



CYNTHIA BARROW-GILES

In 1989, Ms. Barrow-Giles joined the Department of Government, Sociology and Social Work in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the UWI, Cave Hill Campus as an Assistant Lecturer in Political Science. She was promoted to Lecturer in 1994 and Senior Lecturer in 2012. She served as Head in the same Department from 2004 to 2006. From 2018 to 2020, she served as Deputy Dean of Outreach in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Ms. Barrow-Giles' contribution to public service locally, regionally and internationally cannot be understated. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Barrow-Giles, against rising concerns for her health and safety, travelled to Guyana, first in March, as a member of a High Level CARICOM Mission to observe Guyana's general and regional elections, and then later in June as

Team Leader of a three-member CARICOM Observer Team, to scrutinise the recount of the votes cast in the country's election, when controversy arose over the outcome. Apart from the threat of COVID-19, the CARICOM team in the performance of their duties faced tremendous backlash and public outrage from agents who believed that the former's intervention was an unnecessary attack on local sovereignty and democracy. Their actions led the Prime Minister of Barbados, The Honourable Mia Amor Mottley, to publicly commend both the work and selfless contribution of the Team in restoring key elements of democracy in Guyana as well as reinstating regional and international faith and confidence in the integrity of its political and electoral systems. After reading the team's report, Prime Minister Mottley stated:

"They [CARICOM Observer Team] travelled to Guyana (in spite of the pandemic and the risk to themselves) and they scrutinised the recount process. The CARICOM Observer Team was of the unshakeable belief that the people of Guyana expressed their will at the ballot box on March 2 and that the results of the recount certified as valid by the staff of GECOM led to an orderly conclusion on which the declaration of the results of the Election would be made."¹

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and to the Organization of American States, Ronald Sanders, in an article titled, "Salute the "CARICOM Three for their Sacrifice", published across the region, wrote:

¹ Source: <https://today.caricom.org/2020/06/24/statement-by-the-chair-of-the-caribbean-community-caricom-the-honourable-mia-amor-mottley-prime-minister-of-barbados-on-the-electoral-crisis-following-guianas-general-and-regional-electi/>

“At the end of all this – whenever that comes – these three persons deserve a special award as Champions of CARICOM Democracy. And the Caribbean Community should bestow it upon them. They are not doing their jobs; this exercise is not their jobs; it is an act of self-sacrifice and dedication to democracy.”²

However, Ms. Barrow-Giles’ outstanding public service profile cannot be limited to the events of 2020. Over the last five years, she has regularly served on Election Observation Missions for the OAS in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, where she has performed the role of expert on women and political party financing, a role similar to that performed for the Commonwealth office. The Missions continue to highlight loopholes and gaps in the existing electoral laws, promote best practice and greater transparency in the electoral process. One of the major developments arising out of the discussions with stakeholders was the enactment of modern political party and election financing laws in Jamaica in 2015 which is among one of the most comprehensive and modern legislation on political money in the Caribbean and Latin America. The second is the OAS model legislation on political party financing for the Caribbean which is the end result of consultation across the Caribbean with political parties, election commissions, and governments.

Ms. Barrow-Giles, as part of a sustained effort to promote integrity in public life is a founding member and Director of the Integrity Group Barbados. IGB has been at the forefront of public education on good governance, demanding greater transparency in public life. Ms. Barrow-Giles is also a Director of the Transparency Institute of Barbados which monitors the ethical nature of governmental activities.

Ms. Barrow-Giles has also combined her public service into scholarly publications, particularly in the last five years. These works have been lauded as key pillars of reference and paragons of guidance for many practising stakeholders, including those operating in the government sector in the region, political activists, students, and others in the professional fields of governance, constitutional law and political science. This inventory includes two books, four book chapters and four journal articles:

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. **“Mapping the Future of Caribbean Constitutionalism”**, in *The Caribbean Handbook on Caribbean Constitutionalism*, (eds), Richard Albert, Derek O'Brien and Se-shauna Wheatle, pp. 651-677. Oxford University Press, August, 2020.

²Sources: <http://www.sirronaldsanders.com/viewarticle.aspx?ID=750>;
<https://www.caribbeannewsglobal.com/salute-the-caricom-three-for-their-sacrifice/>;
http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/opinion/salute-the-caricom-three-for-their-sacrifice_195195?profile=0

2. **“Second Generation Reform: Political Party and Election financing in the OECS”** in *Whither CARICOM? Integration in the age of Brexit* (eds), Patsy Lewis, Terri-Ann Gilbert Roberts, Jessica Byron (eds), UWI Press. (Forthcoming, 2020)
3. **“An Examination of the Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Integrity in Barbados”** in *Governance in Small States*, (eds), Wouter Veenendaal, Lino Briguglio, Jessica Byron and Stefani Moncada, Routledge. (Forthcoming, 2020). (with Philmore Alleyne)
4. **“Good Governance or Penance: Enhancing Westminster in the Caribbean”** in *Beyond Westminster in the Caribbean*, (eds), Brian Meeks and Kate Quinn, pp.19-45, Ian Randle Publishers, Kingston: Jamaica, 2018.

BOOKS

5. ***Women in Caribbean Politics***. Ian Randle Publishers, Kingston: Jamaica, 2011
6. ***The National Integrity System and Governance in The Commonwealth Caribbean***. Carib Research and Publications. Bridgetown: Barbados. December 2017.

PAPERS IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

7. **CARICOM and the 2020 Unsettled Elections in Guyana: A Failed Political (Legal) Solution?** The Round Table, October 2020. (with Ronnie Yearwood)
8. **Elections and Democracy in the Caribbean**, Oxford Bibliographies: Oxford University Press, 2020. (with Tennyson Joseph)
9. **“Beyond the Status Quo, Centering Women in the Westminster System in the Commonwealth Caribbean: A Preliminary Analysis”**, *Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*, vol 53, no. 1, February 2015, pp. 49-70.
10. **“Elections and Democracy in the Caribbean”**, Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science, Ed. Sandy Maisel. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming, 2020. (with Tennyson Joseph)

For her matchless contribution and leadership in the promotion of regional democracy and democratic principles, integrity in public life, transparency and good governance, it is therefore not surprising that Ms. Barrow-Giles is the winner of the Principal’s Award for 2020-21 in the All Staff Category for **Outstanding Contribution to Public Service**.