



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF THE  
WEST INDIES



SIR ARTHUR LEWIS  
INSTITUTE OF  
SOCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC  
STUDIES

# SALISES (MONA)

## Newsletter

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Inside this issue...

- 15th Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference
- Launch Social and Economic Studies (SES) Reparations Issue

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## Credits

Compilation of Content

**Nadine Newman**

Graphic Design and Layout

**Orin Spence**

# 15th Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference

The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), The University of the West Indies (UWI), in collaboration with The United Children's Fund (UNICEF Eastern Caribbean), with funding from USAID, staged (virtually) the 15th Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference on November 25-26, 2020. The theme of the Conference was: *"Pandemics and Children's Rights (UN Convention of the Rights of the Child)"*. Paper submissions were invited from adult researchers, child researchers (ages 12-17) and essay and poster competitions for children ages 8-11 years.

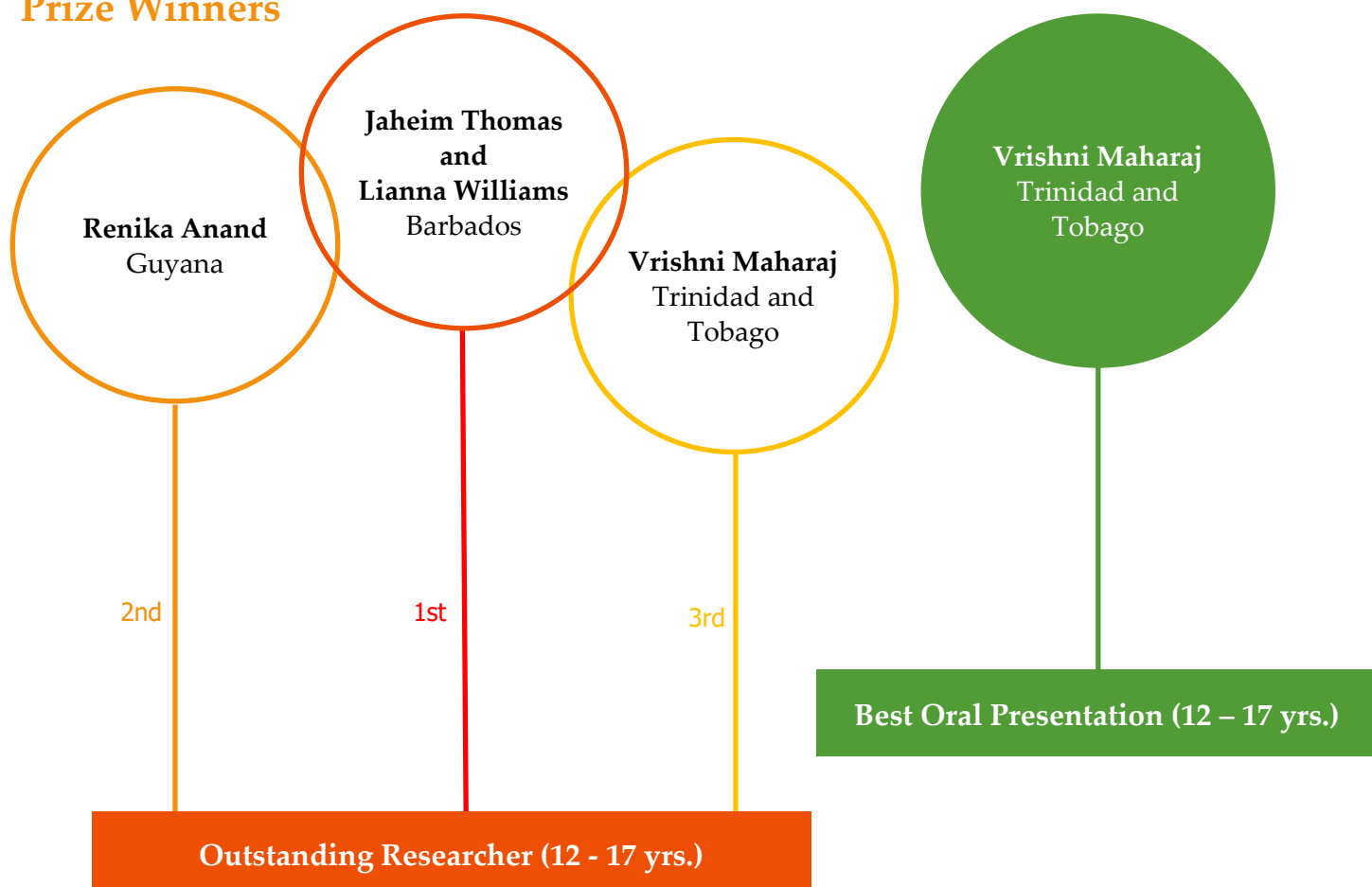
Speaking on day one of the conference Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee expressed her views on the state of education during the pandemic. She highlighted the findings from a small study on the experience of teachers of physical education (PE) and pointed out that the disruption in daily routines had led to the violation of children's rights to good quality education. At another session on day one, "Child Trafficking, Child Rights and the COVID Pandemic", Dr. Ruykia Brown explained that the COVID-19 pandemic has facilitated increased vulnerabilities in terms of greater opportunity for traffickers to prey on children. At another session, "Gender, Food, Nutrition

and Children's Health", Dr. Alafia Samuel explained that one in three Caribbean children is obese or overweight.

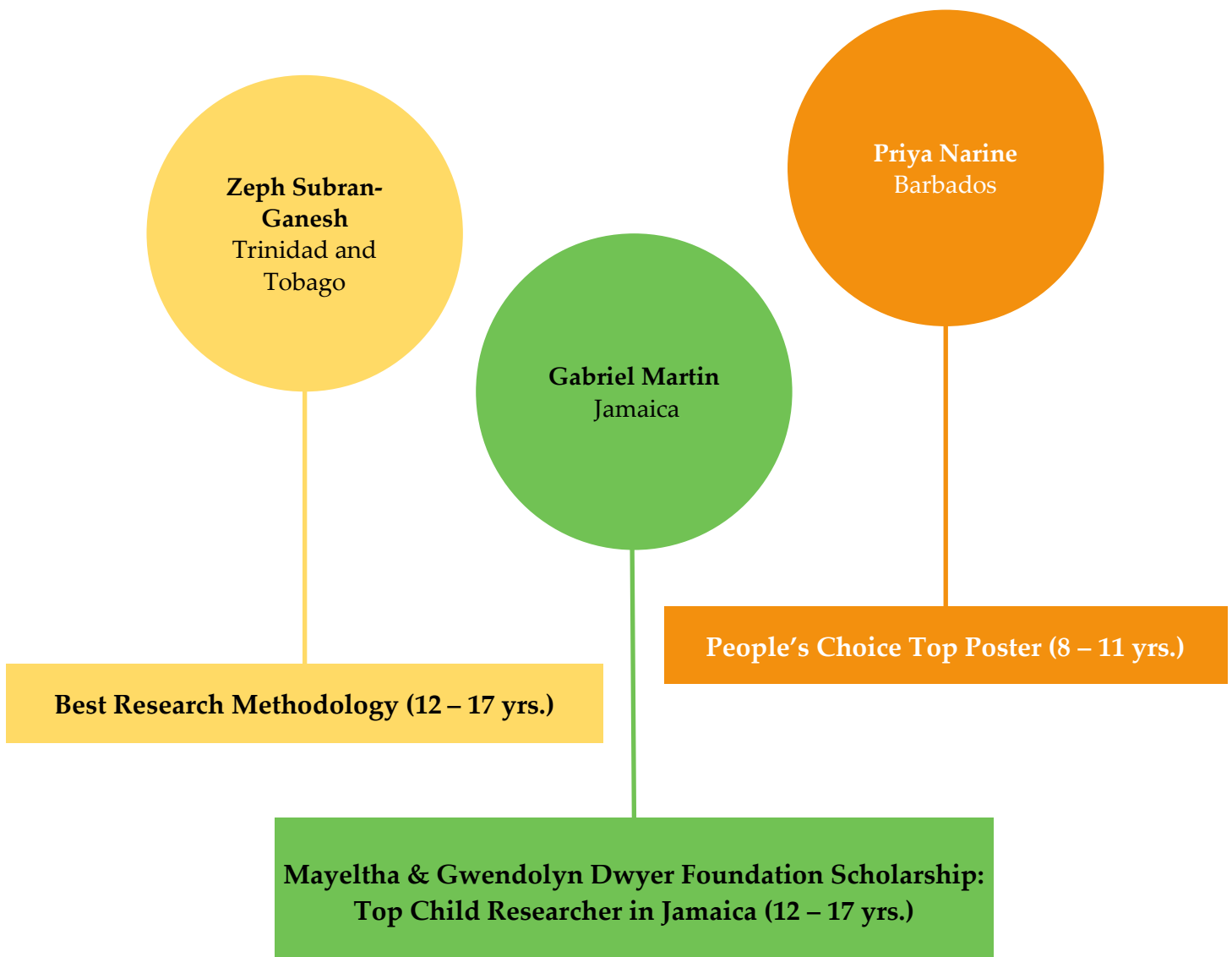
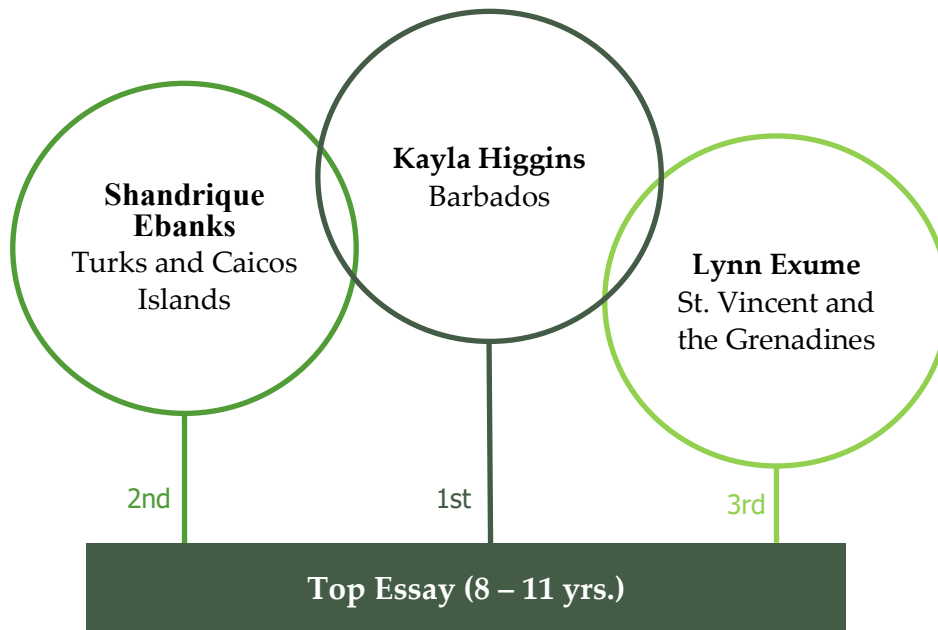
Day two of the Conference included three children's panels where the young researchers passionately and eloquently explained through research how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the rights of children. Jamaica's Gabriel Martin stated "In this pandemic many children are suffering. Some households have one computer and more than one child, how will all the children attend school? Social protection is a child's right and an investment into the nation's future."

The conference continues to bring together children, teachers, child advocates, academics, policy formulators and implementers, state and non-state actors to discuss the status of children's rights, child welfare and child developments in the Caribbean. This is the only research conference in the Caribbean that gives equal voice to adult and child researchers, the main objective of which is to ensure that child rights remain on the policy agenda and are included in actions aimed at attaining targets linked to key Sustainable Development Goals.

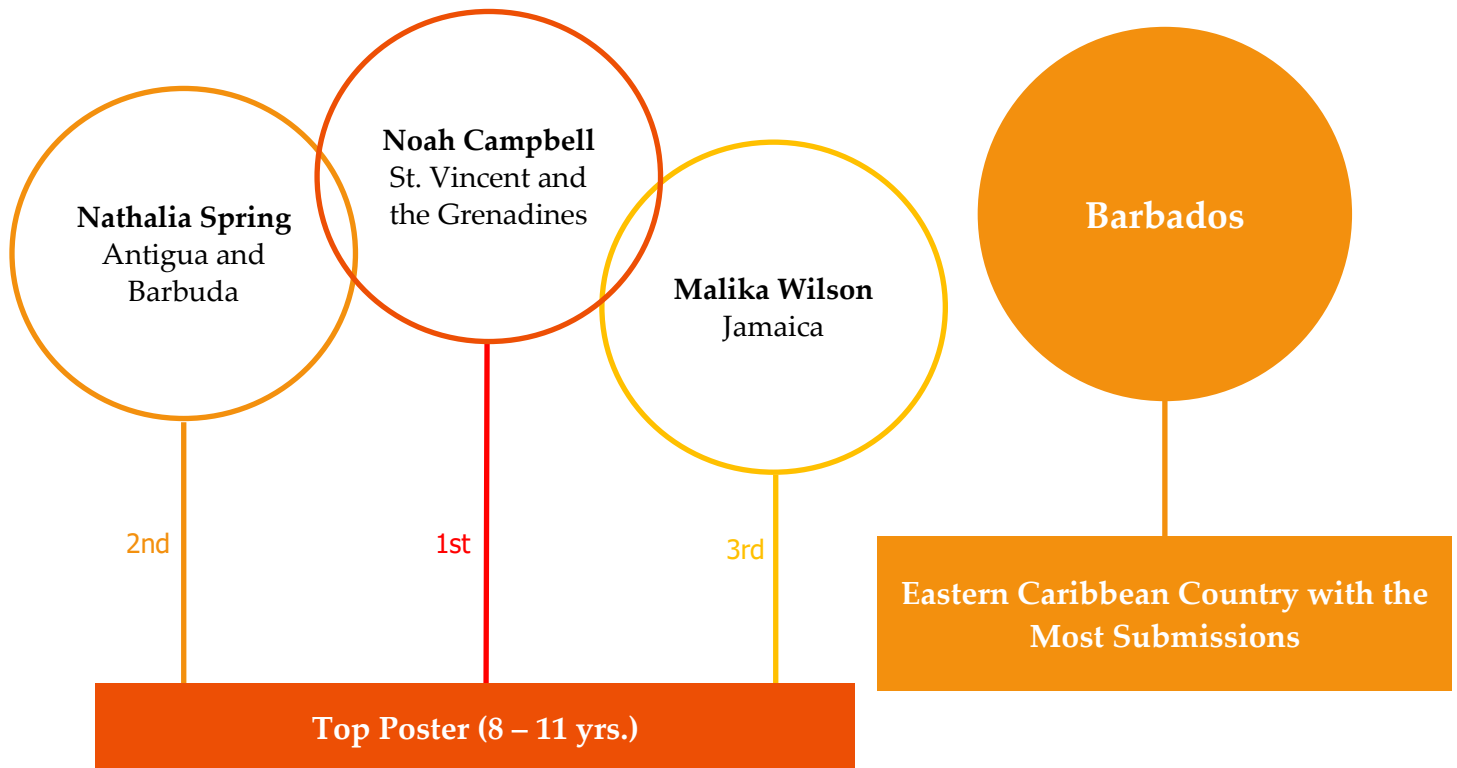
## Prize Winners



## Prize Winners cont'd



## Prize Winners cont'd



**Dacia Leslie, PhD, presenting Gabriel Martin top Jamaican Child Researcher with the Mayeltha & Gwendolyn Dwyer Foundation scholarship**



# New Publications (October 2020 – February 2021)

## Chapter in an edited Book

**Dietrich-Jones, N.** (2020). Against the tide?: A socio-legal review of Caribbean SIDS' (non)-compliance with international agreements on migrants and refugees and the protection of vulnerable migrants. In L. Briguglio, J. Byron, S. Moncada, & W. Veenendaal (Eds.), *Handbook of Governance in Small States (Routledge International Handbooks)* (1st ed., pp. 248–264). Routledge.

**Dietrich-Jones, N.** (2020). Labouring on the border of inclusion/exclusion: Undocumented CARICOM migrants in the Barbadian economy. In *Border Transgression and Reconfiguration of Caribbean Spaces*, eds. Myriam Moïse and Fred Reno, Palgrave-MacMillan

**Leslie, D., & Centifanti, L.** (2020). Children of prisoners have protection needs too -Insights from the lived experiences of offenders. In W. Wallace (Ed.) *Caribbean Perspectives on Criminology and Criminal Justice: Volume II*. Washington D.C.: Westphalia Press, pg. 201-236

## Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Fourer, Margarita, **Dietrich Jones, N.** and Ciftci, Yusuf (2020) Offshore Processing Arrangements: Effect on Treaty Ratifications of Receiving States, *Laws*, 9(4), 23; <https://doi.org/10.3390/laws9040023>

David Eduard Barreto Sánchez, Laura Gutiérrez Escobar, Catalina Toro Pérez, Line Algoed, Pambana Bassett, YaYa Marin Coleman, Tomaso Ferrando, Hugh Johnson, Mariolga Juliá Pacheco, Graybern Livingston Forbes, John Mussington, **Patricia Northover**, Jessica Paddock. (2021). Food, Land and Climate Justice in the Caribbean: Systemic Responses to COVID-19 as a State of Protracted Climate Emergency." *Ecologia Politica*. [www.ecologiapolitica.info/?p=14503](http://www.ecologiapolitica.info/?p=14503).

Williams, K. (2020). Do remittances condition the relationship between trade and government consumption? *Applied Economics Letter*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2020.1834072>.

Williams, K. (2021), Do International Sanctions Reduce Household and Government Consumption in Developing Countries? *South African Journal of Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/saje.12281>.

**Williams, K.** (2021), Does national income mediate the relationship between trade and government size? *Empirical Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00181-021-02017-3>

## Peer-reviewed Case Studies

**Leslie, D.** (2021). Preserving researcher safety while investigating recidivism in a Caribbean context. In *SAGE Research Methods Cases in Sociology*. <https://www.doi.org/10.4135/9781529759044>

**Leslie, D.** (2021). The problem with snowballing in a small island context. In *SAGE Research Methods Cases in Sociology*. <https://www.doi.org/10.4135/9781529759259>

## Newspaper Article

**Leslie, D.** (2020, December 15). Correctional Reform Beyond Coronavirus Pandemic. *The Jamaica Gleaner*. <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/commentary/20201215/dacia-leslie-correctional-reform-beyond-coronavirus-pandemic>

## Conference/Seminar Presentations

**Dietrich-Jones, N.** (2020, November 23–25). *Interdictions, Detentions and Deportations in the Dutch Caribbean* [Online Presentation]. International Migration and Refugees Conference, Online.

**Henry-Lee, A.** (2020, November 25–26). *Child Rights, COVID-19 and Physical Education* [Online Presentation]. 15th annual Caribbean Child Research Conference, Online.

**Henry-Lee, A., Leach, R., & Johnson-Coke, Y.** (2020, December 10–13). *Child Poverty and Social Protection in Jamaica* [Online Presentation]. 21st Annual SALISES Conference, Tobago.

**Henry-Lee, A.** (2021, February 25). *The CRC @ 30: Violence Against Children in the Caribbean*. Online conference hosted by the International Sociological Association.

**Leslie, D.** (2020, November 4). Invited talk/Lecture- Guest Speaker, 'Exploring the Dynamics of Female Recidivism in Jamaica', Bournemouth University, United Kingdom.

**Leslie, D.** (2020, December 4). Virtual Seminar - Presenter, Caribbean Perspectives on Criminology and Criminal Justice, Volumes 1& 2.

**Leslie, D.** (2020, December 12). Virtual Seminar - Presenter, Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC), Open Campus UWI, Stakeholder Meeting.

**Leslie, D.** (2021, January 7). "A Global South Country Perspective on Prison Overcrowding and COVID-19," FSS Research Writer's Conference, Golden Shore Beach Resort Hotel, Lyssons, St. Thomas.

## Conference/Seminar Attended

**Leslie, D.** (2020, October 16). UNDP "Civil Society Dialogue on Vulnerable Groups in Justice System. Focusing on Children in Conflict with the Law and Persons with Disabilities". Zoom.

**Leslie, D.** (2020, October 28). Hand Over Ceremony of the Witness Care Integrated Strategic Plan and finalised Child Justice Protocols to the Minister of Justice on behalf of Global Affairs Canada and UNDP, Jamaica.

**Leslie, D.** (2020, November 30). Virtual discussion, "Prisons and COVID-19". Organised by Alexis Goffe.

**Leslie, D.** (2020, December 11). The Innovation in Citizen Services Division (ICS) of the Inter-American Develop-

ment Bank (IDB), Imprisonment in the Caribbean: Launch of the Regional Comparative Report: Survey of Individuals Deprived of Liberty, Caribbean (2016–2019), Zoom.

**Leslie, D.** (2021, February 3). UNESCO, "Innovative Research and Practices in Education in Prison", Zoom.

## Conference/Seminar Chaired

**Leslie, D.** (2020, November 23-25). Chair, Virtual International Conference on Migration and Refugees: Caribbean and International Social Work Perspectives.

**Leslie, D.** (2020, November 25). Chairperson, UWI/ UNICEF 15th Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference, Session 2: Child Trafficking, Child Rights and the COVID Pandemic (Round Table).

## Panel Discussion

**Dietrich-Jones, N.** (2020, November 16). Impact of the US Elections [Panel Discussion]. New Jersey City University, New Jersey City.

## Virtual Discussion/Webinar

**Leslie, D.** (2020, December 4). Caribbean Perspectives on Criminology and Criminal Justice, Volumes 1& 2.

**Paul, A.** (Dec 9, 2020). When We Do See Color: Ending Global Racism Part 2: Diaspora & Colorism organized by Dr Keshia Abrahams of The Forum on Education Abroad (<https://forumea.org/>).

**Paul, A.** (2021, February 24). PREE, the digital magazine of Caribbean writing, celebrated the publication of its first print edition Bookmarked, and inaugurated its print arm, PREE ink, with a webinar in collaboration with the Shuttleworth Foundation and the Prince Claus Fund.

## Invited Talks/ Guest Lectures

**Henry-Lee, A.** (2021, January 21). Keynote Speaker: *We Can't Breathe: Sir Arthur Lewis and Reparatory Justice for the Caribbean*. Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lecture for the St.

Lucian Reparations Committee.

**Henry-Lee, A.** (2020, November 23). Research and Innovation: Imperative for sustainable inclusive development. Forum organized by the Government of St. Lucia and GEF SGP UNDP.

**Leslie, D.** Guest Speaker, 'Exploring the Dynamics of Female Recidivism in Jamaica', Bournemouth University, United Kingdom.

**Paul, A.** (2020, October. 29). Meet the Author, 90 minute presentation to Caribbean Civilization course students on Stuart Hall moderated by Dr Hugh Douse.

## Book Review

**Dietrich-Jones, N.** (2021). [Review of the book *Deporting Black Britons: Portraits of Deportation to Jamaica* by Luke de Noronha. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lse-review-of-books/2021/01/12/book-review-deporting-black-britons-portraits-of-deportation-to-jamaica-by-luke-de-noronha/>

## In the News

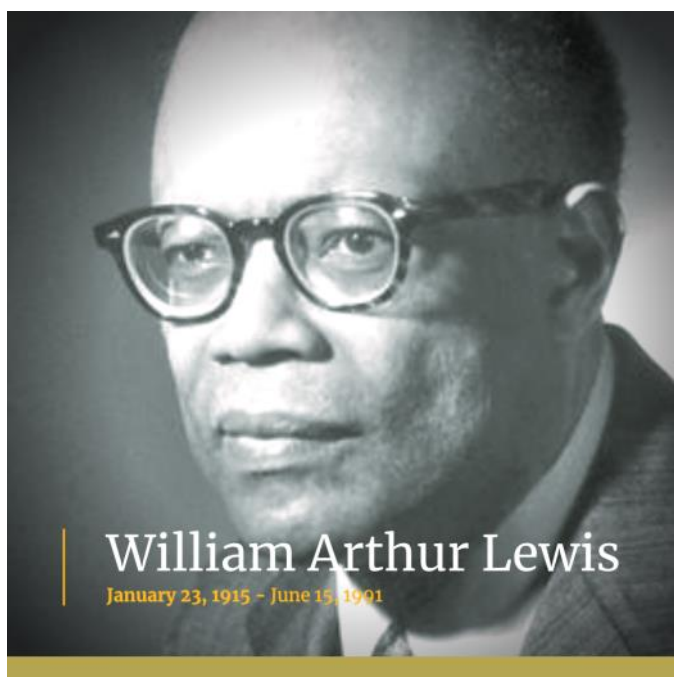
**Henry-Lee, A.** (2020, October 24). Safeguarding our Children in Sports. Strategic Sport Consultation. The Drive Phase Media.

**Northover, P.** (2020, October 16). Farm Talk, Power 106 FM with Althea McKenzie, Interview on Food Systems and Food Insecurity for UN Food and Agriculture World Food Day.

## Interview

**Paul, A.** (2020, September. 12). "From Kerala (India) to Jamaica and Beyond: Writing and Publishing from the Caribbean." A Story Club: Global Cultures S1 E5. An interview with Dr Kirk Meighoo.

# Sir Arthur Lewis Week (January 18 – 23, 2021)



Sir Arthur Lewis week saw a series of events hosted across SALISES's Cave Hill, Mona and St Augustine cam-

puses, including forums to discuss the current relevance of Lewis's work in today's society. At SALISES Mona, we shared the experiences of our researchers, students and alumni through a series of video presentations on social media platforms. We also shared the work of the Norman Girvan Documentation Centre, the Publication Unit and the Derek Gordon Databank.

SALISES annually commemorates the work of Sir Arthur Lewis, the University's first vice-chancellor, and celebrate his research contributions to economic policy and process in the Caribbean. The St Lucia-born economist was a Nobel Prize Laureate (1979) as well as a former president of the Caribbean Development Bank. His legacy surrounds pioneering research in economic growth and development – particularly involving developing countries. The University of the West Indies declared January 23 'W Arthur Lewis Day', in 2018 when it celebrated its 70th anniversary.



His legacy includes pioneering research in economic growth and development – particularly involving developing countries. The University of the West Indies declared January 23 'W Arthur Lewis Day', in 2018 when it celebrated its 70th anniversary.

Visit our YouTube playlist for:

- **insights on the achievement of SALISES research fellows and Alumni**

- **learn about the operations of the various units in the department**
- **hear about the experiences of our students.**

**Playlist:** [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgjtLUiPy6TSe\\_84dtOavR8xSzN7LUeT](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgjtLUiPy6TSe_84dtOavR8xSzN7LUeT)

## Commissioned Grants/Projects

### **Horizon Scanning & Foresighting Study for Jamaica's Third City**

Funder: Urban Development Corporation (UDC)

Partner: Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)

Duration: Six Months

Research Team: Professor Anthony Clayton (ISD), Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee, Dr. Arlene Bailey, Dr. Natalie Dietrich Jones, Dr. Kevin Williams, Ms. Yhanore Johnson - Coke, Ms. Rushana Mighty

### **TIP Office 2018 International Programs to Combat Child Trafficking in Jamaica**

Funder: US Department of State

Partner: Institute for Gender & Development Studies (IGDS)

Sub-Award: Winrock International

Duration: Three Years

Research Team: Dr. Leith Dunn (IGDS), Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee, Dr. Dacia Leslie, Dr. Natalie Dietrich Jones, Mr. Richard Leach, Ms. Kara Harris

### **Food Insecurity at the Time of Climate Change: Sharing and Learning from Bottom-Up Responses in the Caribbean Region**

Grant Institution: UK Research Innovation Global Challenges Research Fund UKRI GCRF

Duration: Two Years

Principal Investigator: Dr Jessica Paddock -- University of Bristol, Co-investigators: Professor Catalina Toro Perez -- National University of Columbia, Dr Tomaso Ferrando -- University of Antwerp, Dr Patricia Northover -- University of the West Indies

### **The Conduct of Disability Assessments in Borrowing Member Countries Funder: Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)**

Partner: UWI Centre for Disabilities Studies (UWICDS)

Duration: Two Years

Research Team: Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee, Dr. Jacqueline Huggins, Dr. Arlene Bailey, Dr. Leith Dunn, Prof Maureen Samms-Vaughn, Dr. Warren Benfield, Dr. Floyd Morris, Dr. Dacia Leslie, Mrs. Yhanore Johnson-Coke, Mr. Richard Leach

### **Global Partnership Network (GPN) on the SDG 17**

addressing the themes of 1. Partnerships in Development Cooperation, 2. Partnerships in the Global Economy and 3. Partnerships in Knowledge Production

Duration: Four Years

The Principal Investigator is Prof Aram Ziai, University of Kassel, and it includes 10 countries and 12 universities. Co-Investigators: Dr Patricia Northover -- University of the West Indies among others. See link: <https://www.uni-kassel.de/forschung/globalpartnership-network/home>

### **Socio-economic impact of Carnival in Jamaica**

Funder: Tourism Enhancement Fund, Jamaica

Partner: Department of Economics (DoE), Mona, UWI

Duration: 6 months

Research Team: Dr Christine Clarke (DoE), Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee, (SALISES), Yhanore Johnson-Coke (SALISES), Staciann Williams-Dyer (SALISES)

### **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Project – Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Jamaica**

Funder: UNDP

Partner: CAPRI

Duration: 6 months

Research Team: Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee (SALISES), Dr Damien King (CAPRI), Arlene Bailey (SALISES), Justice Okeugo (SALISES), Shane Bennett (CAPRI), Monique Graham (CAPRI)

**Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) - Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP)**  
 Funder: European Union/JSIF  
 Duration: 3 months

Research Team: Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee (SALISES), Dr. Arlene Bailey (SALISES), Dr Christine Clarke (Dept. of Economics), Justice Okeugo (SALISES) and Sammara Reynolds (SALISES)

## SALISES Seminar Series & Public Forum



Date	Speaker (s)	Title
March 11, 2021	Dillon Alleyne	The New Jamaica: Establishing a Knowledge Based Society
March 12, 2021	Yaneek Page	Monetizing Your Academic Degree in a Pandemic and Beyond
March 18, 2021	Samuel Braithwaite	Economic Evaluations & Return on Investments
March 31, 2021	Matthew Samuda, Jim Randall, Alejandro Rossi, Gabriel M. Gonzalez-Escobar, Tonya T. Ayow, Charles L. Murphy, Hilary G. Herman, Nicklon Anthony Elliot, Corin Bailey, Dacia Leslie	Successfully Managing the COVID-19 Pandemic in Prison: The Experiences of Caribbean SIDS

To view recordings of selected events at SALISES, please visit and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)

## Launch Social and Economic Studies (SES) Reparations Issue



The launch of the Social and Economic Studies (SES) special issue on reparations (Vol 68 Nos 3 & 4) on January 23, 2021, was part of the Sir Arthur Lewis Week of activities. The launch was moderated by Prof. Verene

Shepard, included remarks from Prof. Hilary Beckles and the guest speaker was Prof. Michele Johnson of York University. The Reparations issue was guest edited by Profs. Hilary Beckles, Verene Shepherd and Ahmed Reid.

As the editors observed, this issue makes clear that while the ideas for restitution are not new, they have taken on greater urgency in the last decade. It is from these histories and their legacies that the contributors to this volume collectively argue that the call for reparation can and should be made. This SES special issue on Reparations demonstrates the growth of the historiography of the movement and the scholarly output that has accompanied the intensification of this global movement for justice.

Available in print from the SALISES Publications Unit and online at <https://www.mona.uwi.edu/ses/>

[Please click here for the archived video of the Reparations issue launch.](#)

# Spotlight Features

## Prof. Aldrie Henry-Lee

During the months of November (Youth Month) - December 2020: We focused on Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee who is a child rights advocate and researcher on children's issues.



See tweet: <https://twitter.com/SALISESMona/status/1324091591565389828?s=20>

See video: <https://youtu.be/PHSwVo61uUY>

## Dr. Dacia Leslie

During the months of February – March 2021:

We focused on Dr. Dacia Leslie, a social researcher and Commonwealth scholar, undertaking academic work and public service in the areas of offender reintegration, crime prevention, evidence-based policymaking, human development and evaluation.



See video: <https://youtu.be/ZtFRMZPDnV4>

# Student Highlight



## Novelette Panton, PhD, JP

Dr. Novelette Panton was a registered part-time student in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), where she graduated in 2020 with the PhD Economic Development Policy; Her thesis is titled *An*

*Exploration of the Structural Form of Central Banks sand the Extent to which Low and Stable Inflation is consistent with Particular Structures.*

Novelette is the Division Chief of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Division at the Bank of Jamaica, where she has responsibility for the Payment System and Cambio & Remittance, Licensing & Monitoring Departments. Her areas of responsibility include

providing oversight and regulation of the systemically important payment systems to ensure that they are safe, efficient, reliable and secure and the provision of authorization to Payment Service Providers to issue electronic retail payment services, as well as, researching, advising and implementing FinTech innovations. In addition, the licensing and supervision of Money Services Businesses (MSBs), that is Cambios and Remittance entities, fall under her purview. She has been employed to the Bank of Jamaica for over 36 years and worked in various other areas of the Bank, inclusive of Currency Operations, Economic Research, Administration Training & Pension and Corporate Risk Management.

Novelette serves as an Elder at the Webster Memorial United Church and is a Justice of the Peace & Lay Magistrate of St. Andrew. She has been married to Debon for 28 years and they have a son, Kareem.



# Alumni



Rowen Johnson (MSc. Development Studies Graduate, Class of 2020) – *Recipient of the Global Leadership Diploma Scholarship*



Jovan Johnson (SALISES Alumnus) – *Recipient of the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) Awards*. A senior reporter of The Gleaner Jovan copped the Hector Bernard/Theodore Sealy Award for News (print) as well as the Award for Excellence in Reporting in Agriculture.

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Dr. Dacial Leslie, Principal Investigator, Witness Care Integrated Strategic Plan, Althea McBean, Justice Reform Consultant, Finalised Child Justice Protocols, Hand over ceremony, Ministry of Justice, Oct 28, 2020

For more information and resources, visit the Witness Care Project visit:


[Witness Care Project | SALISES \(uwi.edu\)](https://www.witnesscareproject.org/)



## Congratulations Class of 2020

### PhD Economic Development Policy

Novelette Panton



## Congratulations Class of 2020

### MSc Development Studies

Chantol Dormer  
Janice Golding-Williams  
Othneil Hemans

Rowen Johnson  
Ashley Neisbeth  
Kimberly Nugent

Chetwyn Ryce  
Tina Williams



# Staff Congratulations

## Congratulations!

### PROFESSOR ALDRIE HENRY-LEE

on being inducted into St. Lucia's **Virtual Hall of Honour** for 100 women who have contributed to the island's history and educational achievements, arts and culture and preservation of Kweyol language and African cultural heritage. [Read more](#)



### Long Service Awards for 30 years of Service to the University



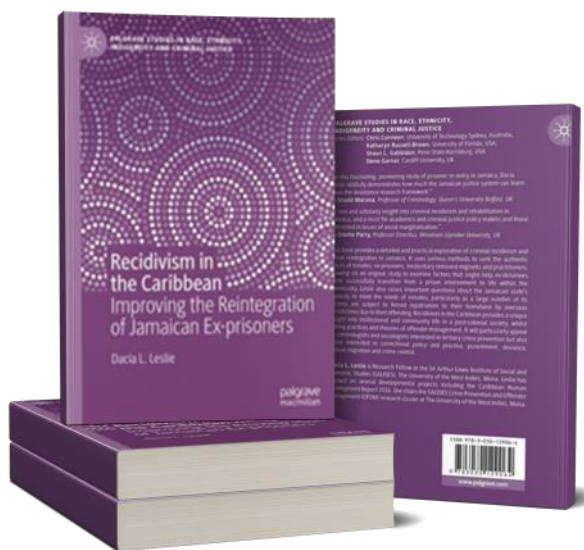
**Romeo Williams**



**Annie Paul**

**Annie Paul** — Appointed to Editorial Advisory Board of the *Gender, Sexuality and Global Politics* series, Bristol University Press.

**Dr. Dacia Leslie** — *Principal's Award for Best FSS Publication 2019/2020* (Leslie, D. 2019. *Recidivism in the Caribbean. Improving the Reintegration of Jamaican Ex-prisoners*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030129064>).



## Regional Staff



**Dr. Corin Bailey** –  
(SALISES, Cave Hill)  
*Principal's Award for  
Excellence 2019/2020*



**Professor Hamid Ghany** –  
(SALISES, St Augustine) –  
*Promoted to Professor of  
Constitutional Affairs and  
Parliamentary Studies*

# SALISES in the News

"Children's rights being violated amid COVID-19, says UWI professor", Jamaica Observer, November 26, 2020.

[http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/children-s-rights-being-violated-amid-covid-19-says-uwi-professor\\_208534?profile=1606&fbclid=IwAR1GJTD0ZDIrGznZZ4T-HQmIkhgE4x5etLiulsEcAKnOAc4tXh2Mra-GJ5s](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/children-s-rights-being-violated-amid-covid-19-says-uwi-professor_208534?profile=1606&fbclid=IwAR1GJTD0ZDIrGznZZ4T-HQmIkhgE4x5etLiulsEcAKnOAc4tXh2Mra-GJ5s)

"TERRIFYING: Caribbean students express fear of dying, say COVID-19 has wrecked their lives", Jamaica Observer, November 27, 2020.

[http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/front-page/terrifying-caribbean-students-express-fear-of-dying-say-covid-19-has-wrecked-their-lives\\_208621?profile=1606](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/front-page/terrifying-caribbean-students-express-fear-of-dying-say-covid-19-has-wrecked-their-lives_208621?profile=1606)

"Correctional reform beyond coronavirus pandemic", Jamaica Gleaner, December 15, 2020.

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/commentary/20201215/dacia-leslie-correctional-reform-beyond-coronavirus-pandemic>

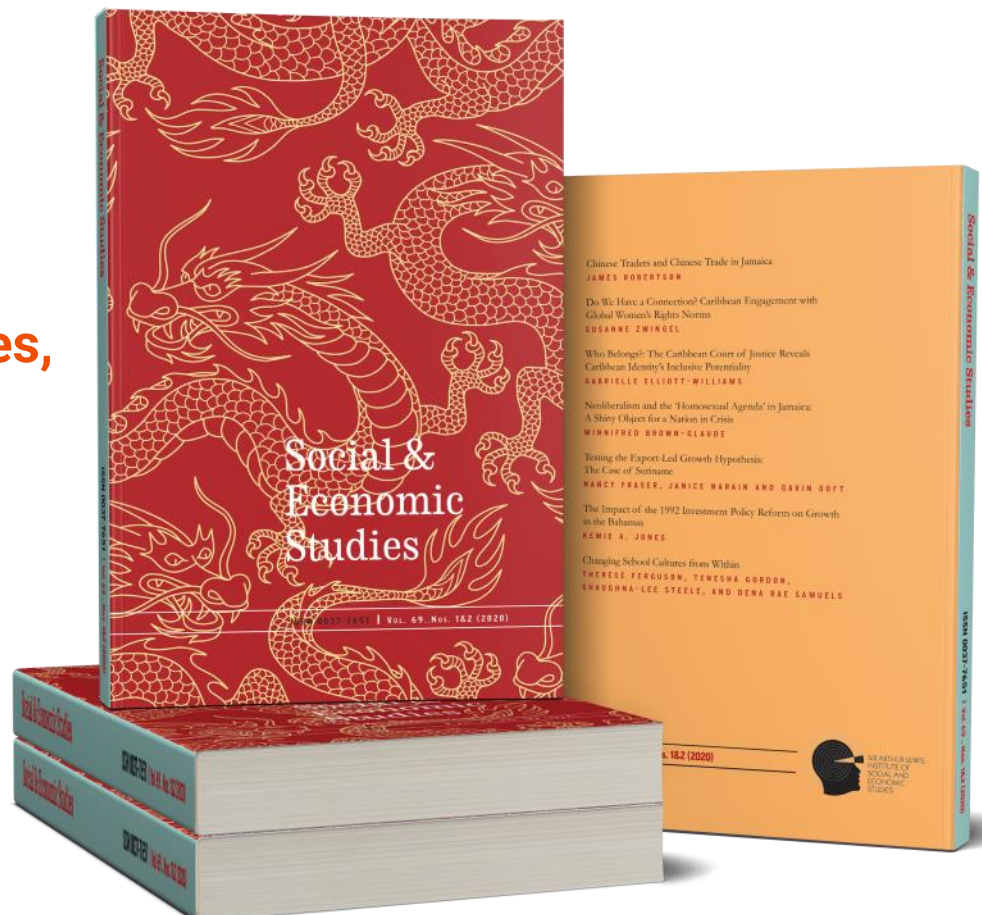
"Nobel Laureates and 'The Real Haiti Story' highlight launch of 2021 Regional Online Reparations and History Lectures Series", The Voice, February 3, 2021.

<https://www.thevoiceslu.com/2021/02/nobel-laureates-and-the-real-haiti-story-highlight-launch-of-2021-regional-online-reparations-and-history-lectures-series/>

"Reparation scholarship from 'Social & Economic Studies'", Jamaica Gleaner, February 7, 2021.

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/focus/20210207/michele-johnson-reparation-scholarship-social-economic-studies#slideshow-0>

## Latest Issue Social and Economic Studies, Volume 69: 1&2



## Citation — Sonia Amos-Davis Retirement



There are three descriptors which appear again and again as one talks to people about Mrs. Sonia Amos-Davis. One is “calm-spirited;” the second is “nurturing;” and the third “fair”. Her character is defined by a compendium of virtues that include honesty and integrity;

emotional resilience, a calming and wholesome presence all delivered with a generous and reassuring smile.

Sonia began working at the University in 1986 at the Department of Advanced Nursing, then to the University Health Centre before coming to join the staff at the Institute of Social and Economic Studies (ISER) in 1993. She has served in various capacities such as Stenographer, Senior Secretary and Administrative Secretary and over the last few years she has focused on coordinating the MPhil/PhD programme and facilities management. She has been so integral to the MPhil/PhD programme of the Institute that she knew all the MPhil/PhD students, their status, and their problems and many kept

in touch with her even after they graduated from the Institute. She has performed her tasks at SALISES in a very professional, conscientious and effective manner, which has characterized her work over the last 27 years.

She is known for her no-nonsense and tell it like it is personality...probably from having to raise three boys! Her motherly nature makes her easy to talk to with staff always seeking her out for advice and counselling. Sonia is firm, fair, and consistent—you know where you stand with her and if you got a telling off, you most likely deserved it, and once said it was over and done with. She is a God-fearing woman and a firm believer of living a healthy lifestyle. A good listener who does not impose her beliefs on anyone. A lover of children and life.

Sonia has a passion for baking, most notably her famous Christmas cake and cheesecake. We will miss these treats. Sonia is a ‘foodie’ with a distinct interest and passion in not only preparing various dishes but ensuring that for any event at SALISES, the food is well-organized. She is also a team player whose calm façade hides her competitive side.

We find in you Sonia Amos-Davis, one who has fully aligned her thoughts, emotions and actions with her highest good and we acknowledge and benefit from your enthusiasm, steadfastness of purpose and resilience with which you are abundantly blessed. Sonia, may your energy never flag and all the best for a long, happy and productive retirement.

## Outreach



### St Jude’s Primary School

SALISES made a donation of food and toiletries to the St Jude’s Primary School as part of their Food Drive on February 3, 2021. The school has over 250 students on PATH and over 100 in receiving daily lunch. The principal and staff were very appreciative of the support. The items will be packaged with the other items collected and distributed to families.



## Retirees Follow- Up

As a way of reaching out to the elderly during this period of COVID-19, the initiative was taken to follow up with our retirees who would be mostly home bound and most vulnerable to the virus. Most of the retirees were contacted via telephone calls and they all expressed their gratitude for the wellness check and social connection.

Physical distancing guidelines are meant to protect everyone, especially older adults, from COVID-19. But

isolation can also do harm for seniors, who are already vulnerable to chronic loneliness, which can have devastating health effects. The novel coronavirus brings with it unprecedented fear and uncertainty. Vulnerable seniors need help. With face-to-face encounters discouraged, we must continue to develop creative strategies to help them connect.

## Virtual Christmas Function – “Pandemic: A Survivor’s Christmas”

With new guidelines enforcing a ‘rule of 10’, 10 p.m. curfews and continued working from home for months, it seemed highly unlikely the office Christmas party would be happening in 2020. But -- fear not -- COVID didn’t cancel Christmas entirely! Instead, we decided to get creative and thought of alternative ways to celebrate. With a little creativity, we found loads of virtual opportunities to engage colleagues in something fun and

festive. Plus we still had food, cake and sorrel! Whilst ‘normal’ festive celebrations couldn’t take place, a virtual Christmas party provided a great opportunity for social interactions and reconnecting with co-workers. Special thanks to our emcee Michael Myles, a member of the SALISES Alumni executive, for his continued support to the Institute and for keeping the virtual communication going at an easy pace.



## Remote Service Delivery

**SALISES suspended all walk-in services effective March 4, 2021. This action is in keeping with the mandate set by the Government of Jamaica to address the spike in the number of COVID-19 cases.**

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