



## *Diaspora Inter-Crossings Speaker Series*

### Entrepreneurialism, localities and identities: Explorations of female migrants in the Caribbean diaspora

**October 8, 2015**  
**WH327 14:00am – 15:30pm**

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**ABSTRACT:** Entrepreneurs construct their identities around the values, norms and practices that are central to the discourse on entrepreneurship (Bruni et al. 2004). Where these entrepreneurial discourses and experiences remain highly gendered, ideological and ethnicized (Ogbor, 2000; Essers and Benschop, 2009; Essers, Benschop, and Doorewaard, 2010; Ahl and Marlow, 2012), it is important to examine the nexus between these constructions of entrepreneurship and the lived experiences of those who engage in that socio-economic and political space. The objectives of this study are therefore threefold. First, the study aims to explore how do issues of race, class and gender shape the entrepreneurial identities of female migrants in the Caribbean diaspora. Second, the analysis will assess the challenges of that space and its impact on their contributions to business development? Third, the researcher also hopes to unpack the potential relevance of agency in the process of negotiating their entrepreneurial identities. Taking an intersectional standpoint, the work will draw on phenomenological interviewing to capture the ways in and extent to which the social constructions of entrepreneurship within the socio-political context of Canada is reproduced through the nuisance experiences and multiple identities of female migrants in the Caribbean diaspora. Given the lack of ongoing research on the invisible barriers that women entrepreneurs face (Hauge and Havnes, 2005) and the continued silence on racism and sexism in entrepreneurship discourses (Greer and Greene, 2003), this intersectional analysis of diasporic entrepreneurialism can make an important contribution to understandings of the dynamic ideological and social processes that color the experiences and identities of Caribbean female migrants in Canada.

**Talia Esnard** is an Assistant Professor from the University of Trinidad and Tobago, a formal partner university of Brock's. She is responsible for teaching in the Social Studies specialization within the Bachelor of Education program. Her research interests center on issues of entrepreneurial and maternal identities, gender and leadership as well as networks and social capital. Her work has been published in several academic streams including book chapters and journals (namely: *Mentoring and Tutoring*, *Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice*, *Journal of Educational Administration and History*, and *Asian Academy of Management Journal*).

*Diaspora Intercrossings Speaker Series Committee: Irene M.F. Blayer, Lissa Paul, Ana Sanchez, Cristina Santos and Dawn Zinga; in collaboration with Brock International Services with the support of Canada-CARICOM Faculty Leadership Program, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development.*