

SUSAN CRAIG-JAMES HERITAGE LIBRARY



Dr. Susan Elizabeth Craig-James was born in Trinidad on 12 November 1947, to Lionel Craig and his wife Sislyn. She attended the Scarborough Girls' Anglican School from the age of three, and when she was eight years old she went to Trinidad, to continue her schooling at St. Crispin's EC School. She spent the year 1958 at St. Margaret's College, Belmont, Port of Spain. In 1958 also, she won a Port Services Scholarship, and passed the examinations for the Bishop Anstey High School, Port of Spain, which she attended from 1959.

In 1963, Susan was awarded a House Scholarship to pursue Sixth Form studies, along with the Jerningham Silver Medal for coming first in the country in the Cambridge School Certificate examinations. Two years later, she topped students in the Modern Languages category of the

GCE A Level examinations, and was awarded an Open Island Scholarship.

She gained her Master of Arts degree with First Class Honours in Sociology and Politics from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1970, having won the Simon Gray Prize for Politics in 1968. She received the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, England, in 1995, the title of her thesis being "The Evolution of Society in Tobago, 1838–1900".

In 1995 also, she won a Scholarship from the Harold Wingate Foundation, London, England, to assist with the completion of two books: *The Changing Society of Tobago, 1838–1938: A Fractured Whole*; and *Uneasy Yoke: Selected Documents on the Union of Trinidad and Tobago*.

Dr. Craig-James can be described as an accomplished sociologist, who has made important contributions to the history, anthropology and sociology of the Caribbean. She has written and published on several areas of Caribbean life, including the family, labour and other social movements, and community development. In particular, she has also done pioneering multi-disciplinary work on the history and sociology of Tobago.

In support of her work, she founded Cornerstone Press Ltd. in 1998, and has been its managing director since then.

During the period 1971 to 1993, Dr. Craig-James served in the Department of Sociology, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, in various capacities, from Assistant Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.

She has also served as a consultant to the Tobago House of Assembly, first as a Member of a Plan Team appointed in 1997 to prepare a Development Plan for Tobago (1998–2013); and subsequently, between 1998 and 2002, as contributor to, and/or editor of, other development plans and reports.

During this period too, she conducted training workshops and presentations for agencies and organizations such as: British West Indian Airways; Tourism and Industrial Development Corporation; the Faculty of Engineering, and the Centre for Gender and Development Studies, of The University of the West Indies; and Haggai Institute, Trinidad and Tobago.

Between 2002 and 2005, she served as lead consultant for the United Nations Development Programme's National Human Development Report, 2005, for Trinidad and Tobago.

Her publications include: *Community Development in Trinidad and Tobago, 1943–1973: From Welfare to Patronage* (1974); "The Germs of an Idea", Afterword to W. Arthur Lewis, *Labour*

in the West Indies (1977); *Smiles and Blood: The Ruling Class Response to the Workers' Rebellion in Trinidad and Tobago* (1988); and *The Changing Society of Tobago, 1838–1938: A Fractured Whole* (2 vols., 2008). She is also the editor and publisher of *Contemporary Caribbean: A Sociological Reader* (2 vols., 1981/1982).

Throughout her lifetime she has received several academic scholarships and grants, which have generally been used in furtherance of her extensive research. She has also received awards for her achievements, among them a Tobago House of Assembly Award for her contribution to scholarship on Tobago in 2008; and a National Award—the Chaconia Medal (Silver) for long and meritorious service in the field of Education, in 2011.

Ordained as a Minister of the Christian Church since 2002, Dr. Craig-James was appointed a member of the Accreditation Commission, Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association, in 2008, and continues to play an active role in the Christian life of her community.

For her determined and sustained efforts in the research and documentation of the country's history, the Heritage Library is being named after Dr. Craig-James

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