

**The Grenada Revolution 40 Years After:
Commemoration, Celebration & Critique
St. George's University, True Blue, Grenada
May 27-29, 2019**

DAY 1 – MONDAY MAY 27

**8:00 a.m. -8:30 a.m.
Registration**

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

PANEL 1: THE GRENADA REVOLUTION – EXPLORING & PRESERVING HISTORY

Title:	Julien Fédon and the popular imagination in Grenada 1795 – 2013
Presenter:	Dr. Curtis Jacobs , Historian, Grenada
Abstract:	The origins, outbreak, suppression and aftermath of Fédon’s Rebellion are some of the most defining moments in the early modern history of Grenada. Since its conclusion, the dates, developments and personalities associated with this event have exerted a strange, brooding presence over the modern contemporary history of Grenada. These parallels and echoes between Fédon’s Rebellion of 1795-96 and the Grenada Revolution of 1979-83, however, have not been addressed in the major contemporary works on the history of modern Grenada. This paper attempts to explore this presence.
Keywords:	Fédon’s Rebellion, Grenada Revolution
Title:	Archiving the Grenada Revolution: Why “An Archives of the Revo” is Needed in Grenada?
Presenter:	Mr. John Angus Martin , Historian & Archivist, PhD Candidate, Leiden University
Abstract:	The Grenada Revolution was the most significant political, social and economic movement of the 20 th century for Grenada. It created a mass movement of participation that went beyond the usual political involvement, providing many with a sense of purpose and determination, of renewal and hope, and hope for a better future. Its violent and abrupt end in October 1983 after 4½ years was catastrophic, in lives, in dreams, and the destruction of a political movement that was supposed to change the way we built the future. There are many lessons to be learned. Grenada does not have a national archive, seemingly outsourcing the preservation of its history and culture to anyone who would be so inclined. Little is preserved here! I am

	proposing that we use this 40 th Anniversary to assess the state of the Revo Archives and begin the process of creating “ An Archives of the Revo ” in Grenada so that Grenadians (and others) today and in the future have access to their history and can bear witness to what was done on this tiny Caribbean island.
Keywords:	Grenada Revolution, Archives
Title:	Reflections on the Grenada Revolution: Forty Years of Memory and Thinking
Presenter:	Professor Clinton A. Hutton , Professor, Caribbean Political Philosophy, Culture & Aesthetics. The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus.
Abstract:	The existence of the Grenadian Revolution in and of itself as a historical Caribbean social phenomenon, is worthy of reflections of its place in the cultural and pedagogical ethos of the Caribbean. In this respect, what are some of the critical lessons that may be learnt from the existence of the Revolution and might be useful to more consciously cultivate within the social cultural and philosophical landscape of Grenada/Caribbean?
Keywords:	Grenada Revolution, Memory, Culture

10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. BREAK

10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

PLENARY 1

THE ECONOMIC MODEL OF THE PRG: LESSONS FOR THE CONTEMPORARY CARIBBEAN

Presenter:	Professor Wayne Sandiford , St. George’s University
Presenter:	Professor Claremont Kirton , The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus (Retired)

12:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Panel 2

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & FOREIGN POLICY

Title:	An analysis of the Relationship between Maurice Bishop, Bernard Coard and American Ambassador Frank Ortiz
Presenter:	Atiba Rougier , Cultural Anthropologist, City University New York
Abstract	In the summer of 2018, I went to Grenada and visited Fort Rupert, the scene of the executions on 19th October 1983, 35 years ago. The site is now a tourist attraction and garners revenue for the tiny island-state. The air is ominous, knowing what occurred inside of those gilded colonial walls. One looks up and the sky is clear, its beauty, almost too overwhelming to take in. I stood there, the radiance of the equatorial sun stinging my face, playing with my memory, tingling my senses, trying to conjure up what those individuals experienced on that day. It became too heavy to bear; changing my thoughts, I walked away from the still visible bullet holes—ballistic evidence of that fateful day in October. My paper focuses on the relationship between Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and the American Ambassador Frank Ortiz. By dissecting this diplomatic relationship in the first days of the revolution, I hope to excavate aspects of the revolution that have been overshadowed but which are important in understanding its collapse four and a half years later.
Keywords:	Fort Rupert, Maurice Bishop, Bernard Coard, Frank Ortiz
Title:	A Cold War Pawn?
Presenter:	Heather Salazar , PhD Candidate, Ohio University
Abstract:	My paper, based on my PhD dissertation research and part of a chapter, will explore the United States' reaction to Grenada's revolution within the Cold War context. Grenada's shift towards the left was troubling for American officials. Grenada's relationships with Cuba and the Soviet Union strengthened, and, it was Bishop who turned to Castro in seeking economic support to build a larger, safer airport. The US saw this as a potential national security threat and sought to address it immediately. Following the initial leadership change in March 1979, the United States considered two invasion plans prior to 1983 to prevent the demise of democracy. Both plans were squashed, but the US kept a careful eye on the nation. Using various primary sources, included seized documents and official memoranda I will demonstrate the extent of Grenada's military, economic, and diplomatic negotiations and agreements with Cuba, the USSR, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and how the US sought to act against Grenada to preserve its national security and economic interests.
Keywords:	Grenada, Cuba, Soviet Union, DPRK

3:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m. BREAK

3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.

Panel 3

POPULAR CULTURE & THE GRENADA REVOLUTION

Title:	Popular Culture, Memory and Revolution in Grenada
Presenter:	Dr. Candia Mitchell Hall , The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus
Abstract:	This paper interprets the relationship between popular culture and memory of the Grenada Revolution through the lens of a Pro-Revolutionary song entitled “Dred in a PRA”. Popularly considered classic Grenadian reggae, “Dred in a PRA” memorializes the joyous historical moment of the revolution’s creation in 1979. I broadly explore the nexus of Reggae, Rastafari and Revolution as mediated in the song and examine messages it conveys about the people’s revolutionary experiences. And, I argue that the song acts as a form of “politicized ‘dread’ talk” and validates Grenadian identity up to forty years after the event. It still erupts a kind of organic memory of the Grenada Revolution and becomes a recurrent medium through which memory is caught off guard as underscored by oral expressions and interviews. I contend that in the absence of revolutionary discourses Grenadians turn to reggae to articulate memory that is difficult and uncomfortable. Therefore, “Dred in a PRA” accounts for a revolutionary reggae aesthetic authenticating Grenadian identity and memory.
Keywords:	Popular culture, Grenada Revolution, Dred in a PRA
Title:	The Grenadian Revolution as Calypso Commentary
Presenter:	Professor David Hinds , Associate Professor, Arizona State University
Abstract:	The Grenada Revolution (1979-83) is a defining moment in Caribbean post-independence social and political history that has been captured in many scholarly and political debates and analyses in the region and beyond. But that debate has not been confined to academic books and articles—it has found its way in the lyrics of one of the region’s foremost musical forms. This paper examines how the revolution has been treated in selected calypsos by some of the region’s leading calypsonians—Brother Valentino, Black Stalin, Flying Turkey, Chalkdust and the Mighty Sparrow. The calypsos are analysed against the backdrop of both the larger political and ideological debates and controversies that gave rise to the revolution and those which were ignited by it to tease out the central messages and lessons conveyed.
Keywords:	Grenada Revolution, Calypsos

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Opening Night

Keynote Address: Professor Merle Collins

**Professor of English, University of Maryland
Reception**

DAY 2

TUESDAY MAY 28

8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30- a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Panel 4

THE GRENADA REVOLUTION CARIBBEAN REGIONALISM & THE DIASPORA

Title:	Regionalism and Revolution: The Case of CARICOM and the Grenada Revolution
Presenter:	Professor Paul C. Clement , Chair, Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY University, New York
Abstract:	It was the ideological conflicts surrounding the Grenada Revolution that nearly caused the collapse of CARICOM. Immediately after the March 13, 1979 Revolution in Grenada, several CARICOM Heads of Government resisted accepting the People’s Revolutionary Government (PRG) in CARICOM. The political difficulties for CARICOM were linked to Cold War politics and the avenue through which Grenada became a site for socialist experiments during the period 1979-1983. With the resultant intensification of superpower competition, Grenada turned to the left and Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago turned to the right. Maurice Bishop and the PRG adopted a socialist oriented path to development and “we are not in anybody’s backyard” foreign policy. In response, the United States embarked on an aggressive program to destabilize the PRG and curtail financial support to Grenada. This paper examines the ideological conflicts surrounding the Grenada Revolution, the infighting among CARICOM leaders about the United States invasion in 1983, and the lessons learned.
Keywords:	Revolution, Regionalism, CARICOM, Integration, Caribbean
Title:	BOOTS AND MORE BOOTS: (The Union Island Uprising/Revolution led to the creation of the RSS between Barbados and the OECS)
Presenter:	Marslyn Valarie Lewis , Researcher, St. Vincent & The Grenadines
Abstract:	The Revolution in the South Grenadines that never was! The Rastafarian revolution! The abortive rebellion! The attempts to describe the events of the December 07, 1979, Union Island uprising continue. Over the past 40 years many have tried to put the pieces of the uprising puzzle together in an attempt to reveal the mystery picture and gain insight into its cause and effects. However, the ostensible microscopic views expressed over the years attempted to bury and erase what is to me a significant part of Caribbean history. The stance taken by the seven rebels against political injustice and blatant neglect from the central

	government sent tremors of fear into the heart of the then prime minister Mr. Milton Cato sending him into a state of paranoia. This propelled him to summon military assistance from Barbados, The US and Britain. Barbados responded with a sense of urgency, which gave rise to much debate locally and regionally. That October saw the forging of joint diplomatic ties for a United States-British response to Caribbean threats to economic and security problems. This included a proposed multinational seaborne patrol force in the Eastern Caribbean. Mr. Tom Adams' actions, though severely criticized, later formed the impetus for the forming of the Regional Security Services.
Keywords:	Union Island uprising, OECS, Regional Security System
Title:	The Grenada Diaspora as a site of revolutionary consciousness: Lessons from the Grenada Revolution
Presenter:	Tesfa Peterson , PhD Candidate, Queens University, Canada
Abstract:	The Grenada Diaspora as a site of revolutionary consciousness: lessons from the Grenada Revolution This paper examines the ways in which diasporic populations become implicated in the process of creating and sustaining a revolutionary consciousness in both the diaspora space and their countries of origin. By interrogating the events leading up to, during, and in the post-revolutionary phase in Grenada, I want to explore the idea of diasporic spaces and populations producing and sustaining a revolutionary consciousness that exceeds the development imaginary of Caribbean states. In this context, I focus on the how the diaspora space (Brah 1996) is the site of possibilities engendering different sorts of ethical exchanges across difference, through contemporary trans/national movements of people, information, cultures, commodities and capital. Given the current move by governments of the global South to mobilize their overseas populations to contribute to the revitalization and transformation of their economies, I want to trouble the notion of development itself by posing the following question: How does the Grenada revolution offer us another way of thinking about what the possibilities of diaspora engagement can offer to the development of a nation-state beyond an economic frame?
Keywords:	Grenada Revolution, Grenada Diaspora
10:15-10:30 a.m. BREAK	
10:30 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	
PLENARY 2: THE CARIBBEAN LEFT AFTER GRENADA	
Presenter:	Professor Damian E. Greaves , Associate Professor, St. George's University
Presenter:	Dr. Tennyson S.D. Joseph , Senior Lecture in Political Science, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus

Presenter:	Professor David Hinds , Associate Professor, Arizona State University
<p>11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. POST PLENARY CRITICAL REFLECTIONS</p> <p>Professor Rupert Lewis Professor in Political Thought, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus (Retired)</p> <p>12:15 p.m. -1:30 p.m. LUNCH</p> <p>1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. PANEL 5</p> <p>SOCIAL & POLITICAL ECONOMY ISSUES</p>	
Title:	Reflections on the Grenada Revolution: Lessons for Caribbean Politics & Political Economy
Presenter:	Dr. Wendy C Grenade , Senior Lecturer in Political Science, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus
Abstract:	There have been several narratives that analyse the making and implosion of the Grenada Revolution and the subsequent United States invasion of Grenada on October 25, 1983. On the occasion of the 40 th anniversary of the making of the Grenada Revolution, this paper utilizes the benefit of hindsight to reflect on the Grenada Revolution in order to glean lessons for contemporary Grenadian and Caribbean politics and political economy.
Keywords:	Grenada Revolution, Discourses, Lessons
Title:	Education for Liberation
Presenter:	Latia Wilks , Grenadian Youth
Abstract:	The focus is to what extent the education system in Grenada and the Caribbean has failed students with regards to understanding the revolution. This is vital in that it illustrates how education is not value-neutral and in fact perpetuates an agenda that seeks to keep Grenada in the state of neo-colony. This has the further effect of subjugating the youth, as there is no (visible) model of empowerment that differs from the status quo of Capitalism. The research is mostly qualitative, based upon interviews with a number of students across primary, secondary and tertiary levels, throughout the parishes. The quantitative aspect relates to the number of students opting for examinations/qualifications in History or Caribbean History.

	The data condemns the policy-makers for their role in concealing Grenada's historical significance, both within the region, and the world. It highlights the fact that this is purposeful, as CXC refuses to include the Grenada Revolution on either its CSEC or CAPE syllabuses.
Keywords:	Grenada revolution, education, liberation
Title:	Beyond the Binary: Revolution and Reconciliation in the work of Merle Collins and Joan Purcell
Presenter:	Laurie Lambert , PhD, Assistant Professor, African and African American Studies Fordham University, NY, llambert3@fordham.edu
Abstract:	This paper analyzes representations of the Grenada Revolution in Merle Collins' <i>Angel</i> and Joan Purcell's <i>Memoirs of a Woman in Politics</i> , to offer an account of the revolution's relationship to gender. Reimagining this period with women at its center, my analysis proves that revolution must be recognized for both its productive and corrosive tendencies. I argue that the literature of the Grenada Revolution exposes how the more harmful aspects of revolution are visited on (and therefore more apparent to) women, while also exploring women's unique approaches to archiving the revolution in their writing and imagining modes of reconciliation and healing. <i>Angel</i> traces Grenada's late colonial and early postcolonial history from the vantage point of rural women of modest means. By centering the novel on multiple generations of rural women and their families, Collins presents family history as a way of thinking through national history. <i>Memoirs of a Woman in Politics</i> examines Purcell's political career, including her initial skepticism of the PRG. Years later she was charged with making the decision to commute the death sentences of fourteen of the Grenada 17. Representations of Caribbean women such as Purcell and Collins' protagonists Doodsie and Angel, reveal how women have been central to weaving complicated narratives of remembrance, pushing their readers to think beyond the binaries of innocence and guilt.
Keywords:	Merle Collins, Joan Purcell, Gender, healing, reconciliation, Grenada Revolution

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. BREAK

3:15 P.M. – 4:30 P.M

PLENARY 3

WOMEN IN THE GRENADA REVOLUTION: LESSONS FOR THE CONTEMPORARY

Dr. Nicole Phillip-Dowe

Head, The University of the West Indies, Open Campus, Grenada Site

Ms. Claudette Pitt

Former member of the National Women’s Organization

Mrs. Gloria Payne-Banfield

Former Cabinet Secretary

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Keynote Address

Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General, OECS Commission

“Education in the Revolution and the Revolution in Education”

St. George’s University, True Blue, St. George’s

DAY 3

WEDNESDAY MAY 29

8:00 a.m. -8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Panel 6

THE GRENADA REVOLUTION: ARTS & CULTURE

Title: Analysis of a painting

Presenter:	Suelin Low Chew Tung , Grenadian Artist
Abstract:	<i>Analysis of a painting</i> will explore the political and social impacts of the Grenada Revolution on domestic artistic production during the revolution years (1979-1983), including works produced for the People's Revolutionary Government; the positioning of domestic and extra-regional artistic expression in relation to post-revolutionary events, and the impact on contemporary artistic expression (within the school system, and in general practice) in Grenada. This paper references and continues the discussion begun in my paper <i>Painting the Grenada Revolution</i> (Social and Economic Studies (SES) journal, Volume 62 number 3, 2013), republished as part of <i>Perspectives on the Grenada Revolution 1979 -1983</i> by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017
Keywords:	Grenadian Revolution, Painting
Title:	Direct Cinema and Grenadian History: The Case for Forward Ever
Presenter:	Norman Grant , PhD Candidate, University of Puerto Rico
Abstract:	This paper will examine some aspects of Bruce Paddington's 113- minute documentary entitled Forward Ever: The Killing of a Revolution, which focuses on the period prior to and after the Grenadian Revolution in the Caribbean from 1973 to 2011. The film was screened in 2013 marking the thirtieth anniversary of the invasion of United States military forces. Embedded within Forward Ever is another documentary taken in parts from 1984-Grenada-The Future Coming Towards US (1983), by John Douglas. Douglas's film was current with the revolution, and prior to the downfall. The spirit of the time is captured by Douglas's film and amplified in Paddington's. The subject of the film is the rise of the New Jewel Movement, and the People's Revolutionary Government. Led by the charismatic Maurice Bishop the small island nation captured the imagination and hopes of many in the Caribbean and the world. A Socialist, Bishop found solidarity with the Cuban revolution and received Cuban support. Because of that support, it was predictable that the revolution would be opposed by the neighbor to the north. The United States could not tolerate another "communist" country in its lake. The government was undermined and weakened by the US State Department, and perhaps the CIA which propagandized against the PRG. Due to an ideological split within the New Jewel Movement, the party took a murderous course, the Coard faction overwhelmed the Bishop faction. Maurice Bishop and six other cabinet ministers and supporters were executed in Fort Rupert on October 19, 1983. The United States invaded six days later and arrested the remaining members of the New Jewel Movement, bringing the revolution to an end. To my knowledge, the documentary in question has not been thoroughly analyzed in terms of theoretical approach, historical content, organization, method or directorial vision as have the many written treatments of the Grenadian Revolution. Paddington's film is the most complete and comprehensive documentary which looks at all phases of this period of Grenadian history. This presentation will focus on instances in which the documentary Forward Ever: The Killing of a Revolution contributes to history.
Keywords:	Grenada Revolution, Bruce Paddington, Killing of a Revolution

Title:	Preserving History through the Arts: The psychological effects of the Gairy/PRG era on a Grenadian working class family
Presenter:	Francis Urias Peters , Researcher/Playwright, LaBoucan Creative Centre
Abstract:	After four decades of the Grenada Revolution, the events of this important period are swiftly fading from the memories of the Grenadian population especially the younger generation. Based on the precepts that (i) a people who forget their history are prone to repeat the mistakes of the past and (ii) “a people without the knowledge of their history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots” (Marcus Garvey); I embarked on a journey to construct a playscript set during the Gairy/Revolutionary era. This journey took me almost thirty years; from the initial thought in 1984 to 2013 when the play was first staged. Based on both formal and informal research, I found that there were deep and unresolved emotional “wounds” from that era which still haunt the minds of many Grenadians. There was one attempt at a truth and reconciliation forum, but this attempt was a miserable failure and the negative narrative of both the Gairy regime and the PRG can stir up deep and heated emotional debates based on peoples own biases and judgements. I therefore embarked on scripting REDEMPTION TIME, where I used the script/production to highlight the psychological effects that the Gairy/PRG era had on a working class Grenadian family. I sought to tell the story through the eyes of “ <i>the real people</i> ”; which is the “ <i>common</i> ” man and woman on “ <i>the streets</i> ”. The story was told in a frank, honest and non-judgmental manner which captivated the minds of those who knew very little of the Grenadian Revolution. The play production also became a catharsis for those who did not get an opportunity for an emotional release from the period of the turbulent early seventies to early eighties.
Keywords:	Redemption Time, Grenada Revolution, Gairy, PRG

10:00 A.M.-10:15 A.M. BREAK

10:15 A.M. -12:15 P.M.
PLENARY 4
LIFE & LEGACY OF MAURICE BISHOP

Dr. Curtis Jacobs
Historian

Ms. Claudette Pitt
Former member of the National Women's Organization

Mr. Brian Lindsay
Social Commentator

12:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

PLENARY 5: VOICES FROM WITHIN (OPEN PLENARY)

Facilitated by
Dr. Wendy C Grenade
Senior Lecture in Political Science, The University of the West Indies
Cave Hill Campus

3:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m. BREAK

3:30 p.m.-5:15 p.m.

PLENARY 6: HISTORY, MEMORY, RECONCILIATION AND HEALING

**Professor Shalini Puri
Pittsburgh University**

**The Honourable Tillman Thomas
Former Prime Minister of Grenada**

**Mr. Christopher Stroude
Former member of the Peoples' Revolutionary Government**

**Ms. Latia Wilks
Grenadian Youth**

**Mr. Atiba Rougier
Cultural Anthropologist, City University of New York**

7:00 p.m-9:30 p.m.

**Play: Redemption Time written and directed by Francis Urias Peters
Spice Basket, Beaulieu, St. George's**