

International Linguistic Association

Monthly Lecture Series

Professor Sheila Embleton

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Parish names in the English- and French-speaking Caribbean

Parish names give us an insight into the historical development of the English-speaking Caribbean islands. On Nevis, one of the first islands to be settled by English-speaking settlers in the first half of the 17th century, parish names were derived from parish churches and the ecclesiastical parishes soon coincided with civil administrative units. In Jamaica, in the second half of the 17th century, most of the early parishes had “Saint” names; however, most of these were named after notable nobility. For instance the parish St. James was named in 1664 after James, at that point Duke of York and Duke of Albany, who had just been granted the American territory between Delaware and Connecticut (New York and Albany are named after him). He later became King James. Special cases were those islands that had been under French rule and were ceded to Great Britain in the 18th century: Grenada, St. Lucia, and Dominica. Here the Catholic parishes were replaced by Anglican ones (some even with new Anglican churches). These new Anglican parishes coincided for the most part with the land area of the earlier French parishes. Gradually, for instance in Trinidad, where there was also some Spanish influence, one sees the replacing of the term *parish* with other designations, such as *quarter* and *district*. To conclude the talk, there will also be a short reflection on any similarities or differences from other areas that have civil parishes, such as Louisiana, and the French-speaking Caribbean.

Saturday, May 5, 2018

11am - 12noon

Borough of Manhattan Community College

Room: N490

199 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007

NOTE: All attendees will be asked to show some form of ID in order to enter the college.