

# INDEPENDENCE AND AFTER: DR ERIC WILLIAMS & THE MAKING OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

10.00-6.00

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAS

The Senate Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, SENATE HOUSE

LONDON WC1E 9HU

*To mark the centenary of the birth of Dr Eric Williams and in anticipation of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence in Trinidad and Tobago, this one-day conference explores the shaping of Trinidadian politics and society under the Williams' administration and the legacies of this period today. To attend please RSVP [olga.jimenez@sas.ac.uk](mailto:olga.jimenez@sas.ac.uk)*

Photo: Eric Williams Memorial Collection, UWI, St Augustine

## PROGRAMME

10.00-10.05 Welcome and Introduction

10.05 – 11.15 **Dissecting the Man and the Myth**

- Paul Sutton, Reader Emeritus, Hull University  
*Ryan on Williams: An Appreciation and Critique*
- Selwyn Ryan, University of the West Indies, St Augustine  
*Response*
- Colin Palmer, Schomburg Center  
*Response*

11.15 – 11.30 Tea & Coffee

11.30 -1.00 **Politics & Ethnicity**

- Colin Clarke, Professor Emeritus, Oxford University  
*Reflexions on Race, Religion and Politics in Trinidad and Tobago either side of Independence*
- Brinsley Samaroo, University of the West Indies, St Augustine  
*Dr Williams' Academic East Indian Concerns*
- Humberto Garcia Muniz, University of Puerto Rico  
*The Pan-Caribbeanism of Eric Williams*

1.00-2.00 Lunch Break (\*Lunch will be provided for speakers and chairs only)

**2.00 – 3.15 Politics & National Culture**

- Teruyuki Tsuji, Kwansai Gakuin University  
*Villaging the Nation: Eric Williams and the Engineering of National Culture*
- Jacqueline Nunes, London School of Economics  
*Voice of the oppressed or the oppressor's tool? A quantitative analysis of the relationship between calypso and the PNM*

**3.15 – 4.30 Personal Reflections on Political Times**

- Raoul Pantin, journalist and writer, Trinidad and Tobago  
*Eric Williams: A Personal Reflection*
- Raffique Shah, trade unionist and activist, Trinidad and Tobago  
*Eric Williams: Neutralising the Opposition*

4.30 – 4.50 Tea & Coffee

**4.50-6.00 Legacies of the Williams Era**

- Matthew Bishop, University of the West Indies, St Augustine  
*The Legacy of Eric Williams and Contemporary Trinidadian Politics*
- ROUND TABLE followed by open discussion: **Reflections on the Williams Era**  
*Including:*
  - Colin Palmer, Schomburg Centre, New York
  - Selwyn Ryan, University of the West Indies, St Augustine
  - Brinsley Samaroo, University of the West Indies, St Augustine

6.00 Reception

8.00 Speakers' Dinner

*This conference has been made possible by the generous funding of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection Research Library, Archives & Museum at the University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, and by the Institute for the Study of the Americas*

*Eric Williams Memorial Collection*  
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