



CALL FOR PAPERS

CREOLE COUNTRY CONFERENCE 2019

Thursday, 15th - Friday, 16th August 2019

Creole as Cultural Heritage: Framing, Strengthening and Advocating

Conference Chairs

Dr Violet Cuffy, University of Bedfordshire

Ms Kimone Joseph, University of the West Indies Open Campus

Mr. Raymond Lawrence, Division of Culture

The concepts of 'creolization' and 'creole societies' are pillars of cultural changes in the Caribbean which emerged during the colonial period. Seminal works suggest that Afro-Creole culture has its roots in African, East Indian, Indigenous American and European heritage elements (Brathwaite, 1977; Burton, 1977; Moore, 1995; Nettleford, 1988; Patterson, 1995). More recent works contend that this heritage has now become a pivotal part of the process of nation-building (Cuffy, 2018; Bolland, 2006; Rabess, 2018). Moreover, many creole-speaking countries have advanced this aspect of their culture to the level of national significance and modern social life.

The Creole Culture includes diverse elements of the native traditions (of its indigenous people), language, dress, folklore, music, performing arts, cuisine, architecture and property rights, expressing a rich multi-dimensional heritage. At the core, Creole Culture represents rich, historical and multi-ethnic elements. This unique heritage links people across the globe through a long colonial history and evolving traditions (Fuselier, 2017).

Many small creole-speaking countries, particularly island economies, now embrace their "Creoleness." They engage it as a key strategy for tourism development and as promoting platforms of collaboration for advancing heritage and cultural tourism through the performing arts and event tourism such as Dominica's World Creole Festivals and annual Independence Celebrations. Regardless, not all elements are as appreciated and celebrated as others. Also, not all dimensions are fully exploited for their potential value on the international market.

This Creole Country Conference of Ministry of Tourism and Culture via Kommité pou Etid Kwéyòl (KEK), the University of Bedfordshire, UWI Open Campus and their partners seeks to bring together academics, researchers, policy makers, practitioners, indigenous leaders and students exploring creole and indigenous issues to collaborate in an effort at building resiliency in creole-speaking countries and indigenous communities. The Conference will aim to bring issues of preservation and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage of creole speaking countries to the fore. The Conference plans to explore best practices of successful models, with an aim of developing a working archetype for implementation in developing countries, particularly Small Island States (SIDS), with a view to advance a Centre of Best Practice within an institutional framework. In accordance, we welcome contributions under the following themes:

- Developing a knowledge base on the creole heritage and cultural advocacy
- Principles and practices for advancing policy on preservation and promotion of the creole heritage and culture
- Branding and packaging the creole performing arts for the international market
- Evaluating the production and delivery of international music festivals



- Institutionalizing the Creole language as a national asset
- Repositioning the Kalinago culture and language
- Creole in the media
- Creole and Tourism
- Creole in Education
- Kalinago and Creole
- Preservation of Creole languages
- Best practice guidelines for advancing creative indigenous industries
- Case studies from Folk Research Centres
- Best practice models for adopting/implementing the UNESCO convention for Intangible Culture Heritage (ICH)

The Conference will be hosted at the UWI Open Campus Dominica and key focus will be on formation of an academic and research creole network leading to regular conferences, publications, policy advocacy and creole learning resources. Interested presenters are invited to submit an abstract of no more than 250 words, accompanied by a cover page which must include:

- Title of the Paper
- Author's name
- Author's Contact Information and
- Bio-data of no more than 50 words.

Submission Deadlines

Abstracts to be provided by: Tuesday 30 April, 2019

Full Paper to be submitted by: Friday, 14 June 2019

Submissions to be sent to: kimone.joseph@open.uwi.edu

For further information, kindly contact:

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