

FEATURE ARTICLES

King Cuffee's Stool, General Bussa's Horse and Barrow's Plane: The Struggle for a 'Just Society' in Barbados

Hilary McD. Beckles

Abstract: The independence project in Barbados was declared as an important milestone in the struggle for the 'Just Society' on the island. Set apart as the first black slave society in the Americas and the first in the world in which enslaved Africans were the majority, Barbados was created as the most brutal society of modernity. The struggle and resistance to transform the most racially inhumane society the modern world had seen into a 'Just Society' is the narrative of this intervention.

Has the Case for Cultural Resistance Expired? From Nationalism to Cosmopolitanism in the Visual Arts of the Anglophone Caribbean

Therese Hadchity

Abstract: While the provocative title of this essay draws attention to the difficulty and apparent redundancy of 'cultural resistance' in a post-nationalist era, the author ultimately weighs in against its obsolescence. Centring her argument on the visual arts, she outlines the different aesthetic strategies of the anti-colonial generation, and the subsequent critique of its inherent biases, as well as its mercantile and intellectual 'commodification'. She further argues, however, that the post-colonialist cosmopolitanism, which has dominated the contemporary scene since the late 1990s, may have more subtle, but no less problematic ideological corollaries.

"A password of intellectuality": Paratexts, Texts, and Andrew Salkey's Construction of a Caribbean Canon

Margaret Grace Love

Abstract: As Jamaican author Andrew Salkey's involvement in the Caribbean Artists Movement illustrates, Caribbean writers of the 1960s viewed the construction of an autonomous literary identity as an immediate political goal. In this essay, I examine Salkey's 1969 novel *The Adventures of Catullus Kelly* as a culmination of this drive toward a Caribbean-authored canon of literature, through its narrative content and paratextual structures. I argue that Salkey uses epigraphs in the novel to enact a rhetorical strategy of deliberately shaping such a literary identity in relation to other literary traditions, while also challenging and transforming the canon.

"Confronting Neocolonialism: An Evaluation of Marlon James' *A Brief History of Seven Killings*

Rhone Fraser

Abstract: Reviews of Marlon James' novel *A Brief History of Seven Killings* are complimentary; however, they fail to elaborate on aesthetic characteristics that make this work worthy of literary acclaim. This article evaluates Marlon James' *A Brief History of Seven Killings* using Addison Gayle Jr.'s aesthetic standards and reveals a chain of command that ultimately critiques a system of neocolonialism governed by wealthy interests. James' numerous characters represent a chain of command hierarchized from top to bottom—from Mark Lansing to Barry DiFlorio to Peter Nasser, to Josey Wales to Papa-Lo to the bottom level that includes Weeper, Bam-Bam and Demus.

KEYWORDS: neocolonialism, hierarchy, hegemony, hegemonic narratives, imperialism.

Factors that Contribute to the Disparity in Academic Achievement of Students from Southern Belize

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Abstract: This investigation identifies factors that contribute to the disparity between students' academic achievement, as measured by the Primary School Examination (PSE), from the southern districts in comparison to students from the other districts in Belize. Though limited in

the number of factors explored, this study revealed that a statistically significant difference, i.e., gap ($p = .000$), in students' academic achievement exist between students from the southern districts versus students from other districts. Of the five factors explored (first language, location, type of school management, gender, and age), the best predictors of students' academic achievement, in order of significance, were: Age, School Location, and First Language ($R = 0.330, p = .000$). Additionally, we found that the type of school management has a direct impact on student academic achievement. Students who attended Catholic schools experienced greater academic achievement than those who attended other schools. Accordingly, these factors need to be considered and addressed in order to positively impact students' academic achievement in Belize. Explicitly, the factors that impact and continue to sway the academic achievement gap are varied and complex. As such, the need for additional research on this issue is more pressing now than before.

Key Terms: Primary School Examination (PSE), Academic Achievement Gap, and Achievement Factors