Stines, L'Antoinette, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

So What is Caribbean Daaance? *Daaance*, Sacred Space and the Anglophone–Caribbean Canon

History has impacted on New World Caribbean culture in very specific ways, yet the canons by which this corpus is judged remain within a Euro-centric framework. If we are to effectively document the Caribbean, new theoretical modes need to established, guided by a Caribbean canon inclusive of the multi-faceted, multi- cultural dimensions in which Africa is accounted for, if not the dominant ethos. This multi-cultural input is informed by sacred spaces that until today have been retained and is evident in the cultural practices. These cultural practices include religious rituals essential to the sacred spaces that become the *'grounding'* for, among others, language, music, dance, and chanting, all of which are evident on the popular / contemporary stage. This paper offers a proposed Anglophone Caribbean canon system focused on the *daaance* (which cannot be separated from the music, chanting and sacred rituals), towards a new theoretical model of thinking as a guideline for future research on Caribbean dance.