Profiles of Writers and Authors

MICHELENE ADAMS has taught at the Centre for Education Programmes, the University of Trinidad & Tobago since 2010. She holds a PhD in English Literature, a Master of Arts in English Literature and Creative Writing and a B.A. in Creative Writing. Her articles on Caribbean women’s literature have appeared in Anthurium, Sargasso, Lucayos: The College of the Bahamas Journal and The Journal of West Indian Literature. Dr Adams is the author of the entry on Erna Brodber in Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Twentieth-Century World Fiction. 2010. http://www.blackwellreference.com.

OPAL PALMER ADISA (PhD) is an internationally recognized writer and performer. Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa has over twenty publications to her name, both scholarly and creative, that centralize women, explore issues of gender, and the interstice of Caribbean and African Diaspora history. Her dissertation, Three Landscapes: Jamaican Women Writers at Home and in the Diaspora, examines the representation of women, and interrogates womanhood by looking through the lens of women writers in Jamaica, in Britain as well as in the USA. From her very first publication, Bake-Face and other Guava Stories (1986), Prof. Adisa has tackled the issue of women’s place in society, in particular, how women navigate patriarchal structures that restrict their sexual and physical mobility, leaving them vulnerable to abuse.

JOHANN BENNETT is one of Trinidad and Tobago’s young and inspired professional exhibiting artists. His works include seascapes, still lifes, portraiture, and landscapes. Initially Johann produced work in the style of realism. The 2005/6 Collection saw the artist mixing realism with impressionism. Johann’s works are exhibited at Horizons and Fine Art Ltd. galleries in Trinidad. Johann is known for his portraits of cultural icons and heroes. Johann says: “I am inspired by beauty, harmony, colour, appreciation of nature, national achievements and our local and regional iconic heroes. Johann describes his love for drawing and painting as “fulfilling and rewarding.”

KERDISJ. CLARKE is a graduate from the National Dong Hwa University with a master’s degree in Counseling and Clinical Psychology. She presently holds the position as a Mental Health Counselor with the Nevis Island Administration. Her research interests include issues surrounding crime and marriages.

LETROYO.CUMMINGS (PhD) is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Acting Dean, School of Social Sciences and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Psychology at the University of the Southern Caribbean. His research interests include family processes and quality of life with a focus on discord and violence, marital interaction, happiness and disruption; youth crime and violence; social protest; culture and leadership.
GEOFFREY DUNN (PhD) is an award-winning journalist, filmmaker, historian and poet who has dedicated the last quarter century to chronicling calypso music in Trinidad and Tobago. His films Calypso Dreams (2004 & 2008) and The Glamour Boyz Again! (2014) have both received international recognition, the former being adjudicated Best Caribbean Documentary at the Jamaican Film Festival. In 2015, Dunn received special recognition from the Trinbago Unified Calypsonians’ Organisation for his cinematic contributions to the preservation of calypso culture. He is currently at work on an experimental novel entitled Demerara Shutters and the concluding segment of his calypso cinematic trilogy.

BARBARA JENKINS was born in Trinidad where she currently resides. Writing came as a late life gift that she opens with great delight, when she is not immersed in the green-gold water of Macqueripe Bay or the lives of her scattered children and grandchildren. Her debut collection of short stories, Sic Transit Wagon and Other Stories, Peepal Tree Press, was awarded the Guyana Prize for Literature. Her first novel, De Rightest Place, Peepal Tree Press, was launched at the NGC Bocas Lit Fest 2018.

HANNAH LUTCHMANSINGH is a PhD candidate in Literatures in English at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus. Her doctoral dissertation focuses on spirit matters in Caribbean literature. Her research interests include myth, religion and trauma in Caribbean literature and culture. Her most recent article, “The Tropical-Urban Imagination: Ancestral Presences in Caribbean Literature” will appear in a special issue of the peer-reviewed Etropic Journal in July 2018.
CANDICE A. PITTS is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Belize and an elected member of the Belize City Council. Dr. Pitts received her PhD in English Literature from Howard University, her MA in English Literature from The Ohio State University, and her BA in English Literature from Albany State University. She has published scholarly articles in *Wasafiri, The College Language Association Journal, International Research and Review*, and in *Journal of West Indian Literature*. Candace Pitts has also presented her research at numerous academic and scholarly conferences globally. Her research interests include Caribbean, Postcolonial, African Diasporan, Belizean, and Cultural Studies.

KAREN SANDERSON COLE (PhD) is a lecturer at The University of the West Indies in the English Language Foundation Unit. A graduate of The UWI, she has an MEd in Teaching and Learning at the Tertiary Level, an MPhil and PhD in Literatures in English as well as a postgraduate diploma in Education. Her research interests include political autobiographies, representations of black women in popular culture and academic writing.

SYLVIA ROSE-ANN WALKER (PhD) is Assistant Professor and Coordinator of General Administration and Literature in the Centre for Education Programmes at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). A teacher educator, multidisciplinary researcher and peer reviewer, Sylvia’s most recent publication is a chapter in the book entitled *Re-Igniting the Ancestral Fires: Heritage, Traditions, and Legacies of The First Peoples* (UTT Press, 2018: pp. 34-44) and her most recent scholarly work was a case study entitled “Feeling the feeling? An ethics of engagement with *Teaching Caribbean Poetry*” presented at the 36th West Indian Literature Conference, October 2018.
FAY WHITE is a PhD candidate in Literatures in English at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus. Her doctoral dissertation is centered on female sexuality and maternal constructs as depicted in fictional and autobiographical texts by Caribbean Diasporic women. Her research interests include Caribbean women writers, Caribbean autobiographies/memoirs, constructions of femininity and masculinity in Caribbean discourse and alternative sexualities.