



## Editor's Note

## Papers from the Nita Barrow Unit

### Editors

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Feminist scholars recognize that knowledge is power so producing and disseminating new knowledge is important in tackling androcentric, enlightenment essentialist paradigms that contribute to gender and racial inequalities and devalue women's subjectivities. Since there is power in the "word", it is only fitting that we highlight the scholarship of three distinguished female professors of The University of the West Indies for our Working Paper Series. Through their thought-provoking insights, two authors probe the complexity of heterosexual gender relations through the prism of love, sexuality, family and the political economy while the other author seeks to historicize and centre black women's leadership from slavery and beyond through the "politics of memory." The pieces are drawn from different perspectives - two are from lectures delivered at the annual Caribbean Women Catalysts for Change Lecture in honour of the late Dame Nita Barrow hosted by the IGDS: NBU, and the third is a critical essay reflecting the inter-disciplinary scope of women's, gender and feminist studies. Readers are encouraged to critically consider whether post-colonial Caribbean realities can rectify the contradictory ways in which women are positioned inside and outside the nation and family when it comes to them exercising erotic agency and autonomy unencumbered by respectability politics and the lure of care work in their socio-sexual relationships, and how women strategize around power-plays in political and community leadership in forging new paths to power. By locating these pieces in Gender Dialogues, hopefully, students and scholars alike can build on these scholarly contributions in advancing Caribbean feminist thought.

### How to cite

Crawford, Charmaine and Leigh-Ann Worrell. 2019. "Editors Note on Papers from the Nita Barrow Unit" *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*, Issue 13: 231-232