

Cultural Memory: Memory, Nation, Race

Friday 26th May 2017 St Andrews

Karen E Brown Lecturer, School of Art History Project Coordinator University of St Andrews

Alissandra Cummins EU-LAC-MUSEUMS Principal Investigator University of the West Indies Director, Barbados Museum and Historical Society









What is EU-LAC-MUSEUMS?



Key Facts about EU-LAC-MUSEUMS:

EU-LAC-MUSEUMS is an international research project involving the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean working in partnership to research:

"Museums and Community: Concepts, Experiences, and Sustainability in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean."

Funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.





Key Facts about EU-LAC-MUSEUMS:

8 International partners working in Portugal, Spain, France, Peru, Costa Rica, Chile, West Indies and Scotland with the University of St Andrews as coordinator.

Consortium formed through the European and Latin American and Caribbean Regional Alliances of the International Council of Museums (ICOM: www.icom.museum).

The project will run until 2020.







Key Facts about EU-LAC-MUSEUMS:

Our goals will be achieved by pursuing work packages dealing with the cross cutting challenges of:

- "Technology and Innovation for Bi-Regional Integration";
- "Museum Education for Social Inclusion and Cohesion";
- "Investment and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Museums", and
- "Exhibiting, Migration and Gender".







The theme of cultural memory in EU-LAC-MUSEUMS



Within the topic of "Museum Education for Social Inclusion and Cohesion", St Andrews is running a bi-regional Youth Exchange.

As part of the research, a group 24 of young people from Europe and Latin America will take part in monthly workshops and an international exchange programme on the theme of "Our Vision of Change" between Costa Rica, Scotland and Portugal.

The overarching aim is to promote community memory and enable youth empowerment





SCOTLAND YOUTH EXCHANGE

https://
eulacmuseumsyout
hscotland.wordpres
s.com/

STAFFIN ECOMUSEUM

Young people are encouraged to explore the Ecomuseum's 13 natural exhibits.

Young people are encouraged to maintain an online blog and/or Instagram of their thoughts, findings and life on the island













"Our Vision of Change"

Training the trainers within the communities

Facilitating inter-generational workshops







Youth Exchange Blogs

EU-LAC-MUSEUMS: Òigridh Air Iomlaid na Alba **EU-LAC-MUSEUMS:** Scottish Youth Exchange

https://eulacmuseumsyouthscotland.wordpress.com/

EU-LAC-MUSEUMS: Blog de la Juventud de Costa Rica

EU-LAC-MUSEUMS: Costa Rican Youth Blog

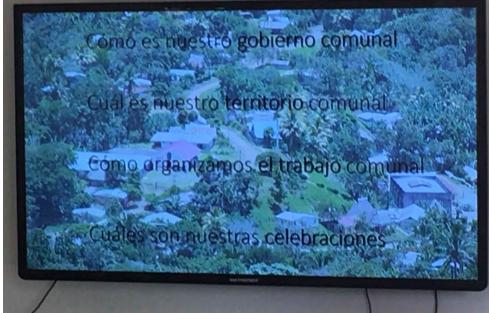
https://eulacmuseumsyouthcostarica.wordpress.com/

EU-LAC MUSEUMS: Blogue de 6 jovens de Portugal participantes

EU-LAC MUSEUMS: Blog of the 6 Portuguese

https://eulacmuseumspt.tumblr.com/





Inter-generational transfer of knowledge proves to be key to the project goals relating to cultural memory in all 8 countries involved.

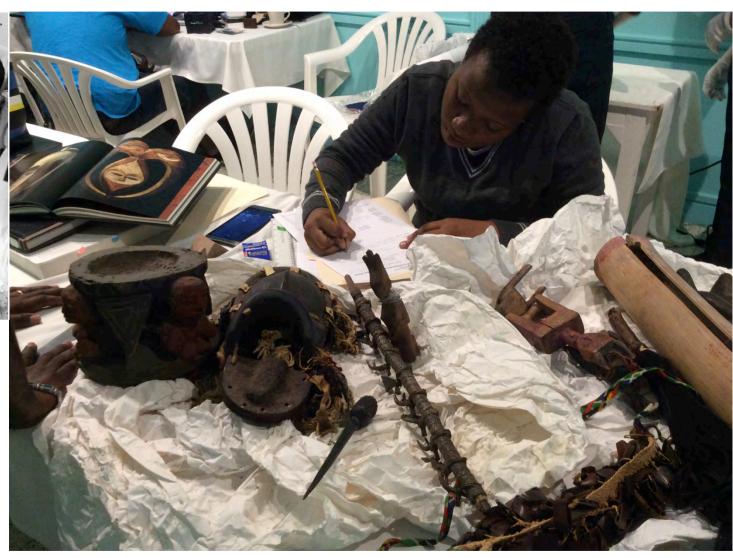
Workshops in Rey Curré, Costa Rica







Inter-generational workshop in Barbados Museum and Historical Society

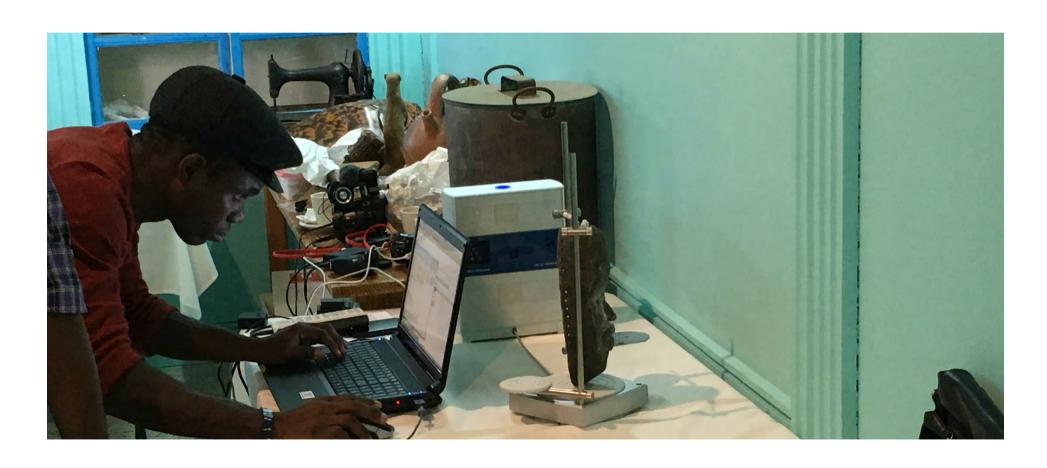


3D Workshop: Barbados Museum and Historical Society





Barbados Museum and Historical Society



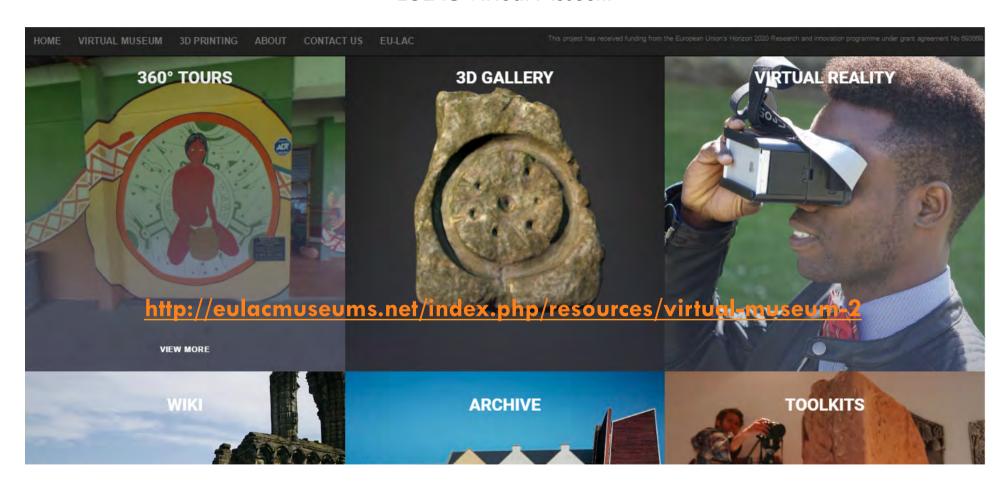
Charlestown Maroons Museum, Jamaica





Preserving and Sharing Community Memory through 3D Workshops and 3D Scanning

EULAC Virtual Museum





EU-LAC-MUSEUMS Newsletter April 2017





"Perhaps instead of thinking of identity as an already accomplished fact,... we should think, instead, of identity as a "production" which is never complete, always in process, and always constituted within, not outside, representation."

Stuart Hall

WP7: Exhibiting Migration and Gender (led by UWI and supported by USTAN)

Inventory of National Museum and National Archives (with special reference to gender and migration).

Use of Caribbean Civilisation- Regional course offered throughout the Caribbean to collate directories and inventories of community museums in other islands in the British Caribbean.

Curate an exhibition of Exhibiting Migration and Gender.







Migration + Memory = Museums

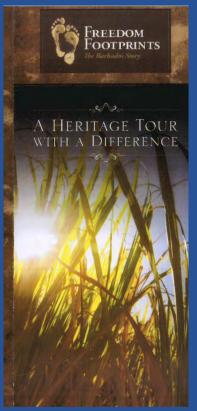
- Despite attempts over the last two decades to reconsider the legitimacy of national representation as the organizing principle of the established western museum template, the permanence and authority of the 'national narrative' has resisted all efforts to identify and adopt structures that more accurately reflect the realities of a globalised world.
- In a fluid, regional space where so many of its people came from somewhere else, over centuries whether forced or free, and from whence so many moved in search of better lives (and then returned), Caribbean museums have so far made little effort to reflect on past and present experiences of migration and diaspora, to reclaim its diasporic communities and reshape how their lives and identities have shaped the social and cultural dynamics of retelling the national story.
- The EU-LAC-MUSEUMS Virtual Museum of the Caribbean Project and our planned travelling art and history exhibitions provide rich opportunities to explore these issues of curating migration and reclaiming diasporic communities.

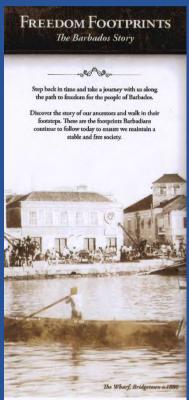






People and Places







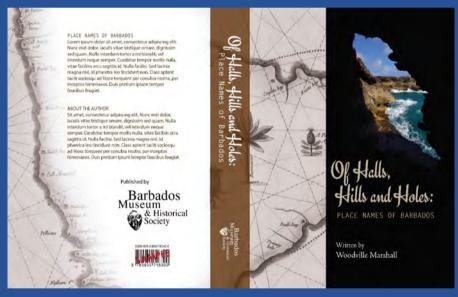
Of Halls, Hills, and Holes: Place Names Of Barbados

- It was evident that, despite the presence of place names which may be associated with nearly four centuries of European and African settlement, no attempt has yet been made either to provide authoritative explanations of the origins of the place names or to create a parish guide to those names
- The book project was conceived as an attempt to fill an obvious gap in the literature. In addition to explaining the origins of the place names, it would, hopefully, achieve a number of other objectives.
 - It might supply Barbadians with brief but reliable information about their places of birth and residence.
 - It might inform residents and visitors about familiar and not so familiar places. Finally, because an attempt would be made to place each name in its historical context, then the book might furnish readers with sidelights on aspects of social and economic processes like plantation formation, the subdivision of plantations, and the establishment of villages and other residential districts.



Of Halls, Hills, Holes: Place Names Of Barbados





Barbados Beyond Boundaries

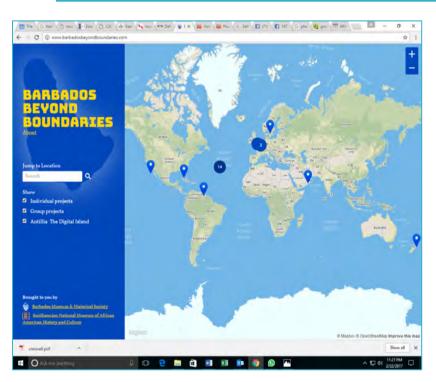
The Barbados Museum & Historical Society (BMHS) regularly engages in projects involving the wider community, in some cases by partnering with other agencies and entities around the island, in the region, and internationally.

Barbados Beyond Boundaries (BBB), is one such initiative of the Museum, is a community-constructed digital space, mapping contributions of the vast ways people from Barbados and the diaspora commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Barbados' Independence.





Bilateral Partnership with Smithsonian National African American Museum of History and Culture



The main objective of the project is to promote an accessible diversity of narratives that relate to 'Barbadianness' in the context of 50 years as an independent nation. Therefore the term 'Beyond Boundaries' refers to experiences that go beyond geographical, cultural, generational and racial stereotypes.

The Digital Mapping Space BBB will create a digital platform of exchange between community groups as well as individuals across the diaspora and work with them via online workshops on diverse approaches for engagement and contribution to the project within and across their territories.



Panama Migration

To commemorate the centenary anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, as well as the migration of the Barbadian wave of migration to panama as which formed a significant contribution to the building of the canal, the Barbados Museum & Historical Society (BMHS), made the decision to create a temporary exhibition and series of programmatic activities as part of its core activities for 2014. As a result the BMHS successfully installed and opened to the public a temporary exhibition titled 'We Were Giants: The Story of Barbadians and Building of the Panama Canal' on the 8th August 2014.



Panama Migration

- □ The exhibition, was not a 'stand-alone' event but one which was supported by several activities including:
 - Three Town Hall meetings designed to engage the Barbadian community
 - The creation of a digital database which listed the names of over six thousand men who migrated to Panama in 1907
 - The production of a short documentary to be featured in the body of the exhibition as well as aired on national television,
 - The creation of a bilingual element, where by the interpretive information presented in the temporary exhibition was translated to Spanish, for the purpose of including a Spanish speaking audience.
 - commemorative lectures by local and international speakers familiar with the topic of West Indian participation on the Panama Canal project.
 - Exchanges of cultural visits by in Panama and Barbados.



Highlights: Television Documentary

- □ To further document migration to Panama and the Hispanic World by Barbadians and British West Indians; a short documentary was conceptualized for presentation in the exhibition and later for broadcast on television and upload to the BMHS You Tube account.
- The documentary discussed themes such as Barbadian and Caribbean migration to destinations such as Brazil and Cuba during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the economic impact of remittances on Barbados, especially as it relates to land acquisition, and finally personal remembrances related by persons descended from Panama migrants





Highlights: Panama Names Database



- In addition a printed text and the audiovisual presentation, the name database was also made available to visitors by touch screen.
- □ This method of interpretation was employed to encourage audience and visitor participation. The database was comprised of over six thousand names (6,000) of men who migrated to Panama from 1906 to 1907.



Highlights: Panama Names Database

- □ The list of names was originally generated by the historian Bonham Richardson in the late 1970s for his book 'Panama Money and Barbados, 1900-1920' who mined the information from the District A Police Emigrants Register held by the Barbados Department of Archives.
- The database not only included the names of migrants but also their age, parish and village address and, in some instances, the maiden names of their mothers.
- ☐ The development of the database was achieved in two phases.

- Phase one included the transcription of all six thousand names and addresses from the physical document to an electronic format.
- Phase two of the project centered on the creation of a geo spatial map displaying all of Barbados' parishes and linking the names and address of each emigrant to the parish of their origin.
- The map is interactive and allows the visitor to the exhibition to touch a parish where they suspect an ancestor may have lived and 'call up' an alphabetical list of names of men who migrated from that specific parish.





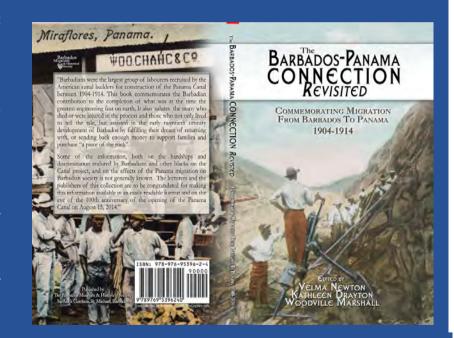
Highlights: Panama Canal Study Tour

anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal the BMHS in collaboration with the Travel House, organized a 'Study tour' tour to Panama.



Highlights: Barbados-Panama Connection Revisited

- The BMHS In collaboration with the National Foundation (NCF) and the Department of History and Philosophy of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus launched the book The Barbados Panama Connections Revisited: Commemorating Migration from Barbados to Panama, 1904-1914.
- The book was edited by the Velma Newton, Kathleen Drayton and Woodville Marshall.
- The book is a compilation of eight (8) lectures which were presented as part of the BMHS annual lecture series under the theme of panama migration





Highlights: Translation and Dissemination

- In an effort to make the temporary exhibition accessible to a wider population, the BMHS took the decision to have the text from the exhibition translated from English to Spanish. It was intended that the translated text panels would be uploaded to the BMHS website where they would be available to the world.
- In March the translation was packaged as part of complementary packages which included copies of the BMHS 2014 Journal and the book. The Barbados-Panama Connection Revisited' which were to presented by the Prime Minister —The Honourable Freundel Stuart on his state visit to Panama In April 2015 to the Museo Del Canal Interoceanico de Panama and the Afro-Antillean Museums in Panama.



John Akomfrah - Auto Da Fe

Auto Da Fé (2016), which translates as Acts Of Faith, is a diptych that looks at migration through the lens of religious persecution. Presented as a poetic period drama, the film presents a series of eight historical migrations over the last 400 years, starting with the little known 1654 fleeing of Sephardic Jews from Catholic Brazil to Barbados.

presents tale after tale of populations being displaced along religious lines, right up to the present day migrations from Hombori, Mali and Mosul, Iraq.

Religion, persecution and migration are, it seems, old and continuing bedfellows. The work was filmed on location in Barbados, but the landscape is deliberately anonymous, reflecting the universal nature of these stories.





John Akomfrah – Migration and Diaspora

- In Auto da Fé, Akomfrah continues his longstanding investigation of the transmutations brought about by relocation. (...).
- The circuits of migration, like the oceans in which they run, are thus vast: from Europe and Africa to South America and the Caribbean, and sometimes (...) back to Europe.
- the ocean plays an important role. It is symbolized as an intermediate zone between the past and the present, the particular and the general, the local and the global and as an oblique site of memory for the modern diasporic subject.



Diaspora Pavilion Venice

- □ The Diaspora Pavilion grew out of the desire to provide a space for artists to present counter-narratives that interrogate the critical capacity of diaspora as a notion, through an array of artistic media and across multiple generations.
- □ The thinking around this exhibition stems from a topical interest in the impact of increased global mobility, displacement, and migration on culture, and aims to approach art as what Ute Meta Bauer has described as "a space of refuge an in-between space of transition and of diasporic passage" for art practitioners.
- In light of this, the notion of diaspora here functions as a tool with which we can explore how art and curating have been influenced by cross-cultural exchange and how the globalised art world has reacted to these new networks, flows and their dispersal.



Diaspora Pavilion Venice

□ In the centre of the ground floor space is a new work by Hew Locke – a small flotilla of model boats decked out as if for a carnival









Diaspora Pavilion Venice

- On the walls of the stairwell are charcoal drawings based on photographs of volunteer soldiers of the British West India Regiment during the First World War.
- Barbara Walker uses these images to unearth the story of the regiment that came to fight in Europe with the allies only to find themselves posted to Italy and tasked with a menial supporting role.
- Denied the right to fight as equals alongside white soldiers the regiment rebelled.



□ Yinka Shonibare is represented with a work from 2014 called British Library – a book lined room in which every volume is bound in Shonibare's signature batik fabric.

- □ Embossed in gold on the spine of each book is a single name, an immigrant to the UK.
- Individuals are included who have made great contributions to British culture as well as those who have been opponents of immigration.

Diaspora Pavilion Venice



International Touring Fine Art Exhibition on Migration and Memory, co-curated between the University of the West Indies and the University of St Andrews









Visual surprise is natural in the Caribbean; it comes with the landscape, and faced with its beauty, the sigh of History dissolves.

Derek Walcott



Any Questions?

Email:
eulacmuseums@st-andrews.ac.uk
www.eulacmuseums.net

Karen Brown
University of St Andrews



