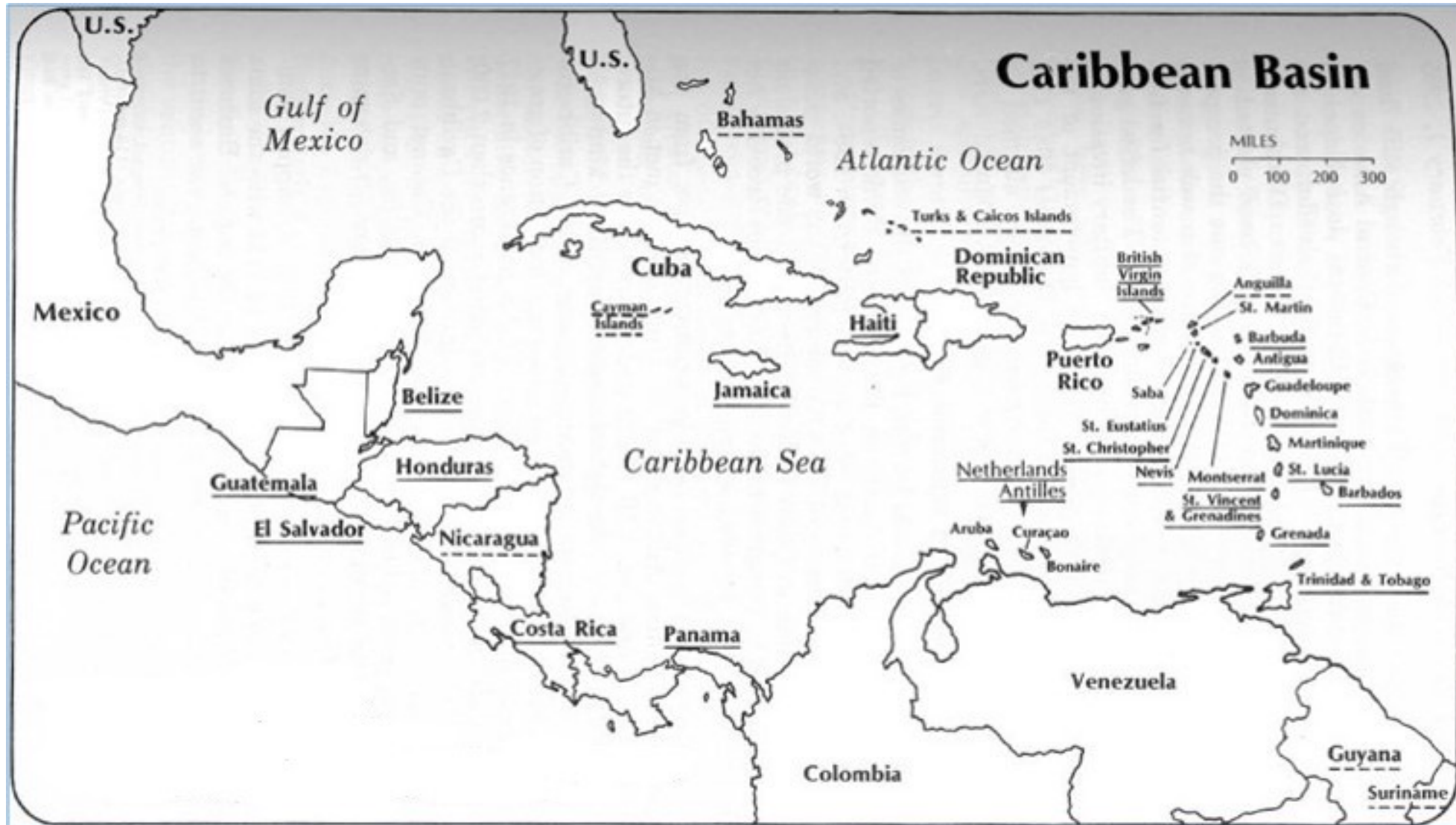


# Small Talk – A Caribbean Perspective

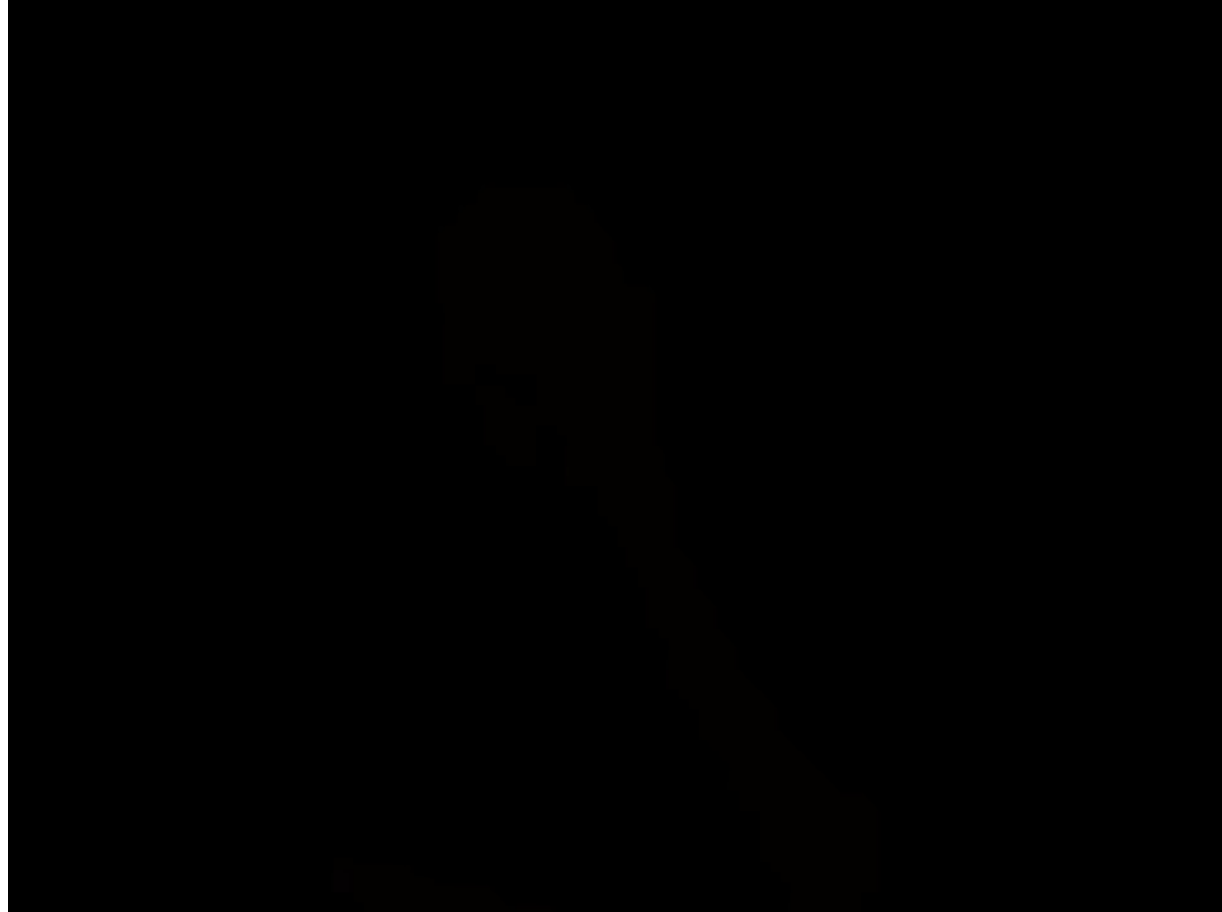
Claire C. Craig  
LACRALO



# English Speaking Caribbean



# The Complexity of Caribbean People





# Do's and Don'ts

- Context - Informal Setting
  - Warm, friendly, like to talk
  - Very personal – sensitive topics may be normal
  - Our Language – Creole, Patwa/Patois
  - Ole talk – colloquial way of saying Old talk with food and drinks
  - Innuendo – unspoken cues
  - Picong (tease or heckle), examples in our music

# Do's and Don'ts

- Context - Formal Setting

- Formal language and traditions – from colonialism
- Less small talk may happen before or outside of the meeting, more direct, and get to the point, driven by an agenda
- Wise to avoid stereotyping
  - Sun, sea, sand
  - Religion is important
  - Naturally collaborative



# Getting to Know Us

- Be genuine
- Don't Make Assumptions
  - The accents in the Caribbean are very different
  - Well travelled
  - Vast cultures
  - Well educated (both formally and informally)
- Generally Quite Balanced
  - Diversity of cuisine
  - Sports: cricket, football (soccer), Track and Field, Netball, and Cycling, *Tennis*, *American football*
  - Visual and Performing Arts: calypso, reggae, steel pan, carnival



Thank You!

