

STATEMENT FROM THE FACULTY ADVISOR

Caribbean Studies students are really something special.

I am not just saying this to be nice, but to see this journal come together against a backdrop of uncertainty and disruption due to COVID-19, revealed the passion that students in this program have for advancing insightful analyses of complex issues, the necessity of building community and keeping things moving forward (ever).

While this fifth edition of Caribbean Quilt does not have single unifying theme, I argue that the pieces all challenge us to think deeply about the transnational issues of race, gender, class and citizenship from a uniquely Caribbean/Diasporic perspective. From the artwork on the front cover, to the collection of insightful essays compiled in this volume, it is a testament to the importance of the Caribbean Studies Program at the University of Toronto as an active site of critical inquiry, creativity and student engagement.

When thinking about how to approach this statement, I could hear my late grandfather saying in St. Lucian Kwéyòl that the creation of this journal was a true reflection of community spirit, our own Caribbean Studies *konbit*. The collective labour involved in putting this journal together came from all corners of the New College community, with a special thanks going out to the Director of Caribbean Studies, Nestor Rodriguez, the New College Librarian, Jeff Newman, and the Academic Support Staff, Nancy Crawley and Nancy Dragicevic – who all went above and beyond in order to ensure that this edition of Caribbean Quilt had all of the resources and supports needed. The Editorial Team would also like to thank Professors June Larkin and Bonnie McElhinny, for their ongoing support of important student projects via the New College Initiatives Fund. We would also like to thank our compañera and copy editor Pamela Arencibia, who patiently and meticulously oversaw the revision process.

Most importantly, I am incredibly proud to have worked alongside the Caribbean Studies Student Union and the collection of contributors who made this latest volume of Caribbean Quilt possible. A big thank you to David Allens, an emerging Bahamian scholar, who played a central role in getting the journal back online and contributed two thought provoking pieces of his own. However, none of this would have been possible without the Editorial Team of Yohanna Merhary and Caleb Yohannes, who proved to be a dynamic combination in both keeping the journal, and this absent minded professor on track.

Throughout this process I learned a great deal about the kinds of students we have in Caribbean Studies, not just in terms of their intellectual contributions, but what kind of people they are overall. Putting a journal together takes a lot of work and comes with its own difficulties during the best of times. On top of their own pressing academic, personal and community responsibilities, Yohanna and Caleb were determined to see this project through to the finish. Their commitment was always framed as a way to give their fellow students something to look forward to, and keep the tradition of the Caribbean Quilt going. They even organized an online launch party via Zoom 😊. You are all shining examples of how we build community, practice solidarity and keep things moving despite the circumstances. Because of that,

I am confident that I speak on behalf of the entire Caribbean Studies Program and your fellow classmates in giving you our deepest thanks and congratulations on this latest version of Caribbean Quilt.

In Solidarity

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Edmonds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kevin Edmonds,
Caribbean Quilt Faculty Advisor, Caribbean Studies