

CARIBBEAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION,  
1920–1970  
**Volume 2**

The years between the 1920s and 1970s are pivotal in the development of Caribbean literature, as they produced the founding canonical literary texts of the anglophone Caribbean. This volume features essays by major scholars as well as emerging voices revisiting important moments from that era to open up new perspectives. Caribbean contributions to the Harlem Renaissance, to the Windrush generation publishing in England after World War II, and to the regional reverberations of the Cuban Revolution all feature prominently in this story. At the same time, we uncover lesser-known stories of writers publishing in regional newspapers and journals, of pioneering women writers, and of exchanges with Canada and the African continent. From major writers like Derek Walcott, V. S. Naipaul, George Lamming, and Jean Rhys to recently recuperated figures like Eric Walrond, Una Marson, Sylvia Wynter, and Ismith Khan, this volume sets a course for the future study of Caribbean literature.

RAPHAEL DALLEO is Professor of English at Bucknell University. His most recent book, *American Imperialism's Undead: The Occupation of Haiti and the Rise of Caribbean Anticolonialism* (2016), won the Caribbean Studies Association's 2017 Gordon K. and Sibyl Lewis Award for best book about the Caribbean. He is author of *Caribbean Literature and the Public Sphere* (2011), editor of *Bourdieu and Postcolonial Studies* (2016), co-editor of *Haiti and the Americas* (2013), and co-author of *The Latinola Canon and the Emergence of Post-Sixties Literature* (2007). He serves on the editorial advisory board of the *Journal of West Indian Literature*.

CURDELLA FORBES is Professor of Caribbean Literature at Howard University. Her academic publications include *From Nation to Diaspora: Samuel Selvon, George Lamming and the Cultural Performance of Gender* (2006), which won the University of the West Indies prize for Best Research Book. Her numerous published essays address diverse issues in Caribbean literature, theory, and cultural history. She serves on the editorial advisory board of the *Journal of West Indian Literature* and *Anthurium*. As a creative writer, she has authored several books, including *A Tall History of Sugar* (2019). Her short fiction has appeared in anthologies and literary and academic journals.

## CARIBBEAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION

*General Editor*

Alison Donnell, *University of East Anglia*

*Caribbean Literature in Transition* ambitiously redefines received ideas of this region's literary traditions to present a significantly expanded terrain for critical intervention. By extending the chronology back to 1800, before either the Caribbean or Literature had been imagined in their present currencies, challenging narrow definitions of literary production, and reaching across linguistic divides, the critical interventions that comprise this series deliver a substantially new framework for future study and research. Boldly inclusive, *Caribbean Literature in Transition* attends to transformations in genre, language, form, and platform as well as to the intricate creative intersections between oral, performative and literary cultures, the intensity of cultural encounters and exchanges that have forged creolized sensibilities, and the complex patterning of local and global diasporas that have remained central to Caribbean experience and have continued to shape the production and reception of its writings. The essays collected here explore how Caribbean literary history is marked by returning creative and critical preoccupations, as well as overlapping local and global connections inscribed by thick histories of oppression and resistance. The series importantly refreshes understandings of this history for the twenty-first century by drawing on the invigorating theoretical insights of black Atlantic studies, queer studies, ecocriticism and the digital humanities, as well as historical materials newly restored by the archival turn in Caribbean Studies. In sum, *Caribbean Literature in Transition* both generates fresh approaches to familiar works and brings overlooked and forgotten works into view.

*Books in the series*

*Caribbean Literature in Transition, 1800–1920*

Edited by EVELYN O'CALLAGHAN and TIM WATSON

*Caribbean Literature in Transition, 1920–1970*

Edited by RAPHAEL DALLEO and CURDELLA FORBES

*Caribbean Literature in Transition, 1970–2020*

Edited by RONALD CUMMINGS and ALISON DONNELL

CARIBBEAN LITERATURE IN  
TRANSITION, 1920–1970

**Volume 2**

EDITED BY  
RAPHAEL DALLEO  
*Bucknell University*

CURDELLA FORBES  
*Howard University*



Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-49552-3 — Caribbean Literature in Transition, 1920–1970  
Edited by Raphael Dalleo, Curdella Forbes  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India  
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.  
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108495523](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108495523)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781108850087  
© Cambridge University Press 2020

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written  
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2020

Printer in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited, Padstow Cornwall  
*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-108-49552-3 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy  
of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication  
and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,  
accurate or appropriate.

## *Contents*

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Contributors</i>	ix
Introduction	I
<i>Raphael Dalleo and Curdella Forbes</i>	
PART I LITERARY AND GENERIC TRANSITIONS	
1 Writing at the End of Empire	21
<i>Erin M. Febskens</i>	
2 Questioning Modernism: The 1950s–1960s	37
<i>Mary Lou Emery</i>	
3 Daily Decolonization: Poetry, Periodicals, and Newspaper Publishing	52
<i>Ben Etherington</i>	
4 Towards a National Theatre	68
<i>Jason Allen-Paisant</i>	
5 Orature, Performance, and the Oral–Scribal Interface	82
<i>Carol Bailey</i>	
6 Explorations of the Self	98
<i>Merle Collins</i>	
PART II CULTURAL AND POLITICAL TRANSITIONS	
7 Debating Language	115
<i>Carolyn Cooper</i>	

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
8	Periodical Culture <i>Claire Irving</i>	131
9	Decolonizing Education: Literature, the School System, and the Imperatives of Political Independence <i>Ian Robertson</i>	145
10	Imaginaries of Citizenship and State <i>Michael Niblett</i>	162
11	Postcolonial Stirrings: The Crisis of Nationalism <i>Laurie R. Lambert</i>	176
PART III THE CARIBBEAN REGION IN TRANSITION		
12	A Moving Centre: The Caribbean in Britain <i>J. Dillon Brown</i>	193
13	Canadian Routes <i>Michael A. Bucknor</i>	209
14	New Empires: The Caribbean and the United States <i>Imani D. Owens</i>	225
15	Africa and the Caribbean: Recrossing the Atlantic <i>Simon Gikandi</i>	241
16	Cross-Caribbean Dialogues I: Hispanophone <i>Amanda T. Perry</i>	258
17	Cross-Caribbean Dialogues II: Francophone <i>Raphael Dalleo</i>	276
PART IV CRITICAL TRANSITIONS		
18	Forging the Critical Canon <i>Glyne Griffith</i>	293
19	Forgotten Trailblazers <i>Antonia MacDonald</i>	308
20	Recuperating Women Writers <i>Anthea Morrison</i>	323

	<i>Contents</i>	vii
21	Rhizomatic Genealogies: Jean Rhys as Literary Foremother <i>Reed Caswell Aiken</i>	337
22	Writing Indo-Caribbean Masculinity <i>Lisa Outar</i>	355
23	Writing and Reading Sex and Sexuality <i>Margaret Grace Love</i>	369
	<i>Bibliography</i>	382
	<i>Index</i>	414

## *Figure*

- 2.1 Aubrey Williams, *Tumatumari*, 1970. Timehri Series at Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Guyana. Photograph by Lorelei, Wikicommons *page 48*



## Contributors

REED CASWELL AIKEN is a PhD student at Howard University. His research interests include theories of hybridity and creolization, the politics and poetics of the body and its effusions, and the interrelations amongst marronage, alienation, and gender in Caribbean literature.

JASON ALLEN-PAISANT is a lecturer in Caribbean Poetry and Decolonial Thought, jointly appointed in the School of English and the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies at the University of Leeds. His research interests converge around the issue of cultural memory in the African diaspora and function at the intersections of decolonial critical thinking, poetics, and performance studies. He is the author of a number of essays in international peer-reviewed journals and editor of a forthcoming special issue of *Parallax* titled 'Performing Futures in the African Diaspora: Time, Ritual, Ceremony'. He is currently at work on a book manuscript entitled *Staging Black Futures in the Twenty-First Century*. His poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Granta*, *PN Review*, *Callaloo*, Carcanet's *New Poetries VIII*, and other venues.

CAROL BAILEY is an associate professor in the English Department at Westfield State University in Massachusetts, where she teaches courses in World, Postcolonial, Caribbean and Cross-Cultural, and Women's Literatures. She is the author of *A Poetics of Performance: The Oral-Scribal Aesthetic in Anglophone Caribbean Fiction* (2014).

J. DILLON BROWN is an associate professor in the Department of English at Washington University in St Louis. He specializes in anglophone Caribbean, postcolonial, and world literatures. His articles and reviews have appeared in *Modern Fiction Studies*, *The Global South*, *ARIEL*, the *Journal of West Indian Literature*, and *Contemporary Literature*, among other places. He is the author of *Migrant Modernism: Postwar London and the West Indian Novel* (2013) and the co-editor, with Leah

*List of Contributors*

Rosenberg, of *Beyond Windrush: Rethinking Postwar Anglophone Caribbean Literature* (2015).

MICHAEL A. BUCKNOR is an associate professor of the Department of Literatures in English and the Public Orator of the Mona Campus, University of the West Indies. He serves on the editorial boards of *Caribbean Quarterly*, *Issues in Critical Investigation*, and *Lucayos*, and is Senior Editor of the *Journal of West Indian Literature*. He was Chair of the Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies from 2010 to 2013. He is co-editor (with Alison Donnell) of *The Routledge Companion to Anglophone Caribbean Literature* and carries out research on Austin Clarke, Caribbean-Canadian writing, postcolonial literatures and theory, diaspora studies, masculinities, and popular culture. He is completing a book manuscript entitled ‘Transnational Circuits of Cultural Production: Austin Clarke, Caribbean/Canadian Writing and the African Diaspora’.

MERLE COLLINS is a writer of fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and critical essays. Her current research is on Grenadian students in Cuba and the Grenadian mother of Malcolm X. Her most recent essay, ‘Cultural Expression and the Grenada Revolution: Understanding through Poetry’, was published in 2016. In 2013, Peepal Tree Press, UK, published her biography of Dame Hilda Bynoe, Governor of Grenada, 1967–72. Collins is producer of a documentary, *Saracca and Nation*, exploring African influences on the culture of Grenada. In 2011, Peepal Tree Press reissued her 1997 novel, *Angel*, and a short story collection, *The Ladies are Upstairs*. Also interested in community theatre, Collins is founder of a Maryland-based community theatre company. She is Professor, Department of English, University of Maryland, USA, and affiliate faculty in the Department of Women’s Studies and Latin American Studies Center. She is also (since 2019) director of the university’s Latin American Studies Center.

CAROLYN COOPER is the author of *Sound Clash: Jamaican Dancehall Culture at Large* (2004) and *Noises in the Blood: Orality, Gender and the ‘Vulgar’ Body of Jamaican Popular Culture* (1993). She is the editor of *Global Reggae* (2012). In 1992, she initiated the establishment of the Reggae Studies Unit at The University of the West Indies, for which she provided intellectual leadership for more than a decade.

RAPHAEL DALLEO is Professor of English at Bucknell University. His most recent book, *American Imperialism’s Undead: The Occupation of Haiti*

*List of Contributors*

xi

*and the Rise of Caribbean Anticolonialism*, won the Caribbean Studies Association's 2017 Gordon K. and Sibyl Lewis Award for best book about the Caribbean. He is author of *Caribbean Literature and the Public Sphere*, editor of *Bourdieu and Postcolonial Studies*, co-editor of *Haiti and the Americas*, and co-author of *The Latinola Canon and the Emergence of Post-Sixties Literature*. He serves on the editorial advisory board of the *Journal of West Indian Literature*.

MARY LOU EMERY is Professor Emerita in the Department of English at the University of Iowa. She is author of *Modernism, the Visual, and Caribbean Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2007/2009) and *Jean Rhys at "World's End": Novels of Colonial and Sexual Exile* (1990/2011). Her most recent book, *Bungalow Modernity: A Study of Twentieth-Century Fictions of Home* (2020), focuses on the fictional bungalow in the contexts of plantation architecture and creolized design.

BEN ETHERINGTON is a senior lecturer in postcolonial and world literary studies in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts and a member of the Writing and Society Research Centre at Western Sydney University. He is currently the president of the Australian Association for Caribbean Studies. Recent publications include *Literary Primitivism* (2018), *The Cambridge Companion to World Literature* (2018, co-edited with Jarad Zimble), and *Historical Poetics and the Problem of Exemplarity* (2019, special issue of *Critical Quarterly*, co-edited with Sean Pryor). His current project is on the poetics of anglophone Caribbean creole verse in the period between the abolition of slavery and decolonization.

ERIN M. FEHSKENS is Associate Professor of English at Towson University where she teaches classes in global anglophone literature, speculative fiction, literature of the environment, and modern Caribbean literature. Her research interests include literary form, eco-poetics, and the intersection of posthumanism and postcolonialism. She is at work on a book project that considers the way Caribbean literature mobilizes the epic form to negotiate water issues in the region. Her publications have appeared in the *Journal of Modern Literature*, the *Journal of West Indian Literature*, *Callaloo*, and *Global South*.

CURDELLA FORBES is Professor of Caribbean Literature at Howard University. Her academic publications include *From Nation to Diaspora: Samuel Selvon, George Lamming and the Cultural Performance of Gender* (2006), which won the University of the West

Indies prize for Best Research Book. She has also authored book chapters, and numerous essays in peer-reviewed journals. As a creative writer, she has published several works of fiction including her latest novel, *A Tall History of Sugar* (2019). Her short fiction has appeared in anthologies and journals.

SIMON GIKANDI is Robert Schirmer Professor of English at Princeton University. He was editor of PMLA from 2011 to 2016 and President of the MLA in 2019–20. His many books include *Writing in Limbo: Modernism and Caribbean Literature*, *Maps of Englishness: Writing Identity in the Culture of Colonialism*, and *Ngugi wa Thiong'o, a Choice Outstanding Academic Publication* for 2004. His book *Slavery and the Culture of Taste* was winner of the MLA's James Russell Lowell Award; winner of the Melville J. Herskovits Award, given by the African Studies Association for the most important scholarly work in African studies; and a *Choice Outstanding Academic Title*. He is the co-editor (with Abiola Irele) of *The Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature* and editor of *The Novel in Africa and the Caribbean since 1950* (volume 11 of the *Oxford History of the Novel in English*).

GLYNE GRIFFITH is Professor, Department of English, University at Albany, State University of New York. His most recent book is *The BBC and the Development of Anglophone Caribbean Literature* (2016) and he is a member of the editorial collective of the *Journal of West Indian Literature*.

CLAIRE IRVING completed her doctoral research at Newcastle University in 2016. Her thesis uncovered a significant body of literary magazines previously unknown or seen as peripheral to Caribbean literature. Her research highlights the need to open up the critical consensus around a small selection of magazines (*Trinidad*, *The Beacon*, *Bim* and *Kyk-over-al*), to consider this wider corpus of periodicals. Her work identifies a broad-based movement towards magazines by the middle classes, emerging from a shared aspiration to develop a Caribbean literary tradition.

LAURIE R. LAMBERT is Associate Professor of African and African American Studies at Fordham University. Her research and teaching interests include black feminism, Caribbean literature and history, black performance studies, and literatures and cultures of American imperialism. Lambert's work has been published in journals including *Anthurium*, *Cultural Dynamics*, *Global South*, and the *CLR James*

*List of Contributors*

xiii

*Journal*. Her first book, *Comrade Sister: Caribbean Feminist Revisions of the Grenada Revolution* (2020), examines the gendered implications of political trauma in literature on Grenada.

MARGARET GRACE LOVE is Assistant Professor of English at North Carolina Wesleyan College. She received her PhD from Tufts University. Her dissertation, ‘Radical Canons: Epigraphic Practice, Identity Formation, and Caribbean Writers’, explores the rhetorical and political use of epigraphs in twentieth-century anglophone Caribbean fiction. She regularly presents at the Caribbean Studies Association and West Indian Literature Conferences, and her work has appeared in *Caribbean Quarterly*.

ANTONIA MACDONALD is a professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in the School of Arts and Sciences, St. George’s University, Grenada. Published in journals such as the *Journal of West Indian Literature*, *Callaloo*, and *Anthurium*, Professor MacDonald writes on contemporary Caribbean women writers, St. Lucian literature, and Eastern Caribbean popular culture. She is the author of *Making Homes in the West/Indies* (2002) and editor of the collection, *The Fiction of Garth St. Omer: A Casebook* (2018). Professor MacDonald is also the book review editor of the *Journal of West Indian Literature*.

ANTHEA MORRISON is Retired Senior Lecturer in Comparative Caribbean Literature, Department of Literatures in English, University of the West Indies Mona. She was Deputy Dean for Graduate Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Education, UWI Mona, 2016–18, and taught francophone literature at UWI Cave Hill from 1986 to 2004. She has published articles on post-Négritude francophone Caribbean poetry (including Édouard Glissant), Caribbean/African American women’s writing, and Caribbean diasporic literature; and is co-editor, with Judith Byfield and LaRay Denzer, of *Gendering the African Diaspora: Women, Culture, and Historical Change in the Caribbean and the Nigerian Hinterland* (2010). She is currently working on a monograph on the poetry of Lorna Goodison. Her book *New Crossings: Caribbean Migration Narratives* was published in 2019.

MICHAEL NIBLETT is Associate Professor in Modern World Literature at the University of Warwick. He is the author of *The Caribbean Novel since 1945* (2012) and co-editor of *Perspectives on the “Other America”: Comparative Approaches to Caribbean and Latin American Culture* (2009) and *The Caribbean: Aesthetics, World-Ecology, Politics* (2016).

LISA OUTAR is an independent scholar who publishes in the fields of Indo-Caribbean literature, feminist writing and the connections between the Caribbean and other post-indentureship spaces. Her work has appeared in the journals *Small Axe*, *Cultural Dynamics*, *South Asian Review*, the *Caribbean Journal of Education*, *South Asian History and Culture*, the *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*, *South Asian Diaspora*; in *Stabroek News*; and in the edited book collections *South Asian Transnationalisms* and *Beyond Windrush: Rethinking Postwar Anglophone Caribbean Literature*. She serves as a Senior Editor of the *Journal of West Indian Literature* and is at work on a manuscript about representations of Christianity in Indo-Caribbean women's writing. She is co-editor of *Indo-Caribbean Feminist Thought: Genealogies, Theories, Enactments* (2016).

IMANI D. OWENS is an assistant professor at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. She received her PhD in English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. Before joining the Rutgers Department of English, Imani was an assistant professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for African American Studies at Princeton University and a Riley Scholar-in-Residence at Colorado College. Her research and teaching interests include African American and Caribbean literature, music, and performance, as well as histories of migration and empire in the global South. Her work has been supported by a Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship and an NEH-funded residency at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. She is currently at work on a book manuscript entitled *Writing Crossroads: Folk Culture, Imperialism, and US Caribbean Literature*, which charts discourses of folk culture, literary form, and anti-imperialist politics in Caribbean and African American texts during the interwar period.

AMANDA T. PERRY earned her PhD in Comparative Literature, with distinction, from New York University in 2019. She works on Caribbean literature and history in English, French, and Spanish and has conducted extensive research in archives in North America, Europe, and the Caribbean. Her current book project re-evaluates the Cuban Revolution as a Caribbean event by examining its resonance in the anglophone Caribbean and Haiti in the 1960s and 1970s. Dr Perry has previously published work in *Small Axe* and the *Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies*, and she collaborates with the digital humanities project *In the Same Boats*. She has been a recipient of the ACLS/

*List of Contributors*

xv

Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, the James Lougheed Award of Excellence, and the SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, among other awards.

IAN ROBERTSON is retired Professor of Linguistics at the University of The West Indies, St Augustine campus. He has had extensive work experience in teaching at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels in the Caribbean environment. He has served as head of the Department of English at the University of Guyana and the Department of Educational Foundations and Teacher Education at the University of the West Indies and as Deputy Dean and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the St Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies. He has been involved in consultancy work on language education for the Ministry of Education in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, and was part of a team providing guidance on the Primary Education Improvement programme in four countries of the Leeward Islands. He chaired the committee that was responsible for the preparation of the initial syllabus for Communication Studies of the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations. Professor Robertson has co-edited two major texts on language education policy for Caribbean countries. He has published on language teaching, language education in Caribbean vernacular contexts, and the role of indigenous traditions in the education of Caribbean students. An active field researcher, he has also supervised many graduate theses in Education, Language, and Linguistics.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-49552-3 — Caribbean Literature in Transition, 1920–1970  
Edited by Raphael Dalleo , Curdella Forbes  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---