



# BUILDING SOLIDARITY ACROSS EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES:

**CULTIVATING SPACES WHERE  
STUDENTS THRIVE**

*A RISE Caribbean Educational Research Conference  
Co-Hosted by the University of South Florida and  
the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill*

**MAY 30**  
THROUGH  
**JUNE 1**

Located at the USF College of  
Education Tampa campus and the  
Patel Center for Global Solutions

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Scan this code or visit the conference website for additional information:

[www.risecaribbean.org](http://www.risecaribbean.org)

# BUILDING SOLIDARITY ACROSS EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES:

## Cultivating Spaces Where Students Thrive

This conference aims to harness the power of community, interconnectedness, and inclusivity in our collective efforts to create and sustain educational spaces for students to succeed.

While the RISE Caribbean project is focused on supporting research that examines educational contexts specific to the Caribbean, we acknowledge that many of the challenges faced by educators, family members, and students in the Caribbean are mirrored in other countries, communities, and across global contexts. We look to imagine possibilities around which we can plan collectively to improve the experiences, well-being, and educational outcomes for all children, especially those for whom achievement, equity, and justice have long been withheld.

We value advocacy work that is interconnected and builds alliances across stakeholders. We hope this conference will bring together the following groups of people:

- **Higher education faculty and researchers**
- **Practicing PreK-12 teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators**
- **Teachers of Students with Exceptionalities**
- **Graduate students and novice researchers**
- **School Related Personnel, including School Psychologists, Guidance Counselors, and Instructional**
- **Assistants/Paraprofessionals**
- **Teachers' Union Representatives and Members**
- **Policy advocacy presentations**

This promises to be an exciting and informative conference that engages all of us who are committed to educational excellence for our children.

**TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 //**  
USF College of Education

**6:00 P.M.**

**OPENING RECEPTION**

Rotunda – USF College of Education

*POSTER PRESENTATIONS IN TECO HALL*

**Melissa Teston**

Reciprocity Between Practice and Research: Vexations & Ventures in Literacy Professional Development

**Dr. Andrew Hunte, Tara Hodge, Edward Dixon**

Educational Stakeholders' Perspectives about Entrepreneurship Education in the Primary School Curriculum of Antigua and Barbuda

**Sharon Baboolal, Josanne McKain-Murray, Glynnesia Franklin, Nyla Baboolal, Joedanna Coy**

Investigating the Relationship Between Academic Burnout and Perceived Academic Performance Among Students at a Tertiary Institution in Trinidad and Tobago

**Dr. Sanghoon Park, Dr. Jeeheon Ryu**

Preservice Teachers' Emotional Experiences in a Virtual Teaching Simulation: Analysis of Facial Expression Recognition

**7:00 P.M. -  
8:30 P.M.**

**CONFERENCE LAUNCH**

TECO Hall

*OPENING REMARKS*

- **Dr. Patriann Smith**
- **Spoken word, Evie Larmond**
- **Dr. S. Joel Warrican**
- **Dr. Kathy Bradley-Klug**
- **Dr. Constance V. Hines**
- **Dance, Yasmeen Armoush**

**PLENARY SESSION I**

**Roberto & Lorena Germán**

Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies Right Now

# WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 //

## Patel Center for Global Solutions

<p><b>8:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.</b></p>	<p><b>BREAKFAST</b> Patel Lobby</p>	
<p><b>9:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.</b></p>	<p><b>CONFERENCE KEYNOTE</b> Patel Auditorium</p> <p><b>Dr. Allison Skerrett</b> Research For, By, and With Us: Constructing Caribbean-Based Knowledges for Literacy Education with Caribbean-Origin Youth</p>	
<p><b>11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.</b></p>	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSION 1</b> Patel 136</p> <p><i>FEATURED BREAKOUT SESSION</i></p> <p><b>11:00 - 11:15</b> <b>Dr. Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon</b> Black Church Pedagogy: An Assets-based Approach to Effective Literacy Instruction</p> <p><b>11:20 - 11:35</b> <b>Dr. Arlette Willis</b> Early Literacy Across the African Diaspora: An Untold Story</p> <p><b>11:40 - 11:55</b> <b>Dr. Patricia Edwards</b> So You Want to Involve Parents? Some New Ways to Engage Them</p>	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSION 2</b> Patel 140</p> <p><b>11:00 - 11:15</b> <b>Dr. Eunsook Kim, Crescentiana Alfred, Paula Alleyne, Desire Collins, Dr. Allison DaSantos, Dr. Robert Dedrick, Bethlene Ferdinand, Rachel Frame, Dr. Constance Hines, Don Howell, Talyjah Hyatt, Dr. Erin Mahon, Nitha Mauricette-Phillip</b> Validating the School Climate Scale with Student Samples in the Caribbean Countries</p> <p><b>11:20 - 11:35</b> <b>Dr. Jenifer Jasinski Schneider &amp; Dr. James R. King</b> Critical Media Literacies and Digital Tools for Communicating in a Global and Interconnected World</p> <p><b>11:40 - 11:55</b> <b>Dr. Andrew Hunte &amp; Patrice Benjamin-Hunte</b> Chartering Teachers' and Students' Journey Through The Processes of Reasoning and Proof: Classroom Narratives in Trinidad and Tobago</p>
<p><b>12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.</b></p>	<p><b>LUNCH</b> Patel Lobby</p>	

1:45 P.M. –  
3:00 P.M.

### BREAKOUT SESSION 3

Patel 136

#### *FEATURED RISE CARIBBEAN BREAKOUT SESSION*

**1:45 - 1:55**

**Dr. Allison DaSantos**

Adolescents' Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors Towards Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) within the Caribbean Landscape

**2:00 - 2:10**

**Dr. Erin Mahon, Naseem Smith,  
Dr. Stacey Blackman**

Cultivating Spaces Where All Students Thrive: Teacher Reflections on Inclusive Practices in the Caribbean

**2:15 - 2:25**

**Dr. Jenni Wolgemuth, Mirka Koro, & Ethan Trinh**

Reducing Methodological Footprints: Radical Interdependence, Qualitative Research, and the Knowledge Economy

**2:30 - 2:40**

**Don Howell, Rachel Frame,  
Desire Collins, Jonielle Alleyne**

The Status of Special Education Needs Research in the Caribbean

**2:45 - 2:55**

**Talyjah Hyatt**

Inclusive Education: A Phenomenological Qualitative Study of Cultures and Practices in Six Anguillian Primary Schools

### BREAKOUT SESSION 4

Patel 140

**1:45 - 2:00**

**Dr. Elizabeth Burke Hadley,  
Siyu Liu, Dr. Eunsook Kim**

Longitudinal Impacts of COVID-19 on U.S. Pre-K Children's Language and Literacy Development

**2:05 - 2:20**

**Dr. Lauren Braunstein and  
Dr. Kiran C. Jayaram**

Understanding Anthropological Education at Universities in the Dominican Republic

**2:25 - 2:40**

**Dr. Charles Vanover, Dr. Brianne Reck, Dr. William Black,  
Mohammed Alqahtani, Andrea O'Sullivan, and Erin Howell**

Learning and Growing as a School Leader through the Practicum: Findings from the "Investigating Educational Leadership Preparation" Study

3:00 P.M. –  
4:30 P.M.

### PLENARY SESSION II

Patel Auditorium

**Dr. Paul Frazier**

Parallel Success Among Males of Color: A Comparative Analysis of African American and Caribbean Males

# THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 //

## Patel Center for Global Solutions

<p>8:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.</p>	<p><b>BREAKFAST</b> Patel Lobby</p>	
<p>9:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.</p>	<p><b>PLENARY SESSION III</b> Patel Auditorium  <b>Dr. S. Joel Warrican</b></p>	
<p>11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSION 5</b> Patel 136</p> <p><i>FEATURED BREAKOUT SESSION</i></p> <p><b>11:00 - 11:15</b> <b>Nangamso Mtsatse, Portia October, Dr. Pamela A. Mason</b> Effective Early Mother Tongue Literacy Instruction in African Languages: A Curriculum Design and Research Collaboration across Continents and Institutions</p> <p><b>11:20 - 11:35</b> <b>Dr. Jian Wang</b> Potentials and Challenges of a Workshop-Based Approach to Critiquing, Developing, and Implementing Standards-Based Curriculum Packages in Eastern Caribbean Countries</p> <p><b>11:40 - 11:55</b> <b>Dr. Aria Razfar &amp; Rebecca Rupnick</b> From Repairing the Word to Repairing the World: Expanding Teacher Language Ideologies through Narrative Inquiry</p>	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSION 6</b> Patel 140</p> <p><b>11:00 - 11:15</b> <b>Dr. Molly Hamm-Rodriguez</b> Changing Policy Narratives and Practices for Youth Workforce Development in the Caribbean</p> <p><b>11:20 - 11:35</b> <b>Emily McConaughy, Jessica N. Szempruch, Dr. Susan V. Bennett, Dr. AnnMarie Gunn</b> Highlighting Hidden Stories Leads to Cultivating Collective Healing: Supporting Children and Families in the United States and the Caribbean Impacted by Incarceration Through Multicultural Children’s Literature</p> <p><b>11:40 - 11:55</b> <b>Dr. Carrie Wright, Angel Caglin, Joel Claireisia, Julien Irvings, Claudel Noël, Nancy Rosemon-Alphonse, Colleen Loomis</b> Collaborative Education Innovation in St. Lucia and Haiti</p>
<p>12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.</p>	<p><b>LUNCH</b> Patel Lobby</p>	

1:45 P.M. –  
2:45 P.M.

## BREAKOUT SESSION 7

### *FEATURED RISE CARIBBEAN BREAKOUT SESSION*

**1:45 - 1:55**

**Jimelle Roberts**

It Takes Two to Talk -- Hanen's Intervention: A Review of Literature

**2:00 - 2:10**

**Troy Carrington**

Faculty Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education

**2:15 - 2:25**

**Paula Alleyne, Dr. Allison DaSantos, Bethlene Ferdinand, Crescentiana Alfred, Nitha Mauricette-Philip**

Impact of Students' Well-Being on Student Achievement in the Caribbean: A Meta-Synthesis

**2:30 - 2:40**

**Judy-Ann Allison Auld**

Exploring Inclusive Education Practices in Grenada: An Ethnographic Study of District and School Management Teams

## BREAKOUT SESSION 8

**1:45 - 2:00**

**Dianne Wellington**

*VIRTUAL PRESENTATION*

Using Our Lives as Text: A Critical Ethnographic Case Study Planting Seeds of Hope in a Jamaican 4th and 6th Form ELA Classroom

**2:05 - 2:20**

**Dr. Amelie Lemieux**

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility: Five Areas of Inquiry for Transdisciplinary Literacies Research

**2:25 - 2:40**

**Leah Burger, Kristin Valle Geren & Dr. Lindsay Persohn**

Pod Clubs for Professional Learning and Collegial Conversation

3:00 P.M. –  
4:00 P.M.

## PLENARY SESSION IV

Patel Auditorium

**Lorena Germán**

This Belongs to You

4:00 P.M. –  
4:30 P.M.

## CLOSING REMARKS

Patel Auditorium

**Dr. Coreen Leacock, Dr. Patriann Smith, Spoken Word, Darlshawn Patterson**



## FEATURED SPEAKERS



### ROBERTO & LORENA GERMÁN

**TITLE:** *Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies Right Now*

**Tuesday, May 30, 2023 // 7:00 P.M. //**

**TECO Hall**

#### SESSION DESCRIPTION

What is a culturally sustaining pedagogy? What does it seek to sustain? Considering the history and constructs of schooling, we must analyze what it is that we want to build instead. Education research must shift in the direction of healing, restoring, and humanizing students as a way to move forward. The future is multiethnic, multicultural, and multifaceted. Our educational goals and initiatives must meet this moment.



#### BIOGRAPHIES

**Lorena Germán** is a two time nationally awarded Dominican American educator focused on anti racist and anti bias education. She's been featured in the New York Times, NPR, PBS, Rethinking Schools, EdWeek, Learning for Justice Magazine, and more. She published *The Anti Racist Teacher: Reading Instruction Workbook*, and *Textured Teaching: A Framework for Culturally Sustaining Practices* about curriculum & lesson development focused on social justice. She's a co-founder of #DisruptTexts and Multicultural Classroom. Lorena is also the Chair of NCTE's Committee Against Racism and Bias in the Teaching of English. She lives in Tampa, Florida where she is a mami and wife- two of her most important roles.

**Roberto Germán** is a Dominican American author, poet and spoken word artist. A graduate of Merrimack College and Boston College, he's been an educator and school leader for over 15 years. His writing has been featured in *Raising Antiracist Children: A Practical Parenting Guide* (Hawthorne 2022), *Speaking for Ourselves Anthology* (2019), *Edutopia*, and more. His first poetry book *Blue Ink Tears* (2023) focuses on identity, love, relationships and more. His work is characterized by a passion for supporting young people, prioritizing justice, and a dedication to excellence. Currently, he's Executive Director of Multicultural Classroom and lives in Tampa, FL with his wife and three children.



## DR. ALLISON SKERRETT

**TITLE:** *Research For, By, and With Us: Constructing Caribbean-Based Knowledges for Literacy Education with Caribbean-Origin Youth*

**Wednesday, May 31, 2023 // 9:30 A.M. // Patel Auditorium**

### KEYNOTE DESCRIPTION

Who is writing the story of Caribbean-origin people's literacies and languages as they unfold in and beyond the Caribbean? What images are being circulated about Caribbean-origin people's literacies and languages? What can be learned from these narratives that may transform literacy teaching and learning in the Caribbean, and, more broadly, for Caribbean-originated youth? What new stories, images, and insights are needed to energize innovative thinking and practice pertaining to literacy pedagogy with Caribbean-origin youth?

In this Keynote, Dr. Allison Skerrett examines extant research on the language and literacy practices of transnational Caribbean-originated people. She makes observations about the identities and biographies of those conducting this research, and the nature of their inquiries, to consider the importance of researcher identity in educational research that is focused on Caribbean-origin peoples and contexts. Using the case of one of her research projects, Skerrett examines the promise and pitfalls of researcher identity and biography when doing research situated in the Caribbean region with Caribbean-origin youth. She offers up a model of research for critical examination—one that bridges research and practice, classroom-based research and teaching, and that positions youth as agentive partners in research and classroom teaching and learning. This talk will contribute to the conversation about how the RISE project may continue to transform educational research and practice in the Caribbean region by building the capacity of Caribbean-origin scholars for conducting research in and with Caribbean contexts and peoples.

### BIOGRAPHY

**Allison Skerrett** is Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Director of Teacher Education in the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin. Professor Skerrett's teaching and research focus on young people's literacy practices, secondary English education, and transnationalism, with a focus on Caribbean-origin youth, toward educational justice for diverse students. Her publications appear in leading educational journals such as the *American Educational Research Journal* and *Reading Research Quarterly*. Dr. Skerrett's book, *Teaching Transnational Youth: Literacy and Education in a Changing World* (Teachers College Press 2015), is the first to examine the educational opportunities and challenges arising from increasing numbers of students living and attending school across different countries. Her new book, *Teaching Literacy in Troubled Times: Identity, Inquiry and Social Action at the Heart of Instruction*, (Corwin Press, 2022)

showcases teachers and students engaged in developing critical literacies and taking social action to create more just worlds.

Dr. Skerrett has received awards for her research and teaching including the Literacy Research Association's Early Career Achievement Award, Edward B. Fry Book Award, and the Elizabeth Shatto Massey Award for Excellence in Teacher Education. She is currently an Editor for the Journal of Literacy Research and serves on other national and international journal editorial review boards. Dr. Skerrett also serves on national and international educational advisory boards including the US National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Panel, the Research Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Education Council, and Scotland's International Council of Education Advisors.



## **DR. PAUL FRAZIER**

**TITLE:** Parallel Success Among Males of Color: A Comparative Analysis of African American and Caribbean Males

**Wednesday, May 31, 2023 // 3:00 P.M. //**  
**Patel Auditorium**

### **BIOGRAPHY**

**Dr. Paul Frazier** holds a Doctorate in Education Leadership, a Masters in Educational Mid-Management, a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction and a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Tech University. Dr. Frazier currently serves as Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Previously he served as the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at the University of South Alabama. He has taught as an adjunct instructor at Texas Tech University, teaching both undergraduate and graduate level education courses. He served in public education for 24 years as the Executive Director of Student Administrative Services, a high school principal, middle school assistant principal, and alternative school assistant principal. He has also taught History and English on the high school and middle school levels, in addition to coaching several high school sports.

Dr. Frazier has served on various civic and community boards. He has served as a board member for the Region 1 Disportionality Texas Statewide Representative for Child Protective Services, as a board member of the Lubbock American Diabetes Association, is a member of the American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity, is a member of Mobile United, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He is a member of the Mobile Area 100 Black Men. He has previously served as a board member for the Texas Diversity Council and is board member for the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education. He previously served on the Athletics Diversity and Outreach Advisory Council for Texas Tech University and the Texas Tech University Diversity Council. He is a member of Texas Association of Chicanos. He serves on the Ethics Advisory Committee at Texas Tech, the Texas Tech Greek Life Advisory Council, the International Affairs Council and the Texas Tech Academic Council.



## **DR. S. JOEL WARRICAN**

**Thursday, June 1, 2023 // 9:30 A.M. //**  
**Patel Auditorium**

### **BIOGRAPHY**

**Professor Warrican** has produced a body of scholarship in literacy in the Caribbean context; an environment in which issues such as influences of a colonial past; democracy in education; small state characteristics; diversity in classrooms; multilingualism; and multiculturalism must be taken into account in literacy education.

He advocates for change in literacy education, and in education in general and promotes the benefits of action research in the classroom and transformative education. He has a keen interest in comparative education, especially when linked to language and culture. Professor Warrican has served on the CARICOM Task Force for Teaching and Teacher Education.



## LORENA GERMÁN

**TITLE:** *This Belongs to You*

**Thursday, June 1, 2023 // 3:00 P.M. //**  
**Patel Auditorium**

### SESSION DESCRIPTION

As educators and workers, we are often told what doesn't belong to us. Boundaries and limits are set before us of what we cannot metaphorically touch or have. We are blocked off to resources, we are denied access, and more. But there are untouchable powerful things we can have; that belong to us. These cannot be taken from us and have potential to bring about the change we have all needed.

### BIOGRAPHY

**Lorena Germán** is an immigrant from Dominican Republic and raised in the U.S. She attended public schooling from first grade through high school. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in English Communication from Emmanuel College and her Master of Arts in English from Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English. She is an advocate for the practice of a culturally sustaining pedagogical approach in education.

Lorena has been in the field of education, working in various settings, since 2001. Her extensive experience in myriad of settings ranging from extracurricular youth work to community spaces to the traditional classroom equips her to offer sound advice on strong teaching practices. Specifically, her classroom experience has been as an ELA teacher from grades 6th through 12th.

Lorena has held educational leadership positions at the department level, school-wide level, and in the larger district level from designing curriculum to strategizing for improvement. She is the Chair of the National Council of English Teacher's Committee Against Racism and Bias in the Teaching of English and she's a co-founder of #DisruptTexts. She's also Director of Pedagogy at EduColor.

# ABOUT THE RISE CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE

*This RISE initiative is a partnership between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus, The University of South Florida (USF), and the Eastern Caribbean Joint Board of Teacher Education (ECJBTE)*

The Caribbean Educational Research Center launched as part of the initiative in 2021. The center is located at the UWI Cave Hill campus in Barbados and aims to generate and use data to improve decision-making in basic education throughout the Eastern Caribbean. The Caribbean Educational Research Center draws on research expertise from the UWI School of Education, UWI's other campuses, the University of South Florida, Ministries of Education, and the teacher education divisions of the national colleges in the Eastern Caribbean and the teachers' college in Barbados to conduct research, provide assistantships and internships to graduate students and support comparative and collaborative research in education and related fields. The RISE Caribbean initiative aims to establish a repository for education data, build research capacity, and strengthen research culture through publications, public lectures, and other means of sharing research findings.

One of the major activities of the RISE Caribbean initiative is an annual conference designed to support the center's Research Fellows and Research Assistants. To this end, the RISE Caribbean 2023 conference, "Building Solidarity Across Educational Communities: Cultivating Spaces Where Students Thrive" aims to harness the power of community, interconnectedness, and inclusivity in our collective efforts to create and sustain educational spaces for students to succeed.

## **Dr. S. Joel Warrican**

*University of West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Dr. Patriann Smith**

*University of South Florida*

## **Dr. Coreen Leacock**

*University of West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Crescentiana Alfred**

*University of West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Jonielle Alleyne**

*University of West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Paula Alleyne**

*University of West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Judy-Ann Auld**

*University of West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Dr. Deirdre Cobb-Roberts**

*University of South Florida*

## **Desire Collins**

*University of West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Dr. Allison DaSantos**

*University of West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Dr. Robert Dedrick**

*University of South Florida*

## **Bethlene Ferdinand**

*University of the West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Rachel Frame**

*University of the West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Dr. Constance Hines**

*University of South Florida*

## **Don Howell**

*University of the West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Talyjah Hyatt**

*University of the West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Mariella Jones**

*University of the West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Dr. Eunsook Kim**

*University of South Florida*

## **Dr. James R. King**

*University of South Florida*

## **Dr. Erin Mahon**

*University of the West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Nitha Mauricette-Phillip**

*University of the West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Jimelle Roberts**

*University of the West Indies at Cave Hill*

## **Dr. Jennifer Wolgemuth**

*University of South Florida*



## LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SCHOLARSHIP

Pursuant to Florida Statute 1009.21 (10)(e), full-time students from a Latin American or Caribbean nation (including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico) who receive a scholarship from the state or federal government can qualify for in-state tuition for each academic year while attending a Florida University.

By providing the LAC Scholarship, the USF College of Education can offer high-caliber students from Latin America and the Caribbean the chance to study at a reduced tuition rate.

Students offered the LAC scholarship would be charged the in-state tuition rate for one entire academic year, with the opportunity to reapply for each following year.

For details and more information please contact the USF College of Education Scholarship Office at [EDUScholarships@usf.edu](mailto:EDUScholarships@usf.edu)

Please visit: [bit.ly/LAC\\_Scholarship](https://bit.ly/LAC_Scholarship)



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