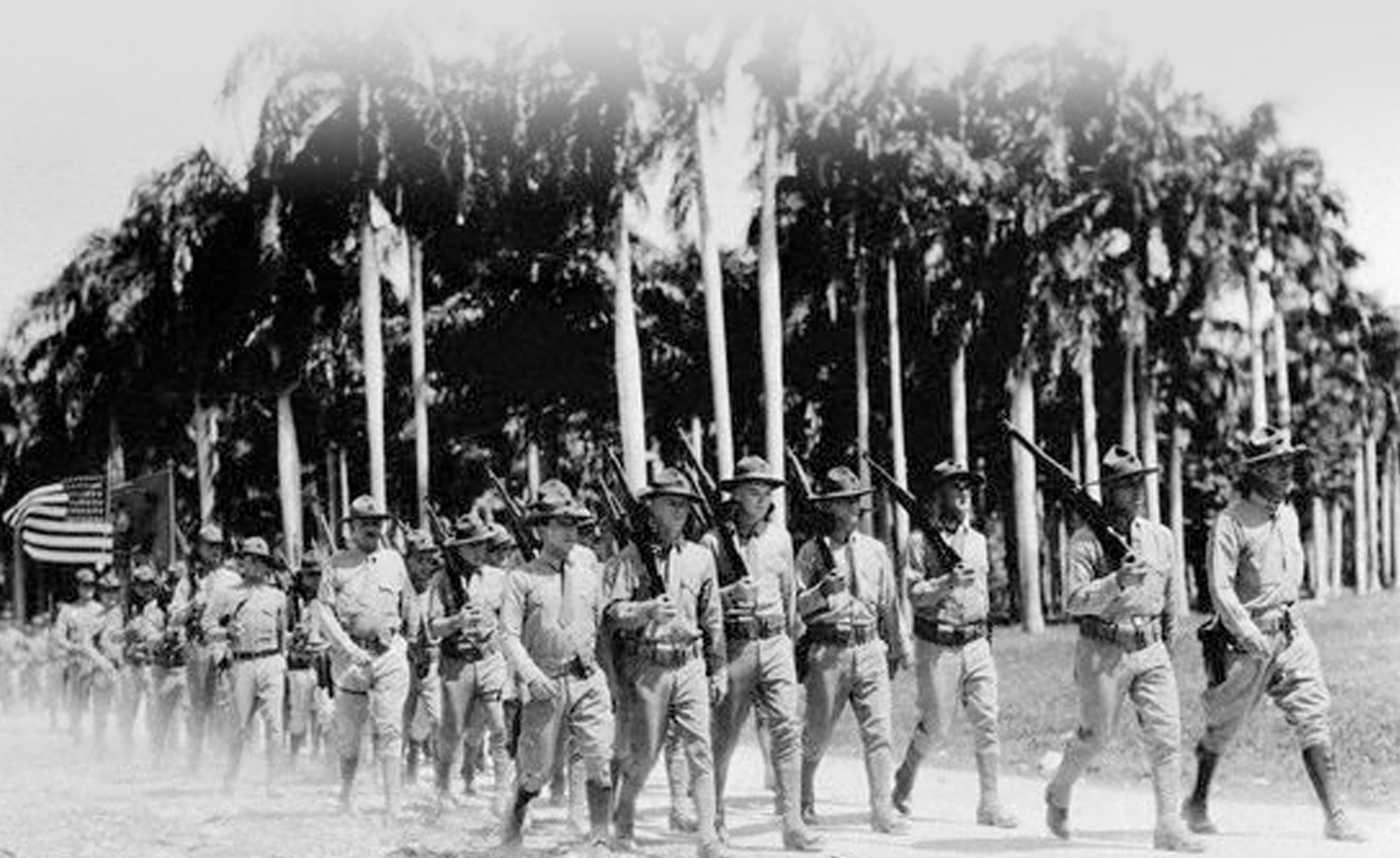


THE WINTHROP-KING INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



AMERICAN OCCUPATIONS: THE UNITED STATES AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE 20TH CENTURY

SPEAKERS

HARVEY NEPTUNE (TEMPLE UNIVERSITY)

SHALINI PURI (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH)

VALERIE SCOON (FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY)

MATTHEW J. SMITH (UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA)

11.19.15

DIFFENBAUGH 009

ORGANIZED BY: MARTIN MUNRO (FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY)

JEANNINE MURRAY-ROMAN (FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY)





Harvey Neptune Neptune is an Associate Professor of History at Temple University. Trained in the Department of History at New York University, he is the author of several published articles and a book, *Caliban and the Yankees: Trinidad and the US Occupation* (UNC Press, 2007). Neptune is currently working on a book titled *The Containment of Un-American History: the Ironic Fate of "Consensus,"* which reconsiders the politics of US historiography during early Cold War years.



Shalini Puri is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, where she works on the literatures and cultures of the Global South. Her most recent book is *The Grenada Revolution in the Caribbean Present: Operation Urgent Memory* (Palgrave 2014). Growing out of an interest in interdisciplinary humanities, the book seeks to expand the settings, resources, and reach of humanities scholarship. Additional details on the book may be found at <http://www.urgentmemory.com>.

Puri is also the author of *The Caribbean Postcolonial: Social Equality, Post-Nationalism, and Cultural Hybridity*, which won the Gordon and Sybil Lewis Award for best book in Caribbean Studies in 2005. She has edited two books: *The Legacies of Caribbean Radical Politics* (2011) and *Marginal Migrations: The Circulation of Cultures in the Caribbean* (2003). She co-edits the Palgrave Macmillan series "New Caribbean Studies," which features interdisciplinary and humanities-informed scholarship.

Puri is currently co-editing with Debra Castillo (Comparative Literature, Cornell University) a volume entitled *Theorizing Fieldwork in the Humanities: Undisciplined Approaches to the Global South*. She is also co-editing with Lara Putnam (History, University of Pittsburgh) a multidisciplinary volume entitled *Caribbean Military Encounters* (Palgrave 2015).



Valerie Scoon is a noted film producer whose credits include "The Great Debaters" starring Denzel Washington as well as "Their Eyes Were Watching God" and "The Wedding," both starring Halle Berry. In addition, she was a studio executive at Warner Bros. and oversaw such films as "Malcolm X" and "The Secret Garden." Other work includes being an Associate Director in News and Public Affairs at PBS, where she assessed work in progress documentaries for possible national distribution. Currently Scoon is a Professor at Florida State University Film School and has her own film company: True Visions.



Matthew J. Smith is a Professor of Caribbean History at the University of West Indies, Mona in Jamaica. His areas of research include Haitian politics, society, and migration. He is the author of the books *Liberty, Fraternity, Exile: Haiti and Jamaica After Emancipation* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014), and *Red and Black in Haiti: Radicalism, Conflict, and Political Change, 1934-1957* (University of North Carolina Press, 2009) which won the Gordon K and Sybil Lewis prize for best book in Caribbean History from the Caribbean Studies Association. Smith has also published several articles and book chapters on various aspects of Haitian history and politics. Among his current projects he is co-editor (with Diana Paton) of *The Jamaica Reader* (Duke University Press, forthcoming) and editor of a special issue on Haiti for *Caribbean Quarterly*.

Symposium Schedule

Thursday, 19th November 2015, Diffenbaugh 009

9.20 - 10.30: Welcome Remarks (Martin Munro)
Haiti (Matthew Smith), chair Martin Munro (FSU)

10.30 - 10.45: Coffee

10.45 - 11.45: Trinidad (Harvey Neptune), chair Jeannine Murray-Román (FSU)

11.45 - 1.00: Lunch

1.00 - 2.00: Grenada (Shalini Puri), chair Candace Ward (FSU)

2.00 - 2.15: Break

2.15 - 3.30: Screening of Grenada: Colonialism and Conflict, followed by Q&A with Valerie Scoon (FSU)

3.30 - 4.00: Break

4.00 - 5.00: Roundtable with all 4 speakers

Abstract

Haiti at the Cross: The Polarity of Occupation

Matthew J. Smith, University of the West Indies, Mona

The beginning of the U.S. Occupation of Haiti in 1915 signaled a dramatic shift in that country's history. Among many changes it abruptly ended a long cycle of political instability. For some observers within and outside of Haiti this was a positive result. Indeed some praised and envied the occupation's surface promise of modernization in Haiti. Yet as the occupation continued and its intrinsic prejudices revealed, an anti-occupation sentiment became more widespread though not universal. In some quarters up until the 1930s there remained a view that without U.S. control Haiti would return to its pre-occupation state. The debate over the occupation existed on multiple planes and was often contradictory. Much of this was due to the rapidly changing world of the early twentieth century. Detractors and supporters alike tried to make sense of the occupation in the wider context of U.S. imperialism, Caribbean history, racial prejudice, and the global conflict of the First World War and its aftermath.

This presentation will consider the various axes on which analyses of the U.S. Occupation of Haiti turned. While due consideration is given to the conflicting perspectives offered by publics in Haiti and in the United States, special attention is given to the views of the occupation by Haiti's closest neighbors in the Caribbean. The presentation will argue that the differences of opinion reveal much more about views of Haiti than about the nature of the occupation itself.

"The Caliban in the Yankees:" Close Encounters of Postcolonial US Empire in the Caribbean

Harvey R. Neptune, Temple University

The various United States military "occupations" of Caribbean territories over the past century offer an inviting opportunity to contemplate the challenges, opportunities and legacies presented by the achievements of a postcolonial empire centered in the American north. In particular, these episodes of armed intervention underline the difficulty North American occupiers had in establishing anything comparable to "hegemony" in a region long accustomed to invading foreigners who came bearing not only arms but also the gifts of European "civilization." However colossal the material power of the United States, it boasted none of the cultural and intellectual appeal of nations like France, England or Germany. Indeed, up until the Cold War, Yankees struck many in Nuestra America as resembling far more the "savage" in Shakespeare's Caliban than the sophisticate of Prospero. No doubt, North American military occupations in Haiti, Trinidad and Grenada witnessed significant sectors in society seeking to capitalize on their forceful presence. Still, pragmatic engagements aside, these instances (especially the experiences of Haiti and Trinidad) produced little evidence of local conviction about the intellectual and moral promise of "American Civilization."

Grenada: Urgent Fury, Urgent Memory

Shalini Puri, University of Pittsburgh

Why did the majority of Grenadians support the U.S. invasion of Grenada even though they supported the Grenada Revolution? Shalini Puri will address this apparent contradiction by comparing the differences between local, regional and hemispheric, and global frames of analysis of the invasion. She will consider both US considerations in invading Grenada and Caribbean reasons from across the political spectrum for supporting or opposing the invasion. Unlike the occupation of Haiti and the World War II U.S. military bases in Trinidad, the U.S. war in Grenada was brief and swift. Yet despite this, as Puri will show, the war shaped politics and culture in Grenada in far-reaching ways. Puri will also consider the role of the Grenada invasion in the politics of memory of the earlier American war in Vietnam and the most recent American war in Iraq.

Screening of Grenada: Colonialism and Conflict

Followed by Q&A with Valerie Scoon, Florida State University

This documentary chronicles the philosophical and sometimes bloody struggles Grenadians have waged against colonialism and its long lasting psychological influences. Grenadian leaders fought against colonialism in different ways. Julian Fedon freed 100 slaves to fight the British. Eric Gairy led the poor people in a massive strike and obtained many improvements for them. Maurice Bishop led a successful coup against Eric Gairy in 1979, promising education and societal reform. History tells the tale, however, that even as Grenadian leaders have struck blows at colonialism, they have at times employed the tools of oppression taught to them by their colonial masters.

Supported by a generous bequest from the late Mrs. Ada Belle Winthrop-King, Florida State University's Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies is a center for interdisciplinary scholarship on France and the French-speaking world. Through its program of distinguished guest speakers, visiting professors and conferences, together with undergraduate and graduate scholarships, the Institute offers outstanding opportunities for students, scholars and researchers who share the passion of Mrs. Winthrop-King for France and the wider French-speaking world.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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