



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES



**The PJ Patterson Institute for
Africa-Caribbean Advocacy**

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE 2. VOLUME 1

**ADVOCACY | SCHOLARSHIP
CO-OPERATION
OUTREACH**

Connecting the Caribbean,
the continent of Africa, and
the Diaspora



**CHAMPIONING
CARIBBEAN &
AFRICAN RELATIONS**

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Welcome Message



Mr Omar Ryan
Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Dear Readers,

As we continue our journey of amplifying African and Caribbean voices, this second edition of our newsletter stands as a testament to our collective commitment to advocacy, engagement, and scholarship rooted in the richness of our heritage. Across the Caribbean, Africa and their Diaspora, our communities continue to redefine what it means to lead, to create, and to transform.

In this issue, we highlight the work of The Institute for the past six months, as we strive for a world that is fair, just, and responsive to the calls of Africa, the Caribbean and the Diaspora. We also share upcoming opportunities for collaboration and policy engagement that centre African and Caribbean perspectives in global conversations.

Our mission remains clear: to build bridges between research and lived experience, between tradition and innovation, and between the continent and its far-reaching diaspora. Together, we honour our histories while shaping futures that reflect our shared resilience, intellect, and creativity.

We invite you to stay engaged — share your work, join our dialogues, and continue to champion the causes that matter to our regions and people.

With gratitude and solidarity,

Omar Ryan (Mr)
Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Geo-political Shifts & the Future of Africa & The Caribbean



Mr Mickel I. Hylton
Chief Research Officer

The world is undergoing rapid transformation, and both Africa and the Caribbean must remain actively engaged. The evolving geopolitical environment – characterised by intensified competition among global powers, economic shifts, and technological innovation – is redefining patterns of influence and opportunity. For instance, the expansion of digital economies and the reconfiguration of trade alliances offer both challenges and prospects for regional development.

Given these circumstances, the primary issue for regions such as ours is not about external dominance, but rather about determining effective strategies for response. As new challenges and opportunities arise, the focus must be on proactive positioning to shape our future instead of merely responding to external pressures.

The world is unsettled, defined by evolving alliances, divergent ambitions, and the fragmentation of established power structures. In this environment, states are recalibrating their diplomatic strategies and economic networks, leveraging influence as a form of protection and strategic balance against the volatility and complexity of contemporary geopolitics. Traditional Western predominance has shifted towards a more complex equilibrium involving the United States, China, Russia, the European Union, as well as emerging powers such as India and Brazil.

Within this context, Africa and the Caribbean are recognised as strategic partners concerning resource access, trade routes, and voting coalitions in international organisations.

Notably, China has made substantial infrastructure investments in Africa under the Belt and Road Initiative, while the European Union has concluded new trade agreements with Caribbean nations. The United States has escalated enforcement measures against drug trafficking along Caribbean maritime routes, imposed trade barriers as part of its broader geopolitical agenda, and reduced development aid. Simultaneously, India and Brazil are expanding their economic and cultural engagement in both regions.

These collective efforts underscore the intentional strategies employed by major global actors to strengthen their positions, emphasising the emerging opportunities and challenges facing Africa and the Caribbean in this evolving international environment.

This scenario has occurred in the past, with the Global South – or more accurately, the Global Majority – frequently positioned as a passive arena rather than an active participant. Historically, external interests have shaped domestic policies, extracted resources, and influenced sovereignty through partnerships that often include conditional requirements.

For instance, structural adjustment programmes implemented by international financial institutions during the 1980s and 1990s led countries such as Jamaica and Ghana to adopt austerity measures, constraining their investments in health, education, and social infrastructure. Likewise, Economic Partnership Agreements between the European Union and various African and Caribbean nations have frequently resulted in trade imbalances, perpetuating dependency instead of promoting equitable economic growth. Issues such as debt, dependency, and unequal trade relations are not theoretical; they continue to affect development outcomes in tangible ways.

While challenges remain, significant proactive initiatives are progressing. The implementation of frameworks like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the strengthening of CARICOM-African Union relations, and expanding South-South cooperation collectively demonstrate a strategic move toward enhanced collective agency. The enduring historical ties between the Caribbean and Africa, underpinned by resilience and the pursuit of autonomy, provide a solid basis for establishing a revitalised economic and political partnership. This alliance is designed to promote mutual interests and lessen reliance on external actors.

Recent trade missions conducted between CARICOM and African countries via the AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forums have resulted in agreements involving technology transfer and educational collaboration, underscoring the concrete advantages stemming from this dynamic relationship. Continued cooperation has the potential to support sustainable development and prosperity for both regions in the years ahead.

This period represents a significant juncture for the Global Majority. As international economic structures evolve, redefining supply chains, energy strategies, and digital landscapes, Africa and the Caribbean need to position themselves beyond traditional roles as sources of raw materials or technology consumers. Instead, these regions should cultivate capacities as innovators, producers, and strategic decision-makers. Strategic investment in education, enhanced regional collaboration, and encouragement of local technology enterprises can enable Africa and the Caribbean to capitalise on emerging opportunities and participate meaningfully in global discourse. Through these approaches, both regions can shape their developmental trajectories and assert influence within the international community.

Contemporary sovereignty now encompasses more than just political independence; it also involves strategic management of economic growth, technological resources, and the ability to make autonomous decisions. For instance, African nations are advancing digital infrastructure, and Caribbean states are implementing comprehensive renewable energy policies, thereby strengthening their resilience to external pressures and establishing self-determined priorities, thereby reinforcing authentic sovereignty in the modern era. The PJ Patterson Institute supports this aim through initiatives such as the Africa-Caribbean Hub for Artificial Intelligence Development.

This important project aims to leverage regional assets to foster collaborative solutions that capitalise on the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, considering the distinct contexts and needs of both Africa and the Caribbean, whilst highlighting shared strengths in innovation and advancement. By adopting a unified approach, Africa and the Caribbean are actively shaping their futures and setting an example for others as they navigate global changes.

The Institute in Action April- September, 2025

In the first Newsletter published in the first week of April, 2025 The Institute captured and gave a synopsis of most events that The Institute either hosted, participated in or collaborated on since the inception of The Institute in 2020. Below is a synopsis of events since April of this year.

May 22, 2025

The Institute celebrated Africa Liberation Day with an evening of poetry on the grounds of The Institute. Featured performers included HE Emilliana Bernard Stephenson, Colombia's Ambassador to Jamaica, Professor Lorna Goodison, Former Poet Laureate for Jamaica, Dr Natalie Courtesy, among others.

May 27, 2025

The Institute hosted a Public Lecture at The Multi-Functional Room, Main Library, UWI, Mona. The keynote speaker was Dr Jahlani Niaah, Senior Lecturer, Institute of Caribbean Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Education. The topic for the lecture was From "We" and "Them" to "I&I": Reasoning on Pan-African Liberation and Reparation.

June 13, 2025

- The Institute hosted a monumental Press Conference to announce its leadership in advancing artificial intelligence in the Caribbean. The Institute announced the launch of The AI Hub for the Caribbean and Africa. This initiative is sponsored by the AFREXIM Bank and is led by Professor Gladstone Henry of Lafayette College, USA and former head of the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

June 25-28, 2025

The Afreximbank hosted its 32nd Annual Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria under the theme "Building the Future on Decades of Resilience." The Most Honourable PJ Patterson, Statesman - in-Residence was one of the featured speakers, where he presented on "Leveraging a Common Heritage: The Afreximbank Caribbean Initiative." See a synopsis of the presentation below and you can view the full speech on The Institute's website at www.inafrica.com.

June, 2025

- The Institute, through the auspices of its Patron, The Most Honourable Professor Kenneth Hall, is now hosting The Integrationist. The Integrationist is a trove of significant publications, including books and documentaries on the integration process that took place in the Caribbean. This invaluable asset can be accessed on The Institute's website.

The Institute in Action continued

July 30, 2025

The "Lest We Forget" book launch and discussion. The Government of Barbados facilitated the launching of *Lest We Forget, Slavery, Slave Trade, Colonization & Reparation*, edited by His Excellency, Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of Nigeria, with a Foreword by The Most Honourable PJ Patterson, who also contributed a chapter to the book.

At the launch, Professor Paulette Ramsay, Research Fellow at The Institute, who also contributed a chapter gave an outstanding overview from the perspective of the Caribbean/Diaspora, while on the other hand, Nigerian Bishop Matthew Kukah gave the overview from the perspective of continental Africa. A rich discussion followed, which included Ambassador Comissiong, as moderator and Most Honourable PJ Patterson, His Excellency, Olusegun Obasanjo, and legendary cricketer Michael Holding as discussants. The full launch can be viewed on The Institute's website at www.inafricara.com.

The book is anchored in advocacy and scholarship, it offers a multifaceted and comprehensive study of slavery, colonialism, and the enduring legacies of these experiences on Global Africa. It is a literature characterized by scholarship and advocacy, hallmarks of The Institute. The book can be obtained online at kibangabooks.com.

August 21-22, 2025

For the second straight year, The PJ Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy participated in the Office of Student Services and Development's Orientation exercise for new students entering the university at the Orientation Village, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. The Orientation is designed to engage and sensitise the new students as they explore the many entities on display at the Orientation Village.

The Institute engaged many of the new students, who showed interest in The Institute and the work being done and are desirous of getting involved through The Africa Caribbean Students Club. The Institute is delighted by the interest shown by new students in the University, who naturally have to take up the mantle of responsibility and leadership over time.

The Institute Launches AI Hub for Africa and The Caribbean

On 13th June 2025, The PJ Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, had a monumental Press Conference for the official launch of the Africa-Caribbean Hub for Generative Artificial Intelligence at The UWI, Mona Campus.

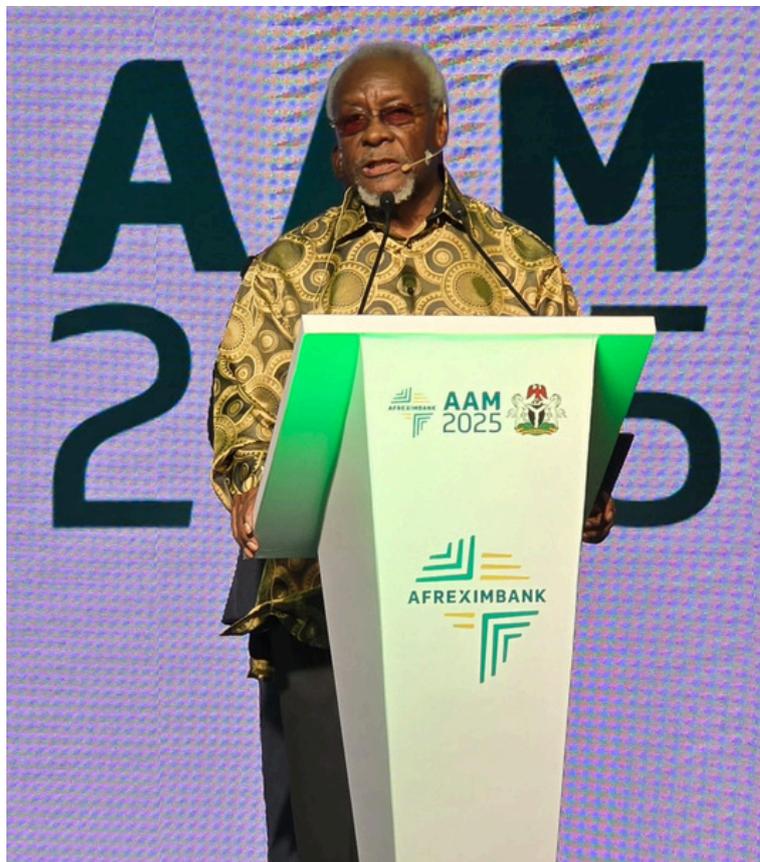
This pioneering AI Hub Project is a collaborative initiative between The UWI's P.J. Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy, the Economic Empowerment and Global Learning Project, and Lafayette College's Policy Studies Programme, with vital funding from AFREXIM Bank. The Hub aims to significantly enhance regional capacity in Artificial Intelligence, fostering deeper Africa-Caribbean collaboration to leverage the vast opportunities of the digital era. The press conference provided a comprehensive overview of the Hub's vision, goals, anticipated impact, and outlined avenues for institutional engagement and partnerships.

The moderator for the proceedings was Professor Paulette Ramsay, Research Fellow at The PJ Patterson Institute, who welcomed the media houses and the guests from within The UWI's community and affiliates of The Institute.

Statesman-in-Residence of The PJ Patterson Institute, The Most Honourable PJ Patterson, addressed the audience on the overall objectives and justification for the AI Hub for Africa and the Caribbean. The project lead is Professor Gladstone Hutchinson of Lafayette College and former head of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, who also addressed the media on the nature and aspects of the Hub for Artificial Intelligence and its potential role in the sustainable development of Africa and the Caribbean.

Kindly see our gallery for pictures from this historic launch and the presentation by The Most Honourable PJ Patterson.

The AFREXIM Bank's 32nd Annual Meeting



Statesman-in-Residence, The Most Honourable PJ Patterson, during his presentation at the AFREXIM Bank's 32nd Annual Conference, Abuja, Nigeria.

The esteemed statesman, The Most Honourable PJ Patterson, CARICOM's most respected voice internationally for the last few decades, participated in the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Afreximbank in Abuja, Nigeria, where he presented on "Leveraging a Common Heritage: The Afreximbank Caribbean Initiative." In his customary dignified gravitas and intellectual sharpness, Mr Patterson impressed upon his audience the urgency of "leveraging the common heritage we share to build together a prosperous and sustainable future," in reference to the Caribbean and continental Africa.

In underscoring the seriousness and importance of Africa and the Caribbean being intentional and strategic about cooperation and coordination within a global context that demands bold actions from the progeny of the former enslaved and the continent that has been the most ravaged through colonialism, the elder statesman implored, "we are impelled to create amongst ourselves an interregional safe space for our own economic growth and sustainable development."

He applauded the Afreximbank for its strong and visible commitment to making the 6 Regions of Africa an evocative certainty. Through the conclusion of a Partnership Memorandum between the Caribbean Export Development Agency and Afreximbank in 2024, a project pipeline worth USD\$2.5 billion and an investment pipeline worth USD\$1.5 billion aimed at realising opportunities across our two regions, among other initiatives, Afreximbank has demonstrated its commitment to strengthening the relationship between Africa and the Caribbean.

The AFREXIM Bank's 32nd Annual Meeting continuation

Central to this commitment is the investment in The Institute by the Afreximbank for a pilot study on an Artificial Intelligence hub for Africa and the Caribbean, which is directed at advancing research, education, innovation and trade between the two regions.

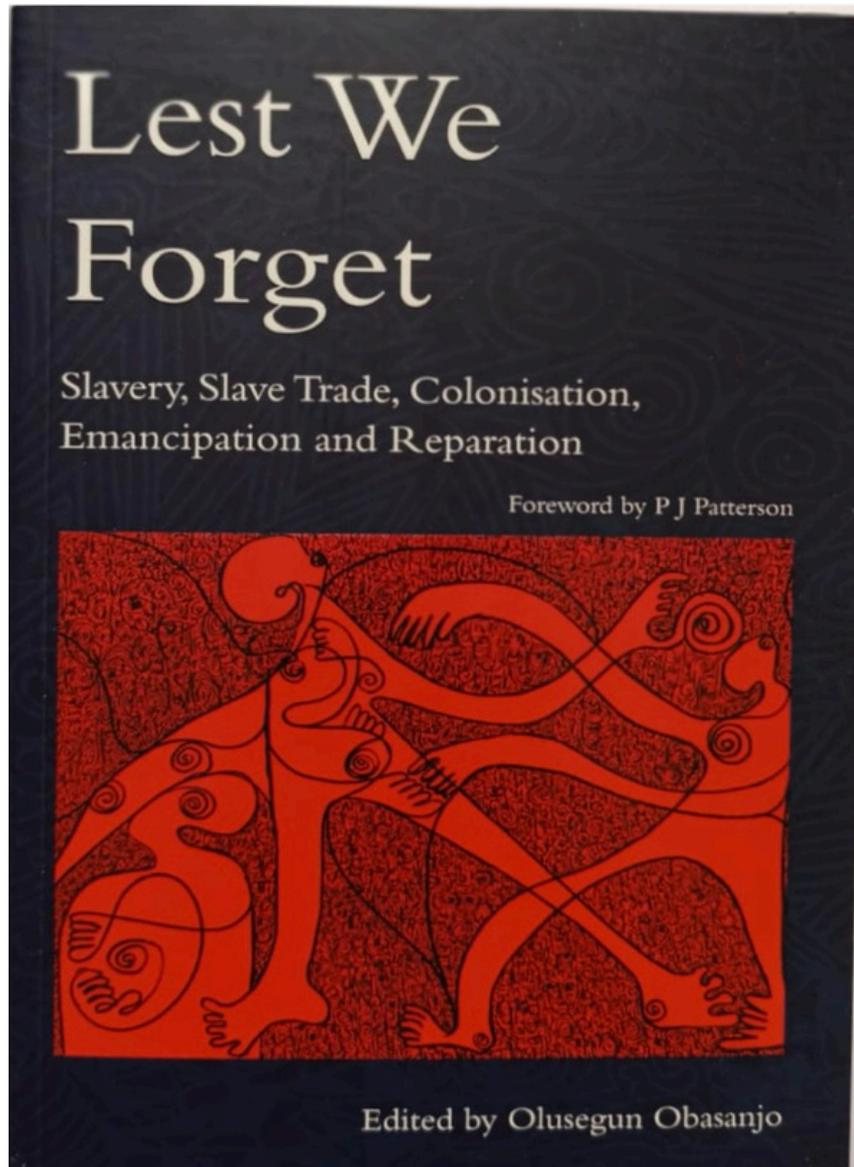
Mr Patterson underscored the need to be realistic about the constraints that exist in the areas of infrastructure, access to capital and banking, trade and economic relations, for it is within these constraints the opportunities are presented. He also reminded the Meeting that “the post-colonial project cannot be fulfilled by economic metrics alone. Identity matters. And our economic emancipation must be rooted in the fullest recognition of who we are.”

You are invited to read the full speech on The Institute's website @ www.inafricara.com



The Most Honourable PJ Patterson, in conversation with Dr George Elombi, the incoming President of Afreximbank, as Professor Benedict Oramah, the outgoing President of Afreximbank, listens on.

“Lest We Forget”



The “*Lest We Forget*” *Slavery, Slave Trade, Colonization, Emancipation and Reparation*. Edited by His Excellency, Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of Nigeria, with a Foreword by The Most Honourable PJ Patterson, who also contributed a chapter to the book. The book is anchored in advocacy and scholarship; it offers a multifaceted and comprehensive study of slavery, colonialism, and the enduring legacies of these experiences on Global Africa. It is a literature characterized by scholarship and advocacy, hallmarks of The Institute. The book can be obtained online at kibangabooks.com.

Africa Caribbean Reasoning

In our last newsletter, you were introduced to The Institute's Africa Caribbean Reasoning series that features Distinguished Scholars associated with The Institute, Ambassadors and stand-out academicians on their work and relevance to Africa, the Caribbean and the Diaspora, including Latin America.

This forms part of the thrust of the Institute to deepen the conversations, add more varied subjects and platforms for conversations that lead to insights, solutions and strengthening of the bonds between and among the regions aforementioned.

We invite you to view these conversations on The Institute's website at www.inafricara.com.



AFRICA CARIBBEAN REASONING SERIES
Professor Carolyn Cooper

HOST: Deborah Hickling Gordon
Lecturer, Coordinator, Cultural and Creative Industries, Institute of Caribbean Studies, The UWI, Mona Campus

WATCH ON **FLOW EVO**

UWI GLOBAL

15 Grenada | 33 Belize (Central) | 102 Curacao, Dominica, Trinidad & Tobago | 105 Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, BVI, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos | 106 Cayman Islands | 112 Barbados | 130 Jamaica | 133 Belize (Centaur)

Navy 117 Grenada and Trinidad & Tobago **móvil** 521 Panama

Professor Carolyn Cooper, Professor Emerita of Literary Studies at The UWI and Dr Deborah Hickling.

Meetings

The Institute has actively fostered partnerships and collaborations with key institutions and stakeholders across the African and Caribbean regions and the Diaspora. Some notable meetings include:

- Morgan State University, USA: Discussions focused on academic exchanges, collaborative research, and expanding the educational ties between the two regions.

UWI New Students Orientation 2025

Following up on The Institute's participation in the New Students Orientation in August 2024, The Institute participated for the second consecutive year in The UWI, Mona Campus's orientation for new students, organised by the Office of Student Services and Development. We provided information about The Institute to raise awareness about the importance of Afro-Caribbean advocacy and the ongoing work of The Institute. You may visit our website at www.inafrica.com for more information on this participation.

UWI New Students Orientation 2024 Gallery

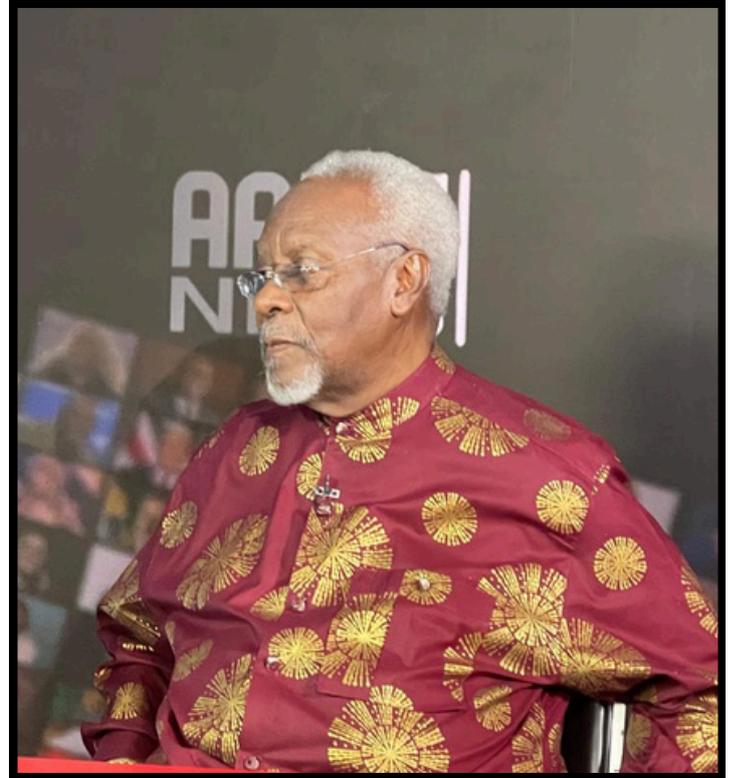


Event Photo Highlights- Morgan State University Visit



In the top picture on the left, the Most Honourable PJ Patterson was presented with the book “W.E.B. Du Bois, Ethiopianism and Black Internationalism” by Ras Dr. Wayne Rose, the author. Other pictures are group photos of Morgan State University staff and students, and staff at The Institute, along with Patron Most Honourable Professor Kenneth Hall.

Event Photo Highlights



The Most Honourable PJ Patterson, Stateman-in-Residence, in conversation with a member of the media in Abuja, Nigeria, during the course of the 32nd Meeting of The AFREXIM Bank.

The Africa Caribbean Students Club

The Africa Caribbean Students Club is now in its second year of operation. This student association is attached to the Institute and has been growing steadily among the student population. They have had successful collaborations with other student associations and The Institute, and you are invited to follow the group on social media via Instagram @Uwi_africacaribbeanstudents.



The group meets on Thursdays at Grad Lab B, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI, Mona Campus. The vision of The Institute is to see Africa Caribbean Student Clubs being erected across all major campuses of The UWI and other tertiary institutions across the Caribbean, such as The Mico University College and The University of Guyana. The history of social, cultural, technological and political change in the modern world has always seen young people taking charge and playing a critical role. Therefore, The Institute deems the involvement of the youth as fundamentally important to the advancement of our objectives and mission.

Upcoming Events



**The PJ Patterson Institute for
Africa-Caribbean Advocacy**
The University of The West Indies



in Collaboration with
**Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy,
Faculty of Humanities and Education, The UWI, Mona**

ONLINE
Public Lecture

**Topic: "What Can African Philosophy Do for the Caribbean?:
An Inquiry into Ubuntu and Omoluabi Ethics."**

African Philosophy has suffered from undue marginalisation in mainstream philosophy. Even with the European-induced cultural ties between Africa and the Caribbean, African philosophy has also been vaguely explored in Caribbean life. This explains why I asked the question: "What can African philosophy do for the Caribbean?". This question will be answered through critical analysis of Ubuntu and Omoluabi Ethics, in my presentation.



Friday
**7th
NOV.
2025**



Start at
5:30 pm

Presenter



Join Zoom Meeting: [https://mona-uwi-edu.zoom.us/j/94760617340?](https://mona-uwi-edu.zoom.us/j/94760617340?pwd=a1bnbRgaDMywkuYGfnfRslI5SRUAwA.1)
[pwd=a1bnbRgaDMywkuYGfnfRslI5SRUAwA.1](https://mona-uwi-edu.zoom.us/j/94760617340?pwd=a1bnbRgaDMywkuYGfnfRslI5SRUAwA.1)
Meeting ID: 947 6061 7340
Passcode: 290564

Dr Rotimi Omosulu

Lecturer and Coordinator-Philosophy Section
The Department of Language,
Linguistics & Philosophy

Thank You

You are invited to visit The Institute's website at www.inafricara.com to keep abreast and read in detail about some of the initiatives and participations that were mentioned above, and other activities and engagements of The Institute. You may also keep abreast of the work of The Institute via our social media pages on X, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube via inafricara.

