

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

**Juliana Alexander** is a science educator whose teaching career spanned four decades, both locally and regionally, at the secondary and tertiary levels. After earning a BSc. (Special Botany) at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, she attained a DipEd, an Med, and an Executive Diploma in Leadership and Management (Arthur Lok Jack Institute of Business), all at UWI, St. Augustine, where she subsequently served as a lecturer in Science Education. She has also been Head of Science and School Administrator for a combined period of 25 years, in addition to serving for over two decades in curriculum development and assessment at the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC). Ms. Alexander has not only inspired many young people, especially girls, to pursue careers in science, but ensured that teachers under her purview emulated her practice.

**Deborah Conrad** is an Associate Professor and Co-Chair in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the State University of New York at Potsdam. She currently teaches literacy methods, literacy intervention strategies, and literacy assessment courses. Her research interests include teacher education (Pre-K -6), and literacy instruction at the elementary and middle grades. Deborah is a former elementary and special education teacher.

**Dennis A. Conrad** is Professor and Chair of the Department of Inclusive and Special Education at the State University of New York at Potsdam. His research interests include the intersections of educational leadership, learning differences and learner diversity, and inclusive education practices. He has served as an elementary and special education teacher; and also school principal.

**Loraine D. Cook** teaches Research Methods and Educational Psychology at the School of Education, The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, Jamaica. Dr. Cook received a PhD in Educational Psychology from UWI in 2007. Her research interests include evaluating online education in higher education, and helping teachers to improve their teaching. She has authored and co-authored 13 peer-reviewed book chapters and journal articles. Dr. Cook is the recipient of the Dean's Award for Excellence (2007); the Most Outstanding PhD thesis award for the 2006/2007 academic year; part of a team that received the Principal's Research Award for The Research Project Attracting the Most Research Funds (Faculty of Humanities and Education;

January 2009); the recipient of the Fulbright Visiting Researcher Award (2011); and, recently, recipient of the Principal's Award for Best Research Publication (article). Dr. Cook has been a visiting scholar in Applied Psychology at New York University (NYU), and has conducted several workshops in Mixed Methods and Data Analysis.

**Raymond A. Dixon** is an assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education, University of Idaho. He worked formerly as the Deputy Manager of the National Tool and Engineering Institute (NTEI) Heart/Trust NTA in Jamaica and as a Lecturer in the School of Technical and Vocational Education, University of Technology (UTech), Jamaica. One aspect of his research focuses on using verbal protocol analysis and conversation analysis to examine problem solving, particularly in STEM disciplines. He is a former Fellow of the National Center for Engineering and Technology Education (NCETE), and the Council on Technology & Engineering Teacher Education (CTETE) Leadership Institute, an affiliate of the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA). In 2015 Dr. Dixon was recognized by the Clearwater Economic Development Association (CEDA) for his leadership in improving North Central Idaho's understanding of manufacturing skills needed for future economic growth.

**Hart Edwards** retired as a Permanent Secretary in 2002 after 15 years in a succession of positions in that rank. Previous to that he had been a Ministerial Adviser and before that an executive at the Trinidad & Tobago Industrial Development Corporation, where he acted as General Manager. Since retirement he has been Adviser to the Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development (to 2006), and for four years to 2011, Chairman of the Trinidad & Tobago National Commission for UNESCO. Mr. Edwards has been Chair of the Working Group for InterReligious Studies (WGIS) since its inception, and is founder/director of the Foundation for Interreligious Studies of Trinidad & Tobago (FIRSTT). His interests include education, public affairs, international relations, technology, and innovation.

**Sandra Figaro-Henry** is an Educational Technologist at the School of Education, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine. Her responsibilities include developing and conducting professional development workshops for staff at the School and teaching educational technology courses. With extensive interest and experience in blended and eLearning, ubiquitous and mobile

learning, she continues to explore, present, and publish on technology integration issues in higher education. Mrs. Figaro-Henry holds an MSc. in Educational Technology from New York Institute of Technology. With over 30 years' combined experience in education and teacher education, she is committed to preparing educators for teaching with technology in the 21st century.

**June George** is a retired Professor of Science Education. She served for 30 years at the School of Education, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus in various capacities – lecturer, research fellow, senior research fellow, and professor. Over the years, her research work has been located largely in the areas of the intersection of science education and culture, teacher education, and assessment of student performance. Prof. George's research and development work with parents emerged as a result of the findings from the assessment of student performance research.

**Sandra Gift** has over 30 years' experience in the field of education. Her career spans the public service of Trinidad and Tobago; the international civil service (UNESCO); and higher education. For the past 13 years she has been Senior Programme Officer, Quality Assurance Unit, St. Augustine Campus, The Vice Chancellery, The University of the West Indies (UWI), where she manages the system of academic programme quality assurance reviews and evaluations. She is author of several published journal articles and book chapters on quality in higher education and on the intersection between education and the history of the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans. Dr Gift has received awards for most outstanding coordination, in the Caribbean, as National Coordinator for the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) (from UNESCO); for excellence in quality assurance in higher education from the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago; and for employee excellence and administrative leadership in her current portfolio at UWI. She is a member of regional and international higher education quality assurance professional networks; Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO; Working Group on InterReligious Studies (WGIS); and Director of the Foundation for Interreligious Studies of Trinidad and Tobago (FIRSTT).

**Merle Hodge** is a retired Senior Lecturer of The University of the West Indies, where she taught academic writing, creative writing, and courses in West Indian and African-American literature.

She is a cultural and social activist, co-founder of Women Working for Social Progress (Workingwomen), and a writer. She has published two novels: Crick Crack, Monkey and For the Life of Laetitia; short stories; academic papers; articles in Caribbean and international journals; and a textbook, The Knots in English: A Manual for Caribbean Users. She is a member of the Working Group for InterReligious Studies (WGIS) core committee.

**Sharon Jacqueline Jaggernaut** is a holder of honours degrees from The University of the West Indies (UWI) at the levels of BA (Mathematics); Postgraduate DipEd (Mathematics); and MEd (Curriculum). She is currently a PhD candidate (Education) at The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine. Prior to joining the faculty as an Assistant Lecturer at the School of Education, she was a secondary school mathematics teacher for 14 years. She currently lectures in Mathematics pedagogy and content, and Research Methods in the BEd, the Postgraduate DipEd, and MEd programmes, using both face-to-face and online modes of delivery.

**Freddy James** is a lecturer in Educational Leadership and Administration at the School of Education, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. James is a University of Warwick Postgraduate Research Fellowship Scholar, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Educational Leadership Management and Administration Society (TELMAS), and board member of the Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and Management. Her research on educational leadership, school improvement and policy has been published internationally and locally. Her research interests include educational leadership, policy, change and improvement, school violence, and parental involvement.

**Madgerie Jameson-Charles** is the holder of a BSc in Psychology (The University of the West Indies); an MEd, Education for Employment (University of Sheffield, U.K), and a PhD in Education, Learning and Instruction in Higher Education (University of Otago, New Zealand). Dr. Jameson-Charles lectures at the School of Education, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine in Fundamentals of Education Research, Educational Psychology, Cognition and Learning, and Health and Family Life Education. She is the Coordinator of the M.A. programme in Technical Vocational Education and Leadership, as well as an adjunct lecturer in Organisational Behaviour and Development (Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business).

**Rawatee Maharaj-Sharma** is a Lecturer in Science Education (Physics) at the School of Education, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Maharaj-Sharma coordinates the Bachelor of Education (BEd) programme. She previously lectured at York University, Canada for 5 years, in Physics and Astronomy.

**Hope Mayne** is the Programme Director of the Family and Consumer Studies programme at the University of Technology (UTech), Jamaica. She is also the Research Chair of the Caribbean Association of Home Economists (CAHE). Dr. Mayne is an advocate for the right to be educated. A classroom teacher for 9 years and a teacher educator for 14 years, education is her passion. Her research interests include teacher education, curriculum development, postcolonial agency, and urban education. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; The University of The West Indies (UWI), Mona; and the University of Technology, Jamaica. Awards include finalist for the Maria Gratton International Award (2008); William Chandler Bagley Scholarship (2010); and McKinley Health Center's Special Populations Student Concerns Committee Notable Alumni Award (2012).

**Antonia Mohammed** earned her BEd – Special Education from The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). Her teaching interests include folklore and the use of characters like the Midnight Robber in her culturally responsive teaching. She currently teaches at elementary school.

**Lisa M. Philip** is a graduate student at The University of the West Indies Open Campus. Her research interests include adult learning, students with disabilities, and culturally responsive teaching. She holds a BEd – Special Education from The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and currently teaches SEA students.

**Phaedra Pierre** is a lecturer in educational psychology at the School of Education, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine. Her research interests include human development, especially adolescence and its impact on the functioning of youth in the school system; culture and education and how to improve the teaching/learning process; and the relationship between home and school and how that influences the school performance of youth.

**Dyanis Popova** is a doctoral candidate at Virginia Tech (US). She is completing studies in Multicultural Education and the Teaching of English as a Second Language (TESOL). She has taught in middle school and higher education classrooms in the US. Her research interests include critical pedagogy, social justice research, and diversity in education

**Ms. Susan Shurland** is the current Secretary General of the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO. She was previously employed (1990-2005) at the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), where she worked in the areas of environmental education, project management and planning, and public relations and marketing, both in the Information Centre and in the Technical Advisory Services Department. She also worked as coordinator of the IMA's Caribbean Marine Studies journal, being guided by the late Professor Julian Kenny, who was technical editor. Ms. Shurland holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree, with a focus on Environmental Education, and a master's degree in Regional Planning and Resource Development, both from the University of Waterloo, Canada. She has certificates in Public Relations from The University of the West Indies' Institute of Business; in Marketing Management from ROYTEC; and in Multilateral Diplomacy and Green Diplomacy from the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR).

**Grace Sirju-Charran** is a retired Senior Lecturer of The University of the West Indies (UWI). Her publication portfolio includes over 100 scientific papers, technical reports, and video presentations on Gender issues, Biotechnology, Bioethics, and Science Education. She is a member of the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO; the World Commission on the Ethics of Science and Technology (COMEST); the Bioethics Society of the English-Speaking Caribbean (BSEC); and the Working Group for InterReligious Studies (WGIS) core committee. Dr. Sirju-Charran has received awards for excellence in teaching, and her biography appears in Caribbean Women in Science and their Careers (NIHERST); and Women Scientists in the Americas (Inter-American National Academy of Sciences).

**Maureen Taylor-Ryan** is the First Vice President of the Trinidad and Tobago National Council of Parent-Teacher Associations Inc. (NPTA), which she represented with the President, Zena

Ramatali, on the “PEEPS” Project. Maureen, a retiree, taught Home Economics to secondary school students and visually impaired/blind adults and students; life skills to young persons in the Multi Sector Skills Training Programme (MuST); and Physical Education to students of a junior secondary school. She facilitates “Common Sense Parenting,” a programme geared to the needs of parents, and has recruited students from high-needs areas to join the NIHERST Science Club to attract them away from a life of crime to a possible Science-based career.