



Ralph Watkins Lecture Series

Spring 2017
at SUNY Oneonta



Sponsored by Africana & Latino Studies, History, The Office of Equity and Inclusion,
Dean of Social Science, and the ALS Social Justice Incubator

Orisha Devotion in Grenada: Origins, Formation and Future



Shantel George, Dissertation Fellow

Shantel George is a PhD Candidate in the Department of History at SOAS, University of London, and a Dissertation Fellow in the Department of History & Africana and Latino Studies at SUNY Oneonta. Her PhD research, 'Religion, Identity Formation and Memory among Liberated Africans and their Descendants in Grenada, 1836 to present', examines the ethno-linguistic origins of recaptive Africans sent to Grenada and its impact on the formation of Orisha traditions. Her other research interests include the circulation of food commodities in the Atlantic world.

The small Eastern Caribbean island of Grenada has largely been excluded in the literature on Orisha devotion in the Americas, with Cuba, Brazil, Haiti, and Trinidad being the focus of much anthropological and historical concern. Although the veneration of the orisas in Grenada is practiced on a smaller scale compared to the above territories, this talk will demonstrate that Grenada's Orisha worship, known as African work by its practitioners, offers a unique opportunity to reconsider the origins of Yoruba-Atlantic religions and the effects of transnationalism in the making of religious identities.

Women's History Month Event
Ralph Watkins Emerging Scholar
March 29, 2017 | 4PM
Alden Room | Milne Library

More information can be obtained through the
Department of Africana and Latino Studies 436-3449.

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