

**Connected Worlds: the Caribbean, origin of modern world** is a project integrated in the Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018. The project has a duration of four years (2019-2022), and is integrated for 15 institutions of Europe and Latin America:

In Europe: España: Instituto de Historia-CSIC, Universidad de Sevilla, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, y Ediciones Doce Calles; Alemania: Leibniz Universität Hannover; Francia: IHEAL-Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, París, y Laboratoire Caribéen de Sciences Sociales- Université des Antilles, Martinica; Italia: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milán.

In America: República Dominicana: Centro de Estudios Caribeño-Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra; Cuba: Academia de la Historia de Cuba; Costa Rica: Centro de Investigaciones Históricas de América Central (CIHAC)-Universidad de Costa Rica; Colombia: Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla, y Universidad Nacional del Magdalena, Santa Marta; Puerto Rico: Universidad del Turago-SUAGM; Chile: Departamento de Literatura, Centro de Estudios Culturales Latinoamericanos (CECLA)-Universidad de Chile.

Summary:

The Caribbean is defined as a vertebrate, geopolitical space where economic, political, social, cultural and human contacts flow from one island to another and on to the American continent. Inter-colonialism made this space a scene for generating new ways of thinking and living, as well as new identities.

All spaces of the economic world are subject to big changes, mostly at the time they are included into it. In the Caribbean's case, it is a space with very different internal rhythms, not only of very different speeds but also of very different characters. However, from very early on, interactions across the region can be seen which need to be known better. These gave them links not only between the Antillean archipelago islands which were governed by different European countries, but also between the Islands and the continental coasts, from the Guyanas to Yucatan and, through Panama's isthmus and the Atrato River basin, until the Pacific coasts. It was an area that was difficult to be controlled by the state, especially when several European States were competing for that control and there were lands, or seas, "owned by no one", where activities, such as smuggling, were fruitful. While in one sense, the Caribbean was far from the political power centres of the motherlands, it was, however, the engine of the new economic power that European capitalism unleashed overseas; primarily in the Atlantic area. Slave work, land provision and capital were the factors that made it possible to generate a modern world in which Europe played a key role. This proposal is from the perspective of academic dialogue between Europe and Caribbean, focusing on new and different views and interpretations from those of the currently predominant Anglo academics.

The Caribbean as a meeting place is a favourable scenario to analyse the arrival, generation and dissemination of ideas, economic and commercial systems, individuals, practices and identities. What makes the area different is the trans nationality or trans-colonialism. Where formal European and African cultural aspects could be found; as well as other lesser represented but still

important ones such as ethnic Asian, indigenous population and so on, within a transcultural process that generated its own identities. The Caribbean region is a fragmented geographical space, and our team of researchers aims at taking this RISE project opportunity to revive and organize the Caribbean research networks, and draw stronger links between French Caribbean territories and Latin American territories, among others. This project is not a random research project on Caribbean history; it represents a genuine opportunity to gather Caribbean universities and partners around the topics of slavery and post-slavery societies. Beyond its existence on a map, the Caribbean region must build structures and specialized research networks, which will allow a more thorough exploration of regional issues that take into account the historical and socio-political context of the wider Caribbean.