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Trinidad Carnival: Performance and Hybridity as National Representation

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Trinidad Carnival

Performance and Hybridity as National Representation

Presentation by:

Dr. Ewart Skinner

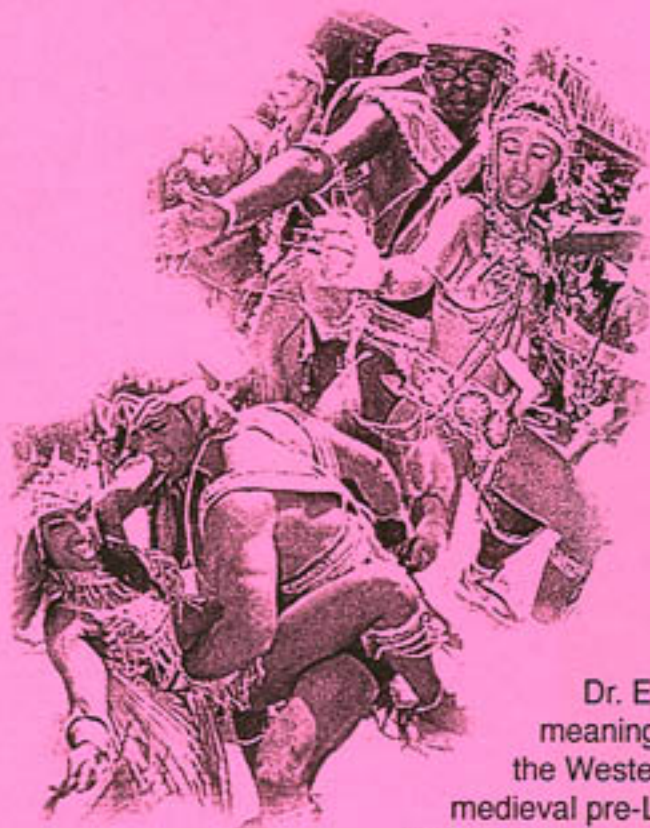
April 4, 2000

12:00pm to 1:30pm

University of Toledo

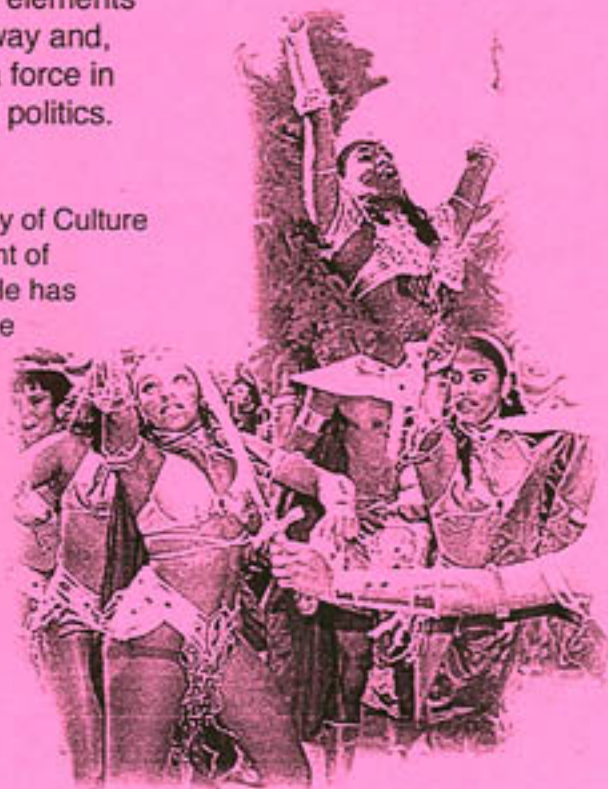
Education Building

Room 1047



Dr. Ewart Skinner explores the international and national meanings of Trinidad Carnival, one of the major carnivals of the Western hemisphere. This celebration has evolved from a medieval pre-Lenten mockery of the sacred and the profane, to a derision of colonial elites, and now to a romping national festival with strong social and political overtones. As a national event with transformative power, Trinidad Carnival uses three kinds of performance: steel orchestras, calypso music, and performed costumery. Dr. Skinner discusses how each of these elements engages the national consciousness in a particular way and, through their interweaving during carnival, become a force in defining a national consensus on race, ethnicity, and politics.

Dr. Ewart Skinner is a fellow at The Institute for the Study of Culture and Society and an Associate Professor in the Department of Telecommunications at Bowling Green State University. He has taught at Purdue University and conducted research at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, where he also worked for the Associated Press and NBC. His international reputation was consolidated when he worked as a media, communication, and information consultant for UNESCO and the EEC. Professor Skinner publishes in the areas of Caribbean media issues, third world development, Caribbean literature and culture, and the political economy of communication and technology.



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