



## LISTEN & LEARN SPOTLIGHT

GHSIG'S October 2022 Series Spotlight

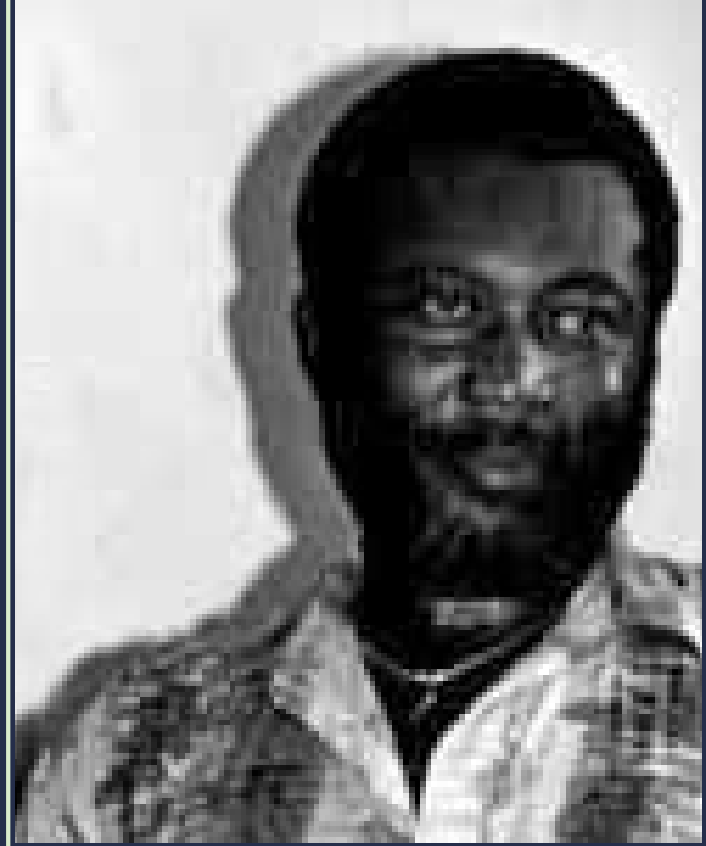
### REVOLUTIONARY ARTISTS

## *Mélissa Laveaux (1985- Current)*

Mélissa Laveaux is an independent Canadian singer and guitarist of Haitian descent. Her music has been described as a mix of roots, blues, folk using her signature finger-style guitar styling and soulful vocals. Ms. Laveaux was born in Haiti, but has lived most of her life in Canada. However, the Haiti Earthquake became a focus of her music as she has always kept certain vodou beliefs alive that are rooted in Haitian culture. Her song, Koudlo, was her way of providing hope that Haiti will rise up, by the living and dead during the Haiti Earthquake. Her song shows the importance of Haiti's tradition of vodou and how it is kept alive through her musical rhythms and words.

## *Levoy Exil (1944- Current)*

Levoy Exil is a well-known Haitian artist and painter. He contributed to the Saint Soleil art movement and draws inspiration from African, Haitian, and Vodou influences for his works. His participation in the Saint Soleil movement showcased his paintings along with others in several countries like Europe, Asia, and North America to bring attention to Haitian vodou and culture. After the earthquake, Exil was featured on CNN and his paintings and work were featured at the Smithsonian Institution at the Folklife Festival to highlight Haiti and its resilience.



# NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN HAITI

## Global Health Challenges in Haiti

Haiti is an island nation, and its location places it in the path of Atlantic hurricanes. Haiti experiences other natural disasters including cyclones, floods, droughts, and landslides (World Bank Group, 2021). Perhaps the most devastating natural disaster in Haiti to date was an earthquake that struck January 12, 2010. About three million people, one-third of Haiti's population, were affected, and about one million people became homeless. While the death toll is difficult to determine, it is thought to be in the hundreds of thousands. Citizens and international governments struggled with electric power system failure, lost lines of communication, and debris obstructing roads as they tried to provide medical aid, food, and water. Haiti's strained and inadequate infrastructure, lack of building codes, and incomplete recovery after two hurricanes and two tropical storms in 2008 contributed to Haiti being ill-prepared for the 2010 earthquake (Pallardy, 2010).

Other nations mobilized to aid Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake, and Chicago contributed to these efforts as part of the United States' response. Six of its academic medical centers formed an interinstitutional collaborative initiative, the Chicago Medical Response, together with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Haiti, to provide consistent medical aid to Haiti for several months (Christine et al., 2010). Providing international aid to Haiti is important, but building local capacity to mitigate risks of future disasters is critical, and community-based activities, such as providing a modular Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) curriculum to community leaders, have proven to be acceptable ways of doing so (Lin et al., 2014).

Following the earthquake, different groups including NGOs and international organizations including the United Nations evaluated their responses to determine areas in which they could improve and how they might best respond to future natural disasters, both in Haiti and elsewhere (Haver, 2011). However, problems of government instability, poverty, and violence have persisted in Haiti and require the aid of NGOs, other countries, and international agencies to be effectively addressed. Reliance on this help has hindered Haiti's ability to grow in political, economic, and social resilience, which have likewise suffered due to problems related to governance of health determinants and the failures of democracies (Fidler, 2022).



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

GHSIG OCTOBER 2022



**DR. JANET LIN, MD, MPH, MBA**

Dr. Janet Lin is a Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the UIC College of Medicine and an Affiliate Professor in the Division of Community Health Sciences at the UIC School of Public Health, where she teaches IPHS 409: Global Public Health Challenges. In addition, she is a faculty affiliate at UIC's Center for Global Health and Associate CEO for Strategic Integration and Partnerships at University of Illinois Hospital. She is the current president of the Chicago Board of Health and serves on the executive board of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Dr. Lin's work focuses on improving health care access and delivering care in resource-limited settings within a public health framework. Her work has led her to pursue activities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. She currently works on proactive approaches addressing some of our greatest health needs, including HIV, HCV, and diabetes screening in the emergency department and linkage to care in Chicago, community engagement in disaster risk reduction in Haiti and the Caribbean, and emergency care capacity development in Kenya. In addition to her extraordinary work in Chicago and across the globe, Dr. Lin has been instrumental in the UI Health COVID Response in 2020.

