

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: Alvin O. Thompson

DATE OF BIRTH: 24 January 1942

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS: B.A. (UWI); M.Phil. (London University), Ph.D. (UWI);
D.D. (West Indies School of Theology)

CURRENT POSITION: Professor Emeritus, Department of History and Philosophy,
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill

University Teaching Experience

Lecturer, University of Guyana, 1969-1972

Lecturer, University of the West Indies, 1972-1977 (tenure, October 1976)

Senior Lecturer, University of the West Indies, 1977-2001

Professor, University of the West Indies, 2001 to 2007

Professor Emeritus, University of the West Indies, 2008 to present

Courses Taught

African History to 1800

African History since 1800

West African History since 1800

Political History of West Africa 1880 to the present

Economic History of Africa, 1880-1960

History of South Africa

History of the West Indies

Comparative Study of Slavery

World Civilization

University of the West Indies Administrative Record

President, West Indies Group of University Teachers, Cave Hill, 1976-1979
Chairman of Committee on Federated Superannuated Scheme for Universities,
West Indies Group of University Teachers, Cave Hill, 1986-1995
Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts and General Studies, Cave Hill, 1980-1982
Member, University Academic Committee, 1980-1982
Member, University Board for Postgraduate Studies, 1983-1984
Member, University Council, 1982-1983
Member, University Board for Higher Degrees, 1980-1982, 1985-1986
Member, University Assessment and Promotions Committee, 1980-1982, 1983-1986
Head, Department of History, Cave Hill, 1982-1985
Acting Warden/Student Counsellor, Sherlock Hall, Cave Hill, June-December 1982, 1989-1991
Chairman, Campus Security and Safety Committee, Cave Hill, 1989-1991
Coordinator, Summer School, Cave Hill, 1993-1998
Chairman, Student Welfare Committee, Cave Hill, 1989-1991
Chairman, Cafeteria Users' Committee, Cave Hill, 1989-1991
Acting Director, Student Services, June-September 2001 and several other occasions,
before and after this date
Chairman, Graduate Sub-Committee, Faculty of Humanities and Education, 2002-2003.
Chairman, Professorial Sub-Committee, Faculty of Humanities and Education, 2005 to 2007

Professional Activities

External Examiner, African History Undergraduate Programme, University of Guyana,
1980-1991; 2001 to present
External Examiner, M.A. Programme in History, University of Guyana, 1992 to present
Member, Executive Committee, Association of Caribbean Historians, 1982-1984
Coordinator, Conference on Caribbean Migration, April 1984
Coordinator, Sixteenth Annual Conference of Association of Caribbean Historians, April 1984
Member, Editorial Board, *The Journal of Caribbean History*, 1982 to present

Editor, *The Journal of Caribbean History*, 1998 to 2011

Member, Barbados Museum Committee on African Museum , 2000 to present

Member, Barbados Museum Committee on the Slave Trade and Slavery, 2001 to 2004

Member, Planning Committee, Eight African Diaspora History Trail Conference, held in Barbados from 17 to 19 September 2012.

Awards, Honours and Distinctions

Indian Education Trust Scholarship, 1954-1958

Queen's College (High School Scholarship), 1958-1960

University of the West Indies Undergraduate Bursary, 1963-1965

University of the West Indies Postgraduate Scholarship, 1965-1968.

Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation Award for Research in Ghana, July-August 1977

Fulbright Senior Scholar Award, tenable at the Research Institute for the Study of Man, April-September 1986.

Received "Prizes of Caribbean Thought Award", from the Government of Quintana Roo in Mexico for manuscript entitled "Flight to Freedom: African Runaways and Maroons in the Caribbean", March 2004.

Inducted into the Hall of Fame of Chancellor Hall, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, as a Super Lion, April 2005.

Received Faculty of Humanities and Education Plaque for Outstanding Contribution to the Faculty as Vice Dean in 1980-1982 (Award: April 2005).

Received the Inaugural Principal's Award for Excellence (for research and publications), University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados, 2005.

Received the Vice Chancellor's Award for University-wide Excellence (for research and publications), University of the West Indies, 2007.

Received the Life-time Award from the University of the West Indies Press (for publications and administrative contributions to that Press), 2008.

Received the Oshe Emeka Lifetime Award from the Barbados Commission for Pan African Affairs for contribution to the study of African History and Culture, 2008.

Received Certificate of Recognition from the Kiwani South Chapter of Barbados for Address and Power Point Presentation on Slavery in the Americas, 22 February 2011.

Received Honorary Doctor of Divinity Award from the West Indies School of Theology for Outstanding Contribution to that Institution and to the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies, 25 May 2011.

Delivered the Twenty-First Annual Goveia Memorial Lecture, at the invitation of the Department of History and Archaeology, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, on the topic “Maroon Struggles”, April 2005.

Presented a paper at the invitation of the Netherlands “Atlantic World and the Dutch” (AWAD) Project on “The Legacies of Slavery in Guyana”, at an International Conference on Slavery from Within, sponsored by AWAD and the Roosevelt Center, Netherlands, June 2005.

Delivered a lecture on “The Atlantic Slave Trade” at the invitation of The Center for African and Native American Research, Arts and Studies, Bermuda, August 2005.

Presented a paper at the invitation of the Netherlands “Atlantic World and the Dutch” (AWAD) Project on “Some Thoughts on the Dutch Period and Presence in Guyana”, at a Conference at the University of Guyana, sponsored by AWAD Project, June 2006.

Delivered a lecture on “The Impact of the Transatlantic Slave Trade on Western Africa”, as part of the lecture series that the Department of History and Philosophy at UWI, Cave Hill, sponsored under the caption “An Outrage to Humanity”, dealing with the British slave trade and its abolition, 2007.

Delivered a lecture on “Why were Africans Enslaved?”, in St. Vincent, as part of a series that the St. Vincent Government sponsored on the abolition of the British slave trade, 2007.

Delivered the Twenty-Fifth Annual Goveia Memorial Lecture, at the invitation of the Department of History and Philosophy, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, October 2008, on the topic “Lest We Forget: Remembering the Slavery Past to Build a Better Future”.

Delivered lecture on “Testing the Chains: Slave Resistance in Barbados”, at a lecture series on slavery in Barbados (sponsored by the Department of History and Philosophy, UWI, Cave Hill, and the Barbados Museum and Historical Society), 14 April 2009.

Member of UNESCO Teachers’ Panel on the Fourth Anniversary of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Slave Trade, New York, 23 March 2011.

Member of UNESCO Department of Public Information /Non-Governmental Organization Panel on the Fourth Anniversary of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Slave Trade, New York, 24 March 2011.

Invited by United Nations Bookshop, New York, to launch and sign book titled *Confronting Slavery* on 24 March 2011.

Delivered at lecture and slide show on 10 February 2011 at Black History Month in Barbados on Slavery in the Americas.

Delivered a lecture and slide show in 22 February 2011 to Kiwanas Club in Barbados on Slavery in the Americas.

Delivered a lecture titled “The Gay and Lesbian Agenda” at the 34th Biennial General Conference of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies, in Trinidad, on 24 May 2012.

Delivered a lecture titled “African Retentions in the Caribbean” at the Eight African Diaspora History Trail Conference in Barbados, 17 September 2012

Delivered a lecture titled “The Berbice Slave Uprising” on the occasion of the 250th Anniversary of that event, at the invitation of the Guyana National Trust, on 19 February 2013.

Invited by UNESCO to be a Resource Person on the Panel Dealing with Caribbean Heritage Sites, 24-28 March, 2013.

Delivered a lecture titled “The Role of Enslaved Africans in the Emancipation Process” at the 151th Commemoration of Emancipation from Slavery in Sint Maarten, 30 June 2014.

Delivered a lecture titled “Visual Representation of Aspects of Slavery” at the Central Bank of Barbados, 24 February 2017.

Sports

Junior Sprint Champion (100 yards) Guyana, 1959

Special School Colours (Queen’s College, High School) for excellence in Sports
(Athletics and Cricket) 1959

Queen’s College 100 yards record, 1960

Victor Ludorum, Queen’s College Athletics Championship, 1960

Sports Personality, Queens College, 1960

Member of Queen’s College Touring Team to Trinidad (Triangular meet between Trinidad, Barbados and Guyana), July 1960

Sprint champions “B” division (100 yards) 1960

Sprint champions (100 yards) University of the West Indies, Mona, 1963

Victor Ludorum, University of the West Indies, Mona, 1963

Sprint champion (100 metres), Jamaica, 1963

Member of Jamaica Team, Carreras International Meet 1963 (placed third in 100 metres)

London University Sprint Champion (100 metres) 1966

British Universities Sprint Champion (100 metres) 1966

Awarded the Arthur Wint Trophy (in replica) for most significant performance at London University’s Athletic Championships, 1966

Awarded London University’s “Purple” (highest sporting award), 1966

Life Member of Barbados Track and Field Association, since 1992

Member of the Constitution Revision Committee, Barbados Track and Field Association, 2005-2006

Received Appreciation Award from the Amateur Athletic Association of Barbados in Recognition of Contribution to Athletics in 2005

Religion

Founder of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship at the University of Guyana, 1969

Trustee of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Barbados, ca. 1975 to present

Resource Person, International Conference held by Caribbean Conference of Churches, 1977

Member, Executive Committee, Barbados Council of Churches, 1978-1979

Member, Human Rights Commission, Barbados Council of Churches, 1981-1985

Resource Person, Conference of Caribbean Evangelical Association, 1996

Member, Board of Directors, West Indies School of Theology, 1992-2012

Chairman, Board of Directors, West Indies School of Theology, 1994-2012

Member, General Executive, Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies, 1994 to present

Delivered lecture in honour of Professor Winston McGowan, at invitation of Inter-School Christian Fellowship, Guyana, on topic “An Examination of the Current Political, Social and Religious Trends and their Impact on the Christian Student Movement in Guyana and the Wider Caribbean”, November 2002

Member of the Constitution Review Committee, Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies, 2005 to present

Received West Indies School of Theology Award for Outstanding Service to that Institution, 2000

Received Recognition Award from the Covenant City Church for recognition to the development of the Charismatic Movement and Deeper Life Ministries in Jamaica, December 2006

Received Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies Regional Award for Outstanding Contribution to Education, 2010

Received Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies Barbados District Award for Outstanding Christian Service and Contribution to Education, 2011

Received Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies Appreciation Award for Eighteenth Years of Service as a Board Member (including sixteen years as Chair of the Board) of the West Indies School of Theology, May 2012

Publications

Books

1. ed. *Emancipation I. A Series of Lectures to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Emancipation*. Cave Hill, Barbados: Learning Resource Centre, University of the West Indies, 1986. v + 108 pp.
2. *Colonialism and Underdevelopment in Guyana, 1580-1803*. Bridgetown: Carib Research and Publications, 1987. xxii + 299 pp.
3. ed. with A. Cogley. *The African-Caribbean Connection. Historical and Cultural Perspectives*. Cave Hill, Barbados: Department of History & National Cultural Foundation, 1990. viii + 171 pp.
4. *The Haunting Past. Politics, Economics and Race in Caribbean Life*. Kingston, New York & London: Ian Randle, M.E. Sharpe & James Currey, 1997. xvi + 283 pp.
5. *Unprofitable Servants. Crown Slaves in Berbice, Guyana, 1803-1831*. Kingston: University of the West Indies Press, 2002. xiv + 338 pp.
6. ed. *In the Shadow of the Plantation: Caribbean History and Legacy*. Kingston: Published by Ian Randle Publishers for the Department of History, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, 2002. xxv + 504 pp. Reprinted: Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2003; Oxford: James Currey, 2003.
7. *A Documentary History of Slavery in Berbice, 1796-1834*. Georgetown: Free Press, 2002. xvi + 279 pp.
8. *Huida a Libertad: Fugitivos y Cimarrones Africanos en el Caribe*. Mexico City: Siglo XXI Editores, 2005. 327 pp.
9. *Flight to Freedom: African Runaways and Maroons in the Americas*. Kingston: University of the West Indies Press, 2006. xi + 381 pp.
10. *Economic Parasitism: European Rule in West Africa, 1880-1960*. Cave Hill, Barbados: Department of History and Philosophy, University of the West Indies, 2006. xvi + 567 pp.
11. *Confronting Slavery: Breaking through the Corridors of Silence*. Bridgetown: Barbados: Thompson Business Services Inc., 2010. xx + 261 pp.
12. Editor of Thomas Maginley's *ABLAZE: The Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies 1910-2010*. Maracas, Trinidad: Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies, 2010. xx + 401 pp.
13. *Visualizing Slavery: Images and Texts*. Bridgetown: Barbados: Thompson Business Services Inc. xii + 370 pp.

Booklets

14. Gold Mining in British Guiana from Earliest Times to 1939 . Georgetown: Ministry of Lands and Mines, 1965. 61 pp.
15. *Some Problems of the Desertion of Slaves in Guyana, c.1750-1814*. Cave Hill, Barbados: ISER Occasional Paper No. 4, 1976. 67 pp. Republished as *Maroons of Guyana. Some Problems of Slave Desertion in Guyana, c.1750-1814*. Georgetown: Free Press, 1999, iv + 60 pp.
16. *Maroon Struggles and the Ideology of Freedom*. The Elsa Goveia Memorial Lecture 2005. Department of History, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, 2006, 19 pp.

Articles and book chapters

17. "Colonialism as an Economic Phenomenon: The Slave Trade Between West Africa and the West Indies." *Guyana Graphic*, 1972.
18. "The Role of Firearms and the Development of Military Techniques in Merina Warfare, c.1785-1828." *Revue Française d'Histoire d'Outre-Mer*, 61:224 (1974): 417-35.
19. "Aspects of Dutch Administration in Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice." In H. Lutchman et al., eds. *Selected Issues in Guyanese Politics*. Georgetown: University of Guyana, 1976. Vol. 1: 3-37.
20. "Black Africa and the European Partition." *African Studies Association of the West Indies*, 8 (1976): 53-78.
21. "Race and Colour Prejudices and the Origin of the Transatlantic Slave Trade." *Caribbean Studies*, 3-4 (1976-77): 29-59. Reprinted in Emory J. Tolbert, ed. *Perspectives on the African Diaspora. Volume One: To 1800*. 3rd edition. Boston & New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2001: 303-20.
22. "Africans in the Caribbean and the Guianas." *Tarikh*, 5: 4 (1978): 41-55.
23. "The Guyana-Suriname Boundary Dispute: an Historical Appraisal." *Boletín de Estudios Latinoamericanos y del Caribe*, 39 (1985): 63-84.
24. "Dutch Society in Guyana in the Eighteenth Century." *The Journal of Caribbean History*, 20:2 (1986): 145-66.

25. "The Societies of Western Africa on the Eve of the Atlantic Slave Trade." In Alvin O. Thompson, ed. *Emancipation I. A Series of Lectures to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Emancipation*. Cave Hill, Barbados: Learning Resource Centre, University of the West Indies, 1986: 1-15.
26. "Historical Writing on Migration into the Commonwealth Caribbean: A Bibliographical Review of the Period c.1838-c.1938." *Immigrants and Minorities*, 5:2 (1986): 169-91.
27. "African Recaptives under Apprenticeship in the British West Indies, 1807-1828." *Immigrants and Minorities*, 9:2 (1990): 123-44.
28. "Aspects of the Impact of the Transatlantic Slave Trade on Western Africa and the Caribbean." In A. Copley and Alvin O. Thompson, eds. *The African-Caribbean Connection. Historical and Cultural Perspectives*. Cave Hill, Barbados: Department of History & National Cultural Foundation, 1990: 1-27.
29. "Amerindian European Relations." In Hilary McD. Beckles and Verene Shepherd, eds. *Caribbean Slave Society and Economy*. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers, 1991: 13-27; and also in Hilary McD. Beckles and Verene Shepherd, eds. *Caribbean Slavery in the Atlantic World*. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers, 2000: 86-99.
30. "The Demerara Maroon War of 1795." *Emancipation*, 3 (1995): 3-6.
31. "Some Pro-Slavers' Views of the Meaninglessness of Granting Freedom to Slaves." *Emancipation*, 3 (1995): 8-10.
32. "'Happy - Happy Slaves!': Slavery as a Superior State to Freedom." *The Journal of Caribbean History*, 29: 2 (1995): 93-119.
33. "Black Caribbeans." In S. Drescher & S. Engerman, ed. *A Historical Guide to World Slavery*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998: 98-100.
34. "Slave Society during the Dutch Regime." In Winston F. McGowan, James G. Rose, and David A. Granger, eds. *Themes in African-Guyanese History*. Georgetown: Free Press, 1998: 39-75.
35. "The Berbice Slave Revolt, 1763-64." In Winston F. McGowan, James G. Rose, and David A. Granger, eds. *Themes in African-Guyanese History*. Georgetown: Free Press, 1998: 77-105. Reprinted as pamphlet. Georgetown: Free Press, 1999, ii + 33 pp.
36. "The Chastisement of the Slave America." *The Journal of Caribbean History*, 33.1 & 2 (1999): 146-61.
37. Enslaved Children in Berbice, with Special Reference to the Government Slaves, 1803-1831." In Alvin O. Thompson, ed. *In the Shadow of the Plantation: Caribbean History*

and Legacy. Kingston: Published by Ian Randle Publishers for the Department of History, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, 2002: 163-94.

38. "Aspects of the Colonial Economic Experience in West Africa." In Richard Goodridge, ed. *Caribbean Perspectives on African History & Culture*. Cave Hill: Department of History and Philosophy, The University of the West Indies 2004: 103-31.
39. "Gender and *Marronage* in the Caribbean." *The Journal of Caribbean History* 39.2 (2005): 262-89.
40. "The Symbolic Legacies of Slavery in Guyana". *New West Indian Guide* 80. 3 & 4 (2006): 191-220.
41. "Sites of Memory: contributions of enslaved Africans to the built heritage of the Caribbean". *UNESCO World Heritage Papers* 38. *Safeguarding Precious Resources for Island Communities*, Paris: UNESCO, 2014: 60-67.
42. "Maroons in Guyana". APFOM et al. *Sociétés marronnes des Amériques: Mémoires, partimoines, identitiés et histoire du XVII^e au XX^e siècles*. Matoury, Guyane: Ibis Rouge Editions, 2015: 195-213..

Review article

43. Hugh 'Tommy' Payne, *10 Days in August 1834: 10 Days that Changed the World*, Brooklyn, New York, 2001, in *The Journal of Caribbean History*, 36.2 (2002): 336-45.

Book reviews

44. Richard Price. *The Guiana Maroons: A Historical and Bibliographical Introduction*. Baltimore, 1976, in *Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, 35.4 (1978): 319-20.
45. Walter Rodney. *Kofi Baadu: Out of Africa*. Georgetown, 1980, in *Caribbean Contact*, Aug. 1981: 15.
46. Thomas J. Spinner. *A Political and Social History of Guyana, 1945-1984*. London, 1984, in *Caribbean Contact*, Aug. 1985: 15.
47. Franklin Knight, ed. *General History of the Caribbean. Vol. III. The Slave Societies of the Caribbean*. London, 1997, in *Journal of Education and Development in the Caribbean*, 2.2 (1998): 159-61.

48. Basdeo Mangru. *The History of East Indian Resistance on the Guyana Sugar Estates, 1869-1948*. New York, 1996, in *The Journal of Caribbean History*, 31.1 & 2 (1997): 222-26.
49. Maurice St. Pierre. *Anatomy of Resistance: Anti-Colonialism in Guyana 1823-1966*. London, 1999, in *New West Indian Guide*, 75. 3-4 (2001): 325-27.
50. Gabino La Rosa Corzo. *Runaway Slave Settlements in Cuba: Resistance and Repression*. Chapel Hill, 2003, in *The Journal of Caribbean History*, 38.1 (2004): 149-52.
51. Stephen G. Rabe. *U.S. Intervention in British Guiana: A Cold War Story*. Chapel Hill, 2005, in H-Net Book Review, 2006.
52. Kenneth M. Bilby. *True-Born Maroons*. Gainesville, 2005, in *Slavery & Abolition*, 28.2 (2007): 299-301.
53. Gilien Matthews. *Caribbean Slave Revolts and the British Abolitionist Movement*. Baton Rouge, 2006, in *New West Indian Guide*, 82.3 & 4 (2008): 289-90.
54. Louis A. Pérez, *To Die in Cuba: Suicide and Society*. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 2005, in *Journal of Caribbean History*, 43.2 (2009): 298-301.
55. Werner Zips. *Nanny's Asafo Warriors: The Jamaican Maroons' African Experience*. Kingston: Ian Randle, 2011, in *New West Indian Guide*, 88.1-2 (2014): 169-71.

Major Unpublished Papers

- “African Retentions in the Caribbean”. Revised version of a paper read at Eight Annual International African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference, held at the Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Conference Centre in Barbados on 17 September 2012.
- “Building Cross-Cultural Capacities in LIS: Caribbean and African Reflections”. Edited version of the keynote address of delivered on the occasion of the meeting of the International Federation of Library Association’s Africa Section Pre-Conference satellite meeting in Barbados, 9 August 2011.
- “The Berbice Slave Uprising of 1763: Historical and Present-day Significance”. Paper delivered as part of a series of lectures, organized by the Guyana National Trust on 19 February

2013, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Berbice Slave Uprising in that country.

Alvin O. Thompson

2 March 2017