



**Academic Grounding Working Group
Symposia Series**

**May 23-24, 2016 (Arthur Chung International Conference Center,
Georgetown, Guyana)**

June 5, 2016 (York College, Queens, New York)

Call for Participation

Theme: *Guyana at 50: Understanding Our Independence Journey*

Introduction

Education in all forms is an important vehicle for individual and collective advancement and the enhancement of national life. The Golden Jubilee affords us an opportunity to examine the various knowledge traditions, the evolution of Guyanese thought and their contributions to Guyana's development. It also provides a moment to think about how these processes and ideas can inform the next 50 years.

This educational component will take the form of symposia in Guyana and New York. They will allow academics, intellectuals, students, community leaders, and the general public to share knowledge, to exchange ideas, and to launch sustainable initiatives that will support the building of trust and national cohesion in Guyana. Specifically, these symposia aim to facilitate cross-disciplinary discussion on four interrelated questions:

- Who are we?
- What has been our journey?
- What can we become?
- How do we get there?

In Guyana, the National Symposium will be held in Georgetown on Monday, May 23 and Tuesday, May 24, 2016. The New York symposium is scheduled for Sunday, June 5, 2016 at York College, Queens.

Invitation

The organizers of the 2016 symposia are pleased to invite proposals for paper presentations, panels, workshops, performances, films, posters, or exhibitions that explore the above-mentioned questions. Participants are encouraged to explore the following themes:

- The peopling of Guyana (particularly the findings of contemporary archeological research)
- Sugar, stereotypes, and interethnic trust
- Labor, nationalism, ideology, and the anti-colonial struggle
- Diaspora, the struggle for independence, post-independence engagement, and the future
- Guyana's experiences with governance since World War II
- Regional and international engagement, including contributions to the anti-apartheid, anti-imperialist and other struggles
- Economic challenges, opportunities, and the social mobilization of capital
- Guyanese creative imagination
- The Guyanese intellectual tradition
- Contemporary sociological challenges such as crime, corruption and suicide
- Cultural encounters, cultural interaction, and cultural exchange
- Guyana's multi-religious society
- Guyanese language and linguistics
- Urban, rural, and hinterland life
- Science, technology, and social change
- Environment, sustainability, and green development
- Youth and development
- Migration and the peopling of Guyana
- Towards a just and caring future

While we welcome proposals on the above themes, we also strongly encourage submissions on any topic related to the Guyanese experience.

Proposals should include a one-page abstract (maximum 250 words); the author's name, postal and e-mail addresses, home institution (if applicable); and a brief biography (50 words or less).

Presentations

The organizers anticipate that the symposia will generate high-quality knowledge about Guyana. These papers, panels, presentations, performances and exhibitions will represent a substantial multidisciplinary synthesis of the Guyanese experience and aspirations 50 years after independence. These materials, along with related initiatives,

can prove useful in the development of national development strategies, especially in education (formal, non-formal, and informal).

Paper presentations must be in English and will be 15 minutes in duration, with 5 minutes afterwards for discussion.

Panel presentations will be 10 minutes each initially, followed by discussion will be engaged.

The organizers expect that the papers and presentations to the symposia will be of the quality acceptable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. To this end, papers should be prepared using the *MLA Manual of Style* or the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

The materials presented to the symposia will be available on multiple media platforms. Wherever possible, symposia presentations will be broadcast/streamed nationally and internationally. All presentations will be deposited in the National Archives and used by NCN and the Learning Channel in subsequent public television and educational programming.

Virtual Participation

If you are unable to attend either of the symposia in person, you may participate virtually—either through a virtual poster or a virtual presentation. Virtual presentations will be scheduled in the formal programme.

Virtual presentations should be no longer than 15 minutes.

Submission Deadlines

The closing date for the submissions of proposals to the Call for Participation is **February 7, 2016**. When submitting your proposal, please indicate whether you prefer to make your presentation in Guyana or in New York. The organizers cannot guarantee that your preference will be satisfied.

Papers accepted for presentation during the symposia must be completed and submitted by **April 15, 2016**.

For enquiries and more information, or to submit proposals and completed papers visit:

Email us at : Guyana50symposia@gmail.com

Web address: guyfolkfest.org/Guyana@50

Email us at: doc.mcysgy@gmail.com

Webb address: [www. 50guyana.com](http://www.50guyana.com)

Sponsors

Academic Grounding Working Group, National Commemoration Commission, Guyana; Symposium Sub-Committee, 50th Independence Anniversary Celebrations Committee, New York; and the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.