



CARIBBEAN ACADEMIC FORUM

Contributions to the XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Advancing Towards Care Societies

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

DAY 1

Inaugural Session

Dr. Miriam Nicado

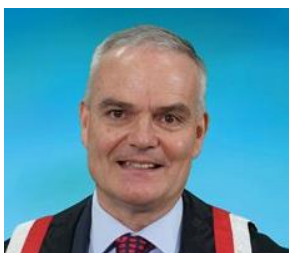
President of Universities Caribbean and Rector of Universidad de la Habana, Cuba



PhD in Mathematical Sciences and Degree in Applied Mathematics. Previously, Rector of the University of Informatics Sciences. Emeritus Associate and member of the Cuban Society of Mathematics and Computing. Honorary Member of the Cuban Academy of Sciences. Visiting Professor at Rutgers University, USA. Regional vice president of the Union of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean. Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Panama. Medal of Honor of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Russian Federation.

Prof. Clive Landis

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus (TBC)



Previously served as Pro Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies and Director of the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre. Has published over 150 scientific papers, focusing on cardiovascular research, wound healing, and viral diseases. Founded the Immunology PhD programme at Cave Hill and led regional lab capacity efforts. Holds a Ph.D. in Cardiovascular Research and relocated to UWI from Imperial College London in 2004.

Diane Quarless

Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean



Previously served for six years as Chief of the Small Island Developing States Unit, and as Head of Partnerships for Sustainable Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. She began her career as a diplomat in the Foreign Service of the Government of Jamaica, serving as policy analyst, adviser and practitioner in development management. She was twice assigned to the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations in New York.



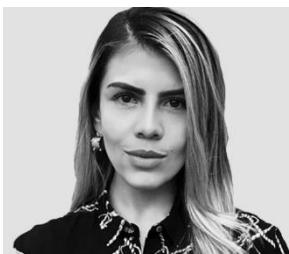


Cecilia Alemany
Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UN Women



Previously served as interim Representative in Argentina and led the Regional Office in 2023. Held senior advisory roles with UN Women in New York and UNOPS in Haiti and Uruguay. Co-founded global civil society initiatives on gender and development. Holds a Master’s in Foresight from Paris V and a degree in International Relations from the University of the Republic, Uruguay; currently a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Complutense University of Madrid.

Daniela Pacheco
Director of Feminist Foreign Policy and International Cooperation, Ministry of Women of Mexico, and Representative from Mexico as Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean



Served as Communications Advisor to former President Rafael Correa (Ecuador) and former Mayor Gustavo Petro (Bogotá). Participated in presidential and local campaigns across Latin America. Consultant in political communication and columnist for Milenio Diario and Milenio Televisión in Mexico.

Dr. Myriam Moïse
Executive Secretary-General of Universities Caribbean and Associate Professor of English at Université des Antilles in Martinique



She specializes in Gender Studies, Postcolonial Literatures, Critical Race Studies, and Intersectional Ecology, focusing on Caribbean women’s literary, aesthetic, and political productions. She holds doctorates from Paris Sorbonne Nouvelle University and the UWI. A Fulbright Fellow and recipient of the French National Order of Merit, she held visiting fellowships at NYU, Brown, UCL, Emory, and Cambridge. Dr. Moïse has published widely. She co-led the EU Horizon project “Connected Worlds” and consults for UNESCO.

Dr. Tonya Haynes
Head and Lecturer at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, the University of the West Indies



Her current research examines Black Barbadian women’s experiences of type 2 diabetes and gender and ageing. She is co-editor of *Global Black Feminisms: Cross Border Collaboration Through An Ethic of Care* (Routledge 2023) and has published on Caribbean feminist thought and gender-based violence. She has led many regional public scholarship initiatives aimed at capacity building for state functionaries and community activists; and inclusive policy-making with LGBTQ+, disability rights and women’s organisations.



Panel 1: Care, Territories, and Environmental sustainability in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Dr. Mariama Williams
Consultant at Integrated Policy Research Institute



She is a feminist economist with over 20 years' experience working on economic development, macroeconomic, trade external debt and finance issues. She is also a director of the Institute of Law and Economics (ILE), Jamaica, a member of the Caribbean Feminist Action Network, the Gender and Trade Coalition and a principal consultant, the Integrated Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and Senior Associate, the Political Ecology and Sustainability Programme, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era.

Dr. Ana María Tepichin
Director of the Center for Gender Studies at El Colegio de México



Specialist in poverty, gender, citizenship, social policy, economic autonomy and violence. PhD in Social Sciences from the Universidad Iberoamericana and Master in Urban Development from El Colegio de México. Professor-Researcher at El Colegio de México. Currently Director of the Center for Gender Studies. Member of the National System of Researchers of SECIHTI.

H.E. Ambassador Noemi Espinoza
Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States



She has consistently championed sustainable development, human rights, and innovative partnerships, forging alliances between governments, civil society, and international organizations to achieve shared goals. Her diplomatic career began at the Honduran Consulate in New York City in 1996. Subsequently, she represented Honduras at the Mission to the United Nations in New York. In 2024, she was Chair of the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development.

H.E. Ambassador Elizabeth Taylor Jay
Ambassador of Colombia to Barbados



She is a marine biologist with a Master degree in Marine Environmental Protection from the University of Wales in Bangor. With over 30 years of professional experience, primarily holding government positions where she has led many progressive international initiatives. Most recently, she served as the Vice Minister of multilateral affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombia. She is a member of the indigenous Raizal people of the San Andres Archipelago.



Dr. Rishika Banydeen
University Hospital of Martinique



Researcher at the University Hospital of Martinique. Focuses on public health, epidemiology, and health disparities in Caribbean populations. Published studies on non-communicable diseases and health equity. Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of the West Indies.

Isiuwa Iyahun
Head of Office ad interim of the UN Women Multi-Country Office (MCO) for the Caribbean



Prior to assuming the position of Deputy Representative, Ms. Iyahun managed the Economic Empowerment and Statistics portfolios for the UN Women MCO Caribbean. She has a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Minnesota’s Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Swarthmore College.

Workshop Sessions

A - Solution-Based Research Workshop: Sustainable Care Practices for Resilient Communities

Laura Pérez Castaño
Regional Specialist on Care for Latin America and the Caribbean at UN Women



International consultant specializing in gender. Until July 2024, Secretary General of Ibero-American Center for Urban Strategic Development. Previously, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona, overseeing Social Rights, Global Justice, Feminisms, and LGTBI policies (2023). City Councilor since 2015. Holds a Master's in Women's Studies, Gender, and Citizenship from the University of Barcelona (2024).





Valentina Zendejas
Country Lead for Mexico at Fundación AVINA



Previously, Technical Secretary of the Global Alliance for Care (2022-2023) and consultant on civil society capacity building. Board Member at Controla tu Gobierno since 2019. Specialist in gender equality, public policy, and organizational strengthening. Holds an MA in Latin American Studies from Florida International University and a specialization in Public Policy and Gender from FLACSO.

B - Youth-Focused Capacity-Building Workshop: Digital Research and Advocacy for Gender, Care and Climate Action

Alicia Haynes
University of the West Indies Institute for Gender and Development, Nita Barrow Unit



Previously, a facilitator at the Caribbean Institute for Gender and Development and a researcher in gender and sexuality studies. Her work explores cyberfeminisms, dancehall culture, gender performativity, and queer theory. Holds an MA in Sexual Dissidence from the University of Sussex and is a Ph.D. candidate in Gender and Development Studies at UWI Cave Hill.

Panel 2: The right to care, decent work and social equity

Ana Virgínia Moreira

ILO Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean



In addition to her role at the ILO, she is a full professor at the University of Fortaleza (on leave), teaching in both the Postgraduate Program in Constitutional Law and the undergraduate Law Course. She has an extensive academic background, including a Law degree from the Federal University of Ceará (1994), an LL.M from the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto (2009), a PhD in Law from the University of São Paulo (2000), and a Post-Doctorate from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations (2007).

Ida Le Blanc

General Secretary, National Union of Domestic Employees (NUDE), Trinidad and Tobago



She is a trade Unionist and has a passion for issues that pertain to Women especially Low Income Women Workers be addressed Nationally and Internationally. She is the General Secretary of National Union of Domestic Employees (NUDE) and also a newly elected Executive member of the International Domestic Workers Federation. She is the daughter of Clotil Walcott (deceased) who was the founder of NUDE and a warrior fighting for workers such as Domestic Workers and Low Income Workers in the informal Sector.

Luana Pinheiro

Director of Care Economy, Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger of Brazil



She has been a public servant since 2004, currently attached to the Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight against Hunger, where she holds the position of Director of the Economics of Care Department of the National Secretariat of Care and Family Policy of Brazil. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Brasilia. Research topics and areas of interest include women's policies, care policies, paid and unpaid domestic and care work, and inequalities in the world of work.



Dr. Daniele Bobb

Lecturer, Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados



Dr. Bobb has collaborated and worked with development agencies such as UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean (MCOC), the Caribbean Development Bank, and national and regional CSOs and NGOs. In November 2024, she completed a UN Women Multi-Country Office–Caribbean research project titled ‘Assessing the Impact of Unpaid Care Work on Families in Barbados’. She is steadfast in her devotion to the work for gender equity and enhancing the quality of life for all.

Ana Güezmes

Director of the Division for Gender Affairs at ECLAC



She is a medical doctor with postgraduate studies in international cooperation, government and public health. She has more than 30 years of international experience in multilateral and bilateral organizations and civil society. At ECLAC, she leads initiatives to advance towards the care society within the framework of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in addition to consolidating substantive gender equality as an essential pillar of sustainable development in the region and breaking the statistical silence.

Workshops Sessions

A - Solution-Based Research Workshop: Innovative Pathways: Addressing Precarity and Advancing Care-Driven Sustainability

Dr. Angelique Nixon

Senior Lecturer, Institute for Gender and Development Studies: St Augustine Unit, University of the West Indies



Specializes in Caribbean and African diaspora literatures, gender and sexuality studies, tourism, and migration. Author of *Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture* (2015). Active in Caribbean social and environmental justice movements and a director at CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice in Trinidad & Tobago. Holds a Ph.D. in English and Gender Studies from the University of Florida.





B - Youth-Focused Capacity-Building Workshop: Empowering Young Leaders: Advocating for Care Equity and Environmental Justice

Ayesha Constable
Technical Director Global Fund for Women



She is a scholar activist with over 10 years of experience in action research on climate change adaptation, gender equality and climate justice. She is founder of the Young People for Action on Climate Change Jamaica (YPACCa) and founded GirlsCARE- Girls for Climate Action for Resilience and Empowerment. She is a Global Advisor to the FRIDA Young Feminist Fund, supporting participatory grantmaking processes for funding support to grassroots organizations.



DAY 2

Panel 3: Challenges in the care, health and science & innovation policy research agenda

Dr. Taraleen Malcolm

Advisor for Non Communicable Diseases and Mental Health, PAHO



She holds the position of Technical Advisor for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health with responsibility for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries based in the Barbados Country Office. Prior to her tour of duty in Barbados, she held a similar position in Trinidad and Tobago from 2018-2022. She was also the Specialist for Sustainable Development and Environmental Health with the PAHO/WHO Jamaica Country Office from 2014-2017.

Dr. Natasha Mortley

Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Regional Coordinating Office, University of the West Indies



Trained in Sociology, she has actively infused her work with feminist thought and gender theories. Dr. Mortley's research work has focused on migration & development; diaspora studies; gender & leadership; gender & climate change; gender-based violence and Caribbean masculinities. Her publications can be found in academic journals and book chapters. Dr. Mortley serves as Strategic Advisor to the Commission of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States on gender, migration and social policy.

Dr. Frédérique Dorleans

PhD in Public Health and Epidemiology, Women's Federation of Martinique



Ph.D. in Public Health and Epidemiology. Member of the Women's Federation of Martinique. Researches health disparities and advocates for women's health rights in the Caribbean. Ph.D. from Université de Bordeaux, France.

Dr. Halimah DeShong

University Director, Institute for Gender and Development Studies: University of the West Indies



A former Vincentian Ambassador to the UN, Dr. Halimah DeShong is Senior Lecturer and University Director of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at The University of the West Indies (UWI), and Co-Director of the The UWI–University of Johannesburg’s Institute of Global African Studies. An award-winning Caribbean feminist sociologist, her extensive research includes a focus on violence, justice and Caribbean feminist methodologies.

Workshop Sessions

A – Transformational Leadership Workshop: Leading for Gender Equity: Transforming Public Policy to Tackle Global Challenges

Dr. Rosina Wiltshire

Gender Specialist



First CARICOM Advocate for Gender Justice with a long-standing career in international development and gender equality. Supported Nelson Mandela’s transition team in integrating gender into South African policies. Former lecturer at UWI and visiting professor in Canada. Participated in key UN conferences on environment and development. Holds a Ph.D. and Master’s in Political Science from the University of Michigan and a B.Sc. in Economics from UWI Mona.

B – Solution-Based Research Workshop: Innovating Policy Frameworks: Research-Driven Strategies for Gender-Inclusive Development

Laura Pérez Castaño

Regional specialist on care for Latin America and the Caribbean at UN Women (biography mentioned above)

Gender Equality, Public Policy and Advancing the International Research Agenda

Professor Carole Boyce-Davies

Professor Emérita of Africana Studies and Literatures in English, Cornell University; Chair and Professor of African Diaspora Literatures, Howard University



She is Chair of the English Department at Howard University and Professor of African Diaspora Literatures and a Distinguished Professor of Humane Letters and Professor of Africana Studies and Literatures in English at Cornell University. She is the author of *Black Women's Rights. Leadership and the Circularities of Power* (2022); *Caribbean Spaces. Escape Routes from Twilight Zones* (2013) on the internalization of Caribbean culture; *Left of Karl Marx. The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones* (2008) and the classic *Black Women, Writing and Identity: Migrations of the Subject* (1994). In addition to over a hundred essays, articles published in major professional journals, Dr. Boyce-Davies has also published fifteen critical editions on African, African Diaspora and Caribbean literature and culture. A member of the scientific committee for UNESCO's updated *General History of Africa*, she edited the epistemological forum on "Global Blackness" for the recently published African Diaspora volume.

Miosotis Rivas

Director of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic and President of the Statistical Conference of the Americas



She holds a Bachelor's degree in Economic Sciences and Master's degrees in Economic Policy, Gender and Development, and Human Development. She has extensive professional experience in the Central American and Caribbean region, working on issues related to regional integration, development and public policies, equality policies, gender mainstreaming, and trade negotiations. She currently serves as the President of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

Dr. Nadeen Spence

Student Services and Development Manager, Mary Seacole Hall, University of the West Indies



She also serves as Chairwoman of the Board of the Maxfield Park Children's Home and is a member of the Board of the Jamaica 4H Club. She is also a member of Jamaica's UNESCO Commission. She is trained in Project Management, Corporate Governance and Performance Management and credits her understanding of organizational culture and systems to her training in Political Science and Comparative Politics and Political Theory.



Alicia Haynes

Lecturer and Ph.D. Candidate, Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit (biography mentioned above)

Dr. Carolina Robino

Senior Program Officer at the Canada's International Development Research Centre



Carolina has more than 20 years of experience in International Development, evidence-based policymaking and gender equality. She has a PhD in Development Studies from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa and a Master in Social and Political Studies for Latin America from the Universidad Alberto Hurtado in Chile. She has an Economist Degree from the Universidad de la Republica in Uruguay. Carolina speaks Spanish, French, English, Portuguese.

Ana B. Moreno

Technical Secretary, Global Alliance for Care



Social anthropologist and journalist with over 30 years of experience in public policy, international, and local sustainable development projects. Notable roles include serving as Coordinator for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum (2012-2018), as well as Director of the UN-Habitat Office for Brunei-Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.