The Fire Eater’s Journey” and “The Fire Eater’s Return,” published in *A Brief Conversation and other Stories* (1988). Lovelace’s main themes are about giving up the appearance, to find a sense of wholeness, declare humanness, what a person bring to the world, what a person wants to do to the world. The audience appreciated his lecture and the fruitful exchange on Caribbean literature, theatre, politics, and the question of reparation.

After a short break, Prof. Luis ORTIZ LÓPEZ (Puerto Rico University) hosted the final panel on linguistics and language sciences. Luis CAMPO YUMAR (Las Villas Central University) spoke on his sociolinguistic methodology in the study of first names in Cuba. Roxana PEÑA OLMO (Las Villas Central University) presented her research on the Yoruba presence in Cuban Spanish. Shawna-Kaye TUCKER (University of Oxford) introduced the audience to issues in the teaching of Jamaican Creole at school level. Ingrid JASOR (Université des Antilles, Guadeloupe) closed this session by presenting her research on two minority languages: Guadeloupean Creole and Inuit-Aimun.

The organizers, Mario LAARMANN and Arhea MARSHALL, ended the conference with words of excuse for those who were unable to – entirely – present their research for technical issues. They continued by thanking those who attended and presented their research, and for the productive exchanges. A special thank was addressed to the various moderators of the three days, and to Christine MONTMASSON for her great technical support.

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