



Patrick Watson

UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR, SIR ARTHUR LEWIS INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES

The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) was born out of a merger, in 2001, between the Institute of Social and Economic Research, which has roots that date back to the birth of the University itself, and the Consortium Graduate School of the Social Sciences. Its mission is “to undertake high-quality research and graduate teaching in the areas of social and economic development policy, governance and public policy with special reference to small developing countries” and a major plank of its vision is to become “an internationally renowned institution for development policy analysis”. The activities of the SALISES for the academic year 2015-2016 are in keeping with the mission and vision of the SALISES and with the core objectives of the University’s Strategic Plan 2012-2017.

The SALISES enjoyed a very successful academic year 2015-2016. Our staff participated in the teaching programmes of the Institute and of the wider Faculty and continued supervision of Master’s, MPhil and PhD students. The Institute graduated students

from its MPhil/PhD and MSc Development Studies and Development Statistics programmes. All our programmes are targeted principally at the entire Caribbean region and continue to attract more and more candidates from The UWI-13 countries.

The Institute’s 17th Annual Conference was held in Barbados over the period March 29-April 2, 2016 under the theme *Revolution, Socio-economic Change and Freedoms*, which was evaluated as very successful. The Institute continued its scholarly, professional and outreach activity, which resulted in the publication of journal articles and technical reports, the publication of its three journals—*Social and Economic Studies*, the *Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies*, and *Caribbean Dialogue*, the conduct of consulting and executive training programmes and public outreach programmes. The Institute successfully concluded major research projects and continued work on others. It also successfully bid for other projects, on which work continues.

LEARNING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Our programmes continue to be very attractive, and SALISES continued to recruit more students at the MSc and MPhil/PhD levels. In the 2015-2016 academic year, there was an intake of 12 students in the MSc Development Statistics, 15 in the MSc Development Studies and 16 in the various MPhil/PhD programmes.

Dr Kyra Paul, graduated from the PhD Social Policy programme, while two students—Ms Antoinette Stewart, PhD Economic Development Policy (with high commendation), and Ms Alvinelle Matthew, PhD Social Policy—successfully defended their PhD dissertations and the degrees are to be awarded subject to minor corrections. Several MPhil/PhD candidates made conference presentations, regionally and internationally.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

SALISES research programme continued apace, resulting in the publication of articles in regional and international journals, book chapters and technical papers. These covered areas, all related to the Caribbean, such as child welfare, the environment, poverty, natural disasters, crime and violence, human resource development, social cohesion and innovation.

In the year under review, the Institute successfully completed eleven projects (with funding agencies shown):

1. **CARICOM:** CARICOM/Cariforum Development of Regional Strategic Plan for the Cultural Industries.
2. **Government of Barbados in conjunction with United Nations:** Habitat III Report for Barbados for the United Nations Global Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development Report 2016.
3. **Government of Barbados:** National Survey of the Small Business Sector.
4. **Inter-American Development Bank:** Barriers to Innovation and Firm Productivity in the Caribbean.
5. **Inter-American Development Bank:** Crime and Violence Prevention in Barbados: Baseline Mapping Exercise.

6. **Inter-American Development Bank:** FDI and Firm Innovative Activity and Productivity in the Caribbean.
7. **Inter-American Development Bank:** Innovation, Productivity and Training: The Case of Caribbean Small Island Developing States.
8. **Inter-American Development Bank:** Knowledge Intensive Business Services in the Oil and Gas Sector in Trinidad and Tobago.
9. **International Development Research Centre:** Extractive Industries as a Platform for the Creation of Knowledge Intensive industries: Trinidad and Tobago's Oil and Gas Service Providers.
10. **UNDP:** Research Paper on Youth Employment for Caribbean Human Development Report 2016.
11. **World Economic Forum:** Global Competitiveness Survey.

The Institute also continued work on *Sustainable Water Management under Climate Change in Small Island Developing States* (Water aCCIS) in collaboration with The UWI's Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), funded by the IDRC.

SERVICE TO UWI-13 COUNTRIES AND OTHER UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Some of the Institute's teaching and research activity are geared toward service to the UWI-13 countries. The Water-aCCIS project is anchored in these territories and three of the four IDB-funded projects are Caribbean-wide in focus and cover some of the UWI-13 countries. PhD theses, in particular, are devoted to issues like disaster management in Grenada and the informal sector in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Students in the MSc Development Statistics and Development Studies programmes are encouraged to, and have pursued research, catering to the needs of UWI-13 countries.

OUTREACH

The major outreach event of the 2015-2016 academic year was the successful hosting of the Institute's 17th Annual Conference in Barbados. The 10th SALISES Caribbean Child Development Conference was held from November 4-6, 2015 in Kingston, Jamaica. The Institute co-hosted the inaugural conference on Caribbean Population dynamics on the theme *Population Issues and Dynamics in Trinidad and Tobago: Theory, Practice and Policy for the Post 2015 SDGs*, held at the St. Augustine Campus over the period January 7-9, 2016.

The Institute continued its very popular and informative *SALISES Forum*, a public education exercise which deals with topics of national, regional and international interest. Topics treated during the 2015-2016 academic year included:

- the 2015 General Elections in Trinidad and Tobago: Analysis of results and implications of Governmental Change.
- Violence Against Women: A Political Issue?
- "Let's do this together": Participatory Governance in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Abortion: her body, her choice?
- The Right to Privacy and Law Enforcement.
- Brexit: Implications for the Caribbean Region and the World.

The Institute also co-hosted a symposium entitled Return of the Downturn in the Caribbean: Sustaining Hope and Economic Recovery and another on The Diversification Agenda for Trinidad and Tobago.

AWARDS

The SALISES at St. Augustine received The UWI-NGC Award for the Most Productive Unit/Centre/Institute on the St. Augustine Campus.