Conference: Beyond Westminster in the Caribbean: Critiques, Challenges and Reform
11 – 12 September 2014
University of the West Indies, Mona

Draft Programme

THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

9.00 – 9.30 Welcome and Introduction, Brian Meeks and Kate Quinn


10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.00 PANEL 1: Westminster in Historical Perspective

• Richard Drayton, ‘Westminster Undemocracy: Crown, Legislature and Experiments in West Indian Government over the Long Run’
• Hamid Ghany, ‘Understanding our Constitutional Foundations in a Society and Region Steeped in British Traditions’

12.00 – 1.00 Lunch

1.00 – 2.30 PANEL 2: Westminster in Practice

• Cynthia Barrow-Giles, ‘Good Governance or Penance?’
• Trevor Munroe, ‘Ministerial Responsibility – Myth or Reality? The Jamaican Case’
• Clifford Griffin, ‘Un-Civil Society in the Caribbean – Westminster in Shackles’

2.30 – 3.00 Coffee Break

3.00 – 4.00 PANEL 3: Reforming Westminster: Regional and Global Lessons

• HarshanKumarasingham, ‘Reforms and Regrets: Lessons from the New Westminsters’
• H.E. Dylan Vernon, ‘Reforming Westminster by Commission: Lessons from Belize’

5.00 Keynote: Dr. Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

9.30 – 10.30 Hon. Bruce Golding MP, ‘Challenges for Good Governance within the Westminster Framework’

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.00 PANEL 4: Westminster in Crisis?

• Tennyson Joseph, ‘The Westminster Model and the Collapse of the Post-Colonial Order’
• Selwyn Ryan, ‘The Collapse of the Westminster State in the Caribbean: The Case of Trinidad and Tobago’

12.00 – 1.00 Lunch

1.00 – 2.00 PANEL 5: Beyond Westminster: Imagining New Futures (i)

• Patsy Lewis, ‘Beyond Westminster in the Caribbean: A Perspective on the Regional Project’

2.00 – 2.30 Break

2.30 – 3.30 PANEL 6: Beyond Westminster: Imagining New Futures (ii)

• Sunity Maharaj, ‘Westminster and the Quest for Relevance: Revolution or Representation?’
• Alissa Trotz, ‘Deterritorializing Caribbean Sovereignty: Feminist Reflections’

3.30 – 4.00 Coffee Break

4.00 – 5.00 Brian Meeks, ‘Whither Westminster? Whither Democracy?’

5.30 Reception and Book Launch:
Black Power in the Caribbean (UPF, 2014)
Speaker/s: Rupert Lewis and Kate Quinn (editor)