

CARIBBEAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES IN EDUCATION (CASE) SIG
SLATE OF CANDIDATES 2015

SIG Chair

1. Laurette Bristol
2. Berte van Wyk

SIG Co-Chair

1. Joyanne De Four-Babb
2. Sylvia Henry
3. Ane Turner Johnson

SIG Program Chair

1. Michelle Knight
2. Justina O. Osa

SIG Program Co-Chair

1. Iris Hewitt-Bradshaw
2. Anica G. Bowe
3. Travis Bristol
4. Mark Williams

SIG Webmaster

1. Erica Bass-Flimmons
2. Bethsaida Nieves

CHAIR 2015-2017

Dr. Laurette Bristol

Charles Sturt University, Australia

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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

Laurette is currently an Assistant Director at the Research Institute for Professional Practice, Learning and Education (RIPPLE). In this position she shares responsibility with members of the RIPPLE Management Committee to design research development initiatives, promote the research connectivity of RIPPLE members locally and internationally and engage with potential research partners in Industry. Laurette's research interests inhabit the nexus between professional learning and sustainable school and practice transformation. Her publications on leading, teaching, professional learning and mentoring draws on postcolonial theory, practice theory ("practice architectures" Kemmis et al., 2014) and narrative research approaches. In addition to several book chapters and journal articles on professional learning, Laurette has presented papers and workshops at national, regional and international conferences.

Laurette is currently the CASE SIG Co-Chair (2013-2015) and is keen to contribute to the sustainable development of the SIG through a fostering of strong research connections amongst members. Her long-term dream is for members of CASE to be involved in collaborative grant projects that engage with the opportunities and challenges of quality education for social, political and economic development amongst Caribbean and African teachers and students.

Dr. Berte van Wyk
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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

My involvement with the SIG for the last couple of years made me acutely aware of the international nature and diverse backgrounds of the membership. This poses a particular challenge to popularize the SIG as a home for people not only from African and Caribbean descent within AERA, but for all those who associate themselves with the elevation of humanity. To this end I shall strive to build the SIG and to continue the efforts to foster closer ties with other SIGS. In terms of the AERA sessions there is room to reflect on how the AERA theme can be given further credence by organizing panels that highlight the research of the membership. Here one can draw on special themes, which constitute critical discourses in the countries of the membership. An option to be explored is how to ensure that the SIG functions outside of the AERA meeting. I'm sure there are conferences or opportunities where the SIG membership can participate and showcase their research. Members must be continuously reminded to provide information on their activities for the SIG website so as to keep everybody updated on their achievements. I function best within an African sense of communalism, and will foreground this approach to the executive and the wider membership. Lastly, if my nomination is accepted I will be the first South African to chair the SIG, and it will signify the SIG's inroads into new domains.

Co-CHAIR 2015-2017

Dr. Joyanne De Four-Babb

University of Reading

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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

Joyanne De Four-Babb (Ed.D.) is presently a full-time MBA student at the University of Reading, UK. Formerly, she was an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Education at American University in Cairo, Egypt. Between 2008 and 2012, she was an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Practicum Program at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). Joyanne's personal, educational and teaching experiences in Trinidad, Jamaica, Texas U.S.A, New Zealand, England and Egypt during the last 30 years have shaped her outlook on teaching and learning and given her unique insights into the practice and theory of education. Joyanne has authored and co-authored book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles in international publications, as well as presented posters and papers at several international conferences.

Joyanne has been a member of the CASE SIG since 2009 and served as the SIG's 2015 Program Chair. She is committed to supporting early career academics through mentoring and coaching. Joyanne will work to encourage new members join the CASE SIG and willingly share her story about how being a member of the CASE SIG has helped to develop and maintain her career as an academic. Joyanne has been and, if given the opportunity again, will continue to be a hardworking member of the CASE Executive team.

Dr. Sylvia Maureen Henry J.P
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados
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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

Dr. Sylvia Henry is the Instructional Development Specialist, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. She has achieved over thirty years' experience in the areas of classroom practice as a qualified teacher and literacy diagnostician in Barbados and the USA; educational administration; curriculum planning; policy and implementation; and faculty development. Her current role includes the providing of leadership in the development and demonstration of appropriate teaching/learning materials; advising on quality assurance matters that relate to teaching and learning; guiding the process of course and program design; and coordinating faculty development activities on the campus including the Postgraduate Certificate in University Teaching and Learning program for faculty. Additionally, this role entails collaborating with local, regional and international partners in higher education regarding policy and research in areas which relate to teaching and learning and quality assurance.

Dr. Henry has served as CARICOM and Commonwealth of Learning focal points on education and has accumulated many networking resources, which could be beneficial to the CASE SIG as it strengthens the vital link across the Caribbean Diaspora. Dr. Henry has conceptualized the "Research Circle" which provides a cross-campus forum for scholars to present and discuss research and for new researchers to be mentored into research. Another initiative has been the Research Supervisor Development Training Course. This course prepares graduate research supervisors as well as offers a forum for student researchers. Empirical evidence from these initiatives can benefit the CASE SIG as it continues to advance its research agenda.

Dr. Ane Turner Johnson

Rowan University – New Jersey

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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

My name is Ane Turner Johnson and I am an assistant professor of Educational Leadership at Rowan University. My teaching focuses on doctoral-level research methods courses and diversity and leadership. As a researcher, I have dedicated my career to upending the crisis narrative prevalent in discussions of higher education in sub-Saharan Africa. Public institutions, within this context, are discursively portrayed as incapable of intentional contribution to development. While there are many critical capacity issues worthy of inquiry, this narrow focus obstructs the realities of these universities, furthering the center/periphery paradigm and thwarting our efforts to learn from African successes. In order to bring attention to the developmental capacity of higher education institutions in Africa, I have published articles in *Prospects*, *Higher Education*, *Higher Education Policy*, *Compare*, and *Educational Administration, Management and Leadership* and have presented this work at many academic conferences, including AERA.

Most recently, my scholarship has addressed how universities in Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire, in post-conflict contexts, participate in peace building, or rather the processes needed to transform conflict toward more sustainable, peaceful relationships. In this research, I seek to develop a framework that scholars and practitioners may use when promoting a peace agenda within their institution. I bring this scholar-practitioner approach with me as a member of the CASE SIG. As co-chair I will support the leadership of the SIG by seeking ways to raise the profile of our work within AERA and within the educational research community so that others may learn from Caribbean and African educational innovations.

PROGRAM CHAIR 2015-2016

Dr. Michelle G. Knight
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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

Michelle G. Knight is an associate professor in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching at Teachers College, Columbia University where she teaches courses, including but not limited to, urban education, culturally responsive grounded research for immigrants of color, qualitative research methodologies, and critical perspectives on secondary education. Dr. Knight's research is broadly focused on issues of education equity within the intersection of race/ethnicity and gender for college readiness and access of Black and Latina/o youth, the strengths and assets of African immigrant youth and young adults, and urban teacher education. Her scholarship on African immigrants' educational experience and civic contributions to America has recently received support from an American Educational Research Service Project Award, and several grants from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Knight values civic engagement and community outreach evident in her co-research with a community based organization, Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Girls, which allows graduate students to learn how to conduct more ethical and culturally responsive research with varied African immigrant populations. Dr. Knight is the current CASE SIG Program Co-Chair and has also served as a 2002 Section 4 Co-Chair, Division G, Social Contexts of Educational Policy, Politics and Praxis AERA. Dr. Knight was responsible for the various tasks necessary to plan and complete the reviews of the AERA proposals for the Annual Meeting. In sum, Dr. Knight seeks

to bring her multiple strengths and experiences as a researcher and conference organizer to the position of Sig Program Co-Chair to assist the Program Chair.

Dr. Justina O. Osa

American University of Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

Dr. Osa is Professor and Chair at the American University of Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates. She is an avid researcher and scholar. In recent years, her research agenda includes leadership development, international education, and mentoring and coaching. In 2012, Dr. Osa joined the International Study of Principal Preparation (ISPP), a study involving researchers and recently appointed principals from Australia, Canada, China, England, Germany, Ghana, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Scotland, South Africa, Tanzania, Turkey, and the United States of America. She has published book chapters and peer-reviewed articles, and presented papers internationally, nationally and regionally at professional conferences. She has been an invited speaker in different professional conferences and won awards. Dr. Osa has received grants to enhance academic achievement for K-12 students. She is currently involved in two grants from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Osa is a member of several professional organizations including member of the Board of Examiners of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and a reviewer for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

I am hopeful that I will use my professional experiences, especially experiences I gained initiating and providing leadership needed to host the annual Summer Institute in my institution for the past seven years for our CASE SIG to have a good conference program. My experience and dedication to research will enhance the process of encouraging, selecting, and providing opportunities for colleagues to share their research findings relative to the Caribbean and Africa.

PROGRAM CO-CHAIR 2015-2016

Dr. Iris Hewitt-Bradshaw

University of Trinidad and Tobago

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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

Iris Hewitt-Bradshaw is a Senior Instructor in Language, Literature and Linguistics at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Language and Linguistics, and a Master of Philosophy degree in Language Education, a Diploma in International Relations and a Diploma in Education. She recently successfully defended her PhD. thesis in Language Education at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. She is a published author with a special interest in researching issues in Caribbean education.

Dr. Anica G. Bowe
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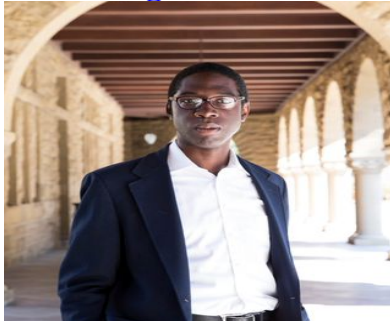
BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

Anica G Bowe is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. She earned a Ph.D. in Education Psychology with a focus in Quantitative Methods in Education. Her interests are in evaluation practices for school-based initiatives, instrument development, quantitative research methods and design, and education development within the Caribbean. She has been a member of AERA since 2009 and the CASE SIG since 2012. She is a native of The Bahamas, and is keen towards collaborating with scholars, educators, and evaluators within the Caribbean region and beyond to support the growth and development of education systems there. Her research has been published (or accepted for publication) in *Evaluation & Program Planning* and *Urban Education*, among others.

Dr. Travis Jackson Bristol

Stanford University

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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

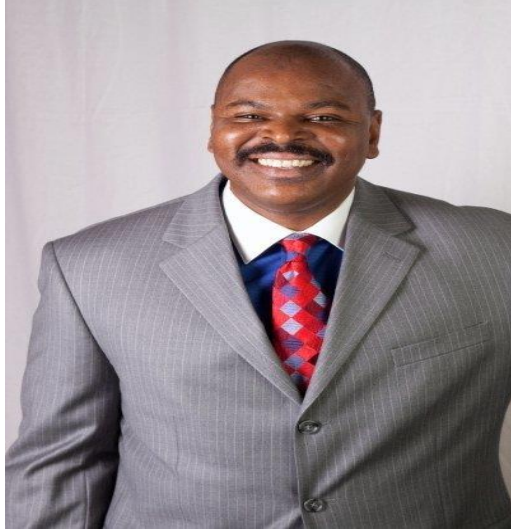
I received my doctorate in philosophy, with a concentration in education policy, from Columbia University in May 2014 and am currently a research and policy fellow at the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education (SCOPE) where Linda Darling-Hammond serves as faculty director. My research interests focus on the intersection of race and gender in organizations. I examine how policy levers used by local, state, national, and international actors influence teacher workplace experiences and retention, as well as student learning.

For the past four years, I have been a member of the SIG. Moreover, I have presented two papers, at two separate annual meetings. This past year, I served as a reviewer for the SIG. As such, I gained invaluable insight into the business of the SIG – particularly around managing reviews. If nominated, I will support the SIG Program Chair in carrying out his/her duties.

Mr. Mark Williams

Clark Atlanta University

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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

My name is Mark Williams and I am currently a Doctoral student at Clark Atlanta University in the Department of Educational Leadership. I am in my second year. I hold a B.A. in Accounting from Morehouse College and a MEd in School Counseling from Auburn University. I worked as a school counselor since 2000. As a school counselor, I have been a financial member of the American Counseling Association, American School Counselor Association and the Georgia Association of Educators.

As I embark upon completing my Educational Doctorate, I am looking to become more professionally involved with professional organizations as a way of increasing my knowledge and skills. I am looking to contribute my willingness to learn and support the mission and vision of CASE SIG. I have an extensive background working with organizations and in some cases developing and organizing community projects on my own. Additionally, I am looking to for opportunities to grow and learn and hope that CASE SIG and this position can provide me with those opportunities.

WEBMASTER 2015-2017

Ms. Erica Bass-Flimmons

Georgia State University

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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Erica Bass-Flimmons is a 2nd year doctoral student in the Learning Technologies Division at Georgia State University. She completed her MS degree in Instructional Design and Technology at Georgia State University. Her BS degree is in Business Marketing from Tennessee State University, which is located in Nashville, TN. Her research interest includes studying mobile devices in developing countries with a focus on public health education. While receiving her Master's degree, Erica studied at the Durban University of Technology located in South Africa to research Indigenous Technologies (2011). During the first year of her doctoral studies, Erica visited Ghana while researching the Mobile Maternal Health Project with a local NGO (2014).

As a doctoral student, Erica has served as a graduate research assistant to the Learning Technologies Department where she served as the communicating officer for the Technology Ask Project which consists of coordinating face to face and online workshops with faculty members and workshop facilitators. Currently, she is the graduate project coordinator for the online foreign language-tutoring project, a graduate research assistant to the Dean of International Partnerships, and serves as the current president for the graduate Instructional Technology organization. Her current roles consist of updating events on social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram along with Wordpress. By being the Webmaster for the CASE SIG, Erica plans to manage the SIG's website by updating content, creating pages when needed, and posting announcements as requested by the SIG committee.

Ms. Bethsaida Nieves
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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As webmaster for the CASE SIG, I would be able to update and maintain the CASE SIG's online presence by contributing my writing, editing, and website design skills. I currently maintain the website for the Chican@ and Latin@ Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and I would be very interested in contributing my skills in desktop publishing, web development, and web programming to the CASE SIG. Lastly, I am interested in continuing to share my knowledge of and interest in Caribbean scholarship and culture with the CASE SIG.