

Mark Chatarpal

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Education: B.A. (Hons), 2014. University of Toronto, Specialist in Caribbean Studies.

Languages: English, Guyanese Creole, some Brazilian Portuguese & Belizean Creole

Research Experience:

July 2013-May 2014— Research Assistant, University of Toronto & The Institute for Sustainable International Studies Belize
Supervisors: Dr. Deborah McGregor, Aboriginal Studies Program, University of Toronto

Dr. Filiberto Penados, Engaged Scholarship & Service Learning Director

- Research assistant to Dr. Penados' study on the shifting food strategies of the Q'eqchi' Maya peoples in southern Belize and conceptualizing initiatives that promote the growth and consumption of traditional foods.
- Assisted Dr. Penados and Gregory Choc of the Sarstoon-Tamash Indigenous Institute of Management with field research on the impact of Climate Change on food production in two Q'eqchi' communities.

June 2012-November 2013— Research Assistant, University of Toronto Guyana & Canada
Supervisor: Dr. Alissa Trotz, Women and Gender Studies Institute

- Conducted field and archival research on racial violence during the 1964 disturbances in Guyana.
- Researched and compiled records from Parliamentary Hansards and local newspapers on state violence in a mining community in 2012.

September 2011-May 2014—Research Assistant, University of Toronto Toronto, Canada
Supervisor: Dr. Arnold Itwaru, Caribbean Studies Program

- Assisted in planning the 2012, 2013 & 2014 annual 'Racism and National Consciousness' conference, an academic event that engages scholars and members of the local community.

Community Development Experience:

July 2014- Present—The Hauraruni Initiative for Sustainability (T.H.I.S.- Guyana) Guyana
Co-Founder

- T.H.I.S. is an advocacy group in Guyana consisting of young scholars, writers, lawyers and indigenous rights activists advocating against the use of GMO's in Guyana.
- Producing a documentary entitled, *Ground Provision* with Guyanese filmmaker Kojo McPherson regarding the erosion of food sovereignty in Guyana.

September- December 2013— Hon. Samia Nkrumah, Chairman of the CPP Party & Food Sovereignty Ghana Ghana
Temporary consultant

- Personally assisted the Hon. Samia Nkrumah with conceptualizing anti-GMO strategies for community implementation, collation building and prevention of seed patenting laws in Ghana's parliamentary hearing.
- Travelled throughout the central region with *Food Sovereignty Ghana*, educating farmers and villagers about the disadvantages of genetically modified seeds being introduced into Ghana.
- Participated in 6 national radio debates regarding the negative impact of GM seeds on Ghana's food security.

September 2011- December 2012—Caribbean Studies Student Union (CARSSU), University of Toronto Toronto, Canada
Co-President:

- Planned five conferences addressing themes concerning the Caribbean and Diaspora such as: the intersectionality between deportation rates and crime, Politics and Race, Food Security in the Caribbean etc.
- Created linkages between CARSSU and the community, including hosting events at local bookstores and speaking at high-risk schools about the benefits of obtaining a university education

June 1999- Present—Philanthropic Work Roraima, Brazil & Region 9, Guyana

- Contributed personal finances and secured technical support for several rural development initiatives such as:
 - Digging of 2 Wells (Rupununi, Guyana)
 - Building a small library, *Hauraruni Girls Orphanage*. (Guyana)
 - Financing 2 small-scale poultry farms as part of a youth empowerment initiative. (Linden, Guyana)
 - Distributing organic seeds in GMO affected areas with *CETRAM Trade and Technical School*. (Roraima, Brazil)

Work Experience:

September 2003- July 2008— *Roots Canada Ltd.* Toronto, Canada
Acting and Senior Assistant Manager

- Managed three locations, ranging from platinum level (\$4 million+ per annum) to the company's flagship platinum plus locations.

September 1999- July 2000—*Ministry of Education Guyana, Hauraruni All Age School* Linden Highway, Guyana
Temporary Qualified Master (TQM-3)

- Taught CXC level: Principles of Business, Office Procedures and Social Studies.
- Organized two afterschool programs for adults and youths in Hauraruni village.

Internship Opportunities:

- CIDA's Students for Development Program & The Centre for School and Community Science and Technology Studies (SACOST). Ghana (September 2013- January, 2014)
- Sarstoon-Tamash Indigenous Institute of Management (SATIIM). Belize (July-August 2013)
- The Institute for Sustainable International Studies: 'Sustainability and Indigenous Knowledge'. Belize (May 2013-Present)

Conference Presentations:

- "The influx of GMO's into Guyana's Indigenous communities ", *Racism and National Consciousness Conference*, University of Toronto. Panel: Mutabaruka, Dr. Filiberto Penados and Dr. Arnold Itwaru. (October, 2014)
- "Food Security and Maya Land Rights: Crafting paths of Development with Identity" *Belize Archeology and Anthropology Symposium*, Belize. Co-presenter with Dr. Filiberto Penados. (July, 2014)
- "We are what we Drink: The impact of mining on water systems in Guyana" *Honoring Our Waters Conference*, University of Toronto. (April, 2014)
- *Diaspora Voices Conference*, University of Toronto. (April, 2014)
- "Food Security and the Caribbean: A comparative analysis of Indigenous food strategies in Guyana and Belize" *Latin American Studies 2nd Annual Undergraduate Research Conference*, University of Toronto. (January, 2014)
- "Food Conversations as a Pathway towards Self-Caring Indigenous Societies" *Vegetarian Association of Ghana International Conference*, Ghana. (October, 2013)
- "Monsanto and Caribbean Agricultural Politics" *Casa del Caribe-Festival del Fuego*, Cuba. (July, 2013)
- "Storytelling and the Indigenous Imagination" *Diaspora Voices Conference*, University of Toronto. (March, 2013)

Publications:

- "Studying Sustainably and Food Security in Belize" *The Bulletin*, University of Toronto. (2014): <http://www.utoronto.ca/ebulletin/14-06-05/bulletin-14-06-05.html>
- "Monsanto and Caribbean Agricultural Politics" *Caribbean Quilt*, Vol. 3, University of Toronto. (2013)
- Co-Author with Kevin De Silva: "Stitching Together a Transnational, Caribbean Quilt", *Stabroek Newspaper*, Guyana. (2012): <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2012/features/in-the-diaspora/06/04/stitching-together-a-transnational-caribbean-quilt/>
- Co-Editor of the *Caribbean Quilt* Vol. 2, catalogued in the libraries of; The University of Toronto, University of Guyana, University of The West Indies and Guyana's National Art Gallery *Castellani House* (2012)

Television and Radio Interviews:

- "The benefits of Organic Farming" *A Better World*, Voice of Guyana, 106.5fm. (Guyana, December, 2014)
- "GMO's are dangerous to Guyana's food security" *A Better World*, Voice of Guyana, 106.5fm. (Guyana, August, 2014)
- "The impact of large scale agriculture in indigenous communities in Guyana" *Jumpstart morning show*, Hits and Jams, 94.1fm (Guyana, August, 2014)
- "Are GMO's beneficial to Guyana's food security?" *Hot FM morning show*, 98.1fm (Guyana, August 2014)
- "The dangers of GM-Seeds in Guyana" *NCN Morning Show*, National Communications Network, Channel 9 (Guyana, August 2014)
- "Debate: GMO's are not in the best interest of Ghana's food security" *Morning Show*, Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, GBC Uniiq FM, 95.7fm (Ghana, December, 2013)
- "Debate: GMO's are not in the best interest of Ghana's food security" *Sika Futro show (Four guest appearances)*, Radio Gold, 90.5fm (Ghana, September- December, 2013)
- "Reflections regarding the CPP Party's call for a ban on GMO's in Ghana" *Evening News*, Pravda Radio, 93.5fm (Ghana, October, 2013)

Awards & Recognition

- The Frederick I. Case Book Prize for scholarly excellence in Caribbean Studies. (2014)
- Centre for International Experience/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Award. (2013)
- New College Council Bursary, Field Research. (May, August, 2013 & June, 2014)
- Ivy Marjorie Maynier Award, University of Toronto. (2013)
- New College Student Council Award, Field Research. (2013)
- Woodsworth College Undergraduate Award. (2011, 2012 & 2013)
- Stephanie Ali Memorial Scholarship, University of Toronto. (2010)
- Field Research and Conference Presentation mentioned in *The Guardian*, Belize's national newspaper, July 2014. http://www.guardian.bz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8051:belize-archaeology-and-anthropology-symposium-begins-in-cayo&catid=40:politics&Itemid=90
- Philanthropic development work was featured in the University of Toronto's *Boundless* promotion, (2012). <http://boundless.utoronto.ca/initiatives/alumni-student-mentorship-program/>

Interests: Caribbean Literature, Writing Poetry, Filming Documentaries, Landscape Photography, Fishing, Farming.