Small Axe is keen to encourage work in the critical and interpretive social sciences. We are interested in the ways in which such disciplines as anthropology, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology seek to grapple with the regional and diasporic Caribbean. This interest stems partly from the fact that the social sciences have been central, historically, to the construction of the “Caribbean” as an object of scholarly inquiry, and central therefore to what we understand the problems are that require investigation and interpretation. But in the past several decades there has been a considerable disciplinary upheaval (engendered by the rise, for example, of poststructuralism, postcolonial studies, and cultural studies) such that the character of the social sciences has altered, and perhaps also social science modes of engaging and constructing the Caribbean.

This Small Axe essay competition seeks to encourage scholarship that engages the social sciences in a critical and historically informed way. We welcome manuscripts from across and between the disciplines that interrogate but also mobilize these disciplines. We are especially interested in the work of individuals at early stages in their scholarly careers.

Deadline: 15 November 2012
(the selected essay will be published in Small Axe in 2013)

Length: Not more than 7,000 words
Contact: socialscience@smallaxe.net

For more information visit www.smallaxe.net
Contributors

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JOSCELYN GARDNER is a visual artist whose prints and multimedia installations explore Creole identity from a postcolonial feminist perspective. Her work has been exhibited widely in Europe, the United States, Canada, South and Central America, the Caribbean, and India, and was included in Infinite Island, at the Brooklyn Museum, New York; Global Caribbean, which traveled from Art Basel in Miami to museums in France and Puerto Rico; and Utropicos, at the Thirty-First Biennial de Pontevedra in Spain. Recently her lithographs received the Grand Prize at the Seventh International Contemporary Printmaking Biennial in Quebec. Gardner currently teaches in the School of Contemporary Media at Fanshawe College, London, Ontario, and works as an artist between Canada and the Caribbean. Her work can be viewed at www.joscelyngardner.com.

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CHRISTER PETLEY teaches history at the University of Southampton and is chair of the UK Society for Caribbean Studies. His work has focused on slavery and abolition in the British Caribbean, particularly slave owners and the planter class. He is the author of Slaveholders in Jamaica (2009) and has published articles in Slavery and Abolition, Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History, and Historical Journal.

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MARK RAYMOND is an architect based in Port of Spain, Trinidad. After completing his studies at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, he worked on projects in Europe before returning to Trinidad to establish his own practice. He has been responsible for a wide range of projects in Trinidad and various locations throughout the Caribbean, on his own account and in collaboration with others.

SUSAN THORNE teaches modern British history at Duke University. Her book Congregational Missions and the Making of an Imperial Culture in Nineteenth-Century England (1999) explores the influence of foreign missionaries on popular perceptions of empire and race in nineteenth-century England. She is currently working on a social history of orphaned children in Britain and the empire from the eighteenth century through the early twentieth.