



Symposium

Carnival and its Digitalscapes

We invite you to join us on Tuesday 7th of December for an online symposium focusing on the experiences of digitization in the UK Caribbean Carnival. With the cancellations of Caribbean Carnivals across the UK in 2020, the role of digital media has become a central issue for creative professionals, organisers, community members and all Carnival participants. Bringing together researchers and practitioners, this symposium provides a platform to reflect on the role of digital media in and beyond the pandemic.

Programme (all times in GMT)

2 pm Welcome on Zoom

2.15 – 3 pm Keynote Lecture and Q&A

“Take me back to my Island”: Soca, Social Media, and Carnival Imaginations

Kai Barratt (University of Technology, Jamaica)

3.15 – 4.30 pm Panel Discussion

The role of digital media in Carnival in and beyond the pandemic

Invited guest speakers:

Tola Dabiri (BBB Communities and Carnival in a Box)

Linett Kamala (UAL, Disya Jeneration sound-system and Lin Kam Art)

Marva Antoine (Tropical Isles, Hackney Carnival)

Michelle Harewood (PhD researcher, University of East London)

Natalie Wall (Queen Mary University of London)

4.30 – 6 pm Showcase on Gather

Showcase of digital projects

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/carnival-and-its-digitalscapes-symposium-tickets-207071956797>

Contact: hklien-thomas@brookes.ac.uk

This symposium is part of the project “Carnival in digitalscapes: the mediatization of public cultural events in and beyond the pandemic” funded by the Independent Social Research Foundation with Dr. Maica Gugolati (EHESS, Paris) and Dr Hanna Klien-Thomas (Oxford Brookes).

Biographies of the speakers:

Kai Barratt, PhD. is a Lecturer at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Technology, Jamaica. She conducts research on Carnival, digital media and popular culture. Her most recent work focuses on ‘Soca, Survival and Social Media’ in the pandemic.

Tola Dabiri, PhD. is a Director of Museum X CIC and Brick by Brick Communities. She is a consultant in the heritage and cultural sector, as well as a researcher examining intangible cultural heritage in Caribbean Carnival and the ‘Women in Carnival’ project at Leeds Beckett University. Tola initiated the ‘Carnival in a Box’ project during the pandemic exploring possibilities of AR in Carnival.

Linett Kamala is an interdisciplinary artist and associate lecturer at University of the Arts London. She is board director for Notting Hill Carnival, founding director of Lin Kam Art and lead for Disya Jeneration sound system, which she has joined as the one of the first girl DJs to perform at the Notting Hill Carnival, London in the early 1980s.

Marva Antoine is artist and Managing Artistic Director for the award-winning, Hackney-based carnival group Tropical Isles. During the pandemic, she was part of the Hackney Carnival at Home team and co-organised the online gala event filmed at the Hackney Empire.

Michelle Harewood, PhD researcher at University of East London. Her research focuses on political and counternarratives embedded in cultural practices. She has fifteen years of experience working globally in the fields of international development and human rights with non-governmental organisations.

Natalie Wall, PhD. is the Research Impact Manager at Queen Mary University of London. Her research focuses on multicultural performances by Caribbean Canadian women and her most recent publication is “White generosity: black freedom faced with good intentions.”