

**The Bermuda Journal
of Academic Research**

PROCUREMENT EVENT

"Fostering Multidisciplinary Knowledge"

AUGUST 13TH

5:30 - 8:00 PM



**Dr. Carika
Weldon**

CEO and Founder,
CariGenetics



**Frankco
Harris**

DPhil Criminology
Candidate,
University of Oxford



**Dr. Daniel
Cavanagh**

Chief Researcher,
Bermuda College



Butterfield & Vallis Conference Centre

at the Bermuda College



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RSVP Here:



Dr. Carika Weldon



Dr. Carika Weldon, PhD, MRSB, is a Bermudian biochemist, geneticist, and the first Black woman globally to solely found a genomics company. As Founder, CEO, and Director of Research at CariGenetics, she leads groundbreaking studies focused on the unique genetic makeup of Caribbean people—filling critical data gaps in global health research and advancing precision medicine across the region.

Dr. Weldon's career has spanned the UK and Bermuda, including key roles as a Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences, a Research Scientist at Oxford Genomics Centre, and Bermuda's Science Advisor during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her leadership was pivotal in launching the island's Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory and has earned her multiple accolades including the Queen's Certificate & Badge of Honour (2020), Woman of the Year (2022), Bermudian of the Year (2023) and Entrepreneur of the Year (2024).

Under her guidance, CariGenetics has launched the Caribbean Genome Program, the first large-scale genomics initiative in the region, bringing more public access to DNA testing. Through research, mentorship, and advocacy, Dr. Weldon continues to champion health equity and scientific inclusion for Caribbean communities worldwide.



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Frankco Harris



Frankco Harris is a Bermudian Criminologist who earned a first-class LLB Law (with Criminology) from the University of East London, where he received the Dean of Law School Prize for Academic Achievement. He then completed an MSc in Criminal Justice Policy at the London School of Economics, graduating with distinction and receiving the Titmuss Prize for Best Dissertation in Criminal Justice Policy.

He is now pursuing a DPhil in Criminology at the University of Oxford. His doctoral research, titled “The Socio-Spatial Dynamics of Gang Violence in Bermuda”, explores how structural inequality, space, and lived experience intersect to shape patterns of violence and social exclusion in small-island contexts.

Frankco is committed to amplifying the voices of individuals from marginalised communities with lived experience of the criminal justice system, advocating for their inclusion in evidence-based policy development, co-production, and research. His broader work focuses on desistance, rehabilitation, and personal recovery.

He is the author of an article published in Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy, titled “Personal recovery for special populations: a qualitative study exploring the role of special interest meetings within 12-step fellowships”. The study examines how tailored recovery meetings support marginalised individuals in navigating addiction and identity-based stigma.



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Dr. Daniel Cavanagh



Dr Daniel Cavanagh is the Chief Researcher at Bermuda College. He is an Australian social entrepreneur with over a decade of experience in international teaching. His career included time in Russia, where he studied at the Higher School of Economics and completed a Masters of Applied Social Psychology.

His passion for youth wellbeing and education later led him to pursue a PhD through the University of Melbourne, focused on adolescent mental health in Bermuda. This research, which surveyed over 2,700 young people and highlighted significant gaps in help-seeking and stigma-related barriers, provided the foundation for Bermuda's first Youth Mental Health Plan.

The Youth Mental Health Plan sets out a bold three-year roadmap to improve prevention, reduce stigma, enhance access to services, and strengthen research and policy. Daniel continues to lead the implementation of the plan in partnership with young people, local organisations, government stakeholders, and international experts in adolescent mental health.



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