



Department of Economics
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
AT MONA, JAMAICA

WECON

WEST INDIES ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

MARCH 9-10, 2023

UWI REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
KINGSTON 7, JAMAICA, WEST INDIES



SYGNUS

Welcome

to the 5th

Installation of

WECON

WEST INDIES ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

2017 2018 2019 2022 2023

DAY 1: MARCH 9, 2023

Opening Ceremony

March 9, 2023, 8:00 AM – 9:40 AM
UWI REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Eon Nigel Harris Council Room

Welcome and Opening Remarks: 8:25 AM - 8:40 AM

NADINE MCCLOUD

Head, Department of Economics, The UWI Mona

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

DADRIAN LEWIS

G. Arthur Brown Scholar, Economics, The UWI Mona



First Keynote Address: 8:40 AM - 9:40 AM

ROCÍO TITIUNIK

Professor of Politics, Princeton University

**“Analysis and Interpretation of
Multi-Dimensional Regression Discontinuity Designs”**

Break: 9:40 AM - 10:00 AM

Panel 1: Health & Labour (10:00 - 11:30)

Chair: Gary Lyn, Department of Economics, Iowa State University

- **Shanike Smart:** "COVID-19 Vaccine and Risk-taking: Evidence of the Peltzman Effect"
- **Steven Lehrer,** Nuno Pereira and Louis-Pierre Lepage: "Employer Learning and Immigrant Assimilation"
- **Robert Hammond,** Umut Dur and M. Utku Unver: "Rematching with Contracts under Constraints: Theory and Application"
- **Mikol Mortley:** "Defining Self-Employment in a Modern Labor Market"

Panel 2: Growth & Development I (10:00 - 11:30)

Chair: Peter-John Gordon, Department of Economics, The UWI Mona

- **Tarron Khemraj** and Sukrishalall Pasha: "Structural change in the resource-abundant Guyana-Suriname basin"
- **Abigail Knowles** and Randy Hield: "Revitalizing the Rental Market for Low to Moderate-Income Households in Nassau, Bahamas"
- **Collin Constantine:** "Income Inequality in Guyana: Class or Ethnicity? New Evidence from Survey Data"
- **Andrés Hincapié,** Barton H. Hamilton and Noah Lyman: "The Bright Side of Nepotism? Family CEOs, Turnover, and Firm Performance"

Lunch Break: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Panel 3: Environment & Education (12:30 - 2:00)

Chair: Linda Bailey-McWeeney, Model Analytics Group, Citigroup

- **Colin Cannonier:** "Anxiety, Test-taking Aid, & Test Scores: Evidence from Economics Classes"
- **Dino Collalti:** "Flash Flood Hazard: an Economic Analysis for Central America and the Caribbean"
- **Nathan Rolle,** Allan Wright, Antoine Clarke: "Global Warming and The Bahamas"
- **Peter Doyle:** "Is Development the Price of 1.5 C and Net Zero for all 2050?"

Panel 4: Econometrics (12:30 - 2:00)

Chair: Nadine McCloud, Department of Economics, The UWI Mona

- **Weili Ding,** Steven Lehrer and Tian Xie: "Algorithms for Predictive Analytics: Communication, Privacy and Weights"
- **Daniel Henderson** and Oleg Badunenko: "Production Analysis with Asymmetric Noise"
- **Wayne-Roy Gayle:** "Identification of Preferences and Counterfactuals in Nonstationary Dynamic Discrete Choice Models"

Break: 2:00 - 2:20

Special Guest Lecture (2:20 PM - 3:20 PM)

MATIAS CATTANEO

Professor of Operations Research & Financial Engineering
Princeton University

“Uncertainty Quantification in Synthetic
Controls with Staggered Treatment Adoption ”

Special Industry Panel (3:25 PM - 4:40 PM)



Panel 5: Development of the Capital Markets: A Necessary Condition for Economic Development & Sustainable Long-Term Growth (3:25 - 4:40)

Moderator: Jamelia Jalaalwalikraam

- “The Role of the Local Capital Markets in Allocating Capital to Help Drive Sustainable Economic Growth” – **Timar Jackson AVP**, Origination & Structuring, NCB Capital Markets
- “Alternative Investments: Evidence of the Potential of the Capital Markets to Drive Economic Development or the Latest Fad?” – **Annya Walker**, EVP, Strategy Research Innovation & Projects
- “The Role of the Capital Markets in Supporting Economic Development in Guyana” – **Richard Rambarran**, Country Manager, NCB Capital Markets (Guyana) Inc. and Lecturer Department of Economics, University of Guyana

END OF DAY 1

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LIMITED

DAY 2: MARCH 10, 2023

Opening Remarks: 8:30 AM - 8:40 AM

PATRICE WHITELY
Conference Chair
Department of Economics
UWI Mona

Introduction of Second Keynote Speaker

SHENELLE GUSCOTT
Colin Fitz-Herbert Bullock PhD Scholar,
Economics UWI Mona



Second Keynote Address: 8:40 AM - 9:40 AM

GEORGE-LEVI GAYLE

John H. Biggs Distinguished Professor of Economics
Washington University (St. Louis)

“The Importance of Family Structure and Within Household Allocation for Economic Policy and Human Capital Development”



**UNITED NATIONS
JAMAICA**



Special Remarks (9:40 AM - 10:00 AM)

PUSHPAM KUMAR

Senior Economic Advisor for the UN Environment Programme

“Inclusive Wealth of Nations: Sustainability and Equity”

Remarks (10:00 AM - 10:10 AM)

PATRICE WHITELY

Conference Chair

Department of Economics, The UWI Mona

Break: 10:10 AM - 10:30 AM

Panel 6: Finance & Monetary (10:30 - 12:00)

Chair: Andre Haughton, Department of Economics, UWI Mona

- **Andrea Flores:** “Are Cash Transfers Effective at Empowering Mothers? A Structural Evaluation of Mexico's Oportunidades”
- **Jevon Henry:** “Explaining Financial Exclusion: Insights from Jamaica”
- **Haughton Richards:** “Financing The Engine of Economies: Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises”

Panel 7: Growth & Development II (10:30 - 12:00)

Chair: Andrés Hincapié, Economics Department, UNC Chapel Hill

- Haoran Li, **Gary Lyn**, Anton Yang, Wendong Zhang: “Granular Comparative Advantage: Evidence from Chinese Firms”
- **David Tennant**, Stuart Davies, Sandria Tennant and Patrice Whitely: “Promoting Sustainability and Resilience in SIDS Through Targeted Economic Diversification”
- **Samuel Indalmanie:** “Determinants of Inflation in Jamaica”


END OF WECON 2023!



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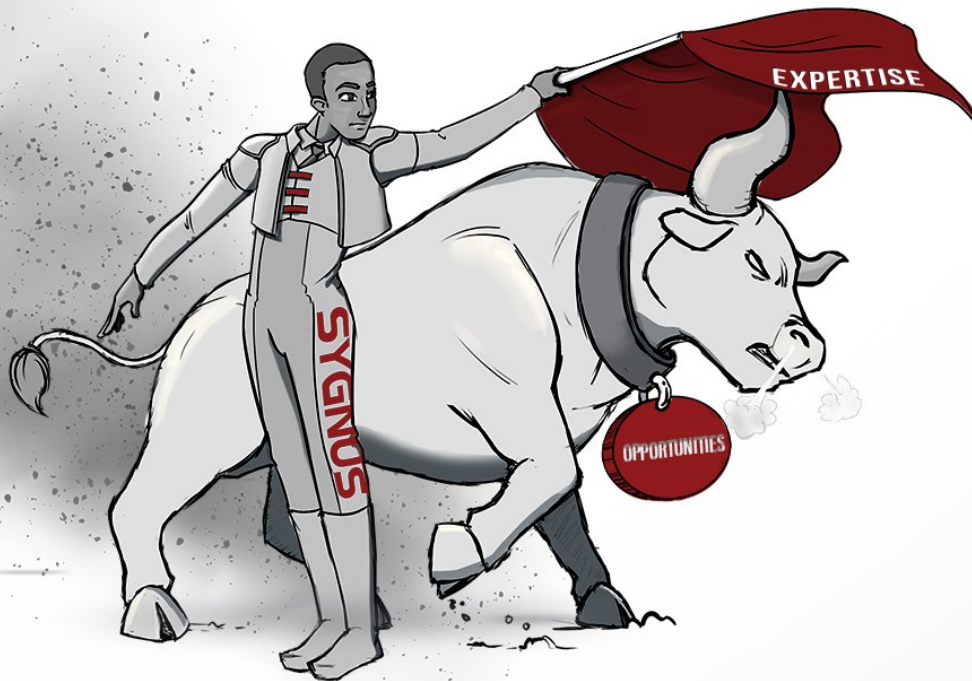
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List of Participants

Cannonier	Colin	colin.cannonier@belmont.edu	Belmont University and GLO
Cattaneo	Matias	cattaneo@princeton.edu	Princeton University
Clarke	Antoine	ASClarke@centralbankbahamas.com	Central Bank of The Bahamas
Collalti	Dino	dino.collalti@windowslive.com	University of Bern
Constantine	Collin	cc2082@cam.ac.uk	University of Cambridge
Davies	Stuart	stuart.davies@un.org	UNRCO (Jamaica)
Ding	Weili	dingw@queensu.ca	Queen's University
Doyle	Peter	p.t.d.y@outlook.com	Former IMF Staff
Flores	Andrea	andrea.flores@fgv.br	EPGE Brazilian School of Econ. & Finance
Gayle	Wayne-Roy	wayneroygayle@gmail.com	UMASS Amherst
Gayle	George-Levi	ggayle@wustl.edu	Washington University
Hammond	Robert	robert.hammond@cba.ua.edu	University of Alabama
Henderson	Daniel	djhender@cba.ua.edu	University of Alabama
Henry	Jevon	Jevon.henry@uwimona.edu.jm	The University of the West Indies
Hield	Randy	rthield@centralbankbahamas.com	Central Bank of The Bahamas
Hincapié	Andrés	andres.hincapie@unc.edu	UNC - Chapel Hill
Indalmanie	Samuel	sindalmanie@gmail.com	STATIN & UTECH, Jamaica
Jackson	Timar	jacksontf@jncb.com	NCB Capital Market
Khemraj	Tarron	tkhemraj@ncf.edu	New College of Florida
Knowles	Abigail	adknowles@centralbankbahamas.com	Central Bank of The Bahamas
Kumar	Pushpam	pushpam.kumar@un.org	UN Environment Programme
Lehrer	Steven	lehrers@queensu.ca	Queen's University
Lyn	Gary	garyl.lyn@gmail.com	Iowa State University
Mortley	Mikol	mikolmortley78@gmail.com	The University of the West Indies
Rambarran	Richard	RambarranRN@jncb.com	NCB Capital Markets
Richards	Haughton	haughton@sygnusgroup.com	Sygnus Capital
Rolle	Nathan	NPRolle@centralbankbahamas.com	Central Bank of The Bahamas
Smart	Shanike	shanikesmart333@gmail.com	Binghamton University
Tennant	David	david.tennant@uwimona.edu.jm	The University of the West Indies
Titunik	Rocío	titiunik@princeton.edu	Princeton University
Walker	Annya	WalkerAD@jncb.com	NCB Capital Market

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NOTES

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MONA, JAMAICA

TEL: (876) 977-1188

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