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Speaker: **Dr. Alvin Harris, Bank of Jamaica Research Unit**

Topic: ***The State of Blacks in the Jamaican Economy***

Date: **Thursday, March 18th, 2021**

Time: **12:00 - 1:30 PM (EST)**

Place: **Zoom Webinar: [Register Here](#)**

**All Are Welcome!**

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

Alvin Harris is a Senior Economist in the Research Department at the Bank of Jamaica. He recently completed his Ph.D. in Applied Economics at Western Michigan University (August 2020) and is interested in research topics that focus on climate change, economic development, monetary and international economics. At the Bank of Jamaica, Alvin engages in long-term macroeconomics and microeconomics research that will provide a sound conceptual and empirical basis for policymaking. Prior to the completion of his Ph.D., Alvin completed B.Sc. and M.Sc. Economics degrees at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in Jamaica. Also, he was a June fellow at the 2020 AEA Summer Program that was hosted jointly by Michigan State University and Western Michigan University.

## **ABOUT THE TALK**

Jamaica is well known by names such as Bob Marley, the father of reggae, and Usain Bolt, the fastest man in the world, but not much is known about the social and economic structure of Jamaica or the ways of the life of people in Jamaica. In this talk, I provide some background on the social and economic foundations of Jamaica, some of the economic and social achievements we have made over the years, and some challenges that we are presented with to progress forward. I will also provide some background on the linkages between Jamaica and the continent of Africa, from which we originated. I will also present an understanding of the economic and social progression of racial and ethnic group in Jamaica, which alludes to some of the challenges we face.