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### **New volume sheds light on significance of Caribbean culture as rhetoric**

PITTSBURGH—In his new book *Tropic Tendencies: Rhetoric, Popular Culture and the Anglophone Caribbean*, Kevin Adonis Browne takes a decisive step toward filling a void in Caribbean scholarship.

Browne says that other recent volumes in the field “do not apply a consistent rhetorical lens for reading Caribbean expressive traditions. None present a scaffold based in Caribbean epistemic activity that can be used to understand the significance of Caribbean values, beliefs, and experiences *as rhetoric*.” *Tropic Tendencies* will be published in September by the University of Pittsburgh Press, as part of the Pittsburgh Series in Composition, Literacy and Culture.

A legacy of slavery, abolition, colonialism, and class struggle has profoundly impacted the people and culture of the Caribbean. Browne examines the development of an Anglophone Caribbean rhetorical tradition in response to the effort to create meaning, maintain identity, negotiate across differences, and thrive in light of historical constraints and the need to participate in contemporary global culture.

Browne bases his study on the concept of the “Caribbean carnivalesque” as the formative ethos driving cultural and rhetorical production in the region and beyond it. He finds that carnivalesque discourse operates as a “continuum of discursive substantiation” that increases the probability of achieving desired outcomes for both the rhetor and the audience.

Rhetorical modes and strategies in a variety of forms—music, dance, folklore, performance, sermons, fiction, poetry, photography, and digital media—are examined. Browne introduces chantwells, calypsonians, old talkers, jamettes, stickfighters, badjohns, and others as exemplary purveyors of Caribbean rhetoric and deconstructs their rhetorical displays.

Assistant professor of writing and rhetoric at Syracuse University, Browne earned his B.A. from Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Penn State.

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