



# Interuniversity Course Caribbean Studies 2021

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## INTRODUCTION

The Caribbean has a turbulent, and often disconcerting history, a dynamic culture, and challenging economic and political futures. It is an extraordinarily multifaceted area with its many languages, population groups, and nations. It is also a region that has long and close connections with the Netherlands - Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten, the so-called BES-islands, and Suriname in particular. Past and present migration patterns continue to nurture intimate connections between Caribbean and Dutch societies.

In 2021 the KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies will organize a digital version of the Interuniversity Course Caribbean Studies. In this 35<sup>th</sup> edition of the course we will discuss history, politics, economics and socio-cultural issues. The lectures will touch upon ecology, colonialism, slave trade and slavery, indentured labour, small-holding and the post-plantation economy, migration and trans-nationalism, intellectual history, gender, kinship and sexuality, art, literature, music, decolonization, local politics, tourism, and international relations.

The course will be offered in English. Participation is open to students from all universities and to a limited number of interested non-students.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Information and registration

For all information and registration please contact:

KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies  
PO Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, tel. 071-5272372,  
e-mail: [sitinjak@kitlv.nl](mailto:sitinjak@kitlv.nl).

### Fees

The reduced registration fee for students is € 35.00, which includes access to Leiden University Library. For students currently enrolled in a Caribbean University, the course is free.

Participation of non-students is limited; the registration fee is € 125.00 and excludes participation in the discussion groups, which are for the benefit of students.

Please note that registration is complete only after submitting your registration form and the receipt of payment of your registration fee.

Registration is open until January 22, 2021 and is based on order of received payment.

### Venue and time

The Caribbean Studies course will take place during the period February 5<sup>st</sup> -April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Classes are held on Friday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. CET (see schedule). Each lecture / discussion group will last an hour, with a fifteen-minute break in between.

**The classes will take place online, via Zoom.**

### Exams and ECTs

The course level is BA-2 with a total 10 ECTs. It is possible to earn more ECTs (max 2).

The written exam, consisting of essay questions, covers the lectures, required literature, and one of the prescribed novels.

The exam will be in the form of a written essay to be submitted mid-May (exact date TBA). Participants who chose not to take the exam may receive a certificate of participation, provided that they have attended all classes.

### Course coordinators

This course is coordinated by Rosemarijn Hoefté ([hofte@kitlv.nl](mailto:hofte@kitlv.nl)), Alana Osbourne ([alana.osbourne@ulb.ac.be](mailto:alana.osbourne@ulb.ac.be)) and Ellen Sitinjak ([sitinjak@kitlv.nl](mailto:sitinjak@kitlv.nl)).

### Education committee

The committee members are Prof. Dr. Michiel Baud (CEDLA/UvA), Prof. Dr. Rosemarijn Hoefté (KITLV/UvA), Prof. Dr. Rivke Jaffe (UvA), Prof. Dr. Gert Oostindie (KITLV/UL) and Dr. Alana Osbourne (KITLV).

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND LITERATURE

The course is divided into seven thematic blocs. Each bloc is taught over a two-week period and is comprised of a series of 3 lectures and 1 online discussion. Lecturers come from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and broach a series of topics.

Each thematic bloc is accompanied by a set of required readings; by one or several questions for students to bear in mind while reading; and by one or several propositions. The readings are meant to complement the lectures and are **compulsory**. The questions and propositions serve to stimulate debate during the round table discussions, and do not necessarily represent the lecturers' views.

The required readings for the course are divided into 3 types:

1. For each roundtable discussion, students are expected to have read the related chapter of *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*, as well as the articles listed for that week in the course schedule. These are intended as preparation for classes. The articles are accessible online via the Leiden University Catalogue. Students should secure a copy of *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*. The book is available via the library or for sale online and in second hand book stores.

-Hillman, Richard S. & Thomas J. D'Agostino (eds.), *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*. Boulder [etc.]: Lynne Rienner Publishers; Kingston: Ian Randle, 2009

2. In addition to the chapters from *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean* and the articles students are required to read for each thematic bloc, students are required to choose at least one novel from the following list:

-Alvarez, Julia, *In the Time of the Butterflies* (In Dutch: *In de tijd van de vlinders*)

-Danticat, Edwidge, *The Farming of Bones* (In Dutch: *Land voor de levenden*)

-Díaz, Junot, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (In Dutch: *Het korte maar wonderbare leven van Oscar Wao*)

3. In addition, students are required to read the following monograph:

-Hall, Stuart, *Familiar Stranger: A Life Between Two Islands* (Duke University Press, 2017)

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### 1. Geographies - WEEKS 1 & 2 (February 5<sup>th</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup>)

- \* Lecture 1. Introduction to the Course and to Zoom (Alana Osbourne) *05-Feb at 2pm*
- \* Lecture 2. Decolonization and Independence (Wouter Veenendaal) *05-Feb at 3.15pm*
- \* Lecture 3. Inversing Dependence. The Dutch Antilles, Suriname and the Desperate Netherlands during World War II (Esther Captain) *12-Feb at 2pm*
- \* Discussion *12-Feb at 3.15pm*

#### Preparation

- Hillman & D'Agostino, *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*, Chapter 2 A Geographic Preface
- Dodman, David. "A Place or a People? Social and Cultural Geographies of the Anglophone Caribbean: Country Report." *Social & Cultural Geography* 8.1 (2007): 143-150

#### Question(s)

- Where is the Caribbean?

#### Proposition(s)

- The Caribbean cannot be located 'out' there, in opposition to 'here'. It troubles geographical frontiers.

### 2. Histories - WEEKS 3 & 4 (February 19<sup>th</sup> and February 26th)

- \* Lecture 1. Systems of Slavery (Damian Pargas) *19-Feb at 2pm*
- \* Lecture 2. Resistance, Marronage and Abolition (Karwan Fatah-Black) *19-Feb at 3.15pm*
- \* Lecture 3. Asian Diaspora and Indentured Labour (Rosemarijn Hoeft) *26-Feb at 2pm*
- \* Discussion *26-Feb at 3.15pm*

#### Preparation

- Hillman & D'Agostino, *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*, Chapter 3 The Historical Context, to p.74
- Marisa J. Fuentes, *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive*, University of Pennsylvania Press 2016. Chapter 3 "Venus": Abolition Discourse, Gendered Violence, and the Archive

#### Question(s)

- Slavery and indentured labour were horribly efficient economic systems. How are they linked to capitalism and the birth of modernity?
- What are unique traits of Caribbean history?

#### Proposition(s)

- The history of the Caribbean is the history of modernity; and it is tied with the making of contemporary Europe.

### 3. Identities - WEEKS 5 & 6 (March 5<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup>)

- \* Lecture 1. Radical Thinkers (Alana Osbourne) *05-March at 2pm*
- \* Lecture 2. Race and Ethnicity (Francio Guadeloupe) *05-March at 3.15pm*
- \* Lecture 3. Sexual Citizenship (Julian Isenia) *12-March at 2pm*

\* Discussion [12-March at 3.15pm](#)

Preparation

- Hillman & D'Agostino, *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*, Chapter 8 Ethnicity, Race, Class, and Nationality
- Hall, Stuart (2001) "Negotiating Caribbean Identities." In: Brian Meeks and Folke Lindahl (eds.), *New Caribbean Thought: A Reader*, pp. 24-39. Kingston: UWI Press
- De Kom, Anton, and Arnold Pomerans. "From We Slaves of Suriname." *Callaloo* 21.3 (1998): 667-672

Question(s)

- What is Caribbean identity?
- What common questions guide many Caribbean thinkers and authors?

Proposition(s)

- Thinking with and from the Caribbean troubles normative ideas of identity whether in relation to skin colour, roots, belonging or gender.

#### 4. Cultures - WEEKS 7 & 8 (March 19<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup>)

\* Lecture 1. Colonial Myths and Facts (Luc Alofs) [19-March at 2pm](#)

\* Lecture 2. Calypso and Creolization (Gregory Richardson) [19-March at 3.15pm](#)

\* Lecture 3. Caribbean Literature (Isabel Hoving) [26-March at 2pm](#)

\* Discussion 3 [26-March at 3.15pm](#)

Preparation

- Hillman & D'Agostino, *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*, Chapter 11 Literature and Popular Culture
- Negrón-Muntaner, Frances, and Raquel Z. Rivera. "Reggaeton Nation." *NACLA Report on the Americas* 40.6 (2007): 35-39
- Hope, Donna P. "Passa Passa: Interrogating Cultural Hybridities in Jamaican Dancehall." *Small Axe* 10.3 (2006): 125-139

Question(s)

- How to recognise Caribbean music?

Proposition(s)

- Caribbean culture has distinctive traits.

#### 5. Developments in Political Economies – WEEKS 09 & 10 (April 9<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup>)

\* Lecture 1. Emancipation and Transition (Michiel Baud) [09-April at 2pm](#)

\* Lecture 2. Caribbean Economy and Integration (Gert Oostindie) [09-April at 3.15pm](#)

\* Lecture 3. Americanization, Globalization and the Future of the Caribbean (Rosemarijn Hoeft) [16-April at 2pm](#)

\* Discussion [16-April at 3.15pm](#)

Preparation

- Hillman & D'Agostino, *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*, Chapter 5 The Economies of the Caribbean
- Beckles, Hilary (1997) "Capitalism, Slavery and Caribbean Modernity." *Callaloo* 20(4): 777-789
- Matthew Louis Bishop, *The Political Economy of Caribbean Development*, Chapter 6 Economic Development, Palgrave MacMillan 2013

Question(s)

- What are the Caribbean's main economic resources and challenges?
- How is the Caribbean's contemporary economic situation tied to the history of the plantation economy?

Proposition(s)

- The only way forward for the Caribbean is tourism.

## 6. Ecologies – WEEKS 11 & 12 (April 23<sup>rd</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>)

\* Lecture 1. Political Ecologies (Rivke Jaffe) [23-April at 2pm](#)

\* Lecture 2. Environmental Management and Activism (Stacey McDonald) [23-April at 3.15pm](#)

\* Lecture 3. Tourism (Alana Osbourne) [30-April at 2pm](#)

\* Discussion [30-April at 3.15pm](#)

Preparation

- Hillman & D'Agostino, *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*, Chapter 7 The Environment and Ecology
- Mika, Kasia 2019. *Disasters, Vulnerability and Narratives: Writing Haiti's Futures*, Routledge. Pp 3-16
- Sheller, Mimi (2004) "Demobilizing and Remobilizing Caribbean Paradise." In: Mimi Sheller and John Urry (eds.), *Tourism Mobilities: Places to Play, Places in Play*. Routledge, pp. 25-33

Question(s)

- How is the Caribbean's landscape and ecology represented in Western imaginings?

Proposition(s)

- The Caribbean is a paradise, a tropical gem. It remains untouched, unpolluted and eternal.

## EXAM – Written essay [date TBC](#)

## FURTHER READING

Please also check latest publications on the Duke University Press, UWI Press and Florida University Press's Caribbean catalogues available online.

Abbott, Elizabeth, Sugar: A Bittersweet History. London: Duckworth, 2009.

Ayala, César J., & Bernabe, Rafael, Puerto Rico in the American Century: A History Since 1898. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press 2007.

Barrow, Christine & Rhoda Reddock (eds.), Caribbean Sociology: Introductory Readings. Kingston: Ian Randle, 2001.

Bell, Beverly; Fault Lines: Views across Haiti's Divide. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013.

Bishop, Matt, The Political Economy of Caribbean Development. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Bolland, O. Nigel, The Politics of Labour in the British Caribbean. Kingston: Ian Randle, 2001.

Brereton, Bridget & Kevin Yelvington (eds.), The Colonial Caribbean in Transition: Essays on Postemancipation Social and Cultural History. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1999.

Burnard, Trevor, Mastery, Tyranny, and Desire: Thomas Thistlewood and His Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004.

Cañizares-Esguerra, Jorge, and Seeman, Erik R., (eds.), The Atlantic in Global History, 1500-2000. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2007.

Chamberlain, Mary, Empire and Nation-Building in the Caribbean: Barbados, 1937-66. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2010.

Coclanis, Peter A., ( ed.), The Atlantic Economy During the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries: Organization, Operation, Practice, and Personnel. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2005.

Crosby, Alfred W., Jr., The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1972.

Curtin, Philip D., The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex: Essays in Atlantic History. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Dabydeen, David & Brinsley Samaroo (eds.), Across the Dark Waters: Ethnicity and Indian Identity in the Caribbean. London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1996.

Doesburg, Coot van, Grenada: liefde voor een eiland. Amsterdam: Thomas Rap, 2009. Drescher, Seymour, Abolition: A History of Slavery and Antislavery. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Duany, Jorge, Blurred Borders: Transnational Migration between the Hispanic Caribbean and the United States. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011.

Dubois, Laurent, *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History*. New York: Metropolitan, 2012.

Dubois, Laurent, and John D. Garrigus, *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean, 1798-1804: A Brief History with Documents*. Boston: Bedford St. Martin's, 2006.

Dunn, Richard S., *A Tale of Two Plantations": Slave Life and Labor in Jamaica and Virginia*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014.

Edwards, Brent Hayes, *The Practice of Diaspora: Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Internationalism*. Cambridge & London: Harvard University Press, 2003.

Elliot, John, *Empires of the Atlantic World: Britain and Spain in America, 1492-1830*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006.

Eltis, David, *The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Emmer, Pieter, *The Dutch in the Atlantic Economy, 1580-1880: Trade, Slavery and Emancipation*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 1998.

Ferrer, Ada, *Freedom's Mirror: Cuba and Haiti in the Age of Revolution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

French, Patrick, *The World Is What It Is: The Authorized Biography of V.S. Naipaul*. London: Picador, 2008.

Fuente, Alejandro de la, *A Nation for All: Race, Inequality, and Politics in Twentieth-Century Cuba*. Chapel Hill & London: University of North Carolina Press, 2001.

Garrigus, John D., & Christopher Morris, ( eds.), *Assumed Identities: The Meanings of Race in the Atlantic World*. Arlington: A&M Press, 2010.

Geggus, David: *Haitian Revolutionary Studies*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002.

Gowricharn, Ruben (ed.), *Caribbean Transnationalism: Migration, Pluralization, and Social Cohesion*. Oxford: Lexington, 2006.

Graziano, Frank: *Undocumented Dominican Migration*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2013.

Guadeloupe, Francio, *Chanting Down the New Jerusalem: Calypso ,Christianity, and Capitalism in the Caribbean*. Berkeley [etc.]: University of California Press, 2009.

Helg, Aline, *Our Rightful Share: The Afro-Cuban Struggle for Equality, 1886-1912*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995.

Hennessy, Alistair (ed.), *Intellectuals in the Twentieth-Century Caribbean*. 2 vols. London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1992.

Heuman, Gad, *The Caribbean*. London: Hodder Arnold, 2006.

Higman, B.W., *Proslavery Priest: The Atlantic World of John Lindsay, 1729-1788*. Kingston: University of the West Indies Press, 2011.

Hochschild, Adam, *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

Jong, Nanette, de: *Tambú: Curaçao's African-Caribbean Ritual and the Politics of Memory*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012.

Kamen, Henry, *Empire: How Spain Became a World Power, 1492-1763*. New York: Harper Collins, 2003.

Kempen, Michiel van, *Een geschiedenis van de Surinaamse literatuur. 3 delen*. Breda: De Geus, 2003.

Khan, Aisha, *Callaloo Nation: Metaphors of Race and Religious Identity among South Asians in Trinidad*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.

Knight, Franklin W., *The Caribbean: The Genesis of a Fragmented Nationalism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Laferrière, Dany: *The World is Moving Around Me: A Memoir of the Haiti Earthquake*. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp, 2013.

Lewis, Gordon K., *Main Currents in Caribbean Thought: The Historical Evolution of Caribbean Society in Its Ideological Aspects, 1492-1900*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004.

López, Kathleen: *Chinese Cubans: A Transnational History*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013.

Macpherson, Anne S., *From Colony to Nation: Women Activists and the Gendering of Politics in Belize, 1912-1982*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2007.

Marshall, Bill, *French Atlantic: Travels in Culture and History*. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2009.

Mawby, Spencer: *Ordering Independence: The End of Empire in the Anglophone Caribbean, 1947-1969*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. McGillivray, Gillian, *Blazing Cane: Sugar Communities, Class, and State Formation in Cuba, 1868-1959*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2009.

McNeill, J.R., *Mosquito Empire: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Mills, Charles W., *Radical Theory, Caribbean Reality: Race, Class and Social Domination*. Kingston: University of the West Indies Press, 2010.

Mintz, Sidney, *Caribbean Transformations*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1989. Munasinghe, Viranjini, *Callaloo or Tossed Salad? East Indians and the Cultural Politics of Identity in Trinidad*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2001.

Murrell, Nathaniel Samuel, *Afro-Caribbean Religions: An Introduction to their Historical, Cultural, and Sacred Traditions*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2009.

Nicholls, David, *From Dessalines to Duvalier: Race, Colour and National Independence in Haiti*. 3rd edition. London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1996.

Oostindie, Gert & Inge Klinkers, Decolonising the Caribbean: Dutch Policies in a Comparative Perspective. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2001.

Paessie, Rudolf, Lorrendrayen op Africa: de illegale goederen- en slavenhandel op West- Afrika tijdens het achttiende-eeuwse handelsmonopolie van de West-Indische Compagnie, 1700-1734. Amsterdam: De Bataafsche Leeuw, 2008.

Pattullo, Polly, Last Resorts: The Cost of Tourism in the Caribbean. London: Latin American Bureau, 1996.

Payne, Anthony & Paul Sutton, Charting Caribbean Development. London: Macmillan, 2001.

Pérez, Louis A., Jr., Cuba in the American Imagination: Metaphor and the Imperial Ethos. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008.

Price, Richard (ed.), Maroon Societies: Rebel Slave Communities in the Americas. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979.

Ramos, Aarón Gamaliel & Angel Israel Rivera (eds.), Islands at the Crossroads: Politics in the Non-Independent Caribbean. Kingston: Ian Randle/Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2001.

Ramsey, Kate, The Spirits and the Law: Vodou and Power in Haiti. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

Roorda, Eric-Paul, Lauren H. Derby & Raymundo Gonzalez (eds): The Dominican Republic Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Durham: Duke University Press, 2014.

Rouse, Irving, The Taínos: Rise and Decline of the People Who Greeted Columbus. New Haven, CN: Yale University Press, 1999.

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Schoultz, Lars, That Infernal Little Republic: The United States and the Cuban Revolution. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.

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Sweig, Julia E., *Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Tate, Shirley Anne & Ian Law, *Caribbean Racisms: Connections and Complexities in the Racialisation of the Caribbean Region*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

Thoden van Velzen, H.U.E. & Wim Hoogbergen, *Een zwarte vrijstaat in Suriname: de Okaanse samenleving in de achttiende eeuw*. Leiden: KITLV Outgeneral, 2011.

Thompson, Krista, *An Eye for the Tropics: Tourism, Photography, and Framing the Caribbean Picturesque*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995.

Vink, Wieke, *Creole Jews: Negotiating Community in Colonial Suriname*. Leiden: KITLV Press, 2010.

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Wilson, Samuel M., *The Archaeology of the Caribbean*. Cambridge:Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Zacaïr, Philippe, *Haiti and the Haitian Diaspora in the Wider Caribbean*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2010.

## FURTHER READING FICTION

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Amatmoekrim, Karin, Wanneer wij samen zijn. Amsterdam: Prometheus, 2006.

Arellano, Robert, Havana Lunar. New York: Akashic Books, 2009.

Arion, Frank Martinus, Dubbelspel: roman. Amsterdam: De Bezige Bij, 1996. (1e dr.: 1973.) Barnet, Miguel, Cimarron: het verhaal van de wegeloopen slaaf Esteban Montejo. Haarlem: In de Knipscheer, 1982. (Vert. van, Biografía de uncimarrón, 1966.)

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Brijs, Stefan, Maan en zon. Amsterdam: Atlas Contact, 2015.

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Chaviano, Daína, The Island of Eternal Love. New York: Riverhead Books 2008. (Vert. van, Isla de los amores infinitos, 2006.)

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Jamaludin, Rihana, De zwarte lord. Amsterdam: KIT Publishers, 2009. Kempadoo, Oonya,

Buxton Spice. London: Phoenix House, 1998.

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Kushner, Rachel, Telex from Cuba. New York: Scribner, 2008.

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Lalla, Barbara: Uncle Brother. Kingston: University of the West Indies Press, 2014.

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Levy, Andrea, The Long Song. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010.

Lovelace, Earl, The Wine of Astonishment. London: Heinemann Educational, 1983.

Mars, Kettly, Wrede seizoenen. Breda: De Geus, 2011. (Vert. van, Saisons sauvages, 2010.)

Marugg, Tip, De morgen loeit weer aan. Amsterdam: De Bezige Bij, 1991. (1e dr.: 1988.) Melville, Pauline, The Ventriloquist's Tale. Londen: Bloomsbury, 1997.

Mendez, Alfred H., The Man Who Ran Away and Other Stories of Trinidad in the 1920s and 1930s. Kingston: University Press of the West Indies, 2006.

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