

CRGS Issue 12

Gender and Anti-colonialism in the Interwar Caribbean

About

In this issue of the *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*, we examine the political ferment of the interwar period (1918–1939), tracking how gendered conceptions of rights, respectability, leadership, and belonging informed anti-colonial thought and praxis. Rather than constructing a singular narrative of Caribbean anti-colonialism, we grapple with the varied political visions and modes of resistance that animated critiques of colonial rule, attending at once to place-specific strategies and to shared regional agendas. The articles featured in this issue present new research on gender and anti-colonialism in Jamaica, Haiti, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Curaçao, Trinidad, British Guiana (Guyana), and Caribbean diasporic communities in Panama and the United States. We seek to disrupt the longstanding focus on the “fathers” of Caribbean nationalism by excavating women’s contributions to the region’s nationalist struggles. In addition, we foreground gender and sexuality as crucial sites of contestation within nationalist struggles to show how Caribbean women and men alike employed gender ideologies to assess grassroots resistance movements and new forms of belonging. Bridging the fields of women’s history and gender and sexuality studies, this issue offers a feminist analysis of the social, material, and discursive dimensions of anti-colonialism in the interwar-era Greater Caribbean.

Key words

anti-colonialism, gender, citizenship, feminism, interwar period

Editors:

Reena Goldthree is an Assistant Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University and a past Fulbright fellow at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. She studies the social, political, and intellectual history of modern Latin America and the Caribbean. Her current book project, *Democracy Shall be no Empty Romance: War and the Politics of Empire in the Greater Caribbean*, examines how the crisis of World War I transformed Afro-Caribbeans’ understanding of, and engagements with, the British Empire. Beyond the book manuscript, her research has appeared in the *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, *Radical Teacher*, and three edited volumes.

Natanya Duncan is an Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies with an affiliate status in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Lehigh University. A historian of the African Diaspora, her research and teaching focus on global freedom movements of the 20th and 21st centuries. Duncan’s research interests include constructions of identity and nation building amongst women of color; migrations; color and class in Diasporic communities; and the engagements of intellectuals throughout the African Diaspora. Her current book manuscript, *Crossing Waters & Fighting Tides: The Efficient Womanhood of the UNIA*, focuses on the distinct activist strategies enacted by women in the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), which Duncan calls an “efficient womanhood.” Following the ways women in the UNIA scripted their own understanding of Pan Africanism, Black Nationalism, and constructions of Diasporic Blackness, the book traces the blending of nationalist and gendered concerns amongst prominent and lesser-known Garveyite women. Duncan’s publications include several works that explore the leadership models of UNIA women. Her research has appeared in the *Journal of Liberty Hall* (2017), the *Journal of New York History* (2014), and *The American South and the Atlantic World* (University of Florida Press, 2013). Her research has been supported by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and the Social Science Research Council.



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Jasmine Girvan

Of Flesh and Ether, 2015

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Institute for Gender and Development Studies

St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

<http://sta.uwi.edu/igds/>

Email: igds@sta.uwi.edu

Phone: 1-868-662-2002

Ext 83572/83577/83868



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Phone: 1-868-662-2002
Ext 83573/83577

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