Etymologically, the word radical is derived from the Latin radicalis, to have roots. In that sense, this conference proposes to explore the roots of Caribbean life and culture, but from a “radical” perspective, invoking the word’s usage as “a change or action relating or affecting the fundamental nature of something; far-reaching or thorough.”

Rather than approaching the greater Caribbean through its metropolises or mainstream critical apparatuses, a radical perspective of the Caribbean entails restaging our analytical perspectives to look at Caribbean life and culture through alternative prisms that disconnect, reconnect and electrocute how the region has traditionally been framed. Thus we welcome papers that follow rhizomatic trajectories, from and away from the city through the countryside, into the diaspora and maybe back again: how are those in these geographical, ideological, and cultural other intersecting spaces transforming the Caribbean radicalis? Our impetus is to push the boundaries of what and how we understand the Caribbean, beyond the glittering facade of the lettered city and its grounded denizens onto other landscapes that have always been in its shadow and the travelers that configure its outer parameters.
We welcome papers that address any facet of the Caribbean radicalis and radical approaches to Caribbean identity, culture and social practices. Papers may focus on one country or invoke comparative strategies of any regions contained in the greater Caribbean, beyond the confines of the Caribbean sea, northeast of the Florida straits and into the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans, and south, along the Atlantic coast, past Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil. Papers may be in English, Spanish, French or Portuguese, though English is preferred. We envision papers that could fall under the following three broad tracks:

1. **Side B/Lado B: Life and Culture in the Provinces**

   Throughout the Caribbean, “culture” is always sited in and defined by the capital. Whether Havana, Kingston, Port-au-Prince or Santo Domingo, the capital has always been the official center of cultural life and a privileged discursive space for analysis. Here, we look for papers that seek out the Caribbean—and national—*radicalis* in other spaces in country, but far from the capital: the provincial cities, sleepy towns, potentially cruel sugar cane fields or seductive beaches … the spaces from which we may reconstruct a differential rhizomatic atlas of the nation(s) and regions.

2. **Unruly Diasporas: Encounters and Re-Encounters of the Radical**

   While diasporic communities of the Caribbean underwrite the economic well being of the region, how does their increasingly transnational identity and relationship contribute to – and interrupt – life and culture in their home nation? How do these diasporic communities, especially over time, redefine the *radicalis*? Whereas some nations (un)officially continue to question allegiances and categorize their citizenry based on their geographic location and/or language choices, it is our goal to investigate how these groups extramuros in fact dictate, or at least disrupt, traditional discourses on Caribbean identity.

3. **Incising the Mainstream: Alternative Dialogues with Nation and Transnation**

   The transnational dimension, however, is shaped in intense interaction with subjects at the local and national levels. How, then, are the contemporary socio-cultural practices of persons, collectivities, activists, and social movements across local, national and transnational scales problematizing the diffusion of this greater Caribbean rootedness? How have the meanings and praxis of the Caribbean “nation” and its roots been deployed and contested historically? Our aim is to unsettle commonplace interpretations through incisive analyses that de-center, displace, and reconfigure how the mainstream “has always been,” thus shedding new light on it. Again, we seek to destabilize the *radicalis*, here focused on challenges to the givens of Caribbean histories of social and cultural relations.

If you are interested in participating, please send a 250 word abstract as an attachment to either of the email addresses listed below by **June 15th, 2013**. Include the title of your paper, your name (and the names of any co-presenters), institutional affiliation, phone number, mailing and email address. Papers for presentation should be no more than 20 minutes and may be considered for publication. If submitting a panel for consideration, please include a top sheet with panel title, participant names and a brief abstract of the panel topic in addition to the individual paper proposals.

Notification of acceptance to the conference will be made by July 5, 2013.

For more information on the conference, location and arrangements, visit the Cuban and Caribbean Studies Institute website at [http://cuba.tulane.edu/](http://cuba.tulane.edu/)

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