

CARIBBEAN QUILT CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Malek B. Abdel-Shehid

Malek B. Abdel-Shehid is an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto pursuing a double Major in Human Geography, with a Focus in Planning, and Diaspora & Transnational Studies. He is also pursuing a Minor in African Studies. His Afro-Trinidadian heritage and identity as a black queer youth have contributed to his writing and politic. Last summer he conducted research in Ghana with a professor pertaining to African Indigeneity and Alternative Pedagogies. This past year he served in one of the School of Cities' Working Groups and interned with the Urban Alliance on Race Relations.

Wendy Oluniké Adeliyi

Wendy Oluniké Adeliyi is an award-winning actress and one of Canada's most celebrated artists. A graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, Oluniké has amassed an impressive resume that includes "American God's" (Starz), "Chaos Walking" (Lionsgate), and breakout comedy series "Working Moms," (Netflix). Olunike is a dynamic and compelling actor, whose on-screen and on-stage performances have garnered critical acclaim, making her a household name in Canada, Nigeria and the Caribbean. Oluniké has been nominated for Best Supporting Actress at the Canadian Screen Awards for her role in "Boost," Best Performance by a Female - Film at the Canadian Comedy Awards for her performance in "French Immersion," and won the Black Canadian Award for Best Actress. Most recently Oluniké starred in the thriller feature "She Never Died," for which she was nominated for best actress (LA Screamfest) and won best actress (Blood in The Snow Film Festival). Up next will be filming "Flint Strong" alongside Ryan Destiny(Star) and Ice Cube (Friday). Over her career, Oluniké has built a solid reputation for her professionalism, work ethic, and unwavering support of women and artists of colour. She currently attends the University of Toronto studying African, Caribbean, and Equity Studies. In 2011, Oluniké launched Monologue Slam Canada, which has grown to become the largest acting showcase in North America. The event has supported and nurtured the careers of thousands of Canadian actors.

David Allens

David Allens is currently in his third-year of study pursuing an honours bachelors of arts degree from the University of Toronto with a double major in Political Science, and Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies and a minor in Caribbean Studies. David's academic interests include: the intersection of politics and business and its impacts on policy decisions, the effects of globalization, trade liberalization and multinational organizations on small developing nations, socially constructed understandings of race and identity and their repercussions on the region, and the complex territorializations that govern seemingly mundane aspects of social interactions. He is also currently working as a component coordinator on an Inter-American

Development Bank funded programme that has a total budget of \$20M USD aimed at reducing instances of crime and violence in The Bahamas. Responsibility as a Project Manager includes managing output competition with a \$3.8M USD budget for the component which deals with improving the employability and employment of at-risk-youth on the most populated island in the country.

Octavia Andrade-Dixon

Octavia Andrade-Dixon is a Jamaican-Canadian fourth-year Human Geography Specialist with a Minor in Portuguese. Her research interests include the intersection between Blackness and Indigeneity on Turtle Island, the Caribbean and South America, and questions of livelihood in suburban and urban areas. She participated in the Research Experience Program conducting language research on Taurepang, a Brazilian Indigenous language. In her spare time Octavia enjoys listening to audio books, cycling, doing nail art, and spending time with friends.

Prilly Bicknell-Hersco

I am a last year student pursuing a major in Diaspora & Transnational Studies and a double minor in Sociology and Caribbean Studies. Prior to studying at U of T, I was a full-time mother of two. I felt compelled to pursue post-secondary education both to advance my own career and also to serve as a role model for my children. As an alumni and past employee of the Transitional Year Programme, a research assistant, and currently a peer mentorship coordinator at the University of Toronto, I have gained valuable and unique understandings in working with diverse student bodies, specifically Indigenous Canadians, African-Canadians, those from LGBTQ communities, sole-support parents, persons with disabilities, and individuals from working-class backgrounds of all ethnicities. I am an advocate for access to education for marginalized persons and communities and work from an anti-oppressive lens. I am passionate about social justice issues and access to post secondary education. I will be pursuing my Master's in social justice education at OISE in 2020.

Kahlia Brown

Kahlia Brown is a Human Geography student at the University of Toronto. She is currently working on completing a minor in Caribbean studies. Due to Kahlia's Caribbean roots and her primary field of study, she is especially interested in the race dynamics of the Caribbean region and how they shape the culture. Kahlia hopes to return to the Caribbean after completing her undergraduate degree, to put the knowledge she has acquired to good use.

Julie-Ann Patricia McCausland

Julie-Ann Patricia McCausland is a poet, and African-Caribbean storyteller. She arrived in Canada four years ago from St. Andrew, Jamaica. Since her arrival, Julie-Ann has made a point to assiduously pursue her lifelong dream of pursuing higher education. She completed a

Bachelor with Honors degree with specialization in Gender Studies and a Minor in Equity Studies at the University of Toronto, St. George Campus. After completing her undergraduate degree, Julie-Ann accepted admissions for the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

Julie-Ann has written, self-published and distributed a not-for-resale children's book written for her son. The book is in her son's voice and focuses on his body, his thoughts and his overall experience in school. The book is intended for boys with intellectual disabilities. She has also published a poetry piece titled: "Black Oman Badi", which celebrates Black womanhood. This is a substantial accomplishment that she is very proud of especially because she is a single mother in full-time studies with no family support in Canada. Julie-Ann has always sought to make a positive difference in the lives of people affected by social exclusion and institutional and systematic oppression. Before coming to Canada, Julie-Ann spent over three years as a Justice of the Peace in Jamaica. She is very passionate about advocating for human rights and social and cultural change. Hence, upon completion of her MSW degree, she plans to work in the area of Social Justice and Diversity, specifically, in the field of immigration settlement.

Mollie Sheptenko

Mollie Sheptenko is a 2nd Year Victoria College student majoring in History with minors in Caribbean Studies and Diaspora and Transnational Studies. Although Mollie has taken many history courses during her time at the University, she is most intrigued by Caribbean history. Mollie enjoys researching and learning about the resiliency of Caribbean peoples past and present and the vibrancy and intricacy of their culture. In addition to her studies, Mollie engages in volunteer work, intramural sports, and enjoys spending time with friends whilst exploring Toronto to find the best places to eat!

Sabrina Uwase

Sabrina completed her B.A. in Political Science and History, with a minor in Caribbean Studies. Her research interests include Caribbean and Latin American history, decolonization, and political economy. On her free time Sabrina enjoys making playlists, film photography, and ignoring her lactose intolerance.

Adriana Williams

Adriana Williams is a first generation Jamaican-Canadian student pursuing a major in Linguistics and a Double Minor in History and Caribbean Studies, currently in her third year of study at the University of Toronto. Her areas of interests ranges from studying slavery in Latin America the Caribbean analyzing studying languages within the Black Community dissecting the social conceptions about these languages, such as [Jamaican] Patois. Outside her studies, Adriana enjoys physical activity, listening to music, crocheting, and participating in various co-curricular clubs on campus.