



Group of Multidisciplinary Research on the Caribbean

In February 2008, in reaction to the nonexistent institutional structures dedicated to research on the Caribbean in the province of Quebec, five students of Laval University and the University of Ottawa created GREMCA, the Group of Multidisciplinary Research on the Caribbean (Groupe de REcherche Multidisciplinaire sur la CARaïbe). The founding members, with backgrounds in philosophy, sociology, literature, anthropology and psychology, made this multidisciplinary their basic principal, convinced that only a pluralist approach – drawing upon the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences - would allow them to fully grasp Caribbean realities and to better understand the issues that affect and shape the archipelago's societies. The *vivre-ensemble* that characterizes GREMCA – and proves to be a synonym of open-mindedness and a vector of creativity – is also a reflection of the group's critical and ethical stance which inspires all activities organized by its members.

Targeting a wide as well as diverse audience and membership, GREMCA's projects aim to combine scientific encounters (conferences, workshops, publications) with cultural events open to the general public (exhibitions, festivals, themed events). In this spirit, GREMCA is organising a Vodou roundtable at Laval University, a panel at the ACSALF congress in Montreal, a symposium at the 2008 CASCA annual meeting in Ottawa as well as the Festival of Pan-Caribbean Cinema in Quebec City. All these initiatives convey the group's main objective: to disseminate and transmit knowledge on the Caribbean region - particularly in Quebec and more generally in Canada - in order to undermine and replace existing stereotypical discourses. In addition to this first incentive, GREMCA also hopes to contribute to a stimulating exchange between researchers from and interested in the Caribbean. Thus, the scope of its activities is meant to be not only pan-Canadian but also pan-Caribbean, giving the group's philosophy of multidisciplinary a decidedly multilingual dimension.

Finally, special emphasis will be put on transferring knowledge between members of the "South" and their fellow-researchers of the "North". GREMCA intends to abolish the unilateral dynamics which allow the "North" to take the "South" as object of study without sharing their results and data with the region concerned. In order to create reciprocity through a north- and southbound flux of information, GREMCA will circulate knowledge using the possibilities of the internet; it will also support research projects undertaken by members from the Caribbean and encourage mobility of "southern" academics towards "northern" universities.

Founding members of GREMCA:

Katell COLIN, Schallum PIERRE, Marie MEUDEC, Murielle JEAN-BAPTISTE et Lourdes Stéphane ALIX.

If you are interested in joining GREMCA or to know more about our research group, please contact us at infos@gremca.org or check our blog at www.gremca.org.