

The Sustainable Rural and Agricultural Development Research Cluster (S/RAD),  
SALISES, The UWI, Mona

# S/RAD Speaker Series

## COVID-19 Discourses on Fleeing the Plantation: A Modern Marronage for Sustainable Food Systems



### Patricia Northover

Patricia Northover, is a Senior Fellow at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, at the University of the West Indies, Mona. (SALISES, UWI). She is a Jamaica Commonwealth/Chevening Scholar, Critical Philosopher and Heterodox Economist working in the field of Post-colonial Development studies, with emphasis on race critical theory, global transformations, rural development and decolonial praxis.

She is the author and co-author of several articles, special issues and book chapters on economic philosophy, globalization and cultural power dynamics, economic growth theory, as well as sustainable rural and Caribbean development, published in the Cambridge Journal of Economics, South Atlantic Quarterly, Cultural Dynamics, Global South, Caribbean Dialogue, Small States Digest and Social and Economic Studies. She has published with Michaeline Crichlow, *Globalization and the Post-Creole Imagination: Notes on Fleeing the Plantation*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2009 and is co-editor, with M. Crichlow and J. Giusti-Cordero, of the 2018 SUNY text, *Race and Rurality in the Global Economy*.

She is currently a co-investigator on the project, "Food Insecurity at the Time of Climate Change: Sharing and Learning from Bottom-Up Responses in the Caribbean Region" funded by UK Research and Innovation through the Global Challenges Research Fund. <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=AH%2FT004355%2F1>

W E D N E S D A Y

**05** MAY  
2021

**01:00pm (EST)**

**Moderator:**

**Dr Sylvia Mitchell**

Medicinal Plant Research Group,  
The Biotechnology Centre, The UWI

**To register please visit**

**<https://bit.ly/3xksNnN>**

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# About the S/RAD Speaker Series

Framed by the COVID-19 and other crises, the SALISES rural research cluster seeks to advance critical and decolonial rethinking for a paradigm reset in order to realize secure rural futures and authentic development pathways. Through

this series, we will engage rural stakeholders in the region and elsewhere for realizing the SDG goals, vital to this cluster, of zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, plus decent work and growth in the context of the Plantationocene.

## Abstract:

### Food Systems In Crises: Contradictions and Vital Imperatives

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“Food is failing us.” This is the overwhelming consensus from a variety of critical stakeholders, from the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2019 report highlighting the centrality of food and land use systems to the dynamics of climate change, to the conservative think tank, Foreign Policy, as expressed in the opinion essay by Jason Hickel entitled, *The Global Food Crisis is here*. Indeed, as Rockstrom et al, (2019) comment: “Food systems hold a firm grip over the stability of the Earth system and the future of humanity.” To highlight this, they point out that unhealthy food is the world’s biggest killer, with diet related chronic diseases estimated to be responsible for 11 million premature deaths in 2017 alone. This is in

tandem with the fact that globally, the number of persons who are hungry and malnourished is increasing, with FAO (2019) estimating this number to be 2 billion (with severe and moderate level of food insecurity).

In this short reflection paper, I will argue that this crises calls for a modern day marronage that invokes 3 D thinking, that is: 1) Divergent, 2) Disruptive and 3) Decolonial intellectual frameworks in order to flee the untenable neoliberal-reformist agenda of saving clauses, silver bullets and a sublime forgetfulness that acts to preserve the Plantation logic of racialized food regimes.