



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA
Faculty of Education and Humanities
Department of Language & Cultural Studies

CALL FOR PAPERS

38TH ANNUAL WEST INDIAN LITERATURE CONFERENCE

Papers/presentations are invited on the theme:

“HINTERLANDS: Journeys of the Imagination”

October 17 – 20, 2019

University of Guyana

Turkeyen Campus, Georgetown, Guyana.
Tel. 592 222 5501; alim.hosein@uog.edu.gy
The Arthur Chung Convention Centre



Image : “Palace of the Peacock – Homage to Wilson Harris”, George Simon, Philbert Gajadhar, Anil Roberts, University of Guyana (2009) – (at entrance to Arts Building, Turkeyen Campus.)

***Hinterlands :
Journeys of the imagination***

Among the most significant origins of West Indian Literature is *The Discovery of Guiana* (1597) by one of the “ancestral murderers and poets” (Walcott), Sir Walter Raleigh. The quest for gold, the dream of wealth and power inspired centuries of “history, fable and myth” (Harris), which saw Raleigh himself, and generations of West Indian writers in pursuit of the elusive El Dorado, hidden in the mysteries of

the Guianese Hinterland. The “interiors” (Mc Watt) - the “heartland”, the rainforests, the “hinterland” - is that vast unfathomable region that is largely unexplored, untamed, dynamic; whose definition is yet incomplete and the subject of a continuing journey of exploration and the imagination.

That is West Indian literature at this time. That is what this conference seeks to interrogate. It is the subject of the conference and a concept of Guyana – the country in which the 38th Annual West Indian Literature Conference will be held.

Deepening the concept and the identity of West Indian Literature is the experience of colonialism, a contributing factor that is “not to be outgrown” (Baugh). It has helped to shape a literature with extensive periods and areas of influences such as profound advancements in post-colonialism, forms of post-modernism, feminism, and linguistic diversification. The conference invites explorations of these in acknowledgement of the several new areas influencing, affecting, and now being included within the complex range of study that is West Indian Literature.

Thus, the concept of “**Hinterlands**” will include the foundations: some special attention to the heritage(s) of

Wilson Harris
Derek Walcott
V.S. Naipaul

It will, as well, invite investigations of the journeys of the imagination on which the **several new writers** who have emerged in the past two or three decades have embarked. These journeys have transmigrated through kindred art forms specifically led by

Film,

which is now an established companion in this continuing quest. Film is a part of the artistic diversification, but it is also influenced by

technology

which is a factor in the latest literary genres and forms. Other relevant areas include

images
the visual arts (the fine arts)
oral literature
performance traditions
theatre
dance hall
chutney
soca
spoken word and performance poetry
creole languages.

The conference invites papers on specific areas within the Guyanese experience, which have also been influential in other parts of the Caribbean, such as

Chinese Immigration

The Chinese presence and impact on the literature.

East Indian Indentureship

The recent commemoration of 100 years since the end of indentureship.

The Amerindian Presence

-- has been a factor in Guyana and Belize since El Dorado, with strong influences in oral literature and in myth.

The International Year of Indigenous Languages

Explorations – patois, creoles, Amerindian languages and their related literatures.

The UN Decade of People of African Descent

The Portuguese Presence in Guyana.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Individuals or collaborators can present **papers** on topics related to the theme of the conference.

Presentations of **panels** on topics related to the theme of the conference are also invited.

Persons may also wish to mount **posters** of their work.

Presentations will be limited to **20 minutes** in the case of individual/collaborative presentations and **45 minutes** per panel.

Abstracts

Abstracts should be 150 words (no more than 200) length. Please use 11-point Times New Roman font.

DEADLINE for submission of abstracts: **Thursday, June 20, 2019.**

Persons wishing to mount posters – please send us additional information about the size, etc. of your display.

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE: By June 30, 2019

Please submit abstracts to the addresses below:

Alim Hosein
Head, Dept. of Language and Cultural Studies
University of Guyana
Georgetown, Guyana.
alim.hosein@uog.edu.gy

Dr. Roslin Khan
Dept. of Language and Cultural Studies
roslin.khan@uog.edu.gy

Al Creighton, Jnr
Dean, Faculty of Education and Humanities
alcreightonjnr@hotmail.com

You can also contact us on Tel. **(592) 222 5501**

Further details – conference web-site will be available shortly.

SAMPLE OF CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

- **Film Festival**
 - **Caribbean Films**
 - **Guyanese Short Films**
- **Theatre**
- **The Fine Arts**
 - **Exhibition - “*Hinterlands: Journeys of the Imagination*”**
- International Year of Indigenous Languages
- *The Journal of Education and the Humanities* – Launching
- The Guyana Prize for Literature
- Literary Festival
 - Exhibition of Guyanese Literature and Writers
 - Exhibition of Guyana Prize Winners
 - The Guyana Prize Caribbean Award
 - Exhibition of Winners
- **Literary Readings**
 - **West Indian Writers**
 - **Guyanese Writers**
- The Martin Carter Memorial Lecture
- The Edgar Mittelholzer Memorial Lecture

- National Poetry Slam
 - Spoken Word Poetry
 - Performance Poetry and Hip Hop

ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available at international hotels and at bed-and-breakfast establishments in and around Georgetown. All accommodations are easily accessible to and from the Arthur Chung Convention Centre by taxis or minibuses.

Designated Conference Hotel(s)
Special packages will be announced later.

Selected hotels in and around Georgetown are:

Herdmanston Lodge, Peter Rose Street, Georgetown.
www.herdmanstonlodge.com/en-us

The Marriott Hotel, Kingston, Georgetown.
www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/geomc-guyana-marriott-hotel-georgetown/

Duke Lodge, Duke Street, Kingston, Georgetown. <http://roraimaairways.com/static/>

Pegasus Hotel Guyana, Kingston, Georgetown. www.pegasushotelguyana.com

Cara Lodge, Quamina Street, Georgetown. <https://caralodge.com>

Sleep In Hotel and Casino, Church Street, Alberttown Georgetown.
reservation@sleepinhotelandcasino.com

Regency Suites, Hadfield Street, Georgetown. www.regencyguyana.com
regencyhotelguyana.com

Kings's Hotel and Residences Middle Street, Georgetown. www.kingshotel.gy

Hampton Apartments, Oleander Gardens, East Coast Demerara.
www.hamptonapartmentsgy.com

Signature Inn, Laluni Street, Queenstown, Georgetown. www.hotelsgy.com

Ocean Spray Hotel, Stanley Place, Kitty, Georgetown. www.oceanspray.co.gy

INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation is widely available in and around Georgetown, where the University of Guyana and the Arthur Chung Conference Centre are located. The drive to/from the conference to the city centre/your hotel is about 10 – 15 minutes.

The University of Guyana Turkeyen Campus is a three-minute drive away from the Arthur Chung Conference Centre.

Taxis – Airports

No airport transfers will be provided. Taxi services are available at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Timehri and at the Eugene F. Correia Airport, Ogle.

At Cheddi Jagan, there is a dedicated taxi service whose drivers are identified.

At Ogle, the system is more open but controlled, with private taxi drivers being available.

Cost: From Timehri to Georgetown – GY\$ 6,000/ US\$30.00

From Ogle to Georgetown – GY\$ 1,000/US\$ 5.00

Taxis – In and around Georgetown

Taxi services operating from around the university/conference centre - these can take you into Georgetown:

- Trooper (222-7001; 222-7002)
- Frontile (222-3254)
- Ali's (222-2640)

Taxi services operating in and out of central Georgetown - these can take you to the university or the conference centre:

- Cyril's (226-6300)
- GR (227-2000; 219-5002; 225-7878; 227-1982)
- Confidential Cabs (231-4000; 231-4001; 231-8600; 231-8601)
- Crown Cabs (231-4545; 219-0300)
- Patrick's (226-8524; 223-5400)
- City Taxi [225-6222]

The hotels and guest houses also have arrangements with preferred taxi services. Pegasus Hotel has an attached taxi service.

Cost: To/From Arthur Chung Conference Centre/Georgetown: approximately GY\$ 1,000/US \$5.00

Minibuses – these are not for the faint of heart! But if you want a “real-life” Guyanese working-class experience, you will generally be safe (but perhaps “shaken and stirred” by the drive) in a minibus.

Fare: To/From Arthur Chung Conference Centre/Georgetown: GY\$100

TOURS

HINTERLAND TOURS

October 20, (designated conference day)

But any day at your preference

You may wish to take tours to parts of Guyana before or after the conference. The actual hinterland experience is incredible and quite different from the typical “sea and sand” outing. We will be happy to help you make arrangements. Some tours that are popular are:

- Tour to the Kaieteur Falls/Orinduik Falls
- Tour to Baganara Island, Arrowpoint and other resorts
- Lethem and other parts of the hinterland.

SHOPPING, etc.

The newly-opened Gifland Mall is right next to the conference venue. It offers a wide range of shops which offer clothing, jewellery, stationery, electronics and other items. There is also a food court which has Indian, Chinese, Mexican, Creole and Fast Food available.

The Craft Mall in central Georgetown outside of the General Post Office (GPO) has a wide range of well-made local craftwork.

The National Museum is located just across the street from the Craft Mall.

The National Library is one short corner away from the Craft Mall. And adjacent to the Library is the famous Main Street Avenue where you might find the Main Street Artist Group displaying their work.

The world-famous St Georges Cathedral is located a few steps away to the east of the Craft Mall and the Library.

The City Hall is located a short corner away from here. It stands at one end of Regent Street, which is the busiest shopping area in Georgetown.

At the other end of Regent Street (you will need a short taxi ride to get there) is our National Gallery of Art, Castellani House.

Currency exchange

Currently, the exchange rate for the US dollar is US\$1.00 = GY \$200.00 (two hundred Guyana dollars for each US dollar).

Electricity

Guyana runs on a 110 volt electricity system with three-pin plugs. However, the outlets are designed to accommodate a two-pin American plug.

LINKS

1. **The Guyana Tourism Authority** <https://www.guyanatourism.com/>
This is their official website.
2. **Guyana Where & What** guyanawhereandwhatonline.com/GWW%202009-2010%20web.pdf
Dated, but still very relevant and very good.

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Alim Hosein alim.hosein@uog.edu.gy