

'Tall is her body': A community-centred approach to volcanic hazard awareness film making in Dominica.

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The island of Dominica is home to nine potentially active volcanoes, the highest density of volcanoes in the Caribbean. Although a significant portion of the island's population lives in very close proximity to several of these volcanoes, there is very little indigenous content describing the risk posed by these volcanoes and their enduring place in Dominican life. As part of the UWI Seismic Research Centre's ongoing effort to reduce vulnerability to volcanic hazard in the Eastern Caribbean through film and the creative arts, we partnered with the Soufriere community in southern Dominica to co-design a short, animated film on residents' relationship with the island's volcanoes. Over two days a team of local and regional researchers, communicators, animators, and civil authorities participated in a "narrative construction" workshop with the residents of this community to co-design a uniquely Dominican film to raise awareness of volcanic hazard across the country. After a brief introduction to the science of volcanoes and volcano monitoring, residents were able to create storyboards containing key messages delivered by authentic expressions of Dominican culture including song, dance, language, and food. Using a series of participatory exercises, the team was able to capture the spirit of Wai'tu Kubuli (Tall is her body) as it told a story of the very forces that gave the land its name. Here, we present a community driven approach to volcano risk communication and film production.

ID: 269

An Eruption of Creativity on a Small Island

Hermon Francis

No affiliation

In the summer of 1995 Soufrière Hills Volcano in Montserrat began showing signs of pending eruptions. In 1997 there was a major eruption. Two thirds of the land mass became uninhabitable, including the capital, Plymouth, and half of the population was evacuated. Mass migration followed and the country lost more than half of its population. Some persons however, chose to stay on island and an often repeated quote was " I will be on the last boat out of here." The persons who stayed had to endure great and unfamiliar discomfort. The constant ash from the volcano made breathing fresh air a challenge, the ash made it difficult to grow any crop. Much of those who remained had to live in makeshift shelters, in school churches residential basements etc. One of the means of "escape" was through writing. Many people became poets, song writers, book authors or just daily diary keepers. Creative writing competitions were organized and some works were published. The writing chronicled the experiences or just expressed feelings and reactions. In this presentation I will explore some of the writings, perform some of the songs, and help attendees on our journey.

ID: 270

Creative Arts for Therapy: Enduring Montserrat's Volcanic Crisis

Geran Phillips¹, Gertrude Shotte²

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In the second decade of the twenty-first century, there is no lack of literature on volcano preparedness and procedures to follow in the event of a volcanic eruption. In 1995, no prevalence of literature could have adequately prepared the residents of Montserrat for the physical and emotional impact that was experienced following the awakening of the Soufriere Hills Volcano. The Kinsale Primary School (KPS) was the first school to be directly affected by crisis. This presentation intends to highlight how KPS students employed poetry, music, drama and storytelling as means of therapy to help them to cope with that very traumatic situation. The 1996 anthology, *Out of the Mouths of Babes*, tells of individual experiences and clearly demonstrates the full range of emotional responses that accompany traumatic episodes. Twenty-seven years later, the very same students, now adults, communicate via poetry, their thoughts about the volcanic crisis and subsequent phases of relocation, as Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and/or as forced emigrants. From *Babes to Proteges and Beyond* is the title of the second anthology. The poetic accounts have deep significance for educators and all who assist those who suffer trauma for one reason or another. In this presentation I will share some of these works and discuss their significance.

ID: 271

The Alliouagana Singers: Singing the Life We Live

Chezline Riley, Steve Adolphus, Gertrude Shotte

No affiliation

The Alliouagana Singers (the Group), a London-based choral group, is *a choral group with a difference*. It was established in 1999 under the leadership of the late Beverley Dewar. The Group evolved from a strong desire to utilise the therapeutic qualities of singing and music to provide solace to traumatised Montserratian evacuees, who were struggling to rebuild their lives in a cold and unfamiliar land. This aspiration was underpinned by the strong sentiment, 'we have lost our homes but not our voices'. While the moment of crisis has passed, there remains a more potent reason for continued collaboration – the preservation of the unique and fragile Montserrat heritage, which is at risk of being diluted and lost as Montserratians disperse to all corners of the earth and are subsumed into the cultures of their host countries such as the United Kingdom. The Group considers it an imperative to memorialise, and indeed celebrate every milestone that relates to the 1995 volcanic crisis. To this end, we produce songs that tell of the crisis and related cultural experiences.

The Group recognises that in-person performances can create a bigger impact in terms of creating a particular atmosphere. However, in the absence of an in-person session, the Group can provide videos of related group performances. We can also do an academic presentation.

ID: 272

Alliouagana Pearl – Poetry from Montserrat

Myrle Roach

No affiliation

Myrle Roach was born on the Caribbean island of Montserrat and has always had a passion for theatre, drama, and creative writing. Due to the onset of volcanic activity at Soufrière Hills Volcano, she had to emigrate. She first spent time on the neighbouring islands of St Maarten and Antigua, before moving to the county of Northamptonshire in the UK where she now lives. In November 2018 she published her first book of poetry entitled “Tamarind Seeds”. The book is a concise collection of poetry that provide snapshots into her life, especially her experience of the eruption, its consequences, and her nostalgia for life before the eruption. Since the publication of her book, she has put on various poetry performances in different UK cities under the performing name of ‘Alliouagana Pearl’ - ‘Alliouagana’ is the indigenous Arawak name for Montserrat. In her performances she combines her poetry with storytelling. In doing so, she conjures vivid imagery, taking audiences into the experiences and emotions of living through a volcanic eruption and its aftermath. In this session, Myrle will present some of her works and explain how and why her poetry has helped her make sense of the eruption on Montserrat.

ID: 659

Calypsos, Crisis, and Community Activism

Maxwell 'Tajoe' Scott

St Vincent Freelance Artist

My name is Maxwell Francis, also known as Tajoe the Entertainer. A teacher by profession, I am also a political and community activist, a poet, and a dramatist. At CoV 12, I will present some of my work relating to St Vincent's volcanic eruptions – social, cultural, and community impacts. As a two-time Calypso King, I am looking forward to presenting my work as it relates to the conference themes, and to meeting other artists and practitioners from other volcanic regions.

ID: 278

La Voz de Mamajuana y la Bitácora de Antonia: la novela gráfica como plataforma de comunicación sobre volcanes

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En este trabajo interdisciplinar, proponemos la novela gráfica, entendida como fusión de ilustración y narrativa literaria, como estrategia para contar una historia geológica compleja en lenguaje cotidiano, para trascender barreras académicas. El proyecto se desarrolló para conectar con públicos jóvenes y adultos de territorios volcánicos rurales en el sur de los Andes colombianos. Convertimos el mapa geológico del Complejo Volcánico Doña Juana, sus memorias publicadas y una tesis de pregrado, en la novela gráfica La Voz de Mamajuana y la cartilla de actividades, La Bitácora de Antonia que le acompaña, donde se cruzan historias de vida humanas con la del volcán mismo. El proyecto surge como respuesta a una inquietud colectiva sobre cómo tejer diálogos entre saberes académicos y comunitarios, y sobre cómo poner dichos saberes al servicio de quienes habitan el Doña Juana a través de formatos no tradicionales de comunicación de conocimiento científico, con potencial de impacto. La publicación se diseñó a través de un proceso iterativo de creación, incluyendo la adaptación del material original a través de un guion, y la creación de un sistema visual consistente con el universo de identidades y significados locales. El proceso incluyó la revisión del lenguaje del guion por profesores locales para situarlo en la región y de un glosario para lectores fuera de ella. Posteriormente, el material se validó con profesores de la escuela local. El trabajo se publicó en 2023, aquí queremos compartir las lecciones aprendidas de nuestro proceso.

ID: 415

La voz del Planeta. Videoinstalación.

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La Voz del Planeta es una videoinstalación que invita a sumergirse en un viaje en el tiempo y el espacio, donde la ciencia, el arte y la tecnología permiten recrear, a través de distintas voces, momentos compartidos con la naturaleza en pleno movimiento.

Esta obra nace a partir de la participación en un Proyecto de Investigación y Extensión en la Universidad Nacional de Río Negro (UNRN), Argentina.

Se entrevistaron personas que vivenciaron el megaterremoto de 1960 con epicentro en Valdivia (Chile), 9.5 escala Richter, una de cuyas consecuencias fue un tsunami en las costas de Chile. En la zona cordillerana de Argentina, provocó movimientos sísmicos y un “lagomoto” registrado en Bariloche, Río Negro. Dos días más tarde erupcionó el Cordón Caulle-Puyehue (Chile) que cubrió de cenizas la región afectando varias ciudades. Los estudios geológicos reconocen la asociación de este evento terremoto-tsunamis-erupción como un caso emblemático.

También se grabaron relatos de las erupciones del volcán Copahue en Neuquén, ocurrida en 2012.

Se presenta aquí la propuesta desarrollada en esta videoinstalación que es una invitación a transitar una virtualidad que permite explorar y experimentar desde lo profundo de quien participa y desde las entrañas del planeta. Se busca un equilibrio que permita al/la usuario/a corporizado/a, ser parte de la obra y transcurrir la experiencia en el ambiente creado para tal fin. Se seleccionaron relatos obtenidos de entrevistas, sonidos volcánicos y silencios, imágenes post producidas y una iluminación acorde a la experiencia que se quiere promover, a través de la estética Low Tech.

ID: 661

Volcanoes in Song, Story, Music, and Poetry

Various performers to be confirmed.

Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen

Join us for artistic expressions of joy, respect, relief, fear, and sorrow connected with volcanic environments. Volcanoes loom large in any culture shaped on their flanks; these colossi dominate their landscapes, environs, and the human experiences that arise around them. Little wonder, then, that artists respond through song, story, poetry, and music, making sense of the balance between sustenance, beauty, and danger.