



## Report on visit to Jamaica April 2015

David Whitley, Roz Hudson and Morag Styles visited Kingston, Jamaica 8-14 April for the last CPP meeting and TCP workshop under the auspices of CCE. The visit was a great success and we are confident we have left a lasting legacy of our work in the Caribbean. Despite the fact that our workshop coincided with Obama's visit to Kingston (with many roads closed and traffic at a standstill in places) around 40 teachers attended both days of the workshop. They were one of the most responsive groups we have worked with and responded positively to our facilitators, Professor Mark McWatt, Philip Nanton and Sam Soyer. David Whitley also gave an excellent talk about place and time in Caribbean poetry, while Profs Beverley Bryan and Morag Styles put the project and its aims in context.

The final team meeting of the project was an all day event. (Please see Minutes for more detail.) Although there was sadness that our funding had come to an end and the possibilities of meeting together in the future looked unlikely, great satisfaction was expressed at what we had achieved over 5 years - a Routledge book shortlisted for UKLA as best academic book of the year; an acclaimed anthology of Caribbean poetry; an outstanding international conference; a special issue of The Caribbean Journal of Education based on Teaching Caribbean Poetry; TCP workshops having been held in most Anglophone territories of the Caribbean; a permanent TCP course at The University of the West Indies as part of B.Ed. In addition, a blended learning online version of the TCP course will shortly be available across the Caribbean; a Caribbean version of Poetry by Heart is being pursued under the MONA School of Education by a member of CPP team; a shortened version of the TCP course needs final approval before being adopted and taught across the Eastern Caribbean. We also hope to undertake further joint research and if the opportunity presents itself, continue the collaboration between CPP and ZAPP.

We held an outstanding poetry reading by some of the finest Caribbean poets during our visit with an audience of 150 people (despite the Obama visit) that included Eddie Baugh, Tanya Shirley, Mark McWatt and Poet Laureate, Mervyn Morris, whose performance concluded with his poem, Checking Out, which he dedicated to the end of our project. The last two lines resonate strongly.

*I slam the door. 'Dear are you positive  
there's nothing left?' Well no:  
something remains, I'm sure of that:*

*Some vestige of our lives in this bare flat  
will linger, some impulse will outlive  
our going, recycled in the flow*

*of being. We never leave,  
we always have to go.*