

# MD

# MARLA DUKHARAN

## CARIBBEAN ECONOMIST



## PROFILE

Economist and thought-leader on the Caribbean, known for thorough analysis and data-based assessments and insights. Designs strategic recommendations and macro analytics on 20+ nations of the Caribbean Basin, influencing public policy and private sector decision-making. Objective, accurate and an effective communicator, recognized for delivering thought-provoking economic presentations, easily relating to a vast array of audiences. Sought-after speaker for key industry, multi-lateral, and multi-sectoral events and conferences on a regional and international scale.

## CONTACT

[www.MarlaDukharan.com](http://www.MarlaDukharan.com)

[www.youtube.com/c/MarlaDukharan](https://www.youtube.com/c/MarlaDukharan)

[twitter.com/MarlaDukharan](https://twitter.com/MarlaDukharan)

## EXPERIENCE

### **Bitt Inc. / August 2017 - present**

#### CHIEF ECONOMIST

Leading engagement with Governments, Central Banks and financial regulators throughout the Caribbean and beyond, on the creation and advancement of a regional strategy to mitigate the impacts of 'de-risking', increase financial and economic inclusion, and lower the frictions associated with cross-border trade and remittance payments and settlement.

- Supporting the creation of a Caribbean Settlement Network to facilitate direct trade and remittance settlement across the Caribbean, thereby reducing reliance on the US dollar.
- Preparing the region for transformative change by identifying social and economic challenges that can be addressed through the use of technology, creating life-enhancing opportunities and outcomes for the Caribbean.
- Monitoring regional economic and financial developments, producing consistent macro-analytics to aid in private sector decision-making and in the development of appropriate policy responses to the issues facing the region.

### **RBC Financial (Caribbean) Ltd / October 2011 - June 2017**

#### GROUP ECONOMIST

Created sophisticated macroeconomic surveillance and reporting platform on all 20+ Caribbean countries to which RBC Caribbean Banking has exposure. Advised Executive and Governance Committees regularly, providing strategic vision through sound analysis to inform decisions. Supported sovereign risk assessment and strategy formulation at the group and parent level. Consulted with various clients and other external stakeholders, advising Boards, executive teams and policy-makers on economic developments and outlook forecasts, economic developments and outlook, and their implications across various Caribbean jurisdictions.

- Increased brand awareness and credibility for RBC in the Caribbean by representing RBC in local and international public forums, events, and media.
- Established RBC as thought-leaders in the Caribbean in private sector and policy circles by communicating impacts of global economic trends and regional developments, the opportunities and challenges they present, and making recommendations.
- Instituted the Caribbean Economic Report to monitor political and economic developments, offering forward-looking analysis, forecasting, and interpretation of key components of the region's economies.
- Created and maintained quantitative and analytical databases, as well as RBC Caribbean's Bloomberg page, ensuring accuracy, and demonstrating the brand's intellectual leadership in the financial services sector.
- Supported multilaterals and the business community, providing evidence-based insights on the major issues affecting business and economic development in the region.
- Developed and cultivated relationships with policy-makers and decision-makers throughout the region, championing the logistics of bringing together transformational conversations and initiatives.



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## EDUCATION

- M. Phil. Economics, University of the West Indies (UWI), 2009 - 2011  
Thesis: Investigating the Effects of Risk Attitudes on Investment Behaviour
- M.Sc. Economics, University of the West Indies, 2002 - 2003  
Thesis: "Corruption: a Curse or a Necessary Evil?"
- B.Sc. Economics, University of the West Indies, 1993 - 1996

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Serves on the Government of Barbados' Jobs and Investment Council's Finance and Insurance Committee
- Member of the Advisory Board to the UNDP's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Member of the Board of Directors, Royal Fidelity / RF Holdings Group
- Member of the Caribbean 2030 Leader's Network
- Member of the International Women's Forum

## CONTACT

Barbados

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### **Business Insight Limited / September 2010 – September 2011**

CONSULTANT (ECONOMIST) / ASSOCIATE

Carried out in-depth primary research and developed business cases to guide investment decisions and expansion plans for international clients seeking to penetrate the Caribbean market. Assessed impacts across political, economic, social, and regulatory dimensions, creating an outlook for demand growth and identifying risks and opportunities. Advised investors on macro- and microeconomic trends and potential long-term impacts on strategy through reports and presentations.

### **Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance (CCMF) / June 2009 – August 2010**

CONSULTANT (ECONOMIST)

Conducted analytical study of the domestic Managed Funds Industry for the T&T Securities and Exchange Commission, evaluating fund size, portfolio composition, return, risk practices and governance practices. Consolidated findings, highlighting issues and constraints facing the industry, and creating an institutional profile of the sector to inform regulators, policy-makers, and investors.

### **Caribbean Money Market Brokers Limited (CMMB) / September 2004 - May 2010**

HEAD OF RESEARCH, GLOBAL EXPANSION ANALYST

Enhanced reporting content and managed production of the CMMB Investment Quarterly magazine to add value for external stakeholders through comprehensive, fact-based economic analysis and forecasts. Engaged clients, media and the general public, speaking on behalf of the company to analyse and address issues spanning several branches of economics and policy.

### **Welthecon Investment Managers / August 2003 – June 2004**

SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST

Implemented and developed the necessary infrastructure to facilitate technical and fundamental financial and economic research and analysis to guide investment portfolio management. Researched and identified economic, financial, and sectoral challenges, prepared forecasts, and assessed policy options, to ensure the effective management of portfolio risk. Led the Research and Analysis and Portfolio Management Divisions, establishing robust processes and quantitative and qualitative analytical models to safeguard portfolio risk appetite. Liaised with clients, brokers, and bankers, handling all investment-related communication and correspondence.

### **Republic Bank Limited / November 1996 - August 2002**

CREDIT ANALYST, INVESTMENT ANALYST, ECONOMIC ANALYST

Maintained and delivered data and reporting on mutual funds, equity markets, companies, stocks, industries, sectors, and economies at the Caribbean regional level. Managed assigned proprietary funds including the Bank's Mutual Fund, supporting the formulation and implementation of investment strategies. Conducted analysis and made recommendations on new and existing equities within the region. Compiled, calculated, analysed, and monitored statistics, and economic and financial developments, producing reports and updates on industries, sectors, commodities, and countries, and assisting in the publication of the Republic Economic Newsletter.



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## LEADERSHIP

Marla has taken a leading role in advocating for Fiscal Rules in the Caribbean and promoting policies that reduce Corruption and Inequality.

**COVID-19 and Beyond: Securing the Caribbean's Future** [See here](#)

**Guyana's Oil Outlook: The Nor-way or the next-door-neighbour-way?**  
[See here](#)

**Disruptive Reforms Necessary to Secure Sustainable Socioeconomic Development** [See here](#)

## ECONOMIC REPORTS

Marla publishes regular analysis on high-impact issues affecting the Caribbean. Sample reports include:

**COVID-19 Caribbean Economic Impact Report** [See here](#)

**J'accuse...! The European Union's Institutionalized Racism and Bullying** [See here](#)

**Getting it Right in T&T: Fiscal Responsibility** [See here](#)

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Cayman Islands Annual Tourism Conference

Caribbean Tourism Organization SOTIC conference

United Nations Launch of the Caribbean Human Development Report

United Nations Development Programme POS Annual Retreat

Royal Fidelity Bahamas Annual Bahamas Economic Outlook Conference

Fidelity Cayman Islands Cayman Economic Outlook Conference

Caribbean Development Bank Annual Board of Governors Meeting

Inter-American Development Bank NGO Conference

Inter-American Development Bank Annual pre-Governor's Meeting

World Bank meeting on Cuba

Oxford Business Group, Launch of T&T 2016 Report

Oxford Business Group, moderator of private/public sector high-level roundtable

T&T Chamber of Commerce Post-Budget Seminar

T&T AMCHAM Post-Budget seminar

UWI Conference on the Economy

UWI SALISES Caribbean Economic Forum

UWI Annual Monetary Studies Conference

Central Bank of Barbados Annual Review Seminar

Lloyd Best Institute Seminar

Cuba Opportunity Summit

T&T Manufacturers Association Competitiveness Forum

Bahamas VAT Symposium

22nd Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lecture, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network

Business, Banking and Finance Conference

UNCTAD Launch of the World Investment Report

CHRIS and CHIEF Tourism Conferences

T&T Energy Conference

World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index Launch

Transparency International Corruption Perception Index Launch

St. Vincent National Insurance Board Annual Seminar

Grenada Chamber of Commerce Seminar

Kilkenomics Festival of Economics & Comedy