

Center for Caribbean Studies

Newsletter
Winter
2025



Photo by
Paola Evangelista



A welcome message

Co-directors

¡Feliz año nuevo! Welcome to the second newsletter by Trinity's Center for Caribbean Studies!

Prof. Euraque:

I return to Co-Directing the Center for Caribbean Studies after a yearlong sabbatical between May 2023 and June 2024, having co-directed the Center almost every year since it was formally established in the fall of 2016. (I Chaired the faculty-led Committee that organized the Center's founding documents in 2015-2016). I am most proud of its accomplishments in almost 10 years of existence. I look forward to a fruitful year of work with the Center once more.

My main objective during this past sabbatical leave involved finalizing the research and writing of a first draft of volume two of a long-term biographical project that I have been engaged with for about ten years. I published volume one of the biographical project in September 2022 in Honduras. It is about a banana plantation owner in Caribbean Honduras named Rafael López Padilla. I am under contract with Editorial Guaymuras in Honduras to publish volume two in 2025: *Un Bananero hondureño en su Laberinto* (A Honduran Banana Planter in his Labyrinth).

During this past sabbatical, in July, I also published, another book, *Historia Viva de Santiago Cicumba y Cerro Palenque* (The Living History of Santiago Cicumba and Cerro Palenque) (Tegucigalpa: Editorial Guaymuras, 2024). I consider *Historia Viva de Santiago* a second book in a trilogy of books on the modern history of Honduras, the first being volume one of the biography of Rafael López Padilla, and the third represented by the projected volume two. *Historia Viva de Santiago* is a micro-history of an old banana town in Caribbean Honduras whose past parallels Macondo in Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

Prof. Guzmán:

This year, I'm on faculty leave with a research fellowship at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies (CENTRO) at Hunter College, City University of New York. CENTRO is the largest university-based research institute, library, and archive dedicated to the Puerto Rican experience in the United States. I was selected to participate with a group of scholars and artists in an inaugural cohort focused on engaging with the theme of "Archive, Memory, and the Present Past of Puerto Rico." While I am less physically present on campus, I have enjoyed actively working behind the scenes with our research assistant team on conceptualizing and advancing our website with new curated sections highlighting the research and teaching of Trinity faculty, students, and staff. I look forward to beginning to share our progress with our campus community in this newsletter.

We welcome increased collaboration and partnerships in some of the following ways:

- Apply for one of our [research grants](#) to support research in and/or related to the Greater Caribbean region and/or its diaspora.
- Join our [affiliated faculty](#).
- Add your course(s) and/or use this list of [Caribbean-related Trinity courses](#) in undergraduate advising meetings and student course planning.
- Use and contribute to our growing list of internal and external [digital resources](#) for research in and teaching about the Caribbean.

— **CCS Co-Directors and Professors**

Dr. Darío Euraque and Dr. Amanda Guzmán

A welcome message

Student Researcher Assistants

As the student research team, we warmly welcome you to the second edition of Trinity's Center for Caribbean Studies newsletter!

This is also our second year working with the Center.

We look forward to continuing to advance the projects that we started last year as well as supporting the establishment of new areas of focus.

We're especially thrilled to have the opportunity to collaborate with organizations passionate about the Caribbean and its diaspora. We are motivated to better represent and celebrate the range of Caribbean teaching and research in our Trinity campus community by faculty and students alike.

Here is a snapshot of some of the projects we've been working on:

- At the end of last spring, Jackeline Garcia, one of the AY 2023-2024 student researchers, helped our team to launch a new website tab, Faculty Voices. Through interviews, this section highlights the work of faculty and staff in/and related to the Greater Caribbean region. Our first interview was conducted with Professor Aponte-Avilés.
- We have been actively building an informal documentary practice of visually representing related events both in and beyond our campus that represent major partnerships with the Center for Caribbean Studies such as the annual Samba Fest and Central American Independence Celebration. This work has materialized in a new website tab, Student Views.

We invite you to continue exploring the work of the Center in this newsletter and to visit our webpage to stay connected with our latest projects and events.

Thank you for sharing this journey with us!

— **Center for Caribbean Studies Student Researcher Team**

Mafer Vacca (Class of 2027) and Paola Evangelista (Class of 2026)



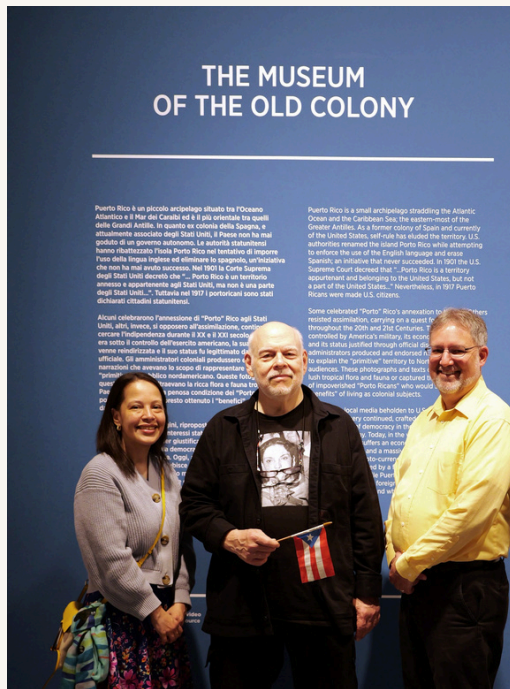
Spring Recap

At the Center of the Biennale: Delano's Museum of the Old Colony
See: Professor of Fine Arts Pablo Delano's exhibit at the 60th Venice Biennale.



Exhibition View. Picture by Pablo Delano

Last spring, Charles A. Dana Professor of Fine Arts Pablo Delano showcased his work at the 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. The sixtieth edition of the Biennale revolved around a topic: “[Foreigners Everywhere](#).” In his [interview](#) with Professor Amanda Guzmán, Delano highlights the parallelism between Puerto Rico, where he is originally from, and Venice, as both sites struggle with tourism and the stemming conflicts it produces.



CCS Co-Directors Amanda Guzmán and Eric Galm pictured with artist. Courtesy of H. Mira.



Exhibition View. Picture by Pablo Delano.

Delano's *The Museum of the Old Colony*, a 2,500-square-foot installation in the Biennale's central pavilion, challenges the notion of the museum as an institution. Through a critical lens, it examines the dynamics of appropriation, power, and knowledge within the museum's confines, while juxtaposing these practices with the colonial processes of the United States in Puerto Rico—shaping its land, culture, and population. At the heart of the pavilion, Delano's installation exposes the realities of American colonization in Puerto Rico through education and art.

Spring Recap

Public Writing Workshop with Marisol LeBrón

Center co-director, Professor Guzmán hosted Dr. Marisol LeBrón, an Associate Professor in Feminist Studies and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at UC Santa Cruz. This workshop represented a collaboration with the American Studies Program and Sociology Department. The idea for the workshop came from the work of Professor Guzmán's course, Communities in/of Practice which explores the potential and challenges of public scholarship. The event was part of Dr. LeBrón's spring visit to Trinity College as the invited speaker for the annual Jan Cohn Lecture in American Studies.



In dialogue with our Trinity faculty, Professors Guzmán (Anthropology), Baldwin (American Studies) and Gabriel (Sociology), LeBrón shared valuable insights on her experiences writing for a broader audience. The workshop emphasized that the knowledge acquired in the classroom has the potential to represent and impact broader experiences, communities, and spaces.

More specifically, student participants were introduced to writing strategies for producing work that transcends their typical student-professor interactions and building a portfolio of work that reflects their personal commitments and contributes to their post-graduate trajectories.

Student Views

The CSS is excited to present a new collection of photo essays to share and explore wide range of topics within Caribbean Studies. From capturing community events on campus to exploring research and cultural narratives beyond Hartford, this series aims to document, share, and celebrate the visual memories and knowledge that reflect the complexity of the Caribbean heritage. Through these essays, we seek to honor the stories and experiences that continue to shape our understanding of Caribbean history and culture.

Marisol LeBrón: “Puerto Rican Feminists Confront the State”.



Dr. Marisol LeBrón was the invited speaker for the Spring 2024 Jan Cohn Annual Lecture in American Studies with the presentation titled “Puerto Rican Feminists Confront the State”.

Using the term Muerto Rico (Dead Rico), LeBrón centers the discussion upon women's organizing efforts with a focus on their advocating for a more transparent democracy, resource distribution, and a life with dignity free of the threat of violence in the post-Hurricane-María Puerto Rico. An important aspect of the presentation was the highlighting and valuing of non-traditional, performative ways in which Puerto Rican women empower themselves, such as by using dance and music as a form of protest.

To learn more about this talk and contemporary Puerto Rican, see the full blog [here](#).

Student Views

16th annual Samba Fest, a Musical Bing Bang at Trinity College.

Last spring, Trinity College transformed into a celebration of music, dance, and culture as it hosted the 16th annual Samba Fest. The public event brought together a community of performers and students. Produced by Professor Eric Galm (Music) and coordinated by students Ana Gomes dos Santos and Poliane Soares da Silva, as well as Joe Barber and the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement, and the Austin Arts Center, Samba Fest kicked off with performances by the student groups, AfroVibe Live and the Trinity Jazz Club.

A “Bicentennial Big Bang” led by Trinity’s Samba Ensemble and joined by Hartford's Proud Drum and Drill Dance Corp, Ray Gonzalez and Plena del Barrio, and the entire audience in attendance, united 200 musicians in playing together to celebrate Trinity College’s bicentennial.



Continue to read the entire Samba Fest blog [here](#).

Student Views

“5 Naciones, un Corazón: Five nations, one Heart”

On September 15th, the Hartford City Hall transformed to welcome the commemoration of the 203rd anniversary of Central American independence from Spain, an event made possible by the efforts of The Central American United Committee of Connecticut.



One of their signature programming highlighting Central American heritage is the raising of the flags of the countries that were once part of the former Central American Federation, established between 1823 and 1839. In our present, the countries that belonged to that nation continue to strive for greater freedoms and immigrants to the U.S. recall that history.

To learn more about this celebration and its history visit us [here](#)

Faculty Highlights

With a new website section on members of our campus community who advance the study of the Caribbean in their research and teaching, the Center for Caribbean Studies plans to begin to highlight the contributions of faculty, staff, and students. We start this series with Professor Aponte Avilés, Senior Lecturer and Language Coordinator in Language and Culture Studies, who has worked at Trinity College since 2014.

Professor Aponte-Avilés



Professor Aponte Avilés's academic journey began in Puerto Rico, where she earned her undergraduate degree in Biology and pursued graduate studies in Microbiology. However, her passion for literature and comics significantly shifted her academic focus. She transitioned to Hispanic Studies at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, and later completed her PhD at the University of Connecticut in 2018.

At Trinity, Professor Aponte Avilés has sought to enhance language learning by incorporating cultural connections, games, and community awareness into her teaching methods. Her role has expanded beyond classroom teaching to serving as the co-director of the Blume Language and Culture Learning Center.

Aponte Avilés's personal connections to the Caribbean significantly influence her academic and professional trajectory. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she brings a rich, firsthand perspective to her work. She had the opportunity to teach a course on Latinos in the US at the University of Connecticut which allowed her to build her understanding of the broader cultural and historical contexts of Caribbean culture within diaspora contexts.

Professor Aponte Avilés currently teaches "Hispanic Hartford", a course that delves into the understanding of Hartford's large and diverse set of Spanish-speaking communities. As she explained in our interview, "When you think of Hispanic Hartford, you have to think of the Caribbean community and the Latin American community in general".

Fall Review

Understanding the Caribbean Through First Year Seminars



This semester, first-year students had the opportunity to participate in seminars that explored the complexities of the Caribbean and its connections to their new home, Hartford. These courses introduced their academic journey exceptionally, fostering connections with peers, faculty, and the broader community. Through engagement with historians, artists, and scholars, students began building a foundation for critical thinking and collaborative learning of the Caribbean that will shape their time at Trinity.

Look out for soon to be published research blogs from the student research team offering more detailed descriptions and reflections of our collaborations with the First Year Seminar Program this fall as peer mentors and class contributors. See our research blog section [here](#).

FYSM 165: Story Mapping Colonialism in the Caribbean

Instructor: Dr. Maurice Wade



Dr. Wade, instructor of the FYSM “Story Mapping Colonialism in the Caribbean”, describes the goal of the seminar as “twofold”, focusing on acquainting “students with the general history of colonialism in the Caribbean”, and having them develop Story Maps —a compelling format of storytelling in ArcGIS, a mapping platform— on an aspect of that history of their choosing. Dr. Wade stated that the results produced by the students were impressive, as they covered unexpected and original topics in their final product.

Fall Review

Understanding the Caribbean & Latin America Through Trinity Courses

FYSM145: Puerto Rico and The Caribbean: Complexity, Celebration and Contradiction

Instructor: Pablo Delano

This course provided an in-depth exploration of the complexities and nuances of Caribbean society, with a special emphasis on Puerto Rico and its unique position as an unincorporated territory of the United States. The course challenged conventional stereotypes and offered insights into the contemporary Caribbean and its diaspora. It included guest speakers and interactive workshops.



HIST 204: Central America Immigration to the U.S.: A History

Instructor: Dario Euraque

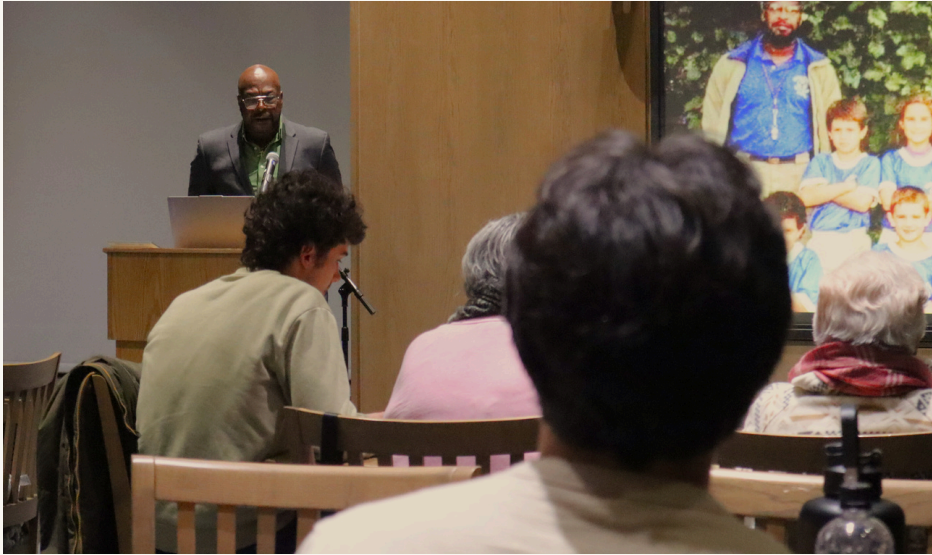
This course examined immigration trends from the five Central American countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica) to the United States, focusing from the early 19th century to the current decade. Prof. Euraque explored different issues and main events that contributed to migration waves, hence acknowledging the broader context of Latin American and Caribbean history. The course also provided a space for migrants and their testimonies, featuring Ada Rios, Sabas Whittaker, Gilma Cordero, and Gilma Galdamez.



Professor Euraque and Ada Ríos, guest speaker

Caribbean Studies in Action

“The Afro-Caribbean Diaspora and the life of a Honduran Immigrant to the US”



This November, co-director Professor Euraque hosted Sabas Whittaker, a poet, historian, mariner, composer, multidisciplinary artist, humanitarian, and author of Garifuna descent from Puerto Cortes, Honduras. In a public lecture, Whittaker shared a journey of resilience.

From sailing the world and advocating for mental health in Connecticut's Latino communities to creating art that bridges cultural and historical narratives, Whittaker's life is a true reflection of perseverance and purpose. His humanitarian efforts, including founding the Honduras Relief Committee of Connecticut after Hurricane Mitch in 1998, show his deep commitment to service.



Frames of the Caribbean

We are excited to share highlights of Caribbean culture in action beyond our campus. As a Center, we take pride in celebrating the diverse expressions, connections, and artistry that thrive across the Caribbean and its diaspora. This edition captures scenes from events such as the “2024 Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival of CT” and the “2024 Puerto Rican Parade in Hartford.” In preserving these photographic moments, we honor the collective efforts to celebrate and promote Caribbean traditions, each rich in its own regional distinctiveness. We are grateful to witness these events, be a part of them, and invite our community to engage in the opportunities they present.

Taste Of The Caribbean & Jerk Festival, Hartford



The Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival has been an important celebration in Hartford since 2006, when the Caribbean American Young Adults Social and Civic Organization (CAYASCO) teamed up with Riverfront Recapture Inc. to host the inaugural event. Over the years, the festival has grown, becoming a cornerstone of Caribbean culture in the city. Organized by the Taste of the Caribbean Arts & Culture C, the festival is more than just a feast—it's a cultural immersion.

This past August, families from across the community gathered once again to experience an afternoon filled with sounds and flavors of the Caribbean—a beautiful testament to the festival's ongoing mission to educate.



Photos by Paola Evangelista

Frames of the Caribbean

Hartford 2024 Puerto Rican Parade

This September, Bushnell Park was filled with Puerto Rican flags. Considered the largest parade in the city and region of Hartford, around 3,000 people took part in the march. Participants ranged from community organizations to media groups and elected officials.

Black and white Puerto Rican flags representing resistance were also perceived between the rest of the colored flags.



Learn more about the history of the Puerto Rican Parade in Hartford with this [learning resource](#) by public historian, Elena Rosario.



Photos by Mafer Vacca

Opportunities

RESEARCH GRANTS 2024-2025

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Center for Caribbean Studies provides funding for research that broadens the knowledge and understanding of the Caribbean region, and its community both at home and in the diaspora, in the context of the Center's mission. The Center is dedicated to supporting Trinity students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the Hartford community in research and projects.

Grants could fund but are not limited to, diverse projects such as:

- 1) Individual research leading to publication;
- 2) Student thesis/senior project research;
- 3) Scholarly projects focusing on the historic and contemporary countries in the Caribbean coastal regions of North, Central, and South America;
- 4) A scholarly endeavor or event with faculty and students at various academic institutions locally or in the Caribbean region;
- 5) A collaborative project that engages Caribbean communities in Greater Hartford.

The maximum grant amount is \$2,000 with the possibility to exceed that amount for truly exceptional proposals. However, proposals that exceed \$2,000 will be considered on a very exceptional basis.

HOW TO APPLY

Information on how to apply for research grants can be found [here](#).

Proposals are accepted and considered on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted. Please contact CCS co-directors or the CCS Program Coordinator.

ELIGIBILITY

The CCS will consider grant proposals from:

- 1) A current member of the Trinity faculty or staff undertaking individual research or research carried out in collaboration with a Trinity student or Greater Hartford Area resident.
- 2) A Trinity undergraduate or graduate student currently enrolled at the college.
- 3) A Trinity faculty member, staff member, or student in partnership with a member of the Hartford community.
- 4) A Trinity faculty member or student in partnership with researchers associated with a Center or Institute in the Grand Caribbean region formally recognized by the directors of the CCS.

CRITERIA

Applicants should demonstrate how their project supports the Center's Mission and meets the following criteria:

- Increase the visibility of the Caribbean region on campus and in the community, leveraging the College's educational resources.
- Focus on inter-Caribbean connectedness, as well as the fluid ties between the region and other parts of the world.
- Encourage the partnership between the academic programs at Trinity and the local groups in the community.
- Partner with groups or organizations in the local Hartford Caribbean community for collaborative learning.
- Demonstrate the potential to serve as an innovative model for future projects and/or possess the potential for further growth that can be sustained over time (with the potential for additional future funding).

Opportunities

TEACHING GRANTS 2024-2025

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Center for Caribbean Studies (CCS) provides funding for teaching initiatives that broaden the knowledge and understanding of the Grand Caribbean region and its peoples at home and in the diaspora, in the context of the Center's mission.

Grants could fund, but are not limited to, such diverse projects as the following:

- 1) Development of a new course, in any discipline or interdisciplinary, dedicated to engaging the Caribbean (up to \$1000).
- 2) Revision of an existing course to better highlight the Caribbean, or to include a new unit related to the Caribbean (up to \$500).
- 3) Development of an interdisciplinary cluster of courses—from 3-4 faculty (up to \$500-\$1000 per faculty, depending on proposal).
- 4) A reading group on a topic related to the Caribbean (grant covers books for all members), with the possibility of collaborating with other projects at Trinity College.
- 5) A proposal that explores a specific on-site experiential engagement for Trinity faculty and student research, teaching, and learning in a country in the Grand Caribbean. Examples are: a remote course co-taught by faculty and attended by students from Trinity and a partner institution; a course that features lectures by faculty and experts throughout the Grand Caribbean; and seed funds to explore and develop a Grand Caribbean on-site experiential engagement proposal to the Study Away Office. Funding amounts would vary depending on the scope of the proposed engagement project.

CRITERIA

Applicants should show how their project supports the Center's Mission. Preference will be given to projects that satisfy the following criteria:

- 1) Increase the visibility of the Caribbean region on campus and in the Greater Hartford community, leveraging the College's educational resources.
- 2) Focus on inter-Caribbean connectedness, as well as the fluid ties between the region and other parts of the world.
- 3) Encourage the partnership between the academic programs at Trinity and the local groups in the community.
- 4) Demonstrate the potential to serve as an innovative model for future projects and/or possess the potential for further growth that can be sustained over time (with the potential for additional future funding).

ELIGIBILITY

Proposals are accepted and considered on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted. Please contact CCS co-directors or the CCS Program Coordinator. The CCS will consider teaching grant proposals from: 1) A current member of the Trinity faculty. 2) A Trinity faculty member in partnership with (a) student(s), or a resident of the Hartford or Greater Hartford community.

HOW TO APPLY

Information on how to apply for teaching grants can be found [here](#).

Opportunities

STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Caribbean and Latin American Fellowship Sponsored by the Watkinson Library, Center for Caribbean Studies, and the History Department

Explore an exciting opportunity at the Watkinson Special Collections Library right here at Trinity. They seek intellectually passionate Trinity students to help them find new ways to explore the Watkinson Library's holdings of Caribbean and Latin American collections.

The first stage of this fellowship will involve organizing and promoting our current available materials. In the second, students will develop creative projects that help to tell the stories that emerge from the breadth of primary and secondary resources in the Watkinson Library, including maps, drawings, rare books, archival collections, and more.

Student projects could include processing archival collections, creating library study guides to help others with their research, collecting metadata for the Trinity in Trinidad video archive, conducting oral history interviews with the Latino/a/x community in Hartford to add to our current oral history archive or any other project that can help to create, highlight, and make accessible our resources on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sponsored by the Center for Caribbean Studies, the Watkinson Library, and the History Department, Watkinson/CCS Fellows will receive a stipend of \$1,000 per academic semester. Reading proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, or other languages registered in the history and culture of the Caribbean is preferred. Your project, accompanied by a brief report outlining your weekly progress and reflective experience, will be presented at an event towards the end of each award term.

The Center for Caribbean Studies Maurice Wade Student Fellowship in Caribbean Anti-Colonial Thought

This one-semester student fellowship provides an opportunity for a Trinity College student to work in collaboration with the co-directors of the College's Center for Caribbean Studies and a Trinity College faculty sponsor/supervisor to maintain and develop the Center's Online Archive of Caribbean Anti-Colonial Thought. This archival project is steeped in the following Mission of the Center: to embrace the broader Caribbean – the Greater and Lesser Antilles and the coastal regions of Central and South America – as an area for scholarly inquiry with a special focus on inter-Caribbean connectedness, as well as the fluid historical and contemporary ties between the region, its diasporas, and other parts of the world. The Center will also celebrate and study the Caribbean character of the city of Hartford.



Photo by Paola Evangelista' 26