

## ABSTRACT

Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw:  
The Construction of a Caribbean Hero

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This dissertation is concerned with key aspects of the multifaceted and creative impetus underlying the construction of heroes in the contemporary Caribbean. Using St. Kitts as a case study, it explores the self-conscious heroic behaviour of former labour leader and premier, Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw. My work will show that he was not the sole architect of his reputation. His heroic stature was the result of a process of 'heroic construction' that involved his heroic self-fashioning and the other means through which he gained recognition over time. In particular, Bradshaw's status as popular hero was gained by his intimate connection to the working population on St. Kitts. His ascendance as National Hero and legend was facilitated by enduring popular support, media and scholarly representations on his behalf and official commemoration and iconography in the post-colonial era.

**Keywords:** Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw, St. Kitts, heroic construction.