



University of Guyana
School of Graduate Studies and Research (UGSGSR)

4TH GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

*Theme: "Resilience for the 21st Century: Navigating
Complexity Through Multidisciplinary and
Interdisciplinary Collaboration"*

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 - OCTOBER 2, 2026
RAMADA, PRINCESS HOTEL

PROGRAMME

Online (Zoom Webinar) registration:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u4s6um8S2-EHZxEEGnhTg





UNIVERSITY of GUYANA



CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL
Guyana





DAY 1: SEP 30 - FOURTH GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Chair: Professor Paulette Bynoe, School of Graduate Studies and Research

Co-Chair: Dr. Patrick Williams, Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Co-Chair: Dr. Donna Morrison, School of Graduate Studies and Research

Keynote Speaker:

Professor Michael Taylor - Former Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, Mona Campus, University of the West Indies

8:00 hr	Registration and Seating of Delegates
9:00 hr	National Anthem of Guyana
9:03 hr	Opening Remarks- Master of Ceremonies Dr. Dianna DaSilva-Glasgow - <i>Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences</i>
9:08 hr	Welcome Remarks Professor Paulette Bynoe - <i>Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research and Chair, Symposium Planning Committee</i>
9:13 hr	Brief Remarks - Representatives of Collaborating Institutions: • Mr. Joslyn McKenzie - <i>Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources – (tbc)</i> • Ms Katy Thompson - <i>Representative, UNDP, Guyana and Suriname (tbc)</i> • Ms. Jenelle Blackman - <i>Project Specialist, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture</i> • Mr. Curtis Bernard - <i>Vice President, Conservation International Guyana (Virtual)</i> • Ms. Aeisha Williams - <i>Conservation Director, World Wildlife Fund-Guianas</i>
9:28 hr	Remarks • Professor Emanuel Cummings - <i>Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Engagement, University of Guyana</i>
9:37 hr	Cultural Presentation
9:47 hr	Introduction of Keynote Speaker – Master of Ceremonies
9:50 hr	Keynote Address: Researching for Resilience Professor Michael Taylor , Former Dean - <i>Faculty of Science and Technology, Mona Campus, University of the West Indies</i>
10:10 hr	Official Opening of the Symposium Professor Emanuel Cummings - <i>Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Engagement, University of Guyana</i>
10:15 hr	Vote of Thanks Dr. Jacqueline Murray - <i>Director, Institute of Distance and Continuing Education, University of Guyana</i>
10:20 hr	Group Photograph and Networking

DAY 1: SEP 30 - FOURTH GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Chairperson: Dr. Estherine Adams

Director - International Centre of Excellence for History, Identities, Population and Temporalities,
Faculty of Education and Humanities

Technical Session 1

Sub-theme: Knowledge, Culture, and Creative Expression in Building Resilient Societies

Moderator: Dr. Carolyn Walcott – Senior Lecturer and Coordinator, Master of Social Science in
Communication Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences

Rapporteur: Dr. Duane Edwards – Director and Coordinator, Graduate School of Social Sciences

11:00 hr Introduction of the Keynote Speaker & other Panellists

11:10 hr Keynote Address: Preserving Cultural Identity in a Digital Age
Tamika Boatswain- Director, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport **(Virtual)**

11:30 hr Expert Responses:
Dr. Carolyn Cummings – Director, International Centre of Excellence for Culture and Creative Expression Studies and Sports, Faculty of Education and Humanities
Dr. Mark McGowan – Lecturer II, International Centre of Excellence for Modern Languages, Indigenous Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, Faculty of Education and Humanities
Dr. Coleen Patterson - Lecturer II, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation
Mr. Alim Hosien – Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Humanities

Question and Answer Session

12:00 hr Presentation 1 – Mr. Shareed Mohammed (Virtual)
Haitian Painting will Drink the Blood of the Phoenix: Andre Breton's 1945 Struggle with a Freedom from an Enshrined and Sacrosanct Imperialist Order

12:15 hr Presentation 2 – Ms. Tanycia Fritz (Virtual)
Faith in Verse: The Intersection of Religion and Literature in Maya Angelou's Poetry

12:30 hr Presentation 3 - Mr. Mikhail Phillip (Virtual)
Between Mischief and Moral Order: Humour as Resilient Form in Olive Senior's Fiction

DAY 1: SEP 30 - FOURTH GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Chairperson: Dr. Davon Van-Veen

Assistant Dean (Administration) - College of Medical Science
Head – Department of Graduate Studies, College of Medical Sciences

Technical Session 2:

Sub-theme: Human Health, Well-Being and Systems of Care in a Changing World

Moderator: Professor Abdullah Ansari – Faculty of Natural Sciences

Rapporteur: Dr. Arianne Harris – Lecturer II, Faculty of Natural Sciences

13:30 hr	Introduction of the Keynote Speaker & other Panellists
13:40 hr	Keynote Address: In the Abundance of Water, the Fooled Are Thirsty: Thriving Despite the Rat Race Dr. Karen Gordon-Boyle - Senior Lecturer, Graduate School, College of Medical Sciences
14:00 hr	Expert Responses: Dr. Reeta Gobin – Senior Lecturer, College of Medical Sciences Professor Cecil Boston – College of Medical Sciences Professor Donald Simeon - College of Medical Sciences (Virtual) Dr. James Hospedales – Earth Medic and Nurse, Foundation for Planetary Health, University of the West Indies (Virtual) Question and Answer Session
14:30 hr	Presentation 4 - Mr. Rodney Seeraj (Virtual) Teachers' Perspective of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in the Secondary Schools' Curriculum
14:45 hr	Presentation 5 - Ms. Bibi Ally-Charles Phytochemical Analysis and Antibacterial Efficacy of Selected Medicinal Plants used by the Wapichan Communities in the South Rupununi, Guyana
15:00 hr	Presentation 6 – Ms. Shereika Hemmings-Allison (Virtual) Surrogacy In Jamaica
15:15 hr	Presentation 7 - Professor Jannatul Ferdous (Virtual) Climate-Resilient Health Systems and Community Well-being in Coastal Bangladesh: A Governance Perspective
15:30 hr	Presentation 8 - Dr. Teona Eriogou (Virtual) Nurse Migration, Satisfaction, and Retention in Bermuda: A Pilot Study of Expatriate Nurses

DAY 2: OCT 1 - FOURTH GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Chairperson: Dr. Owen Bovell
Lecturer II, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry

Technical Session 3:

Sub theme: Sustainable Food, Agriculture, and Forest Systems for Climate-Resilient Development

Moderator: Dr. Jean David - Lecturer II, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry

Rapporteur: Ms. Donna Ramdial – Lecturer II, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry

8:30 hr **Introduction of the Keynote Speaker and other Panellists**

8:40 hr **Keynote Address:** Sustainable Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Systems for Climate-Resilient Development in Guyana
Mr. Jagnarine Singh - Chief Executive Officer, National Agricultural Research Extension Institute

9:00 hr **Expert Responses:**
Dr. Dawn Fox – Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Natural Sciences
Ms. Narita Singh – Senior Lecturer, College of Medical Sciences
Dr. Diana Seecharran – Reader, Faculty of Natural Sciences
Dr. Rajendra Persaud – Part-time Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry

Questions and Answers Session

COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING – 9:30 hr to 10:00 hr

10:00 hr **Presentation 9 – Mr. Norlan Hardy**
Evaluating the Ameliorating Effects of Coconut Shell Biochar on Tiwiwid Sand for Pak Choi (*Brassica rapa*) Production

10:15 hr **Presentation 10 - Mr. Bissessar Persaud**
The effects of Salinity Stress on Seed Germination and Early Seedling Growth of Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) Genotypes

10:30 hr **Presentation 11 - Mr. Asaad Abdool**
A comparative study on the growth, yield, and biochemical parameters of *Agaricus bisporus* (white button mushroom) grown on various substrates using different manures (cow, chicken, and horse)

10:45 hr **Presentation 12 - Ms. Raquel Phil-Reid**
Skills in a Transforming Economy: Assessing the Impact of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) on Employment Outcomes in Guyana

DAY 2: OCT 1 - FOURTH GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

- 11:00 hr** **Presentation 13 - Ms. Amanda Piggott (Virtual)**
Local Content in Guyana
- 11:15 hr** **Presentation 14 - Mr. Eric Stoll (Virtual)**
Advancing DNA-Based Biomonitoring Frameworks: Aquatic Insects as Bioindicators
- 11:30 hr** **Presentation 15 - Mr. Jody Brown (Virtual)**
Strengthening Community-Based Food Security for Climate-Resilient Development

LUNCH BREAK – 11:45 hr to 12:30 hr

Chairperson: Dr. Kofi Dalrymple,
Member- Transitional Management Team, University of Guyana
Dean – Faculty of Engineering and Technology

Technical Session 4

Sub-theme : Engineering Technology and Digital Innovation for Resilient Infrastructure and Futures

Moderator: Dr. Malcolm Williams – Director, Tactical Online Services

Rapporteur: Ms. Verlyn Klass – Head, Petroleum and Geological Engineering
Department, Faculty of Engineering and Technology

- 12:30 hr** **Introduction of the Keynote Speaker and other Panellists**
- 12:40 hr** **Keynote Address:** Building Beyond Today: Engineering Innovation for a Resilient Guyana
Mr. Patrick Thompson - Project Manager, Ministry of Public Works **(Virtual)**
- 13:00 hr** **Expert Responses:**
Dr. Jana Sarran - Assistant Dean and Lecturer II, Faculty of Engineering and Technology
Dr. Sean Sarran – Head of Department, Civil Engineering
Dr. William Wilson - Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering and Technology
- Question & Answer Session**
- 13:30 hr** **Presentation 16 – Ms. Donnica Thornhill-Gillis**
Seasonal Water Level monitoring using Remote Sensing to evaluate flood risks in Kwakwani and East Demerara Water Conservancy (2020-2024)
- 13:45 hr** **Presentation 17 – Mr. Lalta Sugrim**
Integrated Remote Sensing Approach for Identifying Riverine Dredge Mining Activities, Monitoring Rivers, and Optimising River Surveillance in the Potaro Mining District No. 2, Guyana

DAY 2: OCT 1 - FOURTH GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

14:00 hr **Presentation 18 – Mr. Eshwar Danny**
Analysis of the Impacts of Household Energy Consumption Patterns and Roof-Top Characteristics on Solar Panel Installation Feasibility on the Essequibo Coast

Chairperson: Professor Leyland Lucas

Head, Department of Graduate Studies and Department of Management, Procurement & Supply Chain, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation

Technical Session 5

Sub-theme : Economic, Social and Governance Systems: Policy Imperatives for Equity and Adaptive Capacity

Moderator: Dr. Coleen Patterson, Lecturer II, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation

Rapporteur: Ms. Theleisha DeSouza – Lecturer I, Faculty of Social Sciences

14:15 hr **Introduction of the Keynote Speaker and other Panellists**

14:25 hr **Keynote Address:** Building Climate-Resilient Food Systems in Guyana: From Research and Technology to Investment, Adoption and Scale
Ms. Jenelle Blackman - Project Specialist, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

14:45 hr **Expert Responses-**
Mr. Neville Bissember – Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences
Dr. Dianna DaSilva-Glasgow – Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences
Mrs. Kathy Smith – President, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Ms. Dionne Frank – Assistant Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences
UNDP Representative - Ms. Almudena Fernández - Chief Economist, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC)

Question & Answer Session

15:15 hr **Presentation 19 - Ms. Oureanna Aalayah Lake**
Assessing the Role of the Guyana Energy Conference & Supply Chain Expo as a Policy Tool for Investment Facilitation and Sectoral Participation (2022–2026): A Qualitative Case Study

15:30 hr **Presentation 20 - Mr. Nicholas Ally**
The Linkage between Trade Liberalisation, Economic Growth, Maritime Transportation in the context of CO2 Emissions: Empirical evidence from Guyana

DAY 2: OCT 1 - FOURTH GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

- 15:45 hr** **Presentation 21 - Ms. Naudia Critchlow**
Relationship Between Police Expenditure on Serious Crime and Public Safety in Guyana: Evidence from Fiscal and Crime Data (2015-2025)
- 16:00 hr** **Presentation 22 - Ms. Shamacy Chichester**
Distributive Implications of Tax Policy on Functional Income Distribution: Evidence from Guyana
- 16:15 hr** **Presentation 23 – Ms. Liselle Johnson (Virtual)**
Resilient Governance and Emergency Response at Sporting Events in Trinidad and Tobago: The Imperative of Multi-Agency Collaboration
- 16:30 hr** **Presentation 24 – Mr. Rondel Ramkissoon (Virtual)**
Reconnecting the Dots: Have the Inflation Dynamics of Guyana Changed Since Oil Production?
- 16:45 hr** **Presentation 25 - Ms. Alice Reis Santos (Virtual)**
Access to Legal Education and Racial Equity in Brazil: Limits and Possibilities of FIES and PROUNI
- 07:00 hr** **Presentation 25 - Mr. Cowan Gittens (Virtual)**
All Paper Is Money: Economic Viability and Resilience of Small-Scale Paper Recycling in Georgetown, Guyana

DAY 3: OCT 2 - FOURTH GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Chairperson: Dr. Oluwasinaayomi Faith Kasim

Senior Lecturer – Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Technical Session 6

Sub theme: Planetary Resilience: Environmental Change, Natural Systems, and Earth Processes

Moderator: Dr. Chetwynd Osborne – Lecturer II, Post Graduate Coordinator, Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Rapporteur: Mr. Muzzammil Mohabir – Lecturer I, Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences

9:00 hr	Introduction of the Keynote Speaker and other Panellists
9:10 hr	Keynote Address: Nature, People and Resilience: Imperatives for a Thriving Planet Ms. Aeisha Williams - Country Director, World Wildlife Fund
9:30 hr	Expert Responses – Dr. Denise Simmons – Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences Dr. Gyanpriya Maharaj – Director, Centre for the Study of Biological Diversity, Faculty of Natural Sciences Mr. Rene Edwards – Technical Director, Conservation International Professor Temitope Oyedotun – Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences
	Question and Answer Session
10:00 hr	Presentation 26 - Mr. Murvin Chalmers An examination of the Silica City Development Plan through a GIS-based approach
10:15 hr	Presentation 27- Ms. Ameera Wajidally Comparative study of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Diversity in the Abary and Berbice river estuaries, Guyana
10:30 hr	Presentation 28 – Mr. Daimyon Reid The Challenges of Climate Change in a Coastal Informal Settlement: A Case of Plastic City, Region No. 3, Guyana
10:45 hr	Presentation 29 – Ms. Giselle Borland (Virtual) Governance Approaches for Enhancing Climate Resilience of Crooked Tree Village, Belize
11:00 hr	Presenter 30 - Dr. Denise Simmons

COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING - 11:00 hr to 11:30 hr

DAY 3: OCT 2 - FOURTH GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Chairperson: Dr. Carolyn Walcott

Senior Lecturer and Coordinator, Master of Social Science in Communication Studies –
Faculty of Social Sciences

Technical Session 7: 5/3 Minutes Competitions

Moderator: Dr. Mishel Moriah – Director (ag), International Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies

Rapporteur: Ms. Yolaskee Jervis – Coordinator, Events and Conferences - Department of Events,
Conferences and Communication

11:30 hr **Overview of the 5/3- (MSc. and PhD) Minutes Competitions**

5-MINUTES COMPETITION

11:40 hr **Presentation 30 - Mr. Joseph Daniels**

Citizens' Perceptions of Garbage Pollution, Attitudes Toward Anti-Littering Measures, and the Influence of Visual Images on Anti-Littering Attitudes in Georgetown, Guyana

11:45 hr **Presentation 31 - Mr. Leonard Oxford**

Drainage Infrastructure and Community Resilience to Flooding: A Rapid Assessment in Wortmanville, Georgetown

11:50 hr **Presentation 32 - Ms. Uwet Boston**

An Inclusive Governance Approach for the Revitalisation of Tiger Bay, An Inner-City Community in Georgetown

11:55 hr **Presentation 33 – Mr. Nevado Lewis (Virtual)**

External Food Price Shocks and Monetary Policy Constraints in a Small Open Economy: Evidence from Jamaica

3-MINUTES COMPETITION

12:00 hr **Presentation 34- Dr. Susy Lewis**

Plant Community Ecological Analysis of Woody Colonist's Vegetation after Bauxite Mining in White Sands, Guyana

12:03 hr **Presentation 35 – Dr. Louisa Daggers**

Inferring Human Predation and Land Use: An Examination of the Northwestern Guyana Coast Shell Midden Records Amid Environmental Change

LUNCH & ENTERTAINMENT - 12:10 hr to 13:00 hr

DAY 3: OCT 2 - FOURTH GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

CLOSING CEREMONY

Chairperson: Ms. Bonita Hunter, Deputy Dean – Faculty of Education and Humanities

13:05 hr	Opening Remarks by Chair of Proceedings
13:10 hr	Cultural Item
13:15 hr	Report Highlights and Key Points from Presentations – Symposium – Dr. Donna Morrison, <i>Co-Chair</i>
13:25 hr	Brief Remarks – Representative of Graduate Students – Dr. Louisa Daggers
13:30 hr	Brief Remarks Professor Judith Rosales - <i>School of Graduate Studies and Research</i>
13:40 hr	Presentation of Certificates, Awards and Tokens of Appreciation • Best Oral Presentation • Best Poster Presentation • Outstanding Graduate Research Award • Emerging Graduate Research Award • 3M and 5M Awards
14:00 hr	Closing Remarks Professor Paulette Bynoe - <i>Dean, University of Guyana School of Graduate Studies and Research</i>
14:05 hr	Vote of Thanks Dr. Simone Bernard – <i>Deputy University Librarian, University of Guyana</i>
14:10 hr	Networking and Refreshments

POSTER PRESENTERS

Sub-Theme 1: Knowledge, Culture, and Creative Expression in Building Resilient Societies

Ms. Melesa Agard

From Absence to Impact: Assessing how Monitoring and Evaluation Systems could transform Institutional Accountability in the Ministry of Legal Affairs

Sub-Theme 2: Human Health and Well-being and Systems of Care in a Changing World

Ms. Bibi Alilly-Agard

Phytochemical Analysis and Antibacterial Efficacy of Selected Medicinal Plants used by the Wapichan Communities in the South Rupununi, Guyana

Ms. Toneisha Peters

The Impact of Telemedicine on Health Outcomes, Access, And Health System Efficiency in Guyana's Hinterland Regions: An Economic Analysis

Ms. Oma Ramnarace

Factors affecting Medication Adherence Among Patients in GPHC Primary Care Centers: A Cross-Sectional Study

Mr. Sawan Jagnarain

The 'Stage Shift' Effect: Evaluating the Impact of Decentralized PSA Screening on Downward Stage Migration of Prostate Cancer in Guyana (2024-2025)

Sub-Theme 3: Sustainable Food, Agriculture, and Forest Systems for Climatic-Resilient Development

Ms. Ferial Pestano-Gupta

Bioefficacy and Thermal Ecology of Native Entomopathogenic Fungi for Biocontrol of *Ooencyrtus poecilus* in Guyana

Mr. Darius Ramotar

A comparative study on the effects of vermicompost and inorganic fertilizer on the growth parameters of sweet potato (*Ipomea batatas* L.) in Berbice, Guyana

Sub-Theme 4: Engineering, Technology, and Digital Innovation for Resilient Infrastructure and Futures

Mr. Navindra Seoraj

The effects of telecommunications and broadband expansion on total factor productivity in Guyana's services sector and economy-wide

Mr. Renee France

The Use of Technology to Improve Tax Administration in Guyana

Sub-Theme 5: Economic, Social and Governance Systems: Policy Imperatives for Equity and Adaptive Capacity

Mr. Cowan Gittens

All Paper Is Money: Economic Viability and Resilience of Small-Scale Paper Recycling in Georgetown, Guyana

Ms. Ashana Webster

Labour Market Effect of Guyana's Pathway Program in Mahaica-Berbice

Ms. Fardeen Alli

The Impact of Trade Agreements on Guyana's Trade Performance, 1997-2024

Ms. Salima Dos Santos

Record-Keeping as a Resilience Deficit: A Human Governance Framework Approach to Institutional Data Integrity in the Caribbean

Mr. Murvin Chalmers

Community-Led Urban Rehabilitation in South Sophia, Guyana: Applying the Radical Planning Approach to Inform Equitable, Adaptive Urban Development

Mr. Jeremy Francis

The relationship between Neurodiversity and Psychological Safety: The impact of Camouflaging and Burnout on Neurodiverse and Neurotypical employees in Trinidad and Tobago

Sub-Theme 6: Planetary Resilience: Environmental Change, Natural Systems and Earth Processes

Ms. Shondell Charles

Infrastructure Vulnerability and Climate Impacts in Enmore, East Coast Demerara

Mr. Lakhnarayan Bhagarthi

Insect Pollinators of Mangrove Ecosystems in Regions 5 & 6 of Guyana

Ms. Oleta Williams

Leveraging Belize's Co-Management Experience to Improve Protected Areas Management in Guyana

Mr. Mark Bastian

Impacts of Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining on the Transmission Dynamics of Chytridiomycosis and the Survival of Anuran Populations in Guyana