

# Presenter Profiles



## **Annastasia Marchan-Lecointe**

With over a decade of experience in research and public policy development, Ms Marchan-Lecointe has made significant contributions to national development in Trinidad and Tobago. Notably, she established the National Occupational Safety and Health Research Agenda, which has enhanced workplace safety practices and helped to reduce occupational injuries. As a leader, she also oversaw the development and implementation of a cutting-edge Dashboard Monitoring System that utilises predictive analytics, which has revolutionised occupational health and safety regulation in the country. Ms Marchan-Lecointe's leadership in the development of the Community Tourism Model has also been instrumental in driving economic growth, empowering local communities and promoting sustainable development.

*Author of:*

*'Empowering the Future Workforce: Enriching TVET with Entrepreneurship Education for Enhanced Employability'*

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Employability and Higher Education Quality: Synergies between Employers and Educators

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## **Dr Benignus Bitu**

was an Assistant Lecturer at the University of the West Indies. He is also currently a Part-time lecturer and tutor in the same institution. His present full-time job is Head of Department (Modern Studies) in a secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago. His research interests include Teacher Education, Teaching of History, Teaching of Social Sciences, Qualitative Research, and Preparation for World of Work.



## **Dr Samuel Lochan**

is a retired Lecturer from the University of the West Indies. He has lectured Business Studies, History of Education, and Sociology in Education. He has served on numerous committees at the national and regional levels. His research interests are Teacher Education, Entrepreneurship, and Business Studies Education.

## **Dr Stephen Geofroy**

is a Lecturer in Educational Foundation – Philosophy of Education at the University of the West Indies. He has been a lecturer with the University for 20 years and has served on numerous committees and published several articles in regional and international peer-reviewed journals. His research interests are teacher education, teaching of Social Sciences, gender and education, citizen education, masculinities, ethics and religion.

### *Authors of:*

*'Approaches to the Preparation of Students for the World of Work: The Perspectives of Administrators from Post-secondary Institutions in Trinidad and Tobago'*

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## **Dr Ronald Brunton**

is the Principal of the T. A. Marryshow Community College, Grenada. He has served as Director of Academic Services at The UWI School of Business and Applied Studies Ltd. (UWI-ROYTEC) and Director of Qualifications and Recognition at ACTT. Dr Brunton is a past President and Board member of CANQATE (2015-2019). His research interests include higher education policy, educational indicators, curriculum innovation, distance and online learning, quality assurance and education and national development.



## **Kemoy Shureen Edwards**

is the Quality Assurance Officer of the T.A. Marryshow Community College, Grenada. Additionally, she serves as an adjunct instructor at the University of the West Indies Open Campus and an Examiner at the Caribbean Examinations Council. Kemoy is a member of the International Centre for Higher Education Management (ICHEM) and a doctoral candidate at the University of Bath, UK. Her research interests include language acquisition and loss, academic entrepreneurship, quality assurance, internationalisation of higher education, and financial sustainability of higher education systems.

*Authors of:*

*'Quality Assurance: Utilising Best Practices to Develop an Institutional Employability Matrix'*

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## **Dhana Mc Quilkin**

is the Accreditation Officer at the Grenada National Accreditation Board. Her educational background includes a BSc in Psychology, from the Central University of Las Villas, Cuba; and an MA in Special and Inclusive Education from University College of London – Institute of Education. Dhana serves as the Vice-President of the UNESCO-IESALC Buenos Aires Regional Agreement Committee.

*Author of:*

*‘Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges:  
Implementing the New Regional Convention on Higher Education’*

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## Curtis Floyd

is the Executive Director of ACTT. He has been employed with ACTT for the past 18 years: as the first appointed Accreditation Officer; first Manager of Registration; Director, Accreditation and Quality Enhancement; and two stints as acting Executive Director. Throughout his career, he has worked at various levels of the education system: as primary school teacher, Curriculum Facilitator, primary school Principal and tutor with The UWI, Open Campus, for the Bachelor of Education programme. Besides serving on national interim and standing committees in education, Mr Floyd has also served as a member on the Board of Directors of CANQATE for two consecutive terms (2011-2015) and is the organisation's current President for a second consecutive term.



## Jerome De Lisle

is Professor of Educational Leadership at the School of Education, UWI, St Augustine. His specialisations include Educational Leadership, Educational Measurement and Programme Evaluation. He has worked as an External Evaluator with ACTT since its inception and has consulted extensively with the Ministry of Education in Trinidad and Tobago. He has also worked with international agencies such as the IDB and UNESCO. He has published widely in top-tier, peer-refereed journals on topics such as system reform and large-scale assessment data use. His current projects include changing student assessment systems in the Caribbean.

*Authors of:*

*'SEL in the NQF-TT: A guide for curriculum development and teaching-learning in higher education'*

*and*

*'The NQF-TT: A guide for broadening admissions and warranted outcomes in higher education'*

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## **Sherma Joseph-Hyland**

is an Accreditation Officer at ACTT since 2012. In addition to engaging higher education institutions that access quality assurance services, she was Vice-Chair of the committee to design and develop the NQF-TT and is a member of the Implementation Steering Committee. She has been involved in teaching, curriculum development, as well as testing, measurement and assessment in primary schools and higher education. Her research is focussed on national assessments of educational achievement, assessment in higher education and training and the relationships between equity and quality education.



## **Nyron Seaton**

is an Accreditation Officer at ACTT since 2014. Prior to ACTT, he spent 6 years as Policy Research Specialist in the Higher Education Services Division of the Ministry of Tertiary Education & Skills Training (now Ministry of Education). He also taught at the secondary and tertiary levels in Trinidad and Tobago for several years. He has earned an MPhil in Economic Development Policy and Management from The UWI, St. Augustine; an MSc in Economic Development Policy from The UWI, Mona; and a postgraduate Certificate in International Education Management from the University at Albany, SUNY.



## **Tennille Fanovich**

is a Programme Officer at the School for Graduate Studies and Research, providing support for the University Office of Research at The UWI; and Administrator for the Campus Research Ethics Committee, The UWI, St. Augustine. She has been involved in administration of academic programming for the UWI for the past 15 years and her work includes innovation in administration, digital transformation, impact metrics for research output in the Caribbean and micro-credentials. Ms Fanovich holds an M.Sc. in Food Safety and Quality Assurance.

*Authors of:*

*'SEL in the NQF-TT: A guide for curriculum development and teaching-learning in higher education'*

*and*

*'The NQF-TT: A guide for broadening admissions and warranted outcomes in higher education'*

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## **Dr Gerda Visser-Wijnveen**

is Quality Assurance Manager at the Anton de Kom University of Suriname. She is responsible for internal and external quality assurance, academic development in both teaching and research, as well as institutional research and evaluation. After obtaining her doctorate at Leiden University (The Netherlands) in 2009, she lived and worked in the Netherlands, Spain, the United States and Peru. Her research focuses on various aspects of higher education, including the research-teaching nexus.

Between 2012 and 2020, she was the editor of Research into Higher Education Abstracts, published on behalf of the Society of Research into Higher Education.

*Author of:*

*'Alumni perspective on the value of a master's degree'*

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## **Dr Lisa Henlin**

is a former Board Member of CANQATE (2015-2018), has been employed at the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) as an Accreditation Officer for 17 years and has played an integral role in the external quality assurance processes of higher education institutions. A teacher by profession, she previously held leadership roles in the Natural History and Programmes Coordination Divisions of the Institute of Jamaica. A graduate of The UWI (Mona) and Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Dr Henlin holds a BSc in Botany/Zoology, a postgraduate Diploma in Education, a Master of Education and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership.



## **Shandale D. Remekie McFarlane**

has been an educator since 1990, teaching at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of the education sector. She worked exclusively as a counsellor educator for more than 18 years, supervising and teaching counselling and related skills. She is currently employed as an accreditation officer at UCJ, where she provides support to the continual development of higher education. Her qualifications include diplomas in theology, business education and information and communication technology; a B.Ed. in Business Studies; and an M.A. in Counselling Psychology. She has recently completed studies in online learning and instructional design and development.

*Authors of:*

*'Exploring Synergies between Employers and Educators:  
Towards Graduate Effectiveness'*

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## **Kevin Hagley**

is a former teacher of Business at the secondary level for over 17 years. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Management. Presently, he is the Quality Assurance Officer at the Grenada National Accreditation Board, where he oversees many operational functions of the Secretariat, along with performing verification and equivalence of qualifications.

*Author of:*

*'Quality Assurance: Past, Present and Future'*

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## **Dr Yanira Oliveras**

is the Interim Director of the School of Education and an Associate Professor of Curriculum & Instruction and School Improvement at University of Texas at Tyler. She was the PI for a 2021 CARS Grant. In her 20 years in K-12 education prior to joining the UT Tyler faculty in 2014, she served as a teacher, curriculum coordinator and school principal in Puerto Rico and Texas. She has been collaborating with Belize educators since 2016. She holds an M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Curriculum & instruction with an emphasis on Instructional Supervision from Penn State University.



## **Dr Wesley Hickey**

is a Professor of Educational Leadership at University of Texas at Tyler. He has been dedicated to providing professional development opportunities for teachers and principals in Belize since 2008. He is the U.S. Chair of the Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation (COBEC) and the Chair of Teachers for a Better Belize (TFABB). Dr Hickey has served as Principal, superintendent, professor, Director of the School of Education and Dean. He holds a B.S. in Physical Education and Biology; an M.Ed. in Educational Administration; and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Stephen F. Austin University.

## **Jeannie Garbutt-Franklin**

is the Director of the Teacher Education Unit in the Belize Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology. Ms Garbutt's vision for the partnership with UT Tyler has been to improve the education system by redesigning and enhancing teacher preparation in Belize. In more than 27 years as an educator, she has served as teacher, education coordinator and director.

Ms Garbutt holds a B.Ed. in Language Education and an M.Ed. in Teacher Education from The UWI, Mona.

*Authors of:*

*'Instructional Supervision for Educational Excellence in Belize:  
Enhancing Teacher Education and Preparation'*

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## **Perliter Walters-Gilliam**

As an international higher education accreditation and quality assurance professional, Perliter Walters-Gilliam has more than 15 years' experience developing accreditation standards, evaluating institutional compliance, assuring quality measurements and monitoring accreditation regulation in all quality assurance systems. She served as the Vice President of Accreditation at an institutional accrediting body and has conducted institutional evaluations throughout the US and in over 10 countries. She was the Quality Assurance Expert for the Dominica delegation to UNESCO's 3rd World Higher Education Conference and was a facilitator at the INQAAHE Forum 2022 in Mexico City, Mexico, and the INQAAHE Conference 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

*Author of:*

*'Employability as an Indicator of Higher Education Quality: Recognizing the Challenges to Facilitate Collaboration with the Marketplace'*

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## **Shirleen Robertson**

is the research officer at the Grenada National Accreditation Board (GNAB). This has been her position for the past four years. She is the liaison officer for activities related to the development of the Grenada National Qualifications and Credit Framework (G-NQCF).

Prior to joining the staff of GNAB, she was a primary school teacher for 22 years. Shirleen also works as a registration officer with the Parliamentary Elections Office of Grenada.

In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, gardening and baking.

*Author of:*

*'Grenada National Qualifications and Credit Framework'*

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## **Dr Yvonne Lucy Palma**

is currently the Director of Tertiary Education at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology in Belize since 2020. She holds an Education Doctorate in Instructional Technology and Distance Education. She has worked in the area of workforce development for 20 years. Currently, she is working on the implementation of the National Accreditation Council of Belize. Dr Palma enjoys looking for opportunities for the use of technology to advance the development of teaching and learning.

*Author of:*

*'Quality and Recognition of Work-based Learning Programmes'*

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