



*CONNECTED WORLDS:  
THE CARIBBEAN, ORIGIN OF MODERN WORLD  
(CONNECCARIBBEAN-823846)*

“This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 823846”

The Marie Skłodowska Curie **RISE** Action (*Research and Innovation Staff Exchange*) aims to **strengthen cross-sector and cross-border international collaboration** in R&D through exchanges of research and innovation personnel between public and private entities. The purpose is to better address global challenges through the exchange of knowledge and ideas that bring basic research to the market.

*Connected Worlds: The Caribbean, Origin of Modern World* is a project directed by Dr. Consuelo Naranjo Orovio, from the Institute of History of the CSIC. The project will be carried out between 2019 and 2022 and has a funding of € 1,922,800.

Conneccaribbean is not just a research project on the history of the Caribbean; represents an opportunity to establish stronger links between the territories of the Caribbean, Europe and Latin America. The proposed research topic invites networking to achieve considerable comparative and transdisciplinary results. With a transnational approach, issues that shaped the Atlantic World since 1492 will be addressed, some of which survive in the Caribbean region: trade and slave system, race, racism, imperial policies, resistances, circulation of knowledge, images, representations in and of the Caribbean, and development models.

It involves 84 researchers from 15 institutions in 10 countries (4 European and 6 Caribbean and Latin America).

In Europe: Spain: Institute of History-CSIC, University of Seville, University Pablo de Olavide, and Doce Calles Editions; Germany: Leibniz Universität Hannover; France: IHEAL-Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, and Laboratoire Caribéen de Sciences Sociales- Université des Antilles, Martinique; Italy: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan.



In America: Dominican Republic: Center for Caribbean Studies-Pontifical Catholic University Madre y Maestra; Cuba: Academy of the History of Cuba; Costa Rica: Center for Historical Research of Central America (CIHAC) -University of Costa Rica; Colombia: Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla, and University of Magdalena, Santa Marta; Puerto Rico: University of Ana G. Méndez, Recinto de Gurabo; Chile: Center for Latin American Cultural Studies (CECLA) - University of Chile.

## **THE CARIBBEAN REGION**

The Caribbean was a difficult area to control due to the competition of several European States to dominate the region, as well as the existence of lands or seas, "nobody's property", where activities such as contraband or plantations, generated wealth soon. While distance made the Caribbean far from the centres of political power of the metropolis, it was the engine of the new economic power that originated European capitalism and led to modernity. Slave labour, the provision of land and capital were the factors that made it possible to generate a modern world. This aspect is closely related to the analysis of trafficking and the functioning of the slave system.

On the other hand, the Caribbean was the scene where modernity acquired a new dimension as the epicentre of the slave revolt in Saint-Domingue, which began in 1791 and resulted in the freedom of slaves and the creation of Haiti in 1804, the first state led by former slaves.

## **GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Rescue the historical social, cultural and political autonomy of the Caribbean, beyond the history written by and from the great empires perspective.
- 2) Study, using a comparative approach, of the Caribbean societies from the elements that generated the Atlantic world.
- 3) Analyze the Atlantic circulation of people, ideas, traditions and products.



- 4) Promote exchange, debate and academic cooperation between institutions in Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America.
- 5) Obtain an understanding that recognizes the traces of Europe and Africa in the Caribbean and vice versa.

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

### **1) Analysis of the slave system: slavery, race and racism:**

1. Comparative study of the slave markets between the different continents in the Atlantic world.
2. Analysis of the social and cultural interactions that took place in the Caribbean in modern times, as well as the economic systems based on slaves.
3. Evaluate the formation of ideas and practices regarding racial classification and racism in the different territorial areas.
4. Analyze the socio-racial categories and their semantic links with other similar colonial regions in the world, with the main objective of studying them as manifestations resulting from self-identities and representations of "otherness".

### **2) Counterpoint between imperial policies and resistances: economic, social and cultural practices that generated multiple identities and cultural forms**

1. Study of contraband as a key factor of interaction between colonial spaces and the emergence of new dynamic societies.
2. Analysis of slavery as an ideological device of social control.
3. Examination of the challenges or resistance to these social control devices in each of these societies.

### **3) Analysis of the circulation of knowledge, images, discourses and representations in and of the Caribbean:**

1. Definition of the Caribbean from the concept of "historical region".
2. Study of the processes of cultural dialogue in the Caribbean region: writings of the Caribbean. The gender perspective will be included, and attention will be paid to intra-Caribbean dialogue, as well as that established with other territories.



3. Evaluation of the processes of cultural transfers beyond the static geographical spaces and investigate the constant reconfiguration of social spaces in the Caribbean and in the Caribbean communities of the Diaspora.
4. Analysis of the representation of alternative spaces beyond the normative perceptions of race, gender and class in the Caribbean, considering geocultural spaces, historical spaces, political spaces, discursive spaces and corporal spaces, among others.
5. Examination of the socio-political uses of the memory of slavery.
6. Images and forms of representation of culture and population
7. Study of anti-colonial narratives: the memories of anticolonial and anti-slavery revolutions from history and literature.

#### **4) Study of the development models in the region:**

1. Analysis of the economic and political development of the Caribbean nations.
2. Examination of the relationships between the perception of backwardness, the strategies designed for development and the economic policies implemented in the Caribbean nations.
3. Research on violence in Central America during the Cold War and the subsequent peace processes (1970-2016)
4. Assessment of the weight that social structures inherited from the colonial past can have on sustainable development: assess the influence of the socioeconomic context on the structure of public development policies.
5. Analysis of the evolution of cities and urban universes of the Caribbean.

The study will be carried out since its foundation, trying to provide the keys that explain its unequal -in time- demographic growth, attending to local and regional reasons, and both economic and social, and depending on its geostrategic position in the different cycles of the Atlantic economy and politics.



## RESULTS

- 1) Dissemination:
  - academic publications and seminars
- 2) Communication:
  - Chair of Afro-descendant studies to be held at the Universidad del Norte, Colombia.
  - Conferences in secondary schools and other spaces open to a non-specialist public.
  - Documentary on slavery, race and memory of slavery.
  - Exhibition at IH-CSIC: *The face of Africa in America* (November 2020).

## BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

- 1) Facilitate the development of the Caribbean countries and generate a future that places value on the integration of human diversity.
- 2) Overcome the racial complex and the scourge of slavery and its traces in the area, and its perception by other regions of the world:
  - Give visibility to certain groups
  - Generate sensitivities and knowledge on citizenship on practices of racism.
  - Contribute to design public policies to combat stigmatization and racism against non-white populations in Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America.
- 3) Protection and rescue of historical memory: promotion of cultural expressions.