

The Caribbean Deaf Education Conference 2026

Pre- and Post Conference Events: 22nd July to 26th July 2026

Conference Sessions: 23rd to 25th July 2026

School of Education, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Draft Programme

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Registration open

Pre-conference workshops:

Rooms 325-326: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon: **Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language (Mr Ian Dhanoolal) Part 1 (TTSL)**

Rooms 203-204: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.: **Developing a Parent Sign Language Curriculum (Prof. Kristin Snoddon) (ASL)**

Rooms 203-204: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: **Translanguaging Pedagogies in Deaf Education (Prof. Kimberly Wolbers) (ASL)**

Rooms 325-326: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: **Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language (Mr Ian Dhanoolal) Part 2 (TTSL)**

Evening event: 6:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.: **Visit Ariapita Avenue and Queens Park Savannah for local cuisine, and also visit Panyard.**

Thursday 23rd July

8:30-9:00	Registration 323 & 324		
9:00-9:30	Opening Ceremony Welcome from conference chair (Paulson Skerrit), Principal, Minister of Education, Minister of Social Services and Family Development, Dean, & Director of SOE, Message from Gallaudet, Dance Performances. Housekeeping Announcements (English, TTSL, ASL)		
9:30-10:30	Feature Presenter 1: Dr Kimberly Wolbers, the University of Tennessee “Rethinking Literacy: What Really Predicts Reading and Writing Success of Deaf Students?” Venue: Auditorium Chair: Paulson Skerrit Presentation language: ASL		
10:30-11:00	morning break (323/324)		
	203 & 204 Presentations [Chair: Natalie Suepaul]	219 & 228 Presentations [Chair: Sharon Hill]	325 & 326 Presentations [Chair: Rawatee Maharaj- Sharma]
11:00-11:30	Shauna-Kaye Renice McArthur: Exploring expansion techniques in Jamaican Sign Language classroom discourse: D/HH primary students acquiring English words (English)	Erin Wilkinson, Agnes Villwock & Jill Morford: Critical factors shaping bilingualism outcomes in deaf children with deaf and hearing parents (ASL).	Scott Cohen, Jessica Scott, Patrick Enderle, Brianne Weber & Chris Black: Utilising translanguaging to foster STEM sensemaking in a summer STEM camp for deaf students (ASL).
11:30-12:00	Rhianna Ragoonan, Jeremy Jaggernauth & Joel Jaggernauth: An Analysis of Storytelling Techniques Used by Skilled Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language Signers (TTSL).	Noelle Wilder: What early strategies at home and school can identify and support language gaps in Deaf Plus children? (ASL)	Jennifer S Beal: Pathways to Inclusive Education in the Caribbean and Beyond: Evidence-Based Instructional Strategies for Deaf Students (English and ASL).
12:00-12:30	Patrice Clarke: The Patterns Beneath: The Narratives of Deaf Jamaican Learners (English).	James Williams: Promoting Literacy and Language Acquisition in Guyanese Deaf Education (ASL).	Petrea Facey: Chemistry H.A.N.D.S: Building a Sustainable Chemistry Outreach Model for Deaf Schools in Trinidad and Tobago (English).
12:30-13:30	lunch		

13:30-14:30	Feature Presenter 2: Yarett Piñeiro-Rodriguez, ASLES When Trauma Disrupts Learning: A Neuroscience-Based Approach to Deaf Education. Venue: Auditorium Chair: Dr Ben Braithwaite Presentation language: TTSL		
14:30-15:30	Poster Session [Moderator: Danielle Thompson] Venue: School of Education Library: • Elizabeth Bowman McLaughlin: Deaf children and youth, human trafficking, and prevention (ASL) • Rhuelle Cadogan, Shemuel Cadogan & Ian Dhanoolal: Baebby Signs: Sign Language Storytelling for Inclusive Caribbean Early Childhood Education (TTSL) • Anessa Hamilton Legen: Management of NCDS in public health settings for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community (TTSL). • Ian Dhanoolal & Kristin Snoddon: A Critical Review of Education for Deaf Learners in Trinidad and Tobago (TTSL / ASL). • Nicole Mapp: A Black Deaf Woman's Reflections on Peace Corps Deaf Education (ASL). • Ashley Guitron: Teleservices Model for Inclusive Education and Human Rights for DHH Learners in the Caribbean (English). • Yves Beosso: Chadian Sign Language Human Rights for the Deaf Community (ASL). • Suzanne Le Gendre & Nicole Maloney: Online Accessibility for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in Trinidad and Tobago (English & TTSL). • Ben Braithwaite & Ian Dhanoolal: TTSL grammar: what is it, where does it come from, and why does it matter? TTSL		
15:30-16:00	afternoon break (323/324)		
	203 & 204 Presentations	219 & 228 Presentations	325 & 326 Workshop
16:00-16:30	Kris Ali: Through trial and error: interpreter strategies, motivations and training in mainstream schools (TTSL).	Akilah English: Disrupting Anti-Blackness in K–12 Deaf Education through a Black Deaf Critical Theory Framework (ASL)	Malibu Barron & Akilah English: Centering Deaf Students as Knowledge Holders: Critical Consciousness and Liberatory Education (ASL).
16:30-17:00	Sean Ryan Hauschildt, Barbara Tippet Johnson & Autumn Barker Esclovon: Mentorship scale: signed language interpreters (ASL/English).	Tailyn Osorio & Kristin Snoddon: Promoting a Deaf Child-Centered Approach to Deaf Education in the Caribbean (ASL).	

17:00-17:30	Sharon Hill: The Witness Roadmap: Interpreters as Witnesses of Deaf Autonomy (ASL)	Keren Cumberbatch: Proffering a Philosophy of Caribbean Deaf Education (English/JSL).	
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Friday 24th July

8:30-9:00	Registration 323 & 324		
9:00-10:00	Feature Presenter 3: Dr Kristin Snoddon, Toronto Metropolitan University Deaf Childhoods in the Caribbean Venue: Auditorium, Chair: Ian Dhanoolal, Presentation language: ASL		
10:00-10:30	Panel discussion 1: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Representatives (ASL/TTSL) Venue: Auditorium		
10:30-11:00	morning break (323/324)		
	203 & 204 Exploratory Talk- Sign Language Access and Interpretation [Moderator: Andre Witter]	219 & 228 Presentations [Chair: Sharmilla Harry]	325 & 326 Presentations [Chair: Erin Wilkinson]
11:00-11:30	Olufemi Timothy Adigun: Artificial Intelligence and Sign Language Use in Open Distance Education in Africa (English)	Jongwoo Lee: Universal Design for Learning Implementation in South Korean Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students (English).	Rafa Domingo & Maria Tanya De Guzman: Advocacy Efforts on the Legal Recognition of Filipino Sign Language (ASL).
11:30-12:00	Paulson Skerit, Andre Coy & Phaedra Mohommed: AI-enabled Inclusive Deaf Education, AI in Education, AI for Marginalised Populations, AI in the Global South, AI for Education in the Global South (English and TTSL)	Renee Figuera & Nicole Paul: Basic Technology for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students: A Post-Pandemic Policy Framework (English and Sign Language).	Darama Goff Paris & Judy Stout: Strategies To Inspire and Empower Indigenous Deaf Women Leaders (ASL).
12:00-12:30	Ben Braithwaite: The road to nowhere? Why Automated	Wendy-Ann Ettienne: Teachers' Perceptions of Using Technology to	Paula Maria Markewics: Literacy for Deaf Children in Brazil: A Four-Stage Approach (International

	Interpreting is not a solution for Caribbean Deaf Education (TTSL)	Create Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language Resources (English).	Sign (IS) and basic ASL, as I am from Brazil)
12:30-13:30	lunch		
13:30-14:30	Feature Presenter 4: Maleni Chaitoo: Sign Language is the fundamental birthright, human right, and native language of Deaf individuals. Venue: Auditorium. Chair: Patrice Wallen Presentation language: ASL		
	203 & 204 Presentations	219 & 228 Presentations	325 & 326 Presentations
14:30-15:00	Quincy Richards: Exploring the impact of extracurricular activities on inclusion and self-perception of deaf youth in Guyana (English)	Whitney R. Weirick & Karen King: Interpreter supervision in schools: Using research to grow transformational leaders and better serve deaf students (ASL and English)	Feyi Calliste-Lemesey: Inclusive Education for Deaf Individuals in Trinidad and Tobago: A Legal Review and the Role of Advocacy in Reform (English).
15:00-15:30	Bephyer Parey: Teachers' Attitudes towards Deaf Students in Trinidad (English).	Jennifer S. Beal: Interpreters' Foundational Sign Language Skills: Empowering Change in the Caribbean and Beyond (English and Sign Language)	Jamal Keron Legen: University Life and Covid – A Deaf Person's Experience (TTSL- Sign Language and Speech).
15:30-16:00	Afternoon Break (323/324)		
16:00-17:00	Feature Presenter 5: Andre Witter, Ready To Sign: Venue: Auditorium. Chair: Dr Danielle Thompson Presentation language: ASL/JSL		

Friday evening: Conference Dinner and Social. **Cascadia Hotel, Cascade.**

Saturday 24th July

8:30-9:00	Registration - 323 & 324			
9:00-10:00	Feature Presenter 6: Dr Onudeah Nicolarakis Leadership for Language Justice: Re-centering Deaf Children in Educational Systems in Local and Global Contexts Venue: Auditorium, Chair: Qushiba La Fleur Presentation language: ASL			
10:00-10:30	Panel discussion 2: United Nations Agencies Representatives (English) Venue: Auditorium			
10:30-11:00	morning break (323/324)			
	325 & 326 Presentations	203 & 204 Workshop 1	219 & 228 Workshop 2	202 Workshop 3
11:00-11:30		Emily Fitterer: What’s in the Hamburger? Supporting DHH+ASD (Deaf and Hard of Hearing + Autistic) Learner (ASL).	Gloshanda Lawyer, Kyle Duarte, Razaq Fakir: Capacity Building for Sign Language Interpreters Working with Deaf Professionals/Researchers (ASL).	Zibora Gilder: Mental Health, Belonging, and School Climate: What Deaf Students Need Beyond Academics (English).
11:30-12:00	Oxana Cox: Straightening teaching and support practices for Deaf Learners Across Education Levels (English??).			
12:00-12:30	Quishiba La Fleur & Mary Avril Bastien: Advocacy Through Parent-Lead Action: WeCare Deaf Support Network (English)			
12:30-13:00	Closing Ceremony Comments from Director of SOE (English), Conference Chair (TTSL), and others (English/ ASL/TTSL). Vote of thanks: Ian Dhanoolal. (TTSL) Venue: Auditorium Chair: Dr Keren Cumberbatch (Sign Language- JSL)			

13:00-14:00	lunch
14:00-17:00	Deaf Expo- ASL, TTSL, English Venue: Multipurpose Hall, Freedom Hall Proposed Booths • United Nations Agencies • TTAHI/DRETCI (Anna K Seaton) • We Care Deaf Support Network (Qushiba La Fleur) • SLP-UWI • SLP-Private Organisations • Deaf Empowerment and Advancement Foundation (Ian Dhanoolal) • Ministry of Agriculture (Jamal Legen)

Sunday 26th July 2026- Options

Hike to Three Pools and Swim at Maracas Beach 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Paulson Skerrit

Visit the Caroni Bird Sanctuary 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Danielle Thompson

Register by emailing sta-cdec@uwi.edu and address the email to the respective lead.