

# Mixed Methods International Research Association - Caribbean Chapter

Annual Report July 2021- 22

Prepared by President - Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson



*Thank you for this very informative workshop  
it is never boring hearing you speak about what you  
are passionate about*

*It was a great discussion*

*Really appreciated the explanation of how Quant  
methods and Qual methods combine to provide a  
truer picture of what is really going on!*

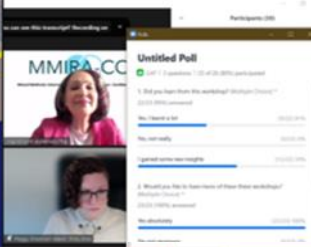
*Excellent Presentation and feedback to the various  
questions*

*A very rich presentation*

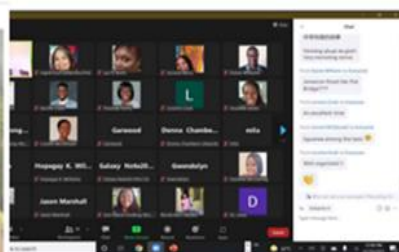
*Thanks for an excellent session!*

*Thanks very enlightening*

*Very good. thanks much!*



hosted/moderated by Dr. Leah Garner-O'Neale from the Cave Hill, UWI campus, who ensured that they moved beyond personal introductions and sharing of knowledge to heightened, interactive discussions of research designs, methodology, paradigmatic and philosophical approaches and challenges encountered in the research process, among other things. The attendees just could not get enough!



*The Munch & Mingle was a  
"Wonderful  
experience of  
camaraderie ...  
Excellent  
organization of an  
online meet..."  
(from the survey,  
Oct 22, 2021)*

*I'm loving the session!  
Fantastic work at this Chulha Chat!  
Loving the synergy among these  
conversants!  
Excellent presentations!  
mixed methods can be likened to mixed  
farming...  
Excellent visuals and analogies!  
(Extracts taken from Chulha Chats 1&2)*



*It was truly informative"  
"The use of Caribbean research examples was  
GREAT!"  
"Thank you for this very enlightening  
presentation."*

## **Annual Report July 2021- 22**

**Prepared by President - Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson**

Despite challenges we encountered throughout the year, I am happy to report that under my tenure as President of MMIRA-CC, which was officially handed over at the Annual General meeting on August 10, we had an amazingly fruitful year of collaborated workshops and events, a MMIRA Symposium, and other accomplishments. See the details set out below. Sadly, in July 2022, near the end of my tenure, we lost one of our founding members, Dr. Vimala Kamalodeen, lecturer at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. Dr. Kamalodeen gave outstanding service as a member and past president, and among other things, will be remembered for organizing the highly successful 2019 regional mixed methods conference in Trinidad. At the time of her passing she was Chair of the Professional Development Committee. Dr. Kamalodeen has left a legacy of kindness and excellence and will forever live on in our hearts.

We also said goodbye to our very competent and committed Webmaster and graphic support member, Gia Anderson. Gia is a graduate major in Global Development and Communication at the University of Edinburgh. Gia created the MMIRA-CC Website and has served as webmaster for the last five years. She also created the MMIRA-CC logo, several of our banners and flyers for conferences, booths and workshops as well as, the original membership flyer still in circulation. Gia, we thank you for your commitment and contributions to MMIRA-CC!

None of what was achieved over the last year would have been possible without the commitment and support of the Chapter team. That being said, I extend my heartiest and most sincere thank you!! to each member of our standing committees who contributed their time and efforts throughout the year. In particular, I wish to recognize persons who worked toe-on-toe with me and often beyond the call of duty throughout my tenure in different capacities. These persons include our secretary, Dr Sharon Jaggernaut; treasurer, Dr. Avalloy McCarthy-Curvin; Ms. Jociane Berry; Dr. Leah Garner-O'Neale, Vimala Kamalodeen (posthumously), Ms. Lisa White, Dr. Lyn Keith, Ms. Tynessa Gaye-Felix, Ms. Elaine Williams, Dr Sharline Cole and Professor Loraine Cook. I also wish to extend on behalf of the Chapter, our deep gratitude to Ms. Nadine Davis, senior administrator at the School of Education, Mona, Jamaica, who did outstanding work in advising and lending support on our finance-related operations.

On a last note, my personal congratulations to our incoming president, Dr. Sharon Jaggernaut. You will be amazing and I look forward to working with you!

The key objectives of the Chapter this year were to implement strategic changes, policies and innovations that will strengthen the Chapter's core infrastructure and competencies; increase diversity, inclusion and collaboration among Caribbean colleagues; increase membership and database tracking; solicit increased interest from members through social media and increased offerings; and improve our financial position. The following were achieved in tandem with their respective objectives to:-

***1. Strengthen the Chapter's core infrastructure and competencies***

- *Committee Capacities & Competencies.* This was achieved by increasing the Committee capacities. As such, twelve new committee members were instilled as needed, in particular across the Marketing, Professional Development and Membership Committees. This helped to ensure focus on designated areas that need special attention such as assigning a Members' email response team, Database Manager and Creative Manager in the Membership Committee; a new Instagram Manager and Newsletter Manager in the Marketing Committee.
- *Committee Chairs.* Vice-chairs were also incorporated into each Committee so as to ensure that its leadership had adequate support.
- *Governance.* The Governance committee was reinstated (formerly inactive) with three lawyers instilled so as to ensure viable governance in overseeing its practices and direction in revising the Chapter's bylaws. Many thanks to Ambassador Aloun Assamba who served as Chair and Ms. Lisa White, as Vice-Chair.
- *Bi-Laws.* Revision of the Bi-Laws was an important part of ensuring the reinstatement of the Governance Committee. The process was initiated in an extensive meeting to gain guidance on how to enact these changes. However, this will require the input of executive members over a period of time and will require persistent follow up from the next presidency.
- *The Leadership Model.* For the first time, the executive revisited the leadership of the Chapter in adopting the requirements of the bi-laws and the exemplar of the parent body, MMIRA. The model is a tri-leadership team of president, past president and president-elect who will work collaboratively to lend support to the president, groom the president-elect and enhance efficiency in achieving the Chapter's goals. This will be initiated by the next presidency (see caption below).



### **The Leadership Team 2022-23**

- *Rotation of the Board.* For the first time since inception, and in accordance with our by-laws, seven members of the original Board have been rotated having completed a 5-year tenure. The Chapter now boasts a new board that aligns more closely to the guidelines of our bi-laws. For instance, the president, past president and president-elect are all members of the new board.
- *Lifetime Members.* An important part of my objectives as president was to ensure that members who played a significant role in establishing and contributing to the growth and development of the Chapter be recognized and awarded lifetime membership. As such, the Chapter has now installed a *Hall of Lifetime Members* to acknowledge those persons. An executive decision was also taken to include persons who have served as president subsequent to their period of service. Aside from myself, members who were inducted at the 2021-22 annual general meeting held on August 4 are Professor Loraine D. Cook (founder), Professor emeritus Eldemire Shearer, Mr. Stanford Moore, Dr. Steven Weaver, Dr. Vimala Kamalodeen (postumeously), and Dr. Tashane Haynes-Brown.
- *Caribbean Representatives.* Representatives for the three main Caribbean Countries were updated. Many thanks to Ms. Allison Montgomery, Mrs Tynessa Gaye-Felix and Dr. Claudette Fongkong-Mungal for their role in representing Jamaica, Trinidad, and Barbados respectively.
- *MMIRACC's Website.* The website was updated. To ensure a historical trail was established, the '*our history*' portal was updated with inserts ordered chronologically that include the biographies, messages and reports from all previous presidents. The '*Membership*' (previously '*Join Us*') portal and registration form were also adjusted to better facilitate the registration of both new and returning members.

### **2. Increase diversity, inclusion and collaboration among Caribbean colleagues**

- *Diverse Caribbean Collegiacy.* The (#2) objective above was achieved by ensuring that persons serving on committees represented a diverse mix of Caribbean colleagues from at least 3 affiliated islands. Caribbean colleagues were also afforded more opportunities to lead and/or collaborate with international colleagues in planning workshops, seminars, or Chapter events. For instance, the vibrant Chulha Chats series was an authentic discussion forum that focused on only Caribbean researchers' works.

### **3. *Increase membership and management of its database***

- *The Membership Form.* The membership application form was also linked as a google form to [mixedmethodsrrcc@gmail.com](mailto:mixedmethodsrrcc@gmail.com) to facilitate better tracking of new members and tallying of total membership.
- *The Membership Database.* The database was completely consolidated and updated to ensure its utility for later needs. Another database was created to track potential members for marking purposes.
- *A Response Team.* A dedicated response team was instilled to ensure that members' e-mails are responded to and tracked to ensure that members' database is kept updated. Many thanks to Jociane Berry, our E-mail and database manger.
- *Chapter Membership Tally.* Our membership tally increased by over 100% from 117 members on record in July 2021 to 297 members at the end of July 2022.

### **4. *Increase interest and communication from members via social media and offerings***

- *Social Media & Marketing Strategies.* Our Facebook page was updated with an authentic video that introduces visitors to the basics in mixed methods and invites them to join MMIRA-CC. Special kudos go out to Mrs Elaine Williams for creating this effective video and Facebook Manager, Dr. Corent McDonald for overseeing this platform. I had also conceptualized a 'Research Nuggets' theme that features Caribbean and international mixed methods researchers' articles or works or blurbs on our social media platforms, all with the intent to stimulate interest and conversations on our social media. Moving forward a Twitter account should also be created with a dedicated manager and other ways of increasing and sustaining engagement in our social media platforms.
- *New Instagram Page.* In addition to our Facebook page, a new Instagram account was created and a dedicated Manger appointed. Since this is a popular platform on social media, this is to keep the Chapter abreast of modern technology trends and increase our range of communication with members. However, more needs to be done on a regular basis to increase traffic and engagement on the social media platforms.
- *The Chapter's Newsletter.* The newsletter was re-established having been dormant for a while. A decision was taken by Marketing to produce this on a bi-annual basis. I re-assumed my former role of Newsletter Manager and posted publications at the end of December 2021 and June 2022. I also conceptualized a 'Research Nuggets' banner that features Caribbean mixed methods researchers articles in our newsletter. The newsletter is an important aspect of informing members and maintaining their interest. It should be continued and consistent and later considered for a tri-annual publication. However, a replacement newsletter Manager and editorial committee are needed.



- *Workshops & Event Offerings.* In lieu of not having a regional conference this year, the Chapter held nine (9) events in total. These included four (4) international and Caribbean collaborated workshops, as well as, one (1) seminar, two (2) *Chulha Chats*, a (1) MMIRA symposium and one (1) *Munch & Mingle* social event. The spread and diversity of these offerings throughout the year helped to keep current members interested and attracted new members which increased our tally from 170 to approximately 300 members. Details of these events are outlined below.
  - i) The Professional Development Committee, chaired by Dr. Vimala Kamalodeen organized three scintillating events shown below – one Webinar and two *Chulha Chats*. These were all overwhelmingly supported attracting up to 130 attendees at each event.
    - The webinar was titled *Core Concepts in Mixed Methods Research* and was facilitated by Prof Loraine Cook and Dr Vimala Kamalodeen and moderated by me- Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson - on December 8, 2021.
    - The two *Chulha Chats* forums evolved from was an especially authentic concept and called for doctoral candidates or recent graduates to engage in light conversations about their research experiences and mixed methods designs used in their dissertations. These were very ably moderated by Dr. Leah Garner on January 18 and March 8, 2022.
  - ii) The *Munch-&Mingle* virtual social event allowed members and prospective members to interact in a social setting, on October 22, 2021. This was well received by the 34 + members who called for more of these. It was entertaining and exciting to say the least. Kudos go out the Membership Team – Allison Montgomery, Elaine Williams and Jociane Berry - who did an amazing job. There was another social '*Lunch & Labrish*' planned for July 2022. This event did not materialize due to members' heavy commitments and unforeseen circumstances.
  - iii) Leading as Chair of the Special Events Committee and with the help of my team, who I extend my gratitude to, four workshops under the *Cherries in the Mix* banner, between January and April 2022. These were facilitated by a diverse group of international and regional mixed methods researchers. These all gained amazing support and feedback and were attended by an average of 35 to 45 persons. See details below :-
    - Mixed Methods Applications within Survey Projects facilitated by Dr. John Hitchcock and Dr Allison Crean-Davis, moderated by Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson - January 26, 2022.

- Qualitative Prioritised Mixed Methods Research Evidence-based Workshop facilitate by Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson and Dr. Peggy Shannon-Baker, moderated by Dr. Sharon Jaggernauth - February 23, 2022.
  - A Meta framework to Re-IMAGINE the Increase of Black Methodologists in Education Research facilitate by Prof. Sandra Schamroth Abrams, Prof. Tony Onweugbuzie, Dr. Elena Forzani, Dr. Mary Beth Schaefer, Dr. Prathiba Natesan Batley and children of the facilitators, moderated by Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson - March 25, 2022.
  - Coding, Categorizing and Theming Qualitative Data in Mixed Methods Studies facilitated by Dr. Elizabeth Kutcher and Dr. Bephyer Parey, moderated by Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson - April 25, 2022.
- iv) Also leading as Chair, myself and members of my Special Events Committee (SEC) conceptualized and prepared a Caribbean symposium proposal that was accepted by MMIRA titled, *Making Positive Vibrations in Mixed Methods Research: Promoting Resilience and Social Justice and Transformation in the Caribbean*. The Symposium was presented at the Mixed Methods International Research Association Conference on August 4, 2022. Three relevant papers were chosen to be presented by Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson (paper 1); Dr. Janielle Matthews,(paper 2) and Dr. Loraine Cook and Dr. Claudette FongKong-Mungal (paper 3). Special thanks also to SEC members, Dr. Leah Garner-O’Neale, Dr. Salisha Mohammed who helped with planning and Dr. Sharon Jaggernauth, who moderated during this symposium

## **5. Open a Chapter Account and Improve the Chapter’s financial position**

- *A Chapter Account*. Formerly monies allocated for the Chapter were deposited to a Chapter Conference account. To comply with the requirements of local tax auditing and facilitate non-conference business transactions, a dedicated account for the Chapter’s other sources of income has finally been set in place through the bursary at the Mona Campus, University of the West Indies. Once this becomes fully operationalized it will allow for the collection of membership dues and other monies for workshops, etcetera. The next administration will need to follow up.
- *Financial Status*. The Chapter’s financial position was improved by garnering substantial funding from external sponsors and charging minimally for workshops. This way we ensured that we were able to offset Chapter costs (eg website and filing of income taxes) and honorarium costs for international workshops. After all deductions for expenses, the accounts are now in a profit status. The next administration will need to follow up on payments of pending honorariums.
- *Friendly Society of Jamaica*. In following up on the previous administration’s recommendation to acquire tax-free status through the ‘Friendly Society of Jamaica’, a

meeting with the Director and chief officer of the organization occurred. Myself along with Ms. Lisa White (Governance), Dr. Avalloy McCarthy (Treasurer), and Dr. Sharline Cole (Professional Development Committee) represented the Chapter. The message conveyed was that the Chapter did not necessarily meet the requirements for status. Nonetheless, it was determined that since ‘nothing beats a trial’ we should still proceed with the application. This is yet to be carried out and will require follow-up from the next administration.

- *Tax Status.* The Chapter remains tax compliant and up-to-date with filing of its income tax returns (due by end of March each year) and the annual returns to the Companies Office of Jamaica (due by September 15 each year). The next administration should try to ensure that filing of these returns remains time sensitive to avoid any late penalties.

### **Main Recommendations**

- *Identify a new Newsletter Manager/writer*
- *Ensure that the authenticity (original design) of the website is maintained and expired announcements and postings etc are archived to preserve the history. Maintain the historical order of teams, presidents’ messages, biographies, reports etcetera*
- *Install new social media platforms – Twitter, Linked in etc.*
- *Maintain Manager/s for Chapter Emails and Membership database*
- *Reserve the distribution of virtual event recordings for members only*
- *Continue to solicit persons in the corporate world to join the Chapter to boost sponsorship and support and to establish the connections between research and the society*
- *Pursue the policy changes needed in the Chapter’s Bi-Laws, particularly as it relates to maintaining the Website, new leadership model and governance, and guidelines for the varied offices especially the Chapter Manager*
- *Pursue the application to gain tax-free status with the Friendly Society of Jamaica*
- *Follow-up on the new bank accounts and payment portals to collect membership dues and other payments (re Ms. Nadine Davis)*
- *Follow up on making outstanding payments of honorariums to international facilitators*
- *Ensure that filing of the Chapter’s financial returns remain time sensitive to avoid any late penalties. Based on the annual filing principles at COJ, discuss the possibility of maintaining the offices of Secretary and Treasurer for 3-year periods. Treasurer should be a person living in Jamaica.*

Report prepared by Ingrid Hunt-Anderson, PhD.



**See the Chapter’s Teams below**



## **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President, Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson (UWI, Mona)  
Immediate Past President, Dr. Tashane Haynes-Brown (UWI, Mona)  
Secretary, Dr Sharon Jaggernauth (UWI, St Augustine)  
Treasurer, Dr Avalloy McCarthy-Curvin (UWI, Mona)  
Chapter Manager, Dr. Steve Weaver (UWI, Mona)  
Administrative Assistant, Dr. Salisha Mohammed (UWI, St. Augustine)  
Committee Chairs & Vice-Chairs: Ambassador Aloun Assamba & Lisa White,  
Mr. Miguel Ison & Michelle Taylor, Ms. Allison Montgomery & Mrs Elaine Williams,  
Dr. Vimala Kamalodeen (deceased) & Dr. Sharline Cole

## **NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS: APPOINTED 2022**

Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson, Dr. Sharon Jaggernauth, Dr. Leah Garner-Oneale,  
Ms. Elaine Williams, Prof. Emeritus Denise Eldemire Shearer, Mr. Stanford Moore,  
Dr. Marcia Rainford, Ms. Lisa White, Dr. Corent McDonald

## **THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Special Events & Conference**

Chair: Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson  
Co-Chair: Dr. Leah Garner-O'Neale  
Dr. Sharon Jaggernauth, Dr. Salisha Mohammed, Dr. Corent McDonald,  
Ms. Jociane Berry, Ms. Allison Montgomery, Ms. Elaine Williams, Professor Cynthia Onyefulu

### **Governance**

Chair: Ambassador Aloun Assamba  
Co-Chair: Ms. Lisa White  
Special Support: Ms. Danielle Watson

### **Membership**

Chair: Ms. Allison Montgomery  
Co-Chair/Creative Manager: Ms. Elaine Williams  
Database Manager & Response Team:  
Ms. Jociane Berry & Dr. Lyn Keith  
Special Support: Dr. Dr. Debbie Devonish

### **Marketing & Communication**

Chair: Mr. Miguel Ison  
Co-Chair: Ms. Michele Taylor  
Facebook Manager: Dr. Corent McDonald  
Instagram Manger: Ms. Joelle Bernard  
Newsletter Manager: Dr. Ingrid Hunt-Anderson  
Webmaster & Graphic Support: Ms. Gia Anderson  
Special Support: Professor Cynthia Onyefulu

### **Professional Development**

Chair: Dr. Vimala Kamalodeen  
Co-Chair: Dr. Sharline Cole  
Dr. Claudette FongKong-Mungal,  
Ms. Tynessa Gaye-Felix (graphic support),  
Dr. Leah Garner-O'Neale,  
Ms. Shivani Sukhai  
Special Support: Professor Loraine Cook