

**TRANSATLANTIC REASONINGS:
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE**

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The Possibility of Forgiveness? Confronting the
Legacies of Colonialism in the 21st Century**

**IBEROSTAR WAVES ROSE HALL BEACH
MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA
NOVEMBER 12-15TH 2026**

ABOUT US

This interdisciplinary conference aims to bring together a range of scholars, creatives, activists, and practitioners from fields as diverse as history, literary studies, law, musicology, performance, theatre studies, and theology to tackle the theme of forgiveness in the context of the legacies of colonialism.

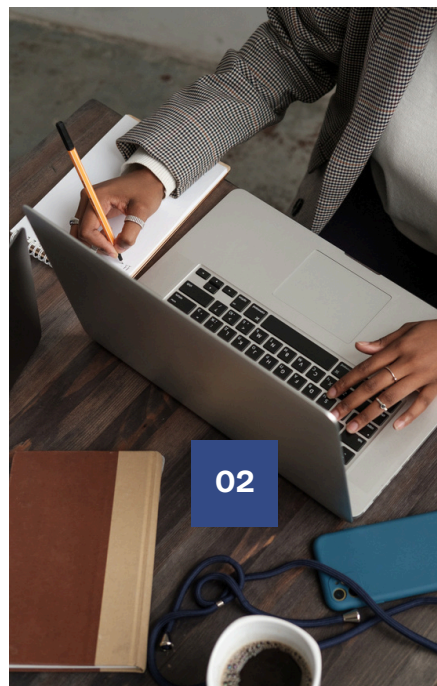
The three-day conference will wrestle with questions including: is forgiveness possible? Who can give forgiveness? Who can receive forgiveness? On whose behalf? How can forgiveness confront systemic issues rooted in the past? What should material reparation entail? Does forgiveness require material reparation? What is the political and social utility of forgiveness? What is the relationship between apology and forgiveness?

Forgiveness is employed here as an umbrella term to encapsulate other cognate issues currently permeating contemporary academic, political and social discourses about the legacies of TransAtlantic chattel enslavement, (neo)colonialism, and the resurgence of far-right groups across the world. These cognate issues include, though are not limited to, questions about hospitality; the function of shame in discourses about racism and colonialism; questions of economic, cultural and spiritual reparation; perennial questions about how and what justice looks like; the possibility of repair; the psychic and material purchase of nostalgia, and whether we can ever appropriately grapple with the past.

We invite papers from interdisciplinary / transdisciplinary perspectives that address any of these issues across different religious, creative, political, literary or historical terrains. The following are sub-themes for your consideration but is not meant to be limited in scope:

- The Anatomy of Forgiveness
- (Un)Forgiveness and the Intersection of Politics and Theology
- Possibilities for Repair through the Church
- Literary Depictions of (Un)Forgiveness
- The Function of Shame and Reconciliation
- Legacies of Transatlantic Chattel Enslavement and the Church
- The Imbrication of Religion and Law as Barrier/Pathway to Forgiveness
- Psychic and Spiritual Reparation
- The Church and Material Reparation
- Forgiveness as/through Performance
- Legacies of Colonialism and the Possibility of Forgiveness in the Diaspora

We welcome academic papers as well as creative reflections that draw on personal memories, experiences and activities that engage with any of the themes outlined above. This conference intends to generate a wide-ranging and far-reaching conversation about the current state of what we might loosely term 'postcolonial' or 'decolonial' studies.



The Transatlantic Collective:

The conference organisers comprise a group of academics and practitioners based in the UK, Jamaica, and the USA. We work across the academic disciplines of history, theology, ethnomusicology, and English at the University of the West Indies, University of Leeds, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and the Anglican Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. This conference is supported by the United Society Partners in the Gospel.

Submission Information:

We welcome proposals for paper presentations as well as fully constituted panels of 3 - 4 presenters.

Please send the following to transatlanticcollective@gmail.com by **June 10, 2026**.

For individual presenters:

- An abstract of 250 words
- A short bio (150 words)
- Your contact details and affiliation

For panels:

- All abstracts (250 words each)
- Bios (150 words each) and institutional affiliation for each presenter
- The contact details of the panel organizer

We aim to notify you of our decision by July 01, 2026.

For additional information and registration, you can visit:

<https://www.transatlanticcollective.com/>

For booking to confirm your attendance and payment visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/transatlantic-collective-reasonings-an-interdisciplinary-conference-tickets-1986522362863?aff=oddtcreator>

A limited number of bursaries to cover full or partial registration will be available for postgraduate students and people without institutional support. Priority will be given to presenters at the conference. To apply for the bursaries please complete the application form via the website: **<https://www.transatlanticcollective.com>** and you will be informed of our decision in due course.

CONFERENCE CONCEPT

The Transatlantic Collective Reasonings Conference is an interdisciplinary conference which will be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica in November 2026. The conference organisers comprise a group of academics and practitioners based in the UK, Jamaica, and the USA representing academic disciplines of history, theology, ethnomusicology, and English literature.

The theme, “The Possibility of Forgiveness: Confronting the Legacies of Colonialism in the 21st Century,” will ideally generate wide-ranging and far-reaching conversations on the utility of forgiveness in postcolonial Caribbean contexts. Forgiveness is employed here as an umbrella term that encapsulates other cognate issues currently permeating contemporary academic, political and social discourses about the legacies of chattel enslavement, neo-colonialism, and the resurgence of far-right groups across the world. These cognate issues include, though are not limited to, questions about hospitality; questions of economic and cultural reparations; perennial questions about how and what justice looks like; the possibility of repair; and the possibility of whether we can ever appropriately grapple with the past.

We invite papers from inter-disciplinary / transdisciplinary perspectives that address any of these issues from religious, creative, political, literary or historical angles. We welcome academic papers as well as creative reflections that draw on personal memories, experiences and activities that engage with any of the themes outlined above.

The conference will include two keynote talks that explicitly address the conference theme. We will also facilitate a community conversation outside the conference hotel as part of our efforts to engage members of the wider community in these important discussions.