



**UWI ECONOMICS**

**WECON**

Inaugural West Indies Economic Conference

**Small Economies,  
Unlimited Possibilities**

**March 9-10  
UWI Regional Headquarters**

**2  
0  
1  
7**

Mona . Kingston 7. Jamaica . WI

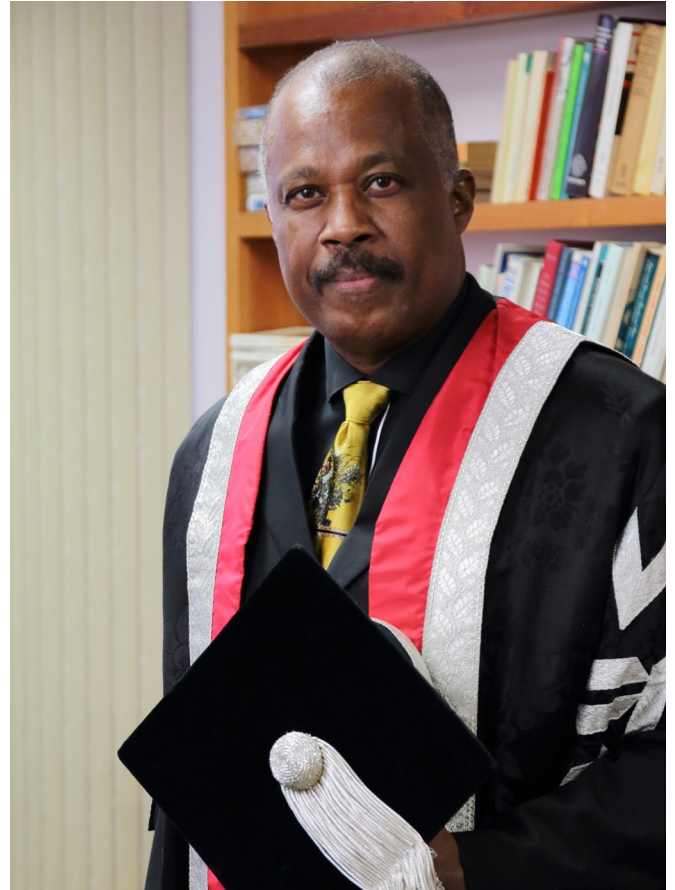


## Vice Chancellor's Message

On behalf of the University of the West Indies, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the Department of Economics' inaugural conference. The current United Nations Development Report for the region tells the bleak picture; that deep seated social inequalities and injustices reside at the core of our fractures and failures, and are the main root of shortfalls in economic growth expectations. Our region, for example, sits at the bottom of the hemispheric ladder in respect of youth (18-30 years) enrollment in higher education, professional development, and technical training. Within the wider Caribbean family context our English-speaking sub-community occupies the basement.

Equally disturbing is the inference within the Report that our social capital, that is, the cognitive and technical skills set, both in quality and quantity of our citizens, is inadequate for the attainment of the level of economic growth pursued. It has been known for decades that a shortage of critical skills, more so than capital, holds back our development. Nearly 60 percent of our citizens, for example, continue to reside in shocking shabby material and institutional environments to which we have become far too tolerant. Abject poverty is on the increase. Additionally, rising crime rates and general social insecurity in many communities seem unresponsive to the attainment of baseline economic growth.

In order to reverse this, our commitment to wealth creation, must be firm and unwavering. This is what we must strive for and what with hard work is more than attainable. These are but some of the thought-provoking issues I am sure you will be engaging in over the next two days. I wish for you all a successful conference and am certain that these next days will provide an opportunity for rich and fruitful discussions.



**Professor Hilary Beckles**

**Vice Chancellor**

**The University of the West Indies**



## Dean's Message

On behalf of the Faculty of Social Sciences I welcome all participants to this inaugural conference entitled "Small Economies, Unlimited Possibilities". This exciting event is extremely timely in light of the myriad problems, challenges and indeed opportunities bequeathed by the vicissitudes of a dynamic world order.

The brainchild of the Department of Economics, UWI, Mona, this conference yet again signals to all that we in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Mona and, in particular, those most engaged with matters of economic growth, continue to have important ideas with which to contend. By extension we are committed to continuing the Department of Economics' long, proud and distinguished tradition of intervening and sometimes leading the intellectual discourse on ostensibly intractable developmental challenges facing countries in the so-called periphery.

As I understand it, the title of this meeting has been deliberately crafted so as to be concise, non-discursive and solution oriented during deliberations. This is not to gainsay that issues and concepts of note will not be appropriately problematized and scrutinised. Far from it. The main objective during this one and half days event is to interrogate and subject topics such as international trade, tax compliance, production and productivity, tourism, finance, the labor market and how these relate to the government's role in achieving economic growth, to rigorous scholarly analysis. Meticulous discourse with recourse is, therefore, not *infra dig* nor in conflict.

In furtherance of the objective the meeting has brought together knowledgeable economists and experienced researchers from across globe along with industry leaders and policy-makers, to engage in a highly informed and disciplined conversation on the way forward for small states, such as ours.



The Faculty of Social Sciences welcomes our specially invited guests, such as keynote speaker Dr Arye L. Hillman, Professor of Economics, Bar-Ilan University, Israel; as well as one of the featured speakers, Dr Wilfred Ethier, Professor of Economics, University of Pennsylvania. We hope that our overseas guests will not only engage the brain, but also the many senses, savoring our rich culture available in manifold of ways, most notably in music, cuisine and the fine arts. Once again, welcome to all participants and I wish you a highly productive, meaningful and memorable experience.

**Professor Ian Boxill**

**Dean, Faculty of Social Science**

**The University of the West Indies, Mona**

## Head of Department's Message

The Department of Economics (UWI, Mona) has a rich history of rigorous, relevant research. The current Faculty is building on this strong foundation, ensuring that the Department remains a critical source of sound information to guide policy discourse; extend the frontiers of knowledge in critical areas of economic theory and policy; and to educate the next generation of economists

In a time of uncertainty about the future of multilateral trade agreements and international climate change agreements, the vulnerability of developing countries continues to be topical. Building resilience in spite of external uncertainties remains paramount, and will increasingly necessitate exploring untapped possibilities.

Our conference is therefore aptly and optimistically themed: Small Economies, Unlimited Possibilities.

Presenters from numerous countries, including economists based in the Caribbean, the South Pacific, Africa and North America, will allow for a diversity of perspectives on and approaches to a common set of issues affecting developing countries in general, and small island developing states in particular. Papers will be presented in areas such as international trade, finance, taxation and tax compliance, political economy, and labour economics. We expect that the discourse will be rich, as we explore the possibilities open for sustainable economic growth, development and resilience.



The Department of Economics welcomes you to the inaugural West Indies Economic Conference! Let all ideas contend!

**Professor David Tennant**

**Head, Department of Economics**

**The University of the West Indies, Mona**



# *Conference Schedule*

**March 9, 2017**

**8:00 AM-8:30 AM Registration**

**8:30 AM-10:30 AM Opening Ceremony**

**11:00 AM-12:30 PM Session 1**

**12:30 PM-1:30 PM Lunch**

**1:30 PM-3:00 PM Session 2**

**3:15 PM -4:45 PM Session 3**

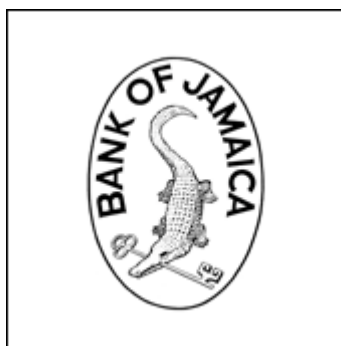
**March 10, 2017**

**9:00 AM-10:30 AM Session 1**

**10:45 AM-12:00 PM Session 2**

**12:30 PM-2:30 PM Luncheon & Closing Ceremony**

# *Conference Sponsor*



# Opening Ceremony

March 9th, 2017, 8:30 AM -10:30 AM

UWI REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Eon Nigel Harris Council Room

Chairperson: Prof. David Tennant

## Welcome & Opening Remarks

Pro Vice Chancellor, UWI - Prof. Dale Webber

Principal, UWI (Mona) - Prof. Archibald McDonald

Director, PIOJ - Dr. Wayne Henry

Entertainment: Ms. Sherona Forrester



Professor Hillman is Professor Emeritus of Economics at Bar-Ilan University, Israel. His field of research is political economy. In international economics, he pioneered the political-economy approach to international trade policy, which subsequently became the standard view with subsequent developments by Gene Grossman, Elhanan Helpman, and others. He formulated original political-economy perspectives on trade liberalization policies, and international migration.

His more than 130 research papers have been published in various professional journals and volumes. "His textbook "Public Finance and Public Policy: Responsibilities and Limitations of Government" combines political economy concepts with public finance in setting out the choice between markets and government.

Professor Hillman has a PhD in economics from the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1980 joined the faculty of Bar-Ilan University. He has taught at the Australian National University, UCLA, Princeton, the University of Freiburg, and Paris I (Sorbonne-Panthéon). He has been a fellow of the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science. Between 1994 and 2015, he served as editor and editor-in-chief of the European Journal of Political Economy (Elsevier). He is a former president of the European Public Choice Society and a joint recipient with Heinrich Ursprung of the Max-Planck Prize for Humanities Sciences. In March 2016, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Genoa.

## DAY 1: MARCH 9, 2017

Coffee Break: 10:30 - 11:00

### Panel 1: Employment & Education (11:00 - 12:30) Chair: Prof. Claremont Kirton, UWI, Mona

- **Hyman, Tracy-Ann:** “Small Island Perceptions of Scholarships.”
- **Lyn, Gary:** “Coming to America: Immigration and Labor Market Dynamics.”
- **Stephenson, Andrew:** “Prioritizing Activities to Achieve Practical Competency in the Higher Educational Classroom.”
- **Whitely, Patrice:** “Class Discrimination? Evidence from a Racially Homogeneous Labour Market.”

Lunch: 12:30 - 1:30

### Panel 2: Econ. Growth/Development (1:30 - 3:00) Chair: Prof. Mark Figueroa, SALISES Mona

- **Dacosta, Dianna:** “Product Productivity ‘Trap’. Case Study of Jamaica and Singapore 1968-2010.”
- **Nlandu Mamingi:** “The Impact of Regulation on Economic Growth in the Caribbean: A Panel data Investigation.”
- **Shah, Alamgeer:** “Impact of Tourism Earnings on Fiji’s Economic Growth.”
- **Williams, Kevin:** “Are Remittances Good for Economic Growth? The Role of Political Institutions.”

### Panel 3: Government & Governance (1:30 - 3:00) Chair: Dr. Andre Haughton, UWI

- **Abiodun Folawewo:** “Employment and Unemployment Effects of Governance and Regulatory Framework in Nigeria.”
- **McCloud-Rose, Nadine:** “Does a Stronger System of Law and Order Constrain the Effects of Foreign Direct Investment on Government Size?”
- **Tennant, Sandria:** “Investment in Infrastructure versus Investment in People: Political Markets and Economic Outcomes”.

Coffee Break: 3:00 - 3:15

### Panel 4: Energy & Environment (3:15 - 4:45) Chair: Dr. Michael Witter, SALISES, Mona

- **Campbell, Alrick:** “Cap Prices or Cap Revenues? The Dilemma of Electric Utility Networks.”
- **Delgado, Michael:** “Third Party Certification and the Effectiveness of Voluntary Pollution Abatement Programs: Evidence From Responsible Care.”
- **Spencer, Nekeisha:** “Hurricanes Take a Hit at Economic Welfare: Evidence from Household Panel Data.”



**Panel 5: Taxation (3:15 - 4:45) Chair: Prof. Edward Ghartey, UWI, Mona**

- .. **Constantine, Collin:** “Income Inequality and Redistribution in Small Open Economies.”
- .. **Duncan, Denvil:** “Audit Publicity and Tax Compliance: A Quasi Natural Experiment.”
- .. **Lewis, Mark:** “Eroding Confidence: The Effects of Trust in the Government and Perceptions of Corruption on Taxpayers Relationship to the Tax Administration.”
- .. **Small, Oronde:** “The Effect of Taxpayer Service Provision on Tax Compliance for Large Taxpayers in Jamaica.”

**DAY 2: MARCH 10, 2017**

**Panel 6: Finance (9:00 - 10:30) Chair: Prof. David Tennant, UWI, Mona**

- .. **Haughton, Andre:** “Asymmetric Dynamics Between Oil Prices and Real Exchange Rates in the Caribbean and Latin America.”
- .. **Keil, Jan:** “Is There a Causal Effect of Concentration on Persistent Profitability Differentials?”
- .. **Khemraj, Tarron:** “Overcoming the Foreign Exchange Constraint: Are Gold Holdings the Answer?”
- .. **Muller, Karsten:** “The Structure of Credit Markets.”

**Coffee Break: 10:30 - 10:45**

**Panel 7: International Trade (10:45 - 12:00) Chair: Dr. Marie Freckleton, UWI, Mona**

- .. **Braithwaite, Samuel:** “CARICOM Trade and Multilateralism: A Gravity Model Approach.”
- .. **Lyn, Gary:** “Grounded by Gravity: A Well Behaved Trade Model with Industry Level Economies of Scale.”
- .. **Sisodia, Gyanendra:** “Second Hand Vehicle Imports and Threat to the Pacific Environment.”

**Lunch & Closing Ceremony: 12:30 - 2:30**

Chair

**Dr. Peter-John Gordon**

Guest Speaker

**Professor Wilfred Ethier, *University of Pennsylvania:***

“The Role of International Trade Agreements”

Entertainment – **Ms. Sherona Forrester**

Vote of Thanks – **Dr. Patrice Whitely**, Conference Coordinator

# LIST OF PRESENTERS

1. Braithwaite, Samuel	University of the West Indies (Mona)	samuel.braithwaite@uwimona.edu.jm
2. Campbell, Alrick	Australia National University (Australia)	alrick.campbell@anu.edu.au
3. Constantine, Collin	Kingston University (UK)	constantinecollin@gmail.com
4. Dacosta, Dianna	Kobe University (Japan)	dianna.dacosta@gmail.com
5. Delgado, Michael	Purdue University (USA)	delgado2@purdue.edu
6. Duncan, Denvil	Indiana University Bloomington (USA)	duncande@indiana.edu
7. Folawewo, Abiodun	University of Ibadan (Nigeria)	ao.folawewo@mail.ui.edu.ng
8. Haughton, Andre	University of the West Indies (Mona)	andre.haughton02@uwimona.edu.jm
9. Hyman, Tracy-Ann	SKOLASTIK OASIS CARIBBEAN (Mona)	skolastikoasiscaribbean@gmail.com
10. Keil, Jan	University of the West Indies (Mona)	jan.keil@uwimona.edu.jm
11. Khemraj, Tarron	New College of Florida (USA)	tkhemraj@ncf.edu
12. Lewis, Mark	CHTM, University of the West Indies (Bahamas)	malewis2007@gmail.com
13. Lyn, Gary	UMass—Lowell (USA)	garyl.lyn@gmail.com
14. Mamingi, Nlandu	University of the West Indies (Cavehill)	nlandu.mamingi@cavehill.uwi.edu
15. McCloud-Rose, Nadine	University of the West Indies (Mona)	nadine.mccloud02@uwimona.edu.jm
16. Muller, Karsten	University of Warwick (UK)	phd14km@mail.wbs.ac.uk
17. Shah, Alamgeer	The University of the South Pacific (Fiji)	alamgeer.shah84@gmail.com
18. Sisodia, Gyanendra	The University of the South Pacific (Fiji)	Gyanendra.sisodia@usp.ac.fj
19. Small, Oronde	Georgia State University (USA)	orondesmall@yahoo.com
20. Spencer, Nekeisha	University of the West Indies (Mona)	nspence3@binghamton.edu
21. Stephenson, Andrew	Gwinett College (USA)	astephe6@ggc.edu
22. Tennant, Sandria	University of the West Indies (Mona)	sandria.tennant@uwimona.edu.jm
23. Whitely, Patrice	University of the West Indies (Mona)	patrice.whitely02@uwimona.edu.jm
24. Williams, Kevin	University of the West Indies (St. Augustine)	Kevin.Williams@sta.uwi.edu





# UWI

Mona Campus

Department of Economics  
University of the West Indies, Mona  
Kingston 7 Jamaica  
876.977.1188



[econ@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:econ@uwimona.edu.jm)



[www.mona.uwi.edu/economics/](http://www.mona.uwi.edu/economics/)