



Fantasy/Science Fiction Mentor

Nalo Hopkinson, born in Jamaica, has lived in Jamaica, Trinidad and Guyana and for the past 30 years in Canada. She is the author of four novels and a short story collection ([Brown Girl in the Ring](#), [Midnight Robber](#), [The Salt Roads](#), [The New Moon's Arms](#), [Skin Folk](#)). She is the editor of fiction anthologies [Whispers From the Cotton Tree Root: Caribbean Fabulist Fiction](#), and [Mojo: Conjure Stories](#). She is the co-editor of fiction anthologies [So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial Science Fiction](#) (with Uppinder Mehan) and [Tesseract Nine](#) (with Geoff Ryman). Hopkinson's work has received Honourable Mention in Cuba's "Casa de las Americas" literary prize. She is a recipient of the Warner Aspect First Novel Award, the Ontario Arts Council Foundation Award for emerging writers, the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, the Locus Award for Best New Writer, the World Fantasy Award, the Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic, the Aurora Award, and the Gaylactic Spectrum Award. Her new novel, *The New Moon's Arms*, is a February 2007 release from Warner/Hachette Books.

<http://nalohopkinson.com/>



Kaneesha is a doctoral student in the combined program in American Studies and African American Studies at Yale University, pursuing the qualification in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her dissertation explores the ways late 19th and early 20th century West Indian literary and visual forms charted connections between informal, urban dwellings such as the barrack yard and “improper” sexualities or intimacies, and how these representations of everyday life posed alternatives to national sovereignty.

Links: <https://yale.academia.edu/KaneeshaParsard>



Maya Trotz: Educator. Engineer. Environmentalist.

I work at the nexus of geochemistry/water quality and global/community sustainability and education. My interests are interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, applied and seek to forge non-traditional university partnerships with local and international entities, especially those in the Caribbean.

Born & bred in Guyana, I am now an Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of South Florida (USF), Tampa. I am on the governing council for the Caribbean Science Foundation & spent a sabbatical year with them as a visiting research scientist. I received a bachelor's in chemical engineering with a minor in theater from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and then a master's and doctorate in environmental engineering from Stanford University. As a Postdoc I taught at the National Technological University in Singapore on behalf of Stanford University.

<https://www.facebook.com/matrotz>

<http://www.mayatrotz.com/contact/>



Denise Simon

Juleyka Lantigua-Williams – Juleyka, who earned an M.S. in Print Journalism from Boston University, is also a graduate of the prestigious Radcliffe Publishing Course at Harvard University and a Fulbright Scholar (Spain). She has been a nationally syndicated columnist with The Progressive magazine’s Media Project for twelve years. Her opinion columns—covering a broad range of issues from women's rights abroad, the environment, immigration, maternal health, international politics, and Latino identity—have appeared in The Houston Chronicle, The Miami Herald, The Chicago Tribune, The Harford Courant, and the L.A. Times among hundreds of national, regional, and online publications. Her magazine credits include JET, The Progressive, and GIANT. She previously taught writing at LaGuardia Community College (Queens, NY) and the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center (NYC), and also served as a mentor for National Public Radio's Next Generation Radio training program. Her essays, interviews, and young adult fiction have appeared in The Simon and Schuster Short Prose Reader (Fourth and Fifth Eds.); Once Upon a Cuento (Curbstone Press); and Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today’s Feminism (Seal Press). Most recently, she co-edited Confluencia in the Valley, a prose and poetry anthology that commemorates the fifth anniversary of Naugatuck Valley Community College’s Confluencia literary events. Juleyka teaches writing at NVCC in Waterbury, CT.

On LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/juleykalantigua](https://www.linkedin.com/in/juleykalantigua)

On Twitter: [@JuleykaLantigua](https://twitter.com/JuleykaLantigua)

www.juleykalantigua.com



Oonya Kempadoo is a novelist and creative practitioner with an interest in cross-disciplinary dialogue. Oonya Kempadoo, grew up in Guyana and has worked and lived in various Caribbean islands residing in Grenada for the last 15 years. Her first novel, *Buxton Spice* (1998), was long-listed for the Orange Prize and translated into six languages. Her second novel *Tide Running* won a Casa De Las Americas 2002 prize and Kempadoo was named a "Great Talent for the 21st Century" by the Orange Prize judges. Her new novel *All Decent Animals* was published by Farrar Strauss & Giroux, USA May 2013 and she is currently completing a narrative of local perspectives of sexual abuse. Oonya has worked as a consultant and social development researcher with various projects and is an advisor to Hands Across the Sea, a US non-profit dedicated to raising literacy levels of Caribbean children, and co-founder of the Mt Zion Library in Grenada. A Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence for 2013-2014, Oonya teaches creative writing at Naugatuck Valley Community College and Capital Community College in Connecticut.

<https://www.facebook.com/oonya.kempadoo>
<http://www.creativecaribbeannetwork.com/person/4938>



Karen Williams is a producer and community advocate who uses media to promote social change. Following a successful career as a FORD model, international TV spokesperson and actor, Karen segued to film production. To facilitate her commitment to youth empowerment, she founded the non-profit production company, No Child Is Somebody Else's Child, Inc., to develop and produce performance projects, public speaking workshops and innovative arts initiatives for inner-city children and youth in New York City. Her Safe Space Circle™ Program, a collaborative, improvisational, drama-based, workshop series has been administered to professional and non-professional actors, writers, ex-inmates and at-risk youth and adults throughout the U.S. and the Caribbean. Karen produced the award winning documentary, Bring Your "A" Game, that reached over 5 million young Black and Latino males with messages about the importance of high school graduation for their success. Karen is currently spearheading an initiative to integrate complimentary healing practices into traditional medical facilities in New Jersey.

Karen Williams holds a BA from Brown University and a MA from University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)



Ryan Cecil Jobson is a doctoral candidate in the combined degree program in Anthropology and African American Studies at Yale University. In 2011, he received a B.A., summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, in Africana Studies and Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was selected as a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow and McNair Scholar. At present, he is conducting archival and ethnographic research on natural resource development in Trinidad and Tobago, exploring the ways in which the extractive infrastructures of petroleum and natural gas production mediate claims to citizenship in the twin-island Caribbean republic. More broadly, his research encompasses questions of postcolonial sovereignty, consumption, popular music and performance, and genealogies of anthropological thought in the Caribbean and African Diaspora. He is the obliged recipient of multiple grants and fellowships from the Ford

Foundation, National Science Foundation, Social Science Research Council, and MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies.

Links

<https://yale.academia.edu/RyanJobson>



Angelique V. Nixon is a writer, artist, teacher, scholar, activist, and poet - born and raised in The Bahamas. She is committed to the struggle for gender, racial, and sexual equality and movements for social and environmental justice. Angelique earned her Ph.D. in English specializing in Caribbean literature, postcolonial studies, and women and gender studies at the University of Florida; and she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Africana Studies at New York University. She teaches and writes about Caribbean and postcolonial studies, African diaspora literatures, feminist and postcolonial theories, and gender and sexuality studies. Her work as a scholar, cultural critic, and poet has been published widely in academic and literary journals. She is co-editor of the online multi-media collection *Theorizing Homophobias in the Caribbean: Complexities of Place, Desire and Belonging*. She is author of the poetry and art collection *Saltwater Healing - A Myth Memoir and Poems* published by Poinciana Paper Press, in a letterpress cover, hand-bound, limited edition.

media links:

blog: <http://consciousvibration.blogspot.com/>

website: <http://currenttides.org/>

curriculum work: <http://www.hurricaneseasonontour.com/live/>

community work: <http://www.ayitiresurrect.org/>



Dr. Keshia N. Abraham is Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Chair of Humanities, Associate Professor of English and an active change agent at Florida Memorial University. Passionate about international education and global citizenship, her areas of scholarship include African, Caribbean, and African Diasporic Women’s Literature, Cultural Studies, Postcolonial literature, and cross-cultural Women’s studies. A seasoned yoga teacher, Keshia is the owner and operator of Soulfullyyoga and SoupAyoga – providing dosha balancing ayurvedic “soups,” cooking lessons, meditation and ayurvedic yoga sessions all over the world.