



FACULTY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES



SIR ARTHUR LEWIS
INSTITUTE OF
SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC
STUDIES



25TH ANNUAL

SALISES CONFERENCE

MAY 01—03, 2024

The UWI
Regional Headquarters,
Kingston, Jamaica

**Draft Programme
and Abstracts**
As at April 26, 2024

Translating Thought into Action:
Towards Decolonial Equity and Justice
in the Caribbean

Draft Conference Programme and Abstracts As at April 26, 2024



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Draft Conference Programme and Abstracts

As at April 26, 2024

Day 1 – Wednesday May 1, 2024

1:00pm **Registration Desk Opens**
C. William Iton Meeting Lounge

2:00pm – 4:00pm **Opening Ceremony**
Eon Nigel Harris Council Room



Guest Speaker - Dr. The Honourable Peter Phillips, OJ, MP
“The Search for Growth and Social Equity: The Persistent Conundrum”

4:30pm **Opening Ceremony Reception**
RHQ Entrance Lobby

Day 2 – Thursday May 2, 2024

8:30am Registration Desk Opens

C. William Iton Meeting Lounge

9:00am – 10:30am Plenary Panel 1

Eon Nigel Harris Council Room

Reparations for Epistemic and Colonial Violence: Pathways for Decolonial Equity and Justice

Chair: Verene Shepherd, Centre for Reparation Research, UWI

Myrtha Désulmé, Haiti-Jamaica Society

Marcus Goffe, Yamaye Council of Indigenous Leaders (YCOIL), Jamaica

Steven Golding, Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL), Jamaica

Gabrielle Hemmings, Centre for Reparation Research, UWI

Kasike Kalaan Kaiman, Yukayeke Yamaye Guani (Jamaican Hummingbird Taíno People) (YCOIL), Jamaica

10:30am – 11:00am Coffee Break

11:00am – 12:30pm Parallel Sessions (Day 2)

<p>Session 1A Council Room A</p> <p>Interrogating Reparatory Justice Chair: Don Marshall, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</p> <p>Caribbean Reparations: an elite approach of redress (by accumulation) or community self-determination? <i>Keston Perry, University of California, Los Angeles, USA</i></p>	<p>Session 1C Council Room C</p> <p>Recasting Development from the Caribbean: Decolonizing Knowledge for Development (DK4D) IDS-SALISES panel Chair: Peter Taylor, Institute of Development Studies, UK</p> <p>Decolonizing Knowledge for Development: From Reflection into Action <i>Peter Taylor, Institute of Development Studies, UK</i></p>	<p>Session 1D Winston Bayley Seminar Room</p> <p>The Coloniality of Gender in question Chair: Dalea Bean, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</p> <p>Moving Beyond the Discourse of Tolerance: Working Towards Greater Inclusivity of LGBTQ+ People in a 'New' Barbados <i>Latoya Lazarus, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados.</i></p>
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<p>A Grounding: Seeking Reparatory Justice through Collectivity <i>Nyala Thompson Grunwald, University College London, UK</i></p> <p>Truth and Facts: Archiving, Witnessing and Repair in Reckoning with 'Development' in Jamaica <i>Tka Pinnock, York University, Canada</i> <i>Giselle Thompson, University of Alberta, Canada</i></p>	<p>Decolonizing Development <i>Kishan Khoday, UNDP Jamaica</i></p> <p>The Value-Laden Ontology of Development: Re-Conceptualizing Development as a Thick Concept <i>Maxwell Poitier, Carnegie Mellon University, USA</i></p> <p>Towards a Decolonial Mindset for Development: policy framing as the linchpin for sustainability <i>Gillian Giwa, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p>	<p>Homophobia as a Legacy of Colonialism <i>Catherine Trotman, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</i></p> <p>The Queerest Administration in Bahamian History: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Policy Manifestos in The Bahamas <i>Ethan Knowles, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Addressing the Post-coloniality of Men, Masculinities and Standards of Manhood: Depatriarchal Politics for Development Justice in the Caribbean <i>Amílcar Sanatan, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p>
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12:30pm – 1:30pm

Lunch

RHQ Dining Hall

1:30pm – 3:00pm Parallel Sessions (Day 2)

Session 2A Council Room A	Session 2B Council Room B	Session 2C Council Room C	Session 2D Winston Bayley Seminar Room
<p>Decolonizing Development from the Standpoint of Small States Chair: Latoya Lazarus, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</p> <p>A Postcolonial Critique of the EU's extraterritorial application of its AML/CFT Regime: Barbados and Mauritius as Case Studies <i>Alicia Nicholls, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</i></p> <p>In the Shadows: Barbados' policy changes at 'crisis point' and lessons for the contemporary <i>Daniele Bobb and Leigh-Ann Worrell, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</i></p> <p>The Bridgetown Initiative and enhanced policy autonomy for Caribbean states <i>Sandra Ochieng'-Springer, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</i></p> <p>Caribbean Post-Pandemic Transitions, the IMF Embrace and the Enigma of Merchant Capital <i>Don Marshall, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</i></p>	<p>Caribbean Policy Consortium (CPC) Roundtable - A New Book Discussion with Prof. Ivelaw Griffith and panellists on his latest work: "Challenged Sovereignty: The Impact of Drugs, Crime, Terrorism, and Cyber Threats in the Caribbean" Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, <i>Caribbean Policy Consortium and Center for Strategic and International Studies</i></p> <p>Chair: Holger Henke, <i>The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Suzette Haughton, <i>The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i> Corin Bailey, <i>The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</i> Trevor Munroe, <i>The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i> Earl Moxam, <i>RJRGleaner, Jamaica</i> Hilton McDavid, <i>Formerly Guyana Defence Force & The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p>	<p>Orange Economy, Decolonial Arts and Culture Chair: Bephyer Parey, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>The Impact of Trinidad and Tobago's Creative Sector on Sustainable Development: A Focus on the Steelpan Industry <i>Peter Poon Chong and Sandra Sookram, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p>Kinky Hair Blues?: Decolonising Styling Practices, Education and Advocacy around Afro-Textured Hair in Kingston Jamaica <i>Dalea Bean and Alia Wedderburn, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Contextualising Cultural Tolerance <i>Dawn De Coteau, EMA Solutions</i></p> <p>Misogynoir & Being: Exploring Black Womanhood in Toronto and What It Means to Survive in the 21st Century <i>Sarah Ewan, York University, Canada</i></p>	<p>Decolonial Positions for Climate Just Futures Chair: Patricia Northover, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</p> <p>Racializing Nature and Naturalizing Race: Consumption and Waste in International Law <i>Usha Natarajan, Yale University, USA</i></p> <p>Lessons for Resilience: The Role of Stories, Memory and Caribbean Food in the Fight for a Climate Just Future <i>Nicole Plummer and Charmaine McKenzie, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Negotiating Change in Coastal Communities <i>Doreen Gordon, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p>

3:00pm – 3:30pm Break

3:30pm – 5:00pm Parallel Sessions (Day 2)

<p>Session 3A Council Room A</p> <p>Navigating AI in the Caribbean Chair: Arlene Bailey, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</p> <p>Navigating artificial intelligence to understand gender-based violence norms and perceptions in Jamaica for prevention purposes <i>Helen Atkins and Ruth Howard, The University of the West Indies, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Can Industry 5.0 provide the impetus to leapfrog other developed economies? Cases from the SIDS of the Caribbean <i>Cilla Pemberton, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p>Technoscientific Capture: NIDS and the Politics of Postcolonial Refusal <i>Kimberley McKinson, Vanderbilt University, USA</i></p> <p>Development of A Climate Resilient Artificial Intelligence Trade (CReAIT) Platform For Sustainability in SIDS <i>Kirk Douglas, Dion Greenidge, Gavin Bovell, Troy Lorde and Kai-Ann Skeete, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</i></p>	<p>Session 3B Council Room B</p> <p>From Biopolitics to the Coloniality of Being Chair: Preeya Mohan, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Working to Become Sane: Moral Management in late 19th and early 20th Century English Caribbean Lunatic Asylums <i>Luisito Bertinelli, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Clotilde Mahé, World Bank, USA, Bephyer Parey, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, Nekeisha Spencer, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica and Eric Strobl, University of Bern, Switzerland</i></p> <p>Voices Unveiled: A Transformative Exploration into the Policies for Inclusion from the Perspective of the Disability Community of Trinidad and Tobago <i>Nadia Laptiste-Francis, The University of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p>Parental Perceptions of Coping with a Diagnosis of Childhood Onset ADHD of their Children <i>Chrelle Moses-Belmar, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p>Exploring Deviance among Youth in Barbados <i>Melanie Callender-Forde, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</i></p>	<p>Session 3C Council Room C</p> <p>Norman Girvan’s Legacy: The Plantation Economy School, Existential Threats, and Caribbean Futures Chair: Keston Perry, University of California, Los Angeles, USA</p> <p><i>Kevin Edmonds, University of Toronto, Canada</i></p> <p>Girvan and the Plantation Economy School: What Implications for Social Justice and Beyond for Civil Society Advocacy in the contemporary Caribbean? <i>Annita Montoute, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, Ruben Gonzalez-Vicente, University of Birmingham, UK, Tyehimba Salandy, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p><i>Jason Jackson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA</i></p>	<p>Session 3D Winston Bayley Seminar Room</p> <p>Decolonial Movements in Decolonizing Methodology Chair: Silvia Kouwenberg, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</p> <p>Positioning Caribbean Vernaculars in the Republican Movement <i>Celia Blake, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Working and Walking the Methodology - A decolonial approach to Institutional Ethnography <i>Amílcar Sanatan, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p>Finding strength within – The use of culturally affirming approaches to effect positive and sustainable social change <i>Shakeisha Wilson Scott, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Community-Centered Approaches: Black Studies Short Courses for Decolonial Education and Social Equity: a Post 1992 British University Case Study <i>Dionne Taylor, Birmingham City University, UK</i></p>
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Day 3 – Friday May 3, 2024

8:30am Registration Desk Opens

C. William Iton Meeting Lounge

9:00am – 10:30am Plenary Panel 2 - Food (In)Security in the Caribbean

Eon Nigel Harris Council Room

Chair: Natalie Dietrich Jones, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Sarah Bailey, WFP

Renata Clarke, FAO

Jonathan Crush, Balsillie School of International Affairs, Canada and MiFOOD Network

10:30am – 11:00am Coffee Break

11:00am – 12:30pm Parallel Sessions (Day 3)

<p>Session 4A Council Room A</p> <p>Just States? Decolonizing States/States in Decolonization Chair: Hamid Ghany, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Formal Democracy as an Obstacle to Organic Democratic Development in the Caribbean: An Assessment of the State of Democracy in the English-Speaking Caribbean <i>Tennyson Joseph, North Carolina Central University, USA</i></p>	<p>Session 4B Council Room B</p> <p>Postcolonial growth options – Tourism, Climate and Energy Chair: Kevin Williams, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</p> <p>Growth through localization: advancing coastal to hinterland cultural and eco-tourism in Guyana <i>Jason Allicock and Dianna DaSilva Glasgow, University of Guyana</i></p>	<p>Session 4C Council Room C</p> <p>Just Food! Decolonial Food/Food in Decolonization- IDS-SALISES panel</p> <p>Reducing Inequalities for Decolonizing Food and Nutritional Security <i>Nicholas Nisbett and Lidia Cabral, Institute of Development Studies, UK</i></p>	<p>Session 4D Winston Bayley Seminar Room</p> <p>Law, Crime and Justice conundrums Chair: Corin Bailey, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</p> <p>Breaking the Ties that Bind: Considering Anti-trafficking in Persons efforts in the Anglophone Caribbean through law, culture, history and discourse <i>Cherisse Francis, University of Warwick / St. Mary's University, UK</i></p>
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<p>Decolonizing the Commonwealth Caribbean: Belize as a Republic? <i>Jeffrey Bosworth, Commonwealth University of PA, USA</i></p> <p>Malignant Roots: Understanding the 2024 Haiti Crisis from Below <i>Christopher Kovats-Bernat, City University of New York, USA</i></p> <p>The Caribbean Court of Justice in Its Original Jurisdiction: A Postcolonial Constitutional Court for a Region <i>Gabrielle Elliott-Williams, University College London, UK</i></p>	<p>Postcolonialism and Tourism: Challenges to Development and A Re-Education in a Modern Day Slavery <i>Anique John, California State University, USA</i></p> <p>SIDS & the Climate Tourism Green Energy Nexus: A 'Biotrash' to Cash Sustainable Approach <i>Kirk Douglas, Dion Greenidge, Gavin Bovell, Troy Lorde, Winston Moore and Ayanna Young Marshall, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados</i></p>	<p>Decolonizing Food- Unsettling plantation legacies from the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Caribbean <i>Patricia Northover, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, Marisa Wilson, University of Edinburgh, UK, Ronald Pairman, Yukayeke Yamaye Guani (Jamaican Hummingbird Taino People) (YCOIL), Jamaica</i></p> <p>Geographical Indication Laws: Towards Post-Colonial Justice for former Plantation Economy Crops <i>Yentyl Williams, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, Bryan Khan, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, Enrico Bonadio, City University, UK</i></p> <p>Canada's Farmwork Program: SDGs or Imperial Continuity? <i>Kristin Lozanski, King's University College at Western University, Canada</i></p>	<p>An Investigation into the Factors which influence Youth Participation in Criminal Gangs and Lottery Scamming in Jamaica <i>Shanielle Allen, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Caribbean Leadership in Restorative Justice Implementation? The Case of Jamaica <i>Althea McBean and Dacia Leslie, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Extortion or taxes? Criminal leaders and fiscal authority in Kingston, Jamaica <i>Rivke Jaffe, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands</i></p>
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12:30pm – 1:30pm

Lunch

RHQ Dining Hall

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Parallel Sessions (Day 3)

<p>Session 5A Council Room A</p>	<p>Session 5B Council Room B</p>	<p>Session 5C Council Room C</p>	<p>Session 5D Winston Bayley Seminar Room</p>
<p>International Migration & Food Security in the Americas <i>MiFOOD Network Panel</i> Chair: Jonathan Crush, <i>Balsillie School of International Affairs, Canada and MiFOOD Network</i></p> <p>Navigating the Intersectionality of Immobility, Gender, and Food Insecurity: The Lived Experience of Refugees in Canada Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic <i>Zhenzhong Si, Balsillie School of International Affairs, Canada</i></p> <p>Central American Migration and Food (In)Security in Mexico City <i>Salomón González-Arellano, Metropolitan Autonomous University (UAM), Mexico</i></p> <p>Food Security, Migration, and the Struggle for Precarious Belonging in the Andes: Venezuelans and Colombians in Quito, Ecuador <i>Mercedes Eguiguren, Wilfrid Laurier University & Balsillie School of International Affairs, Canada</i></p> <p>Food Security and Insecurity in Kingston, Jamaica and the Role of Migration Remittances as an Enabler for Inclusive Social Development <i>Elizabeth Thomas-Hope, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p>	<p>Race, Gender and Caribbean Freedom</p> <p>Colonial Narratives and its impact on Black Nationalism in Early Twentieth Century Jamaica: Towards a Black Liberation Theology <i>Dave Gosse, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Unchaining First World Aspirations To Achieve Pragmatic Regional Development <i>Arthur Antoine, University of Colorado, USA</i></p> <p>Interrogating Promotion Policies: An Intersectional Analysis of Mid-Career Women Faculty in STEM at The UWI, Mona <i>Heather Gray Lamm, University of Alberta, Canada</i></p> <p>Interrogating the Post-Colonial Self through the Notion of Decoloniality <i>Rudolph Ellis, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p>	<p>Unsettling the Modern Nation State Chair: Stephen Johnson, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</p> <p>Caribbean ‘Colonialocracies’: The Prematurity of Post-Coloniality <i>Carlyle G. Corbin, Dependency Studies Project, US Virgin Islands</i></p> <p>From Throne Speech to Presidential Address: The Parliamentary Effect of Conversion from a Monarchy to Republic in Trinidad and Tobago. <i>Hamid Ghany, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p>District 13: Perspectives on Diasporic Voting and notions of belonging in the New York based Caribbean-American Diaspora <i>Ken Irish-Bramble, City University of New York, USA</i></p> <p>Institutional Arrangements, Multi-level Governance, and Climate Change: The Impact of Post-Colonialism on Climate Adaptation Planning in Guadeloupe <i>Vanessa Deane, New York University, USA</i></p>	<p>Pathways to Development and Economic Decolonization Chair: Sandra Sookram, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Remittances and government expenditures on human capital in developing countries <i>Kevin Williams, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Navigating Economic Decolonization: Challenges and Opportunities in the Caribbean <i>Sandre Rhoden, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Rebuilding fiscal policy space in the Caribbean, post COVID-19, through increasing access to finance <i>Dillon Alleyne, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Reforming Census-Taking Initiatives in the Face of Contemporary Local and Global Threats in the 21st Century <i>Godfrey St. Bernard, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p>

<p>Food (in)accessibility among remittance receiving households in Kingston in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic <i>Natalie Dietrich Jones and Stephen Johnson, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p>		<p>How do we imagine and consider a Caribbean of the people? <i>Samantha Armorgan, Caribbean Studies Association, Trinidad and Tobago</i> <i>Semone Armorgan, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p>	
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3:00pm – 3:30pm *Break*

3:30pm – 5:00pm Parallel Sessions (Day 3)

<p>Session 6A Council Room A</p> <p>Management systems for Another Development?</p> <p>Public financial management systems, measurement and accountability in the delivery of public services in selected countries in the OECS <i>Cleopatra Gittens, The University of the West Indies, Five Islands, Antigua and Barbuda</i> <i>Sandra Sookram and Anne-Marie Mohammed, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p>Enhancing Results-Based Management with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning <i>Bongs Lainjo, Cybermatic International Inc, Canada</i></p>	<p>Session 6B Council Room B</p> <p>Mandatory Sentencing Debate (Proposed Amendment of the CCPA) UNICEF Panel Chair: Mohammad Mohiuddin, <i>UNICEF Jamaica</i></p> <p>What do we know globally about children and sentencing <i>Kendra Gregson, UNICEF</i></p> <p>Examining the Privy Council's Approach to Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Young Offenders <i>Tracy Robinson, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p><i>Mickel Jackson, Jamaicans for Justice, Jamaica</i></p>	<p>Session 6C Council Room C</p> <p>The Pursuit of Decolonial Equity and Just Transitions in Agri-food systems Chair: Jessica Byron, <i>The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Post-Colonial Dependency in the Caribbean State: Qualitative Analysis of Food Cards in the Public Sector - Trinidad and Tobago <i>Richie Bansraj, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p>Guadeloupe, genesis of an epistemic movement for the transformation of Caribbean food systems? <i>Thierry Tassius, Université des Antilles, Guadeloupe</i></p>	<p>Session 6D Winston Bayley Seminar Room</p> <p>Special Recorded Address Didacus Jules Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)</p> <p>Handover Ceremony Richard Bernal Book Collection</p>
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<p>Extreme weather events as drivers of climate ODA: evidence from Caribbean Small Island Developing States <i>Preeya Mohan, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</i> <i>Eric Strobl, University of Bern, Switzerland</i></p> <p>Recognizing and mitigating cognitive biases: An imperative for productivity, equity, and sustainable development <i>Grace Virtue, Elite Global Public Affairs, USA</i></p>		<p>Agriculture's Digital Transformation in Jamaica: Adoption, Adaptation and Innovation <i>Paige Samuels, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Cannabis Policy, Banking, and Social Justice: A Case for Decolonising the Jamaican Cannabis Market <i>Felipe Neis Araujo, University of Manchester, UK</i></p>	
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Conference Abstracts

Draft as at April 26, 2024

An Investigation into the Factors which influence Youth Participation in Criminal Gangs and Lottery Scamming in Jamaica

Shanielle Allen, Jamaica

Abstract

This research paper delves into the factors which influence youth participation in crime in Jamaica, especially in gang activities and lottery scamming. According to statistics published by the Jamaica Constabulary Force, youth, particularly young men aged 15 to 24 constitute the majority of the perpetrators of all crimes. Despite efforts by the Ministry of National Security, the Jamaica Defence Force and the Jamaica Constabulary Force, gangs continue to operate and proliferate across the island, recruiting young people to their ranks to continue their bloody legacies. Lottery scam calls originating from the island, too, continue unabated to North America despite police efforts and multinational cooperation. Crime, taken as its own phenomenon, continues to plague the small island-nation of Jamaica and young people are concerningly very involved.

Criminal participation and factors encouraging it have long been the subject of studies in Jamaica and across the world. This research project furthered the discourse on the topic by focusing on youth criminal participation in Jamaica, especially in the criminally lucrative areas of lottery scamming and gang activities. Emphasis was placed on identifying and expounding the influencing factors for youth and as such, the researcher engaged two hundred Jamaicans through a survey and conducted in depth interviews with experts in economics, sociology, education, youth development and government. This study found that several socioeconomic and socio-political factors combine to create a fertile breeding ground for youth criminality but also suggests policy and programmatic solutions to the Government of Jamaica, in partnership with key stakeholders, to systematically reduce youth participation in crime, engage disenfranchised youth and create a more just and equitable society.

Rebuilding fiscal policy space in the Caribbean, post COVID-19, through increasing access to finance

Dillon Alleyne, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on Caribbean economies and the additional debt and reduced fiscal space has resulted in further policy constraints. The high level of indebtedness resulting from a lower tax intake coupled with increased current transfers to support households and businesses has heightened countries' liquidity needs, despite the considerable heterogeneity in their fiscal situation and debt vulnerability. This situation has reduced the fiscal policy space to implement countercyclical policies, undermining the capacity to build forward better.

This paper offers some insights on how to properly address the rebuilding of fiscal policy space in the context of considerable vulnerabilities including climate change, natural disasters and exposure to other external shocks.

It argues that rebuilding the fiscal policy space has to be addressed within the context of what are the financial needs of the subregion and where are the sources of finance. It lays out a strategy being initiated by ECLAC to establish a Caribbean resilience Fund to leverage long term affordable finance to address SDG gaps and it also highlights the use of liability Management Operations to address the high debt service cost in the Caribbean. Finally, it emphasizes the importance of risk facilities to address borrowing needs arising from future shocks.

Growth through localization: advancing coastal to hinterland cultural and eco-tourism in Guyana

Jason Allcock and Dianna DaSilva-Glasgow, University of Guyana, Guyana

Abstract

Guyana has received global recognition as an outstanding eco-tourism destination from the National Geographic Explorer and other global bodies. Data points to growing tourist inflows. However, there is a niche of tourists that is under exploited, the local traveler. Using Um and Crompton's (1990) Model of Travel Destination Choice as a framework guide, this research examines factors influencing local travel with emphasis on coastal-to-hinterland travel. Firstly, because of the cultural and geophysical nuances between the two regions with hinterland regions being more disproportionately populated with Amerindian tribes, as well as notable globally recognized natural attractions. Secondly, the economic importance of eco-tourism to remote Hinterland communities means that the sector remains critical to redressing historical inequality in economic performance between the two sub-regions and wider policy interest in diversification away from oil and gas. A mixed method research approach was employed. Therefore, Key Informant Interviews were conducted with tourism experts; and a survey among government agencies using convenience sampling. Both approaches sought to ascertain perspectives on factors influencing local travel decisions. Among the factors raised, cost was cited as a more significant consideration for local travelers. Tier pricing is consequently recommended to expand the local travel market, among other policy considerations.

Unchaining First World Aspirations to Achieve Pragmatic Regional Development

Arthur Antoine, University of Colorado, USA

Abstract

This paper addresses the persistent dream for a Caribbean federation as a unified region of developed and self-sustaining island states, spanning historical aspirations for independence to our present-day pursuit of social and economic growth. It questions the true motivations that triggered our independence movements with historical examples and charts a visionary path to a Caribbean region with advanced economies, exceptional living standards, and robust infrastructure. Focusing on the role of infrastructure in achieving national development, the paper emphasizes the significance of project delivery and implementation in creating more pragmatically defined sustainable change, particularly within the project management, construction and engineering sectors.

Based on the author's experience as a Civil Engineer and Senior Project Manager throughout the Western Hemisphere, lessons learnt are provided from documented major regional infrastructure projects supplemented by comparisons of empirical performance metrics data. Collectively, this paper illustrates how project implementation can be successful while negating the hindrance of political influence which has lingering remnants of colonialism and an aversion to equitable social inclusion in projects. Included is a healthy critique of the policies imposed by international funding agencies that claim to support holistic development and economic growth. This paper aims to guide practitioners and decision-makers in project delivery, advocating for ethical, and equitable execution to foster genuine progress from the lens of good governance, transparency, and value for money. Additionally, it offers recommendations for improvement across various sectors, targeting citizens, and public institutions.

How do we imagine and consider a Caribbean of the people?

Samantha Armorgan, Caribbean Studies Association, Trinidad and Tobago

Semone Armorgan, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Abstract

When societies evolve, the intention is NOT the complete eradication or displacement of principles but rather to overlies some of the previous ones. Identified by Daniel Bell (1976), are three (3) types of societies—the preindustrial, the industrial, and the post-industrial. For most Caribbean societies, historical events such as Colonialism, Slavery and Indentureship which were used as solutions to the then and still existing challenge of food security, resulted in a state of anomie. This implies that there was a breakdown of standards, values, and morals. There was a form of social instability; an uncertainty that came from a lack of purpose or ideals for Caribbean societies. This occurred as society shifted from preindustrial to industrial. Today, this is still reflected in most Caribbean economies by a low portion of the labour force in the Agrarian sectors (Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery).

As the Caribbean seeks to sustain development through a constant and consistent pursuit of lasting prosperity, a more knowledge intensive economy continues to be desired. In this instance, society is driven by the sources of innovation that are the codifications of theoretical knowledge that is possessed by the Professionals. This portion of the labour force has steadily increased since 2018 in Trinidad and Tobago.

As this paper attempts to highlight research considerations that are important to development in the Caribbean, an exploratory research design was utilised. This paper aims to gain further insight into the Post-industrialisation status of the Caribbean with a specific focus on Trinidad & Tobago.

Navigating artificial intelligence to understand gender-based violence norms and perceptions in Jamaica for prevention purposes

Helen Atkins and Ruth Howard, The University of the West Indies, Jamaica

Abstract

'WE-Talk' is a five-year project to reduce gender-based violence (GBV) in Jamaica through behavioural change communications and capacity-strengthening. A decolonial-feminist lens is applied to shift power in relationships with funders, consultants, participants and beneficiaries. The WE-Talk media analysis used artificial intelligence (AI) to explore meanings and sentiments of online posts about GBV. Custom algorithms identified individual feelings expressed and categorised patterns into themes for operationalising preventative messaging. The experimental model enabled assessment of online users' perceptions and opinions about GBV via positive-neutral-negative sentiment analysis. This process provided an unprecedented opportunity to analyse commentary about gendered violence, social norms and roles, masculinity, feminism and related topics in virtual Jamaica, at scale.

By shaping AI to interrogate unsolicited perspectives, prejudicial risks invoked through research engagement on sensitive issues (such as exclusionary gatekeeping, secondary trauma, and social desirability bias - distinct from algorithmic bias) were removed. The role of AI in ascribing, prescribing or transcribing 'knowledge' in GBV prevention, however, raises ontological, epistemological and axiological challenges.

Diversity of stakeholders was crucial in addressing emerging empirical dilemmas, from conceptual to interpretive to communicative. Early negotiations secured local expertise for cultural sensitisation. A methodological 'sandwich' of Knowledge Translation was constructed, with human intelligence as the protective casing, encompassing the computer-compiled filling. Survivor-centred reflexivity supported holistic, intersectional consideration of implications for target groups, at-risk individuals and those experiencing GBV, already marginalised. This minimised the prospect of AI-reinforced discrimination for victims, survivors and in adaptations for other overtly stigmatised yet clandestine rights-based phenomena in Jamaica and beyond.

Post-Colonial Dependency in the Caribbean State: Qualitative Analysis of Food Cards in the Public Sector - Trinidad and Tobago

Richie Bansraj, Trinidad and Tobago

Abstract

This narrative qualitative study explores the lives of eleven (11) persons who receive the Food Card (Food Support Grant) and its impact on their standard of living in an urban community in Trinidad and Tobago. The study highlights the fundamental linkages between poverty and the food card grant which exacerbate dependency with gendered, class and social identity dimensions. In this paper I argue that the food card minimally improves the lives of people and encourages beneficiaries to rely fully on it. Women tend to be most affected by this reality as jobs available to them are temporary, low paying and makes them sacrifice time with their family for cash transfer. For the most part, food card as a cash transfer in the public service has failed to improve standard of living. It perpetuates post-colonial, class-based ideologies and practices of the state. In light of this, I apply a decolonial approach to social safety-nets and social development in the state with a concentration on gender and the promotion of economic autonomy for women. In addition to this, I address issues related to ageism, classism, sexism, and challenging the prevailing assumptions of the social safety-net design. This critique will also illustrate the importance of exploring social attitudes among workers in the public sector that impact public service delivery.

Kinky Hair Blues?: Decolonising Styling Practices, Education and Advocacy around Afro-Textured Hair in Kingston Jamaica

Dalea Bean and Alia Wedderburn, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

As the Caribbean grapples with numerous crises surrounding crime, healthcare, neo-liberal economic practices that foster inequity and poverty among others, crises of identity, particularly for African descended Jamaicans continues to plague our society with increasing intensity. Anti-Black racism, while not normally considered problematic in a country with over 90% persons of African descent, is indeed starkly evident as one unpacks the systemic negative perception and treatment of black skin, features and hair. The prevalence of skin bleaching to attain “higher” or “lighter” skin tone as well as the over reliance of many Jamaican women on harmful chemical hair straightening techniques and the over JMD 60 million spent each year on imported straight hair-extensions are just two of the manifestations of the continued legacies of unacceptance of Blackness as desirable, beautiful, professional and sustainable.

This paper positions Afro-textured hair as a site of the project of decoloniality and a location of meaningful, sustainable and transformational development in Jamaican identity politics. Borrowing from Una Marson’s 1937 poem Kinky Hair Blues as well as Caribbean feminist thought, we undertake both content analysis and activist research strategies to map contemporary perspectives on Afro-textured hair. Contemporary curricula used by hair practitioners to train and educate stylists will be assessed alongside reflections of advocacy work through our foundation iHavePrettyHair, undertaken in 2 communities in Kingston with young girls (aged 6-16) as key producers of knowledge related perceptions on Afro-textured hair. The paper concludes with an assessment of the need for revolutionized educational and socialization practices to position Afro-textured hair as critical to truly sustainable development of the population.

Working to Become Sane: Moral Management in late 19th and early 20th Century English Caribbean Lunatic Asylums

Luisito Bertinelli, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Clotilde Mahé, World Bank, USA

Bephyer Parey, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Nikeisha Spencer, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Eric Strobl, University of Bern, Switzerland

Abstract

While post-emancipation most British Caribbean colonies were already operating lunatic asylums and these in principle were based on the British Victorian model, it was only after a highly publicised scandal at the Kingston Asylum in Jamaica in 1858, that the approach of moral management to treat patients was seriously implemented. One aspect of moral management, which generally emphasized character and spiritual development as therapy, was the employment of patients. Employment of patients had the potentially additional advantage of generating income for the asylums and reducing costs. Using detailed annual reports of the asylums that became mandatory after the scandal we investigate whether such employment of patients did indeed meet its primary objective, i.e., greater patient health. To this end we create an asylum level panel data set covering over 60 years, including a rich set of therapy, management, supervision, nutrition, physical infrastructure, and patient characteristics. Our econometric analysis allows us to then explicitly test if and to what extent employment was a decisive component relative to other factors in terms of lowering deaths and increasing cures among patients.

Positioning Caribbean Vernaculars in the Republican Movement

Celia Blake, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

Language and particularly Caribbean vernaculars were ignored in the first wave of republicanism in the Commonwealth Caribbean shortly after the grant of political independence – Guyana assuming republican status in 1970, Trinidad and Tobago in 1976, and Dominica acquiring both its independent and republican status simultaneously in 1978. With Barbados becoming a republic fifty-five years after the date on which it gained political independence, the second wave has begun. Underlying the constitutional transformational formalities, was a legally non-binding value framework articulated in a Charter of Barbados, 2021. This Charter, in article I, urges further regional and global links via “learning and embracing the many languages represented”, but, underwhelmingly, does not expressly position the Barbadian vernacular, Bajan, as a key feature in the republican narrative. In Jamaica, the setting up of a Constitutional Reform Committee in 2023 to facilitate public consultation on constitutional reform with a view to transitioning to a republican parliamentary system marked the start of the modern wave. This Committee received a submission by the Jamaican Language Unit advocating that the Jamaican language, Patois, be constitutionally recognised as an emblem of republican status and as essential to the realisation of republican tenets.

Caribbean vernacular languages, socially perceived traditionally as linguistic calibans and cast to the periphery by the state in its communication with the populace, are, in this paper, firmly positioned within the republican movement. Relying on sociolinguistic analysis, it explains their absence from the republican discourse in the first wave. In the context of the nexus between language and politics, the paper argues that constitutional recognition of Caribbean vernaculars as official and national languages in their respective territories, supported by linguistic anti-discrimination provisions, is an imperative in the second wave. Such a recognition will be strongly emblematic of the republican essence – delinking from the colonial, embracing nationalism and asserting a decolonised national identity. Additionally, anti-discrimination provisions contemplating the vernacular languages

will promote other republican values by paving the way for a more just and inclusive sociolinguistic order.

In the Shadows: Barbados' policy changes at 'crisis point' and lessons for the contemporary

Daniele Bobb and Leigh-Ann Worrell, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Abstract

In 2018, Barbados entered an International Monetary Fund (IMF) program, operating under the framework of The Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Plan, which falls under the Extended Fund Facility of the IMF. The Barbadian care and social protection response to the COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity to revisit the "crisis point" of the Anglophone Caribbean's experience with Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) brought on by the 1980s debt crisis, to see what lessons portend for the contemporary and the ways we can create more fruitful "afterlives." Using Barbados as a case study, this paper provides a gender analysis of the effects of socio-economic policies on livelihoods and care systems. The objective of this paper is to evaluate Barbados' policy changes during the pandemic and make meaning of their impacts. The COVID-19 pandemic presented a unique opportunity for Barbados to implement transformational and progressive policies. The paper addresses the central question: what provisions did the government make in social programs between the initial IMF negotiations and the pandemic? This question is central in determining whether or not Barbados grasped the opportunity provided by the COVID-19 pandemic to implement transformational and progressive policies. Thus, particular attention is given to Barbados' debt restructuring process since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The case study delves into two key policy responses in a post-COVID environment: the Adopt Our Families Programme and the decision to increase the minimum wage.

Decolonizing the Commonwealth Caribbean: Belize as a Republic?

Jeffrey Bosworth, Commonwealth University of PA, USA

Abstract

In gaining independence, Anglophone Caribbean countries became fully democratic systems governed by bicameral Westminster political structures. Elected Prime Ministers fulfill the head of government role and Governor-Generals, appointed by the British monarch upon the advice of the Prime Minister, typically serve as local heads of state. While the monarch plays very little practical role in local politics, this continued association with the British monarchy reflects the continuation of the colonial heritage and marks a remaining challenge of full decolonization.

This paper focuses on the case of Belize, which remained part of the Commonwealth of Nations with a Governor-General after its 1981 independence from Britain. Under Prime Minister Johnny Briceño, the Belizean government established a People's Constitution Commission (PCC) to review the constitution and recommend changes. One key potential for change is to abolish the Governor-General in favor of a president and thus move the system to become a republic and break a key political legacy of colonialism. This paper briefly reviews other Anglophone republics (Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, and Barbados) to help shed light on the key advantages, disadvantages, and implications of such a change. It also explores the tradeoffs among different options for selecting a president. Last, it addresses the implications for future socio-economic development under a more fully decolonized political system.

Exploring Deviance among Youth in Barbados

Melanie Callender-Forde, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Abstract

This paper is based on a PhD thesis that seeks to examine the under-explored aspects of social deviance among Caribbean youth aiming to move beyond the predominant focus of contemporary discourse on delinquency and criminality. Moreover, the manner in which deviance is exhibited by youths from across different socioeconomic groups has received minimal attention in the sociological literature on the region. The thesis aims to identify the types, prevalence, dispersion and patterning of deviant behaviours across different socioeconomic groups, and will provide insights into the differential experiences and manifestations of deviance within select Barbadian neighbourhoods. This paper will explore the preliminary empirical debates surrounding the relationship between neighbourhood characteristics, socioeconomic status and deviant behaviour, discuss the mixed methods research approach being employed and provide the background against which these aims will be achieved.

Caribbean ‘Colonialocracies’: The Prematurity of Post-Coloniality

Carlyle G. Corbin, Dependency Studies Project, US Virgin Islands

Abstract

As the implementation of the plan of action of the United Nations (UN) Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2021-2030) proceeds with all deliberate speed, the decolonisation process in the Caribbean is not yet complete with the continued administration of dependency governance models by European and North American powers. Of the seventeen Non-Independent Countries (NICs) formally classified by the UN as Non Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs) seven are in the Caribbean. These are exceeded in number by an even larger group of Caribbean NICs which are classified in Dependency Governance Studies as Peripheral Dependencies (PDs) governed through varying degrees of partial integration or semi-autonomy with extra-regional powers below the minimum international standards required for the Full Measure of Self-Government (FMSG) under the UN Charter. Caribbean NICs outnumber the independent States of the region. As much of the Caribbean has advanced to a post-colonial condition, these remaining non-independent polities are evidence that the Caribbean decolonisation process is incomplete. Accordingly, the paper examines comparatively the results of the findings of three recent Self-Governance Assessments (SGAs) undertaken in two Caribbean NSGTs administered by the United Kingdom (Bermuda and the Virgin Islands), and two administered by the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Bonaire, Curacao), in the context of the envisaged decolonisation processes of these respective dependencies. The paper will also describe the evolution of the Self-Governance Indicators (SGIs) diagnostic tool first introduced at the SALISES Conference in 2011, and presently in use in SGAs in the Caribbean and Pacific.

Institutional Arrangements, Multi-level Governance, and Climate Change: The Impact of Post-Colonialism on Climate Adaptation Planning in Guadeloupe

Vanessa Deane, New York University, USA

Abstract

Several Caribbean countries are now non-sovereign overseas jurisdictions of countries they once belonged to as colonies. With increases in sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and more due to climate change, it is unclear how extensively post-colonial arrangements – which situate them in the Global North politically – are influencing these countries’ response to climate-related threats particularly as small island developing states.

For example, though France is a major climate finance contributor globally, French Caribbean overseas departments such as Guadeloupe or Martinique are unable to leverage certain climate financing mechanisms – given their geopolitical association with mainland France – even as their realities are more akin to other eligible countries in the Global South. A closer examination of institutional arrangements between continental France and overseas France is thus warranted to identify additional gaps (or potential opportunities) regarding the institutional and/or governance challenges unique to non-sovereign European Union (EU) territories more broadly.

The objective of this paper therefore is to better understand multi-level governance frameworks that bear on climate adaptation planning and implementation efforts specifically in the French Caribbean. Using the overseas department of Guadeloupe as a site of analysis, the paper first contextualizes the historical trajectory of the Outermost Regions of the EU – and the French outremer by extension – to begin assessing the country’s pursuit of climate change measures since the 2015 Paris Agreement. In so doing, the paper endeavors to inform existing and emerging supranational climate financing, adaptation, and implementation mechanisms for non-sovereign territories worldwide.

Contextualising Cultural Tolerance

Dawn De Coteau, EMA Solutions

Abstract

This paper is based on a chapter from my PhD dissertation 'Corruption in Caribbean Politics – Examining Cultural Tolerance'. It presents the relevant historical, political and socio-economic factors necessary to consider when constructing a Caribbean- informed analytical framework to examine the origins, development and continuity of political corruption in the region. This perspective along with the evidence cited attempts to address the gap in literature on current Caribbean political corruption, generated within the region. It is especially pertinent at a time when discourse in the Anglophone Caribbean is rapidly developing responses to the issues of Reparations, Black Lives Matter, Decolonization and Republic status in addition to concerns over official corruption in the BVI and CBI programmes in the Eastern Caribbean. The continuity of official corruption, rooted in exploitative colonialism founded on the plantation system and slavery, is traced from inception, through Emancipation, movements toward self-representation and regional unification, Labour activism, universal suffrage and nascent political formations to Independence, Decolonization and the post/neo colonial landscape. The power and economic inequities of the colonial model are examined in terms of Caribbean contributions to European economic development and industrialization and in the patron/client, authoritarian governance style. These are features which persist in societies with no tradition of democracy, grappling with a postcolonial legacy of under-development and economic disadvantage. Small island states in the Eastern Caribbean, hampered by the inappropriately imposed Westminster parliamentary model which has facilitated 'elected dictatorships' unchecked by official opposition, continue the authoritarian/ clientelism style of colonial governance, with its attendant opportunities for corruption. Cultural tolerance of the status quo has evolved as a matter of survival.

Food (in)accessibility among remittance receiving households in Kingston in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Natalie Dietrich Jones and Stephen Johnson, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, significant job loss and mobility restrictions heightened vulnerability among the poor, impacting food security across the world. The severity of the pandemic and the concomitant effect on food security was felt across the Caribbean region. Increased remittance flows to Jamaica during the pandemic underscored the contribution of

remittances to household income. However, recent research on COVID-19 has highlighted that lower income households (just over 50%) received less remittances during the pandemic. Studies have also pointed to increased food insecurity or food poverty among the poor, with the onset of COVID-19.

This paper will explore the hypothesis that remittance receiving households are more food secure than households which do not receive remittances. The paper seeks to address the following questions: (1) What are the determinants of food (in)accessibility among remittance receiving households in Kingston? (2) Are there different determinants of food (in)accessibility among non-remittance receiving households? (3) How have remittances adjusted for pandemic-related income loss, savings deficits and unemployment? and (4) How has COVID-19 impacted food (in)accessibility among remittance receiving households? (RQ4). The discussion will be based on preliminary findings of (quantitative) data related to food (in)security in Kingston, following the conduct of household surveys in April 2024. The paper also presents reflections on the process of generating a survey to investigate the relationship between food security and remittances, as well as challenges with entree into the field and conducting post-COVID-19 research.

Development of a Climate Resilient Artificial Intelligence Trade (CReAIT) Platform for Sustainability in SIDS

Kirk Douglas, Dion Greenidge, Gavin Bovell, Troy Lorde and Kai-Ann Skeete, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Abstract

Trade remains a significant contributor to national gross domestic products (GDP) and economic growth globally. As climate change impacts increase in severity and frequency, negative impacts on supply chain management and procurement can occur. Caribbean countries like most SIDS are heavily dependent on imports for economic growth and food security thus climate change increases their vulnerabilities. Using national trade volume, product barcode and meteorological data we advance a climate resilient artificial intelligence trade (CReAIT) data ecosystem to generate trade intelligence insights to lend climate resilience to national business supply chains. A pilot was conducted using a major fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) company in Barbados with a regional footprint in the Caribbean and we illustrate the utility of this model for improvement of business efficiency and cost reduction regarding agile supply chain management. It permits accurate waste characterization and waste volume estimation of imported goods into SIDS permitting streamlined national waste management and the rapid, efficient, and accurate tracing of contaminated goods from source to customer to ensure public health and potential infectious disease outbreak containment. This enhances business performance, climate resilience, waste management and strengthen national biosecurity and sustainability for vulnerable SIDS such as those found in the Caribbean.

Food Security, Migration, and the Struggle for Precarious Belonging in the Andes: Venezuelans and Colombians in Quito, Ecuador

Mercedes Eguiguren, Wilfrid Laurier University & Balsillie School of International Affairs

Abstract

In the last six years, Latin American countries have experienced enormous transformations in their migration systems, with the emergence of a Venezuelan diaspora, and the increasing overlap between economic migration and forced displacement, and between transit and settlement. At the same time, there have been major challenges to social structures in terms of economic deterioration, increasing violence, social unrest, and the profound impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. In this context, the paper presents preliminary results of the research conducted in Quito under Workstream 1 of the MiFood Project, which focuses on the links between precarity, exclusion, and migrant food security in cities. Drawing on a household survey on migration and food insecurity conducted in Quito in 2023, as well

as on qualitative research, including photovoice and a literature review, the paper indicates that migrants in Quito face precarious living conditions in terms of employment, legal status, and food security. Nevertheless, our research also shows that the participants share the perception of an improvement in food security attributed to migration, together with a strong sense of belonging in the host society. The presentation will discuss how these results can contribute to better understand the role of food insecurity and socioeconomic precarity within the unfolding of mobility trajectories, as well as how migrants' struggles to get by connect to larger struggles for precarious belonging in the context of multiple crises.

SIDS & the Climate | Tourism | Green Energy Nexus: A 'Biotrash' to Cash Sustainable Approach

Kirk Douglas, Dion Greenidge, Gavin Bovell, Troy Lorde, Winston Moore and Ayanna Young Marshall, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Abstract

For small island developing states (SIDS) in the Caribbean, tourism is a major contributor to national gross domestic products (GDP) and economic growth. As climate change impact risks increase and the vulnerabilities of trade and tourism all threaten to impair sustainable economic growth in the Caribbean, new ways of thinking and a shift in trade and tourism economic policies are required. Tourism generates copious amounts of waste globally with some estimates indicating tourists generate twice as much waste as residents and this is also reflected in special biowaste volumes peak that during the tourist season (October-April). The climate |green energy| sustainable tourism nexus is intriguing, offering new and exciting opportunities. We advance a potential sustainable solution as a remedy, employing the conversion of multiple biowaste ('biotrash') streams to primarily biomethane (renewable fuel) (15M m³/y), using anaerobic co-digestion on a national scale in Barbados, utilizing a sharing green economy, circularity, sustainability, and technology approach to leverage by-products such as organic digestate, reclamation and reuse of rectified wastewater, and innovative CO₂ (10M m³/y) and H₂S utilisation strategy (multiple formats in multiple sectors) as additional revenue streams. As tourism sectors expand waste conversion will expand thus driving more revenue generation ensuring circularity. This model significantly changes the current paradigm of the 'polluter pays' to a 'Biotrash to Cash' approach transforming biowaste generation from a liability into an asset and from a punitive approach to a rewarding one. This approach is a better green energy and sustainable tourism model for SIDS with polycrisis challenges. Data systems to monitor and forecast future waste volumes and relevant conversion efficiencies to economically viable products are needed urgently in SIDS to facilitate adaptation to climate change, achievement of carbon neutrality and maintenance of a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

The Caribbean Court of Justice in Its Original Jurisdiction: A Postcolonial Constitutional Court for a Region

Gabrielle Elliott-Williams, University College London, UK

Abstract

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was established in 2001 with a unique dual jurisdiction. It is an apex court for some Caribbean countries (the CCJ(AJ)), and it also exercises an original jurisdiction (The CCJ(OJ)) as an international tribunal. This unique jurisdiction reflects its positioning as an outgrowth of the confluence of an Anglo-Caribbean regional will to integration and decolonization, though its jurisdiction, at least in its CCJ(OJ) orientation, shifts the colonial boundaries. Further, it also cannot be gainsaid that the CCJ assumes the character it does because of the postcolonial context in which it was conceived, birthed, and operates and, because the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (which preceded the CCJ(AJ)'s exercise of apex jurisdiction) is its counterpoint.

That said, the paper will focus on the Court's exercise of its original jurisdiction. In that orientation the Court interprets and applies CARICOM law which is primarily addressed to economic integration through the establishment of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy. That focus, and the deliberate adoption of a looser (some might prefer 'weaker') form of integration than is exhibited in the European model, suggests, at first glance, a limited mandate for the Court. The paper will argue however that the CCJ(OJ) must have a broader mandate than a narrow focus on economic integration might suggest. If the Court, through judicial governance, is to serve as a postcolonial constitutional court for a region, it must direct itself to region-making which eschews coloniality.

Interrogating the Post-Colonial Self through the Notion of Decoloniality

Rudolph Ellis, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

The first aim of this article is to critically interrogate post-colonial theories and theorists to determine whether past assumptions towards decoloniality were formulated well. Second, there are reasons to question the present attitudes towards decoloniality to evaluate the feasibility of the objectives. Finally, to explore instances where proper hindsight and foresight in the past were not present, and to amend those instances for both the present and future purposes. The outcome of these objectives is to argue for a new paradigmatic shift towards our approach of effecting decoloniality. Frantz Fanon once stated that the colonial world is divided into compartments, but this statement is also true about the world in which we all live and call home. The events of slavery and colonialism have been shaping and informing our post-colonial ways of thinking about decoloniality in the past, present, and future. These methodologies have exhausted their courses and causes for a new politic of governance in coloured societies because coloured people have devised subtle means of interacting with their counterparts in Caucasian societies. Jean-Paul Sartre rightly argued that colonialism is a system that was designed to govern the relationship between the colonizers and the colonized. It was a system characterized by socio-economic, and political biases that appeared to favour the colonizers. According to Margery Perham, the word colonialism has been used in a new way which does not leave us in much doubt that it is a word of abuse. Azzedine Haddour argued that colonialism exhibited and manifested many binary oppositions such as strong/weak, black/white, colonizer/colonized, and so on. In Ruth Ginio's book, we are treated to a vast array of instances of abuses that took place in French West Africa. Sarah Trembath defined decoloniality as a mindset or praxis; it is an orientation toward culture marked by a commitment to root out what remains in culture, education, society, and so on from the colonial era. The explicit aim of this definition embraces the view of extricating the relics from our colonial past is an important process toward achieving the objectives of decoloniality. This represents a certainty for the reason Azzedine Haddour outlined in his arguments. Binary oppositions are embedded features of human existence. A primary aim of decoloniality for the future should entail exploring ways of employing the reality of binary oppositions we are confronted with. This represents a novel way of rethinking our approaches to decoloniality in the present with the view of reconciling aspects of the colonial past. In the view of Claude McKay, this objective is achievable given that every racial group is interdependent on each other.

Misogynoir & Being: Exploring Black Womanhood in Toronto and What It Means to Survive in the 21st Century

Sarah Ewan, York University, Canada

Abstract

For this paper, I want to understand the complexities of misogynoir and survival and the root causes of misogynoir in our systems. I want to better understand it as a whole and what Black Women's liberation can look like. When searching for inspiration for this paper, I came across Audre Lorde and her speech "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action" where she says, "we can learn

to work and speak when we are afraid in the same way we have learned to work and speak when we are tired. For we have been socialized to respect fear more than our own needs for language and definition, and while we wait in silence for that final luxury of fearlessness, the weight of that silence will choke us.” (44). I thought to myself, what can this language look like today? My goal for my research paper is to explore how misogynoir affects Black Caribbean Women in our everyday institutions. My goal is to understand what other Black Women like myself have experienced in the institutions we use in our day-to-day lives. The second part of this paper will explore certain topics in performance and spirituality that have been seen as taboo in the Black Caribbean diaspora. I want to learn how these topics are being expanded upon by Black (Caribbean) Women today. What does it mean to step outside of cultural norms? What are the possible transfigurations that can happen in these spaces and how does one’s environment impact their understanding of their culture.

Breaking the Ties that Bind: The Ties that Bind: Considering Anti-trafficking in Persons efforts in the Anglophone Caribbean through law, culture, history and discourse

Cherisse Francis, University of Warwick / St. Mary’s University, UK

Abstract

Despite the global thrust to address trafficking in persons (TIP) over the last 20 years, the Caribbean lags behind in policy, practice and data. This paper interrogates current anti-TIP efforts in the Anglophone Caribbean to determine whether a Caribbean-centric approach could prevent some harms and better reflect regional reality. It assesses the relevance and effectiveness of western-centric ideas, policy and practices for conceptualising and combatting TIP. The data from desktop review and interviews across three case study countries is analysed through post-colonial discourse analysis applied with a Caribbean feminist lens.

First, the paper contextualises ‘Anglophone Caribbean’ identity. Then, it examines the development of the current anti-TIP framework beginning at the UN Palermo Protocol. It delves into the dominant narratives and their influence on the Caribbean. Crucially, the discussion identifies the involved stakeholders and their categorisation as state actors or non-state actors (NSAs). This spotlights the influence which the US Government exerts on national governments and NSAs through financial leverage as well as ‘soft law’. This paper adds to anti-TIP literature situating critiques about ATIPs being a racialized, gendered notion. It also fosters a deeper understanding of the problematization of TIP in the Anglophone Caribbean. The analysis revealed harms at every stage of the present framework; from prevailing discourses conflating TIP with other social issues to the resultant campaigns. They politicise anti-TIP and infantilize trafficked persons. The paper concludes that a more ‘Caribbean-centric’ anti-TIP approach focused on the region’s cultural and historic norms would better achieve a sense of justice.

From Throne Speech to Presidential Address: The Parliamentary Effect of Conversion from a Monarchy to Republic in Trinidad and Tobago

Hamid Ghany, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Abstract

The shift from a Throne Speech to a Presidential Address at the commencement of a new session of Parliament has removed the confidence dimension of the Throne Speech and the scrutiny of the Government’s intended legislative agenda.

The conventions surrounding the Throne Speech in the Westminster Parliament were never transferred to Trinidad and Tobago at its independence in 1962. However, the scrutiny that accompanies a Throne Speech debate is the only Westminster tradition that survived the transplantation of the model.

The Presidential Address used to be called the Throne Speech when Trinidad and Tobago was a monarchy between independence and becoming a republic in 1976.

The Governor General used to deliver the Throne Speech on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Trinidad and Tobago, at ceremonial openings of Parliament. That was followed by a debate and a vote.

When Trinidad and Tobago became a republic that tradition was adjusted by reference to “The Government” instead of “My Government”.

By 1987, a speech was no longer prepared by the new Prime Minister and presidential greetings were brought to parliamentarians by the new President in a manner designed to separate the presidency from one side or the other.

By the opening of Parliament from 2007 and beyond, the Presidential Address morphed into a virtual state of the union address. This has been the consequence of the hybridization of the quasi-ceremonial presidency after the monarchy in a republican parliamentary system.

Public financial management systems, measurement and accountability in the delivery of public services in selected countries in the OECS

Cleopatra Gittens, The University of the West Indies, Five Islands, Antigua and Barbuda

Sandra Sookram and Anne-Marie Mohammed, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Abstract

Governments worldwide, spanning both developed and developing nations, have dedicated considerable resources to establish and assess public service systems. However, the concentration of public service delivery in developing countries, shaped by their governance structures, presents challenges such as diminished accountability and unfavorable decision-making and resource management. This study explores empirical evidence related to public financial management (PFM) in both developed and developing nations before narrowing its focus to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) region. Utilizing secondary research strategies, the study offers a comprehensive overview of system design across diverse countries, drawing on existing literature. Additionally, an in-depth examination of documents and reports specific to the OECS helps identify crucial strategies for improving PFM systems in the region. The research emphasizes the pivotal role of robust public financial systems and proposes measures to strengthen these systems within the OECS region. Notably, the study goes beyond scrutinizing the current system; it presents valuable recommendations for improvement in the region, incorporating a comparative analysis of PEFA assessments for select countries in the OECS (Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia) and contrasting them with countries demonstrating strong results. Additionally, through an analysis of existing systems, the research identifies weaknesses and provides recommendations to enhance PFM systems within the specified OECS countries. Furthermore, the analysis considers IMF Article IV consultation reports over a two-year period for the identified territories, providing insights into the IMF's perspectives on these countries thus contributing to the formulation of informed policy recommendations.

Towards a Decolonial Mindset for Development: policy framing as the lynchpin for sustainability

Gillian Giwa, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

This paper seeks to contribute to the broader research agenda on decolonializing development by zooming in on policy framing as a lynchpin for sustainable development. This perspective is anchored in the Street Level Bureaucracy (SLB) theory which brings into focus the role of frontline workers as the disseminators of public policies and therefore the guardians of policy implementation and

compliance. Thus, it is posited that the manner in which policies are framed by these policy disseminators while interacting with the public, “the last link in the policy-making chain”, will impact on public education, policy awareness, and consequently policy (non)compliance. Framing as a choice architecture tool has been proven to affect individual decision making and has demonstrated systemic effects that influence public opinion. While research into the psychological, social, cultural, and economic factors of decision-making dates back to the early 1970s, this paper examines the power relations that are embedded in, and underpin, state bureaucracy and in particular Street Level Bureaucracy; and calls attention to the colonially entrenched social structures of authority and social inequalities that continue to permeate the Global South and inform policy development and implementation. The paper makes the argument that policy (non) compliance within the Global South is related to the existing / inherited models of policy development and state bureaucracy. In order to achieve sustainable development through improved policy compliance within the Global South, there must be greater attention to the manner in which public policies are framed.

Central American Migration and Food (In)Security in Mexico City

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Abstract

Mexico is a country traversed by various forms of migration: emigration, immigration, transmigration, return migration, circular and internal flows. This is due, within the world geography of transit, to its location south of the United States, one of the most important destinations for migratory flows. The places of origin of the people who today cross Mexico have diversified. However, the most important groups come from the well-known Northern Triangle of Central America: Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. There is a great deal of research on Central American migration that crosses the Mexican Republic. However, few studies focus on the dynamics that occur in Mexico City, mainly regarding the food (in)security of both migrants in transit and migrants who are in the process of seeking refuge in Mexico. The main objective of this paper is to contribute to the study of migration dynamics and to investigate the situation of precariousness, exclusion, and food insecurity experienced by these two types of people in mobility coming from Central America and who are in Mexico City. This paper presents the results of the survey conducted among the Central American migrant population settled in Mexico City and its surroundings. The survey aims to contribute to the understanding of food security and food practices of migrant households temporarily or permanently settled in Mexico City. To complete the survey and obtain in-depth data on migrants' social vulnerability and food security issues, we conducted semi-structured in-depth interviews with migrants. The survey of 409 migrant respondents provides an overview of their sociodemographic profile and that of their households. It also provides information on their migratory status, demographic, economic, and household characteristics, and degree of food insecurity. Regarding food insecurity, the survey reports a high degree of food insecurity in immigrant households; 6 out of 10 respondents are worried about running out of food in their household, while 58.4% mention that an adult is worried about running out of food; and in those households with minors, 49.2% had to reduce the amount served at meals to some minor in their household. 36.2% mention that the food conditions at home have not changed after the pandemic. Only 61.2 % of households have a kitchen, mainly gas; while 6 out of 10 have a refrigerator in their home. These are just a few indicators of the critical food conditions of Central American immigrant households in Mexico City.

Negotiating Change in Coastal Communities

Doreen Gordon, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

This paper is based on a pilot study of six coastal communities, where economic activity is highly dependent on the tourist and services industry. Coastal communities have long been navigating reduced access to beaches, limited access to land and decent housing, and socio-economic challenges. Added to these challenges are the impact of Covid-19 recovery and rapid climate change. This paper seeks to explore the convergence of multiple crises taking place in vulnerable coastal communities and how different groups of people (women, fishermen, youth) are affected and are understanding these changes. The paper also has a social justice orientation – that is, an interest in activism around the issue of land re-distribution and beach access for ordinary Jamaicans. The researcher is interested in exploring the following questions: what does sustainable development look like for coastal communities like these and how does it differ for women, youth, the elderly or members of minority religious groups? How are justice claims being framed and scaled by different groups (community associations, fisherman associations, Rastafarian settlements) staking a claim to valuable coastal land? What resistance movements are forming? How are land/sea boundaries transgressed, re-negotiated, and reconstituted in the everyday? Whose interests do marine parks serve? How do we treat the issue of reparations for historically disenfranchised, racialized and gendered groups who have long been excluded from socio-economic life?

Colonial Narratives and its Impact on Black Nationalism in Early Twentieth Century Jamaica: Towards a Black Liberation Theology

Dave Gosse, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

Between 1972 - 1975, Erna Brodber conducted ninety oral accounts of life in all the parishes of Jamaica in the early twentieth century. These interviews are not only rich in social history but offers an interesting insight in two of Jamaica's premier black nationalists, Alexander Bedward and Marcus Garvey. While Garvey was far more admired than Bedward, disrespectful comments were made in reference to both men. What is even more revealing was the entrenchment of conservative Christianity, mainly from North America, which seemed to have engulfed many of the interviewees. Missionary Christianity commanded their allegiance, in contrast to Garvey and Bedward. How was this possible in a Black Power era; in independent Jamaica, which boast of having the largest amount of slave rebellions in the British Caribbean and fought some of the bloodiest wars, such as, the Morant Bay War of 1865 and the 1930s labour rebellions. This paper therefore argues that the colonial narrative surrounding "morality, decency and respectability" is largely responsible for the attraction to conservative Christianity by the Jamaican masses. Both Garvey and Bedward had become ideologically redundant to the detriment of the Jamaican society which had become highly conservative and have forgotten the teachings of their prophets. Fortunately, Bedward and Garvey's black theology became embedded in Rastafari, Revival, in other African socio-religious movements and limitedly, in the large Christian community.

Interrogating Promotion Policies: An Intersectional Analysis of Mid-Career Women Faculty in STEM at The UWI, Mona

Heather Gray Lamm, University of Alberta, Canada

Abstract

This paper examines the intersectional factors that shape the promotion of mid-career women faculty in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in higher education particularly at The UWI, Mona. To do this, I think through intersectionality and Caribbean feminisms in terms of their

decolonial potential for women in STEM in higher education and their decolonial potential for policy creation. The policy 'problem' under consideration is that women do not seem to transition at the same pace as men to senior lecturer or full professor regardless of discipline. Promotion to higher academic ranks is often a gateway to more senior positions at the university as well as to work in other areas of the economy. Furthermore, having more women in senior positions in academia may encourage more girls to choose STEM careers as well as facilitate more women participating in solving national/regional STEM related issues. I use intersectionality as a concept focused on how social relations of power such as race/class/gender overlap in systemic ways to shape people's experiences. By interrogating the impact of colonial capitalism on The UWI, and the work of Caribbean feminists practice of intersectionality before it became popular, I engage women academics in STEM to understand in what ways transformation toward equity must be manifested in policies for promotion.

District 13: Perspectives on Diasporic Voting and notions of belonging in the New York based Caribbean-American Diaspora

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Abstract

As this SALISES conference explores a reimagined democratic Caribbean, the Caribbean diaspora must be considered. This proposed paper explores notions of belonging, political engagement and political empowerment in the Caribbean-American community. These themes are addressed within the context of an overview of the current policy positions of English-speaking Caribbean countries on supporting constitutional reform to strengthen the diaspora. This study will also explore support for diasporic voting within the Caribbean-American Community in the United States.

The United States based Caribbean-American community continues to maintain strong cultural, economic and identity ties to the region. The economic importance of the Caribbean Diaspora has been well studied. However, less attention has been given to the political aspect of this relationship. The significance of nurturing diasporic relationships has not been lost on the region's leadership. Indeed, many have developed official Diasporic Affairs Offices in New York, Yet, diasporic citizens remain largely disenfranchised. Should the political influence of Caribbean-Americans be equitable to their economic impact on the region? How engaged are Caribbean-Americans in the politics of their home countries? Do Caribbean-Americans desire to have a greater voice in the politics of their home countries? Do Caribbean-Americans desire representation in the government/politics of their home countries? Should specific constitutional or electoral reforms be implemented to ensure full participation of the diaspora in the political landscapes of the region?

Discussing and responding to these salient questions will provide a crucial launching pad to better understand and increase diasporic political engagement in the Caribbean region.

Extortion or taxes? Criminal leaders and fiscal authority in Kingston, Jamaica

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Abstract

Through an analysis of the "fiscal" authority of criminal leaders known as dons, this paper explores popular understandings of taxation, political authority and the public good. It focuses on the payments that dons exact from small and large entrepreneurs, often in exchange for protection. While the police and media are quick to describe such transactions as "extortion," both entrepreneurs and dons go to significant lengths to narrate and perform these economic exchanges as other-than-extortion. Taking seriously the framing in terms of taxation, the paper analyzes how such economic exchanges and the performance of consent feature in the claims to authority that dons make and how such claims are received by residents and businesspeople. In recent work in fiscal sociology and

anthropology, taxation is understood as a payment extracted and redistributed by political institutions in and beyond the state. Tax compliance reflects and reproduces political authority, and fiscal payments are informed by a specific moral economy involving a broadly shared sense of social norms and obligations to contribute to the public good.

Drawing on long-term ethnographic research in Kingston, the paper explores under what circumstances extortion can become legitimate and how dons become informal fiscal authorities. Moving across the perspectives put forward by dons, low-income residents and entrepreneurs, the paper discusses shared understandings of who has the authority to tax whom, and what public goods they are expected to provide in return. Dons, residents and businesspeople engage in an ongoing narrative and performative negotiation of the boundary between taxation and extortion, with documents in particular doing important work to make exchanges feel like something other than extortion. While shared understandings of fiscal obligations may legitimize dons' power to extract payments, dons' transgressions of the attendant norms can engender strong affective responses and directly undermine their authority.

Postcolonialism and Tourism: Challenges to Development and A Re-Education in a Modern Day Slavery

Anique John, California State University, USA

Abstract

The exported image of the Caribbean as a haven for Europeans and North Americans to recharge their fatigued souls and temporarily forget the harsh reality of their home countries so that they may “feel better about their own miserable existence” (Rousseau), is presented as a legitimate role for Caribbean islands and its people today. As Rousseau highlights “man is born free; and everywhere he is in chains”. This cannot be more true than in the Caribbean, a society predicated on the dehumanization and ‘unfreedom’ of Africans brought to the Caribbean and exploited to fulfill European ambitions. Therefore, in order to obtain true justice for Caribbeans in a postcolonial context, we must critically consider the continued legacy of exploitation, dehumanization and injustice which persists across industries in the Caribbean, such as through tourism and its related industries. By considering the works of Caribbean writers such as CLR James, Paget Henry, George Lamming among others, we have an opportunity to look “deep into the racialized and colonized psyches of men and women of this society and also the challenges of de-colonizing the subjectivities and institutions of our society” (Henry, 2022) in an attempt to redress injustices. However, the postcolonial context remains vulnerable to European exploitation and dehumanization via the tourism industry whereby natives must present “second sight” (Dubois, 1903) to “succeed”, cater to “whiteness”/foreign investors at the cost of local ambitions. This paper discusses postcolonial priorities which need to be reconsidered in order for justice for Caribbean populations to be realized.

Formal Democracy as an Obstacle to Organic Democratic Development in the Caribbean: An Assessment of the State of Democracy in the English-Speaking Caribbean

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Abstract

In contrast to several other regions of the formerly colonized world which are often described as authoritarian and undemocratic, the English-speaking Caribbean has been largely described in academic studies as possessing stable and well-established democracies. Such studies, like Dominguez's influential 1998 publication entitled *The Caribbean question: Why has liberal democracy (surprisingly) flourished?* for example, has described the English-speaking Caribbean as having overturned prevailing assumptions about the correspondence between economic and democratic underdevelopment, and has advanced the idea of the Caribbean as being a highly developed

democratic space. This paper argues that the acceptance of this wildly held assumption as central to the Caribbean political imaginary, has acted as a brake on state-led initiatives to advance democratic development. It explores how the proponents of the democratic Caribbean view have tended to ignore the several ways in which these very formal practices are themselves used as technical instruments to frustrate and retard more organic forms of democratic development beyond the formal and the institutional. The paper has three main goals. First, it shows how the narrative of the democratically developed Caribbean has been advanced by academics and statespersons as a central feature of the Caribbean political imaginary. Secondly, it provides empirical examples of how demands for greater levels of political participation, accountability, and individual freedom are frustrated by the very institutional mechanisms that are supposedly demonstrative of democratic development. Finally, the paper closes with an update on future directions in Caribbean democracy showing the current issues around which debates about advancing Caribbean democracy are framed and the level of responsiveness of ruling elites to these demands.

Decolonizing Development

Kishan Khoday, UNDP Jamaica

Abstract

Today's dominant paradigms of development retain an implicit bias towards the exploitation of nature as a means of moving along a linear pathway from a mythic state of nature to the modern developed world. This has roots in an Enlightenment worldview on the division of nature and culture whereby those in the global South were seen by the West at the time as lacking agency and capability to reshape nature for the sake of civilizational progress. To many in the South, today's planetary crisis remains connected to legacies from the colonial era and its civilizing mission. This includes systemic legacies from the violence suffered by ecosystems and communities, and devaluation of traditional worldviews on the balance between humans and nature. Reimagining human development requires a better understanding of the local contours of history and reengaging the pluralism of worldviews that exist across the world on the balance between humans and nature. This process builds on the ongoing re-emergence of the South as a voice in global policy, disrupting the geopolitical consensus around development policy, and generating bottom-up ideas to reshape human development theory in the coming years. Beyond multilateral environmental agreements, green finance and technology innovation, combating the planetary crisis requires adaptation in human development theory itself, moving beyond the anthropocentric orientation and epistemic divides between humans and nature from which development theory emerged, by which human freedom has been equated with freedom from nature. In seeking solutions, a need exists to bring development theory back down to Earth.

The Queerest Administration in Bahamian History: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Policy Manifestos in The Bahamas

Ethan Knowles, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

This paper employs critical discourse analysis (CDA) to examine social exclusion in The Bahamas. The policy manifestoes of the two main Bahamian political parties, the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) and Free National Movement (FNM), are analysed semiotically, with a key finding being that while both documents exhibit limited intertextuality, the PLP's manifesto demonstrates a slightly greater discursive interest in promoting social inclusion – though primarily in economic terms. The paper contends that the lack of queer voices in both manifestoes represents a significant absence, one which would appear symptomatic of the enduring dominance of discourses encoded with heterosexist ideological imperatives. Accordingly, the importance of enhancing social inclusion within Caribbean decolonial developmental agendas is highlighted. The paper fills a notable gap in the literature, as no

critical analyses have been undertaken on Bahamian political discourse, and policy manifestoes in the anglophone Caribbean have yet to be interrogated using CDA. In addressing these gaps, the paper avows that if the region is to plot emancipatory policy futures, Caribbean social scientists must lead the way by critically examining the discourse employed by state managers.

Malignant Roots: Understanding the 2024 Haiti Crisis from Below

Christopher Kovats-Bernat, City University of New York, USA

Abstract

Haiti is in the grip of a multifaceted crisis unlike anything experienced before. The immediate and most apparent problem is the proliferation of armed gangs across the country. A full 60% of the capital is outside the control of the government, as over a dozen powerful gangs broker power among themselves while exploiting social and economic insecurities. But the roots of Haiti's current crisis run historically and culturally deep, and the gang problem is but a symptom of a larger, more complex emergency that Haiti is facing. As the United Nations deliberates options for a possible intervention, the magnitude and complexity of Haiti's multiple challenges loom large. This paper seeks to unravel the intricate sociocultural, economic, and political threads that have woven together to create the current situation of widespread violence and dire scarcity in the country. Drawing on extensive ethnographic fieldwork spanning 30 years, the paper examines how legacies of colonialism, economic inequality, political instability, and rampant corruption have contributed to the current crisis in Haiti. Importantly, the paper seeks to shed light on the impact the crisis has had on the everyday lives of Haitian citizens seeking to carve out a space for themselves amid the violence, scarcity, and insecurity of everyday life.

Enhancing Results-Based Management with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technologies have revolutionized numerous industries, offering unprecedented opportunities for improved decision-making, efficiency, and innovation. One domain where these technologies hold substantial promise is Results-Based Management (RBM), a strategic approach organizations and government entities utilize to assess the effectiveness of projects, policies, and programs in achieving desired outcomes. This article delves into integrating AI and ML into RBM practices, focusing on enhancing real-time monitoring, data collection and analysis, and decision-making processes. The primary objective of this article is to investigate how organizations and governments leverage AI and ML tools to enhance the outcomes of RBM. The study assesses the effectiveness of various AI and ML applications, including predictive analytics, natural language processing, image detection, and real-time monitoring, in promoting informed decision-making, transparency, and accountability within the RBM framework. Additionally, the paper examines the existing literature and emerging trends to offer insights into the future directions of AI and ML applications in RBM. Findings indicate that integrating AI and ML into RBM practices brings significant benefits, such as improved decision-making, resource optimization, accountability, and transparency. These technologies facilitate RBM through predictive analytics, real-time monitoring, task automation, customization, and scalability, extending their impact beyond RBM into sectors like agriculture, public health, academia, and public administration. However, the article also highlights the challenges and shortcomings associated with AI and ML, such as biases and data quality issues, which can perpetuate inaccuracies. In conclusion, AI and ML applications have empowered organizations to enhance project and program planning, monitoring, evaluation, and refinement. These technologies provide valuable insights and predictive capabilities by augmenting data processing and analysis capabilities, enabling evidence-based decisions and improved performance.

To fully harness the benefits of AI and ML in RBM, organizations must prioritize ongoing research, address ethical concerns, ensure data quality, and maintain accountability. This article contributes to understanding how AI and ML can be effectively integrated into RBM practices, paving the way for more data-driven and informed decision-making processes in various sectors.

Voices Unveiled: A Transformative Exploration into the Policies for Inclusion from the Perspective of the Disability Community of Trinidad and Tobago

Nadia Laptiste-Francis, The University of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago

Abstract

Despite more than three decades of established social and educational policies aimed at advancing the cause of persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups, Trinidad and Tobago continues to grapple with persistent challenges related to access and equity within its education system. This research marks the third phase of a larger study focused on the implementation of inclusive education policies in Trinidad and Tobago. The researcher employed the Community Based Participatory Action Research (CBPAR) to address the question: "What has been the experience of persons with disabilities with inclusive education in Trinidad and Tobago?" The researcher adopted a transformative stance which prioritizes the voices of the disability community, thereby emphasizing perspectives traditionally undervalued in research.

The primary data collection method utilized in this phase was the semi-structured interviews. Thematic analysis was then applied to the gathered data. Six initial themes emerged: conditional access, inflexible instructional approaches, piecemeal collaboration, incremental attitudinal transformation, and lack of equity in opportunities. Subsequent analysis revealed associated recommendations from those directly impacted by the policies. These recommendations are presented in the form of the Transformative Inclusive Education Support Systems Model—a framework designed to promote equity in the education system for all persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups.

Moving Beyond the Discourse of Tolerance: Working Towards Greater Inclusivity of LGBTQ+ People in a 'New' Barbados

Latoya Lazarus, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Abstract

Analysis of gender and sexuality within the English-speaking Caribbean yield critical insights about people's everyday expressions of agency, struggles for rights and resistance to very limiting traditional constructs and ideas about the body, gender, gender identity, sex and sexuality that are rooted in heteropatriarchy. Various institutions and tools of power, including laws and public policies, have, in complex ways, both reinforced and disrupted these constructs and ideas. In recent years, some countries in the English-speaking Caribbean have implemented policies and legal changes relating to gender and sexual orientation, as a result of ongoing activism and an enabling socio-political environment. However, calls for, as well as actual cases of, legal reform have also resulted in vocal oppositions.

The current paper examines lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) people's perceptions and/or experiences of legal reforms relating to gender and/or sexual orientation in Barbados. Drawing on data collected from in-depth interviews with locally based sexual and gender activists, the paper, critically examines the significance that is being attributed to both legal reform and public participation for the realisation of greater inclusivity of LGBTQ+ people within that society. Additionally, the paper briefly highlights key obstacles to achieving greater inclusivity of historically marginalised gender and sexual minority groups. In sum, the paper contributes to existing discussions around the role or possibility of law in advancing (1) greater inclusivity of certain marginalised groups

and, (2) notions of justice that are not widely embraced or understood within the given societal context.

Canada's Farmwork Program: SDGs or Imperial Continuity?

Kristin Lozanski, King's University College at Western University, Canada

Abstract

Each year, Jamaica sends approximately 9000 farmworkers to Canada through the bilaterally administered Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP). This program has been identified as "functional development aid" and has been formally linked to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Drawing upon research with Jamaican farmworkers, however, I highlight the ways in which the SAWP effectively undermines sustainable development for the Jamaica and other sending countries. Moving beyond extant critiques of the SAWP's misalignment with Decent Work (SDG 8) and Good Health and Well-Being (3), I address the ways in which the SAWP undermines commitments to Poverty Alleviation (SDG 1), Ending Hunger (SDG 2), and Gender Equality (SDG 4). The structure of the SAWP relies upon the failure of Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions for non-citizens in Canada (SDG 16) and, ultimately, destabilises the goal to Reduce Inequality (SDG 10). The SDGs obscure the reiteration of power asymmetries between Canada and Jamaica as the SAWP contributes to industrial food production and export in Canada while exacerbating Jamaica's reliance upon remittances. The SAWP, thus, is not a program of development but one that reiterates the legacies of imperialism and continues to extract resources from Jamaica for the economic benefit of Canada.

Caribbean Post-Pandemic Transitions, the IMF Embrace and the Enigma of Merchant Capital

Don Marshall, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Abstract

What is the problem constellation in the present that Commonwealth Caribbean countries face as they pursue social change and economic recovery? It transcends the adjustment to a post-pandemic world economy and imperils how we seek to attain the 17 SDGs by 2030. Can they freely choose a course of economic planning for sustained growth and recovery? What elite coalitions will oversee the masterplan; is this socially desirable? Has the rush to problem-solve been matched by problem-questioning? Have we, in essence, consider change possibilities as well as constrictions of structure? Every generation has to work through a long-standing set of cleavages and stratifications.

My paper seeks to provide a relational understanding of an endemic crisis in accumulation/development across the Commonwealth Caribbean. This crisis is both ideational and material. It is material insofar as households continue to bear the brunt of wage stagnation, income inequality, rising personal debt and cuts in social expenditure - the net effects of failing development paradigms. Ideational as authority for assessing the scope of our development predicaments is left to an international public policy community of experts drawn from international financial institutions (IFIs), the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) donor states and United Nations agencies. It sets up encounters between domestic elites who function as translators of such discourse, and jurisdictional elites who share in the neoliberal consensus but are inclined to fashion home-grown solutions. I argue that this is proxy for what is indeed an intra-elite crisis on the way forward as the limits of the post-independence models of accumulation and development have been reached.

Caribbean Leadership in Restorative Justice Implementation? The Case of Jamaica

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Abstract

As the Caribbean region grapples with evolving societal challenges and seeks alternatives to traditional punitive justice models, Jamaica has emerged as a leader in adopting and adapting restorative justice principles. This paper examines the dynamic landscape of restorative justice implementation in the Anglophone Caribbean and other regions, with a specific focus on the pioneering efforts of Jamaica. It draws on empirical data, legislative reviews, and case studies to provide a situational analysis of Jamaica's journey in incorporating restorative justice practices into its legal and societal frameworks. The evidence suggests that Jamaica has encountered unique challenges and successes in its attempt to navigate intricate cultural, historical, and legal barriers to implementation but fostering community engagement, building partnerships, and driving legislative reforms to establish a conducive environment for restorative justice have played pivotal roles in distinguishing Jamaica as a Caribbean leader. The paper underscores the importance of context-specific strategies in the successful implementation of restorative justice principles and will therefore be of interest to policymakers, legal practitioners, and restorative justice scholars worldwide.

Technoscientific Capture: NIDS and the Politics of Postcolonial Refusal

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Abstract

In the Caribbean, resource extraction has historically been organized according to a plantation logic. Recent contestations surrounding new forms of extraction in the region reveal both the recursive nature of a plantation logic while also pointing to new imaginaries for resistance. In this paper, I center Jamaica's National Identification System (NIDS) which is intended to house biometric and demographic information for all Jamaicans. For some, NIDS has been read as an apocalyptic reference to the Mark of the Beast, as detailed in the Book of Revelation. For others, the move to collect biometric data has been taken to be an act of warfare against the liberty of the Jamaican people. I interrogate NIDS as an infrastructure of technoscientific capture and postcolonial datafication governance that embodies fractal biblical, spatial, and corporeal fears in a Caribbean geography that lies in the wake of the plantation. What is at stake in a post-colonial landscape, with the merging of the body and a technology predicated on state legitimized techniques of branding, control, and biometric extraction? In paying attention to discourses of racialization and emancipation surrounding NIDS, I argue for a reading of the Caribbean that positions it as a critical geographical lens through which to consider Simone Browne's (2015) contention that blackness is a key site through which surveillance is both practiced and creatively resisted. This reflection takes seriously what the Caribbean can contribute to a decolonial understanding of the possibilities of black emancipation in the midst of emerging forms of extraction and capture.

Extreme weather events as drivers of climate ODA: evidence from Caribbean Small Island Developing States

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Eric Strobl, University of Bern, Switzerland

Abstract

Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly extreme weather events like hurricanes, extreme precipitation and droughts. These events cause significant economic, social, and environmental damage, hindering sustainable development and necessitating international assistance. Climate Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) plays a crucial role in supporting SIDS' climate action and resilience to climate change. This

study investigates how extreme weather events influence the allocation of climate ODA to Caribbean SIDS. To this end, we construct a panel data set of international climate finance commitment from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and indices for measuring damage from hurricanes, droughts and extreme rainfall for a sample of Caribbean countries over the period 2000-2021 to which we apply a Poisson Pseudo Maximum Likelihood Estimator. The results demonstrate that extreme weather events are drivers of climate ODA and provides valuable insights for policymakers and development practitioners to improve the effectiveness of climate ODA in supporting Caribbean SIDS' climate action and resilience to climate change.

Parental Perceptions of Coping with a Diagnosis of Childhood Onset ADHD of their Children

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Abstract

In an era of globalization, educators everywhere in the world encounter increasingly diverse student populations.

In the much of the Global south and specifically in the Caribbean the situation is much the same where meeting the needs of these ever-diverse populations remains a challenge for both policymakers and practitioners. The overarching goal of reaching all students and reducing marginalization and exclusion necessitates expansive philosophies which include decolonial equity, inclusion, culturally sustaining pedagogy, and social justice. The efficacious translation of the above educational philosophies into the tangible realities of our schools and classrooms remains an elusive endeavour; in which robust research can illuminate a path for meaningful practice, responsive policy, and improved stewardship of the educational milieu.

This study deeply explores how parents of children formally diagnosed with ADHD cope with the daily as well as the cumulative and concomitant effects of their child's diagnosis. Specifically, the study seeks to discuss

- How parents of children with ADHD cope with navigating the educational system in Trinidad and Tobago?
- How do parents cope with their child's ADHD-related behaviours?
- What are the implications of how parents cope with parenting a child with ADHD?

In keeping with global trends ADHD prevalence has increased therefore there is a need to develop insight as to how parents perceive and cope with their child's diagnosis to inform meaningful interventions and responsive policy and practice. It is hoped that this research would bolster equity in society.

The methodology is a qualitative investigation following the phenomenological tradition using the analysis of semi-structured interviews and a focus group discussion. The themes that emerged are reliance on social networks resources for support, employing problem-focused coping methods, stress management, decolonial equity, challenging realities, and hope for the future.

Racializing Nature and Naturalizing Race: Consumption and Waste in International Law

Usha Natarajan, Yale University, USA

Abstract

Consumption and waste are causing environmental change at levels unprecedented in human history. Global patterns are characterized by extreme inequity, with the richest 20 percent consuming 80 percent of natural resources and producing 90 percent of waste. The poor are on the frontlines of environmental harm because of their vulnerable geographic locations, a lack of resources and regulatory capacity to protect themselves, the ongoing extraction of their natural resources and labor to fuel an unequal global economy, and a systemic transfer of pollution from rich to poor areas.

International law is one of the means whereby such injustice is structured and maintained globally, systemically ensuring that the rich evade responsibility for the consequences of their actions. As a result, unequal patterns escalate, with pandemics, economic slowdowns, wars, natural disasters, and ecosystem collapse used by the rich as opportunities for further enrichment; with laws insulating the rich from harm. This paper describes the central role of race in how international law structures systemic overconsumption and pollution, learning from environmental justice struggles globally. Importantly, racialized assumptions underlying the global distribution of power and wealth are entangled with environmental harm, because western cultures draw legal equivalence between non-western cultures and the 'natural' world or the 'environment' in various ways. The racialization of non-western cultures through law is justified and hierarchized based on their putative closeness to a 'state of nature'. Similarly, nature is racialized as being innocent and noble, yet also savage and in need of limitless western civilization, discipline and control. This paper concludes that environmental justice requires undoing racialized assumptions about people and planet, because the way we treat each other is inextricable from the way we treat nature.

Cannabis Policy, Banking, and Social Justice: A Case for Decolonising the Jamaican Cannabis Market

Felipe Neis Araujo, University of Manchester, UK

Abstract

The Dangerous Drugs Amendments Act 2015 (DDAA 2015) signalled a pivotal shift in Jamaica's legal framework, sanctioning the cultivation, processing, and commercialisation of medical cannabis while decriminalising personal possession. Despite Jamaica's historical association with cannabis production, the industry encounters persistent hurdles, particularly banking restrictions and the pursuit of viable product markets. The current policy framework, along with the issues related to correspondence banking, favours international investors over legacy growers, further exacerbating the historical impact of prohibition on local communities, notably among Rastafarian cannabis farmers.

This paper examines the confluence of the DDAA 2015 with social justice initiatives, addressing the concerns of those affected by historical state violence due to drug policy-related offences, particularly within the Rastafarian community. As conversations about reparations for historical injustices gain momentum, this discourse becomes critical in reshaping the socio-political landscape surrounding cannabis legislation in Jamaica.

Moreover, this study explores policy and legislative alternatives that intertwine social justice imperatives with the economic advantages of cannabis legalisation. Drawing comparisons between Jamaica and selected US states (Virginia, New Jersey, New York) allows for a comprehensive analysis of differing approaches.

Additionally, the paper evaluates the impact of correspondence banking as a colonial and imperialist tool and suggests potential measures where the UK could support Jamaican banks and local cannabis farmers, contributing to the redress of Britain's Black debt—to borrow Hilary Beckles' expression.

A Postcolonial Critique of the EU's extraterritorial application of its AML/CFT Regime: Barbados and Mauritius as Case Studies

Alicia Nicholls, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Abstract

Westphalian sovereignty has long been a contested notion whose existence becomes ever-more tested in an increasingly interconnected world. However, the ability to maintain some autonomy over their internal affairs and political decisions remains a bedrock for post-colonial small island financial centres (IFCs) which have suffered from centuries of external control and oppression. The fragmented

global financial rule-making architecture in which a plethora of plurilateral organisations set the rules has been made it even more fraught for small IFCs to navigate owing to the European Union (EU)'s increasing attempt to impose its financial regulatory standards on non-EU jurisdictions. This paper probes whether the EU's extraterritorial application of its anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism and proliferation financing (AML/CFT/PF) directives to third jurisdictions, including Barbados and Mauritius, is a necessary consequence of the need to address the transborder nature of financial crime or alternatively, is merely blatant financial neocolonialism. Using the prism of postcolonial theories, the paper contends that EU extraterritorial application of its AML/CFT/PF regime is a blatant violation of these countries' sovereignty due to the EU's discriminatory and coercive application of these rules through blacklisting, the inability to influence or shape these rules that are being applied to them and the fact that the rules are in several ways going beyond what is required by the Financial Action Taskforce (FATF), the entity generally regarded as the global standard-setting body for AML/CFT/PF issues. The rules also have unintended consequences for small open economies like Barbados and Mauritius which are dependent on global trade and financial flows and which have used the financial services sector as an export diversification strategy.

Reducing Inequalities for Decolonizing Food and Nutritional Security

Nicholas Nisbett and Lidia Cabral, Institute of Development Studies, UK

Abstract

Issues of food justice and equity have risen up the global agenda of late, though have long been pursued by activists and others involved in wider food justice, food sovereignty and anti-racist, indigenous and women-led movements in food, agriculture policy domains or related areas such as land and labour rights.

In this session, Lídia Cabral and Nicholas Nisbett will speak to recent work carried out in partnership with others who are part of the Food Equity Centre, particularly the current report under debate by the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and work informing the G20 Summit in Brazil later this year, which will see the launch of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. They will examine different frameworks for food justice and equity under discussion by the CFS and others and ask to what extent such global conversations can help or hinder a decolonial project within food and nutrition security, sovereignty and justice.

Decolonizing Food- Unsettling plantation legacies from the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Caribbean

Patricia Northover, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Marisa Wilson, University of Edinburgh, UK

Ronalda Pairman, Yamaye Council of Indigenous People, Jamaica

Abstract

Food is more than just a biological need; it connects people with each other and with the complex ecosystems of the earth. Food works as a conduit for values and memories, for expressing culture and mediating diverse spiritual cosmologies of emergent life, being, time and community. But food also involves encounters with power, as food networks are historically shaped by colonial power matrices that reproduce plantation legacies such as epistemic violence and racial capitalism. To counter ongoing racial, epistemic and structural injustices of industrial capitalist food systems, scholars and activists have taken the imperative to decolonize food. In this presentation, we utilise place-based approaches to decolonizing research and practice to re-think food and climate crises from the African and Indigenous Caribbean.

The Bridgetown Initiative and enhanced policy autonomy for Caribbean states

Sandra Ochieng'-Springer, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Abstract

The Bridgetown Initiative is a policy proposal for reform of the global financial architecture and development finance in the context of three intersecting global crises (debt, climate and inflation). It outlines extensive systemic reform, with significant implications for both the climate and development landscapes, inextricably linked issues that have proved challenging to the region and enhanced vulnerability. The initiative questions deep rooted ideas related to global debt, international financial institutions and participation of the private sector in climate mitigation. It has opened conversations about global economic and financial governance in the context of the climate emergency as well as the enormous structural changes required for countries to overcome their debt crises. For the Caribbean, a region whose development has always been influenced by external factors whether through the activities of colonial powers, the operations of international development agencies and their promotion of market forces and privatization, the policy choices of the states have been limited. There are always grave trade-offs between benefiting from accepting international rules and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space. The Bridgetown Initiative proposes to enhance the flexibility of national policy with participation in the multilateral system. This paper will analyse the extent to which the Bridgetown Initiative seeks to enhance policy autonomy for Caribbean states.

Can Industry 5.0 provide the impetus to leapfrog other developed economies? Cases from the SIDS of the Caribbean

Cilla Pemberton, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Abstract

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean have been limited in their industry growth because of inherent characteristics such as high labour cost, small labour and goods markets, high import bills, prohibitive per capita cost of infrastructure and vulnerability to environmental and economic shocks.

Often disparagingly referred to, using terms such as 'Plantation Economies' or 'Banana Republics', the nations have mainly operated in the low value adding ends of supply chains. Some examples of these include cotton, cocoa, aragonite, bauxite, oil and gas and asphalt. The region has not even truly derived potential benefits from their creative industries such as fashion, festivals, culinary traditions, or music despite a strong history of innovation. The only recognised new percussion instrument of the 20th century, the steelpan, was invented in the region, namely Trinidad and Tobago.

Nonetheless, the region boasts several reputable universities such as The University of the West Indies, The University of Technology (Jamaica), The University of Trinidad and Tobago, The University of Guyana, The University of Belize, State University of Haiti, among many others, which all produce STEM scholars that excel throughout the world.

Industry 5.0 featuring artificial intelligence and integrated robotics, may present unprecedented opportunities for island states to 'leapfrog' over more developed societies. This case study is part of a series that investigates and identifies opportunities for development within the SIDS of the Caribbean, based on indigenous industries and small-size mitigating characteristics from the 3rd, 4th and 5th industrial revolutions. Design is recognised as key and the paper ends with a regional institution's thrust to develop a unique innovation and design programme, within a sustainability framework.

Caribbean Reparations: an elite approach of redress (by accumulation) or community self-determination?

Keston Perry, University of California, Los Angeles, USA

Abstract

The Caribbean Reparations program has adopted a top-down, elite-driven and state-centered approach that ignores more community-oriented and subaltern forms of knowledge, organization and being. The project neglects broader community needs for radical and new visions of democracy, economy, and society. It lacks an approach grounded in and molded by the peoples of the Caribbean and thus reflects a narrow vision of reparatory justice. This paper examines the current state of the reparations debate and its political strategies, ideological underpinnings, and epistemic limitations. It asks to what purpose reparations should be put. It questions the prevailing approach based on redress by accumulation centered on 'development' that may continue to marginalize large sections of workers and communities, including those already facing racialized and political exclusions. It offers a much more grounded basis for reparatory justice rooted in the everyday lives of Caribbean people beyond the neocolonial trappings of postcolonial liberal state and sovereignty. It also sheds light on the nature of disproportionate harm visited on Caribbean communities by extreme weather provoked by geopolitical, imperial, and capitalist forces that threaten economic displacements that must be central to reparations discussions and organizing. This intervention therefore calls for a more radical, emancipatory and abolitionist approach to reparations that may offer the possibility of upending ongoing socio-ecological and political economic relations that marginalize Caribbean peoples. This approach includes political education campaigns, community governance institutions and projects aimed at dismantling the legacies of (neo)colonialism, failures of postcolonial development and lasting imprint of neoliberal capitalism in the Caribbean.

Norman Girvan's Legacy: The Plantation Economy School, Existential Threats, and Caribbean Futures

Keston Perry, University of California, Los Angeles, USA

Kevin Edmonds, University of Toronto, Canada

Annita Montoute, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Jason Jackson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

Panel Outline

Norman Girvan was one of the quintessential Caribbean political economists and public scholars deeply committed to the future of the Caribbean as a self-determined, integrated, and federated region. His scholarly and political legacy on the Plantation Economy School (PES) is extensive covering a variety of topics ranging from international trade, regional integration, geopolitics, economic and social history, science and technology, industrial policy, culture, environment, economic development, social justice, governance, imperialism, among many others. While maintaining a close affinity to the dependency school in the social sciences, utilizing a heterodox methodological approach to understanding and acting on Caribbean problems, Girvan embraced and evolved his interdisciplinary analysis and a grounded approach to examining issues that centered the lives, needs and aspirations of Caribbean people across its linguistic, cultural, social, and political diversity. Girvan's work provided a rich sense of the Caribbean as generative sites for deeply intellectual and meaningful theories and analysis. Among his signature contributions to the PES was to appreciate the Caribbean as zones for corporate imperialism, in which "dependent underdevelopment" exemplified a reliance on external technology, investment, knowledge, and policy prescriptions that maintained its relationship with the industrialized world through the preeminence of the multinational corporation and later the international financial institutions. As part of his legacy, he theorized these ongoing relations by illustrating how the 21st century Caribbean confronted "existential threats" that bedeviled the region's capacity to address multifarious and interconnected problems that required a regional

approach and the destruction of the legacies of the plantation economy. This panel seeks to highlight a number of Girvan's contributions to the social sciences and broadly to Caribbean development, through his plantation economy theoretical and empirical work. The panel will focus on the importance of his work for the future of the Caribbean in the 21st century.

Truth and Facts: Archiving, Witnessing and Repair in Reckoning with 'Development' in Jamaica

Tka Pinnock, York University, Canada

Giselle Thompson, University of Alberta, Canada

Abstract

In his recent historic visit to Jamaica, World Bank President Ajay Banga praised the island-nation for its current economic health, noting that the country had managed its "macro situation very well" (Jamaica Information Service, 2023). He might be factually correct, but as Black activist and poet Maya Angelou remarked: "there's a world of difference between truth and facts. Facts can obscure truth." In this paper, we critique the macro 'facts' of economic development, arguing for a (renewed) attention to the quotidian experiences of Black Caribbean living to discover the 'truth of development.' Drawing on our individual notes and reflections on (auto)ethnographic fieldwork in Jamaica in a rural primary school (2018) and in various craft markets (2023), respectively, we propose that our experiences of doing research as diasporic researchers (Nixon and King, 2013,) as well as the daily experiences of those we do research with, offer a vantage point from which to contest and disrupt the status quo of development. Borrowing from Thomas (2019) and Welcome and Thomas (2021), we further argue that in archiving and bearing witness to the dailiness of Black Jamaican life we discover new and remade forms of refusal and repair that make it possible to imagine a decolonial and inclusive Caribbean future. Finally, in dialogue with broader Black and Caribbean feminist literatures (DeShong and Kempadoo, 2021), the paper also interrogates the ongoing political project of knowledge production concluding that our "itineraries of discovery" (Strong and Blanks Jones, 2022) of Black Caribbean living must adhere to an anticolonial ethics of care.

The Value-Laden Ontology of Development: Re-Conceptualizing Development as a Thick Concept

Maxwell Poitier, Carnegie Mellon University, USA

Abstract

Economic development is associated with increased growth, poverty reduction, and advancements in technology. However, conceptually, development remains contested as its associated terms "growth" and "poverty reduction" are vague/contested concepts. This paper will argue for two positions that address the social ontology of development. The first position is that development is not a descriptive term simpliciter. It is best understood as a 'thick' concept, i.e., a concept that has both evaluative/normative content in addition to having descriptive content. The upshot of re-casting development as a thick concept is access to an analysis that highlights the relationship between political value judgements that guide policy decisions and accepted economic theory. The second position is that the normative content of development is 'entangled' with its descriptive content, i.e., political value judgements shape and define what is designated as development and the causes of development. This view rejects the standard presupposition in economic theory that facts can be separated from values and additionally, development is both theory and value dependent. With the above position in mind, two cases of development in the Caribbean are evaluated. First, the case of The Bahamas' staunch commitment to the tourism industry and secondly, Barbados' increased investment in tourism. In both cases, commitment to tourism-based development is shown to be a result of top-down political values and conflict with value judgements that aim to redirect economies towards environmentally sustainable policies. The paper concludes by highlighting that conflicts of this nature are best conceptualized through the lens of thick concepts.

Navigating Economic Decolonization: Challenges and Opportunities in the Caribbean

Sandre Rhoden, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

Economic decolonization in the Caribbean presents a multifaceted challenge rooted in the historical repercussions of slavery and colonization. The Caribbean region's economic struggles stem from the history of exploitation, where the extraction of resources during the era of slavery profoundly impacted the Caribbean's wealth and development. The historical depletion of natural resources further compounded this, leaving the Caribbean states resource-deficient. Moreover, the aftermath of colonization perpetuated an imbalanced global economic system, where former colonial powers continued to benefit disproportionately at the expense of the Caribbean nations. Despite the formal end of colonial rule, the transition to independence did not ensure economic stability or provide adequate mechanisms for these states to thrive.

Lessons for Resilience: The Role of Stories, Memory and Caribbean Food in the Fight for a Climate Just Future

Nicole Plummer and Charmaine McKenzie, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

As climate change, geopolitical instability and economic uncertainty present unprecedented challenges, this paper takes the 'Sankofa' approach, that we find solutions to current crises by looking to the past. This paper discusses the role of Caribbean food heritage and memory in the struggle for climate just and sustainable futures. It presents the outcome of a series of workshops conducted under the Recipes for Resilience project, carried out between September 2021 and February 2022. The workshops, which utilised a variety of interdisciplinary and sensory methods, engaged 25 Afro-descendant and Indigenous youths aged 14 to 20 from across the Caribbean. The project, which was carried out by a team of researchers (Caribbean Foods for Climate Justice) from the Caribbean and the UK, connected youths to their food heritage and climate justice through stories, story-mapping and Padlet-based activities. This paper primarily reflects on the food stories told throughout the project, which sought to provide participants with a sense of belonging as well as to combat negative perceptions of ancestral foods while discussing the challenges of climate change. Through stories and songs, youth were encouraged to revalue ancestral foods and emboldened to express their feelings of dismay for the changing environment and what this means for their futures. This paper therefore concludes that stories, and in this case, food heritage and memory, are important tools for future sustainability.

The Impact of Trinidad and Tobago's Creative Sector on Sustainable Development: A Focus on the Steelpan Industry

Peter Poon Chong and Sandra Sookram, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Abstract

This paper aims to explore the impact of the creative sector, specifically the steelpan industry, on sustainable development in Trinidad and Tobago (TT). By examining the economic, social, and cultural implications of the industry, the paper seeks to shed light on its contribution to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A mixed-methods approach was employed to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the steelpan industry, providing an overview of the historical development, status, and key stakeholders. The research delves into the industry's economic impact, focusing on employment opportunities and

tourism revenue. Additionally, it explores the sociocultural implications, emphasizing the importance of preserving cultural heritage and fostering community engagement and social cohesion.

The findings highlight TT's steelpan industry economic contributions, showcasing the industry's role in generating employment and tourism attractions. It also identifies challenges faced in achieving SDGs, such as economic constraints and sociocultural dynamics.

This paper offers value through its focused examination of the industry and its contribution to the broader creative sector. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the economic and sociocultural implications, emphasizing its role toward SDGs. The research contributes original insights by exploring the unique cultural significance of the steelpan and its potential for economic growth.

The findings hold implications for industry stakeholders and future research. Policymakers can utilize the study's recommendations to support the steelpan industry's growth, promoting stakeholder collaboration and capacity building investments. Additionally, the research highlights the need for further exploration of the balance between economic growth and cultural preservation in achieving SDGs.

Agriculture's Digital Transformation in Jamaica: Adoption, Adaptation and Innovation

Paige Samuels, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

As international multilateral organisations and private industry advocate for digital transformation to solve the world's agricultural problems, this paper critically questions whether digital transformation will truly address agricultural challenges or exacerbate existing issues. Agriculture is no stranger to radical innovations and change, however, there are no one-way processes that determine the path of technical change. Rather, the literature on technical change points to complex factors shaping its character and process. Digital transformation is defined as the process of using digital technologies to make technical changes to the functionality of processes which can result in changes in society. Different contexts, history, agency and power dynamics all matter in shaping the forms of technical change and the benefits and costs it brings, especially to post-colonial spaces that bear a legacy of colonial domination. Practical research is essential in examining and assessing digital transformation in agriculture in the post-colonial world.

Further studies on the experiences of countries in the Global South would be useful to enhance our understanding of the adoption, adaptation, and innovation of digital technologies in agriculture in the Jamaican post-colonial experience, necessitating an analysis that examines these patterns and their socio-economic and policy implications.

In the context of the growing digital transformation of agriculture globally and in Jamaica, this paper will introduce a research design and conceptual approach for a comprehensive mixed-methods case study, that aims to examine patterns and processes involved in the adoption, adaptation, and innovation of digital technologies to address Jamaica's agricultural development and highlight its socio-economic and policy implications.

This proposed research seeks to fill this gap and contribute to a more informed and strategic approach to digital technology integration in the Jamaican agricultural sector. The overall study has specific objectives: to develop a conceptual framework suitable for the study of digital transformation of agriculture in Jamaica -a SIDs and post-colonial nation; to provide local knowledge and a deeper contextual understanding of digital technologies in Jamaican agriculture; and to facilitate evidence-based policymaking for the future resilience of Jamaican agriculture stakeholders and the agro-food system given the effects of climate change.

Addressing the Post-coloniality of Men, Masculinities and Standards of Manhood: Depatriarchal Politics for Development Justice in the Caribbean

Amílcar Sanatan, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Abstract

Public insecurity, the prevalence of gender-based violence and persistent economic inequalities among social groups in Caribbean societies have commanded the attention of policy-makers and scholars to reflect on the root causes of these issues. Post-COVID-19 development in the region has brought forward intersecting issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and environmental justice to the forefront. This paper centres critical theoretical and movement-based traditions that exist, but operate in the margins of mainstream development thought in Caribbean and Latin American societies which offer a critique of the contemporary state in the Caribbean and the masculinised, class-based, heteronormative standards in development. In this paper, I critique contemporary socio-political developments in recognition of the multiplicity of development actors and political contestations for space and power as part of our lived Caribbean experiences and argue that decolonial frameworks that are not attentive to gender inequalities and deeply rooted patriarchal cultures fall short of advancing a framework for justice in the development model and the well-being of Caribbean people.

Working and Walking the Methodology - A Decolonial approach to Institutional Ethnography

Amílcar Sanatan, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Abstract

Urban development and governance are often framed as large scale socio-spatial processes. However, development actors at “lower levels” - institutions and people in communities – are often decentred and excluded from these political processes. Grounded perspectives of urban everyday life and planning illustrate the complex meanings and coordination of development at multiple levels of society and in different spaces. My research applies a decolonial and feminist methodological approach to explore the cultural geographies of urban governance in East Port-of-Spain, specifically exploring the state’s Latrine Eradication Programme. I discuss the significance of Dorothy Smith’s conceptualisation of institutional ethnography, intersectionality and walking in my methodology. This approach gives attention to the interplay between gender and other categories of difference such as race, class, (dis)ability and sexuality as part of a larger decolonial praxis.

Navigating the Intersectionality of Immobility, Gender, and Food Insecurity: The Lived Experience of Refugees in Canada amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

Zhenzhong Si, Balsillie School of International Affairs, Canada

Abstract

Despite the existence of various government support programs, refugees in Canada faced various barriers accessing healthcare, economic assistance, and social support during the pandemic. This lack of support, coupled with significant shifts in mobility brought about by the implementation of various COVID-19 containment measures, exacerbated the pre-pandemic food insecurity among refugees in Canada. The worsening food insecurity underscores the gendered nature of the pandemic’s impacts, highlighting distinct challenges facing female refugees in terms of food security and other dimensions compared to their male counterparts. Based on a survey and in-depth interviews with Somali, Syrian and Afghan refugees settling in the Kitchener-Waterloo region, this research documents the gendered food experience of refugees during the pandemic and examines the pandemic’s impact on their food security. While most refugees expressed that migrating to Canada improved their overall food security, the pandemic led to a substantial deterioration in their household food security levels (with an average HFIAS score of 6.74). Factors contributing to this decline include soaring food prices, particularly for meat and vegetables, and worsening economic conditions stemming from job loss or

reduced work hours. Syrian refugees exhibited slightly higher levels of food insecurity compared to the other two groups. In addition, the study reveals a significant surge in the utilization of food banks due to the pandemic; however, it underscores persistent issues within these services that limit their impact. Moreover, the power of women in decision making was considerably limited due to high level of financial dependence upon other household members. Drawing on the notion of intersectionality in conceptualizing subjectivity, defining identity and shaping one's lived experience, this research unveils the intricate connections among health, gender, and food insecurity within vulnerable groups exposed by the pandemic. It calls attention to specific areas requiring policy interventions to enhance the food security and long-term livelihood viability of refugees in Canada.

Reforming Census-Taking Initiatives in the Face of Contemporary Local and Global Threats in the 21st Century

Godfrey St. Bernard, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Abstract

The modern Caribbean Census is at least 60 years old and has run out of steam. Yet census-taking or some variant of it is imperative in fuelling the needs of development planning regionally. In the 2020s, the social, cultural, administrative, economic, and environmental realities of the Anglophone Caribbean have adversely threatened traditional modes of census-taking. Thus, Caribbean census-taking has transcended the practices of the early 1960s, except for minor changes despite the prevalence of the 1960s model.

This paper strives to consider innovative census-taking strategies that are cognisant of the realities that prevail in the 2020s. It reinforces a reliance upon critical insights that thrive on demographic theory, mathematical and statistical modelling, and a host of secondary data sources that permit the collection of data on live births, deaths, and international migration.

A range of problems that negatively impact development policy agenda abound and prevail as ignorant technocrats and policy-makers continue to proffer uninformed claims about national population dynamic to the detriment of national planning for policy agendas. Having heard and listened to the woes of statisticians in several Anglophone Caribbean territories that have conducted the 2020 Round of Censuses, a set of woes have exacerbated census-taking challenges and warrant valid introspection and redress in the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This paper is informed by the author's encounters, reflections, and recommendations based on his professional experiences in achieving some measure of equilibrium between the provision of census data and the attainment of national development agendas.

Guadeloupe, genesis of an epistemic movement for the transformation of Caribbean food systems? / Guadeloupe, genèse d'un mouvement épistémique de transformation des systèmes alimentaires de la Caraïbe?

Thierry Tassius, Université des Antilles, Guadeloupe

Abstract (Translated)

Among the vital concerns present in the territory of Guadeloupe, food subsistence is actually more obscured than elucidated by the food security paradigm and associated productivism.

The consequences of the food security paradigm and associated productivism such as food dependence, the epidemic of obesity and other metabolic diseases, pollution of soils and bodies, are the subject of numerous health or legal debates.

This food addiction is not unambiguous. To mention the role of the Guadeloupean population in maintaining this dependence, particularly on food, Fred Réno coined the concept of "resource dependence" expressing the interactivity of the dependency relationship between the State and the

territory of Guadeloupe. The population of this territory has transformed addiction into a resource by maximizing the benefits of addiction.

We think that resource dependence expresses the coloniality of being which concerns the Guadeloupean population. Described by Nelson Maldonado-Torres and applied to the food system of Guadeloupe, the coloniality of being is characterized by the anthropological and exceptional fact for the Guadeloupean population of responding to its objective of food subsistence in an exogenous way, by the importation of foodstuffs.

In this situation of coloniality of the territory of Guadeloupe, what contestation or even opposition emanates from society - or from the people - concerning the capacity of the territory's food policy to respond to these issues?

Our field investigation allows us to affirm the existence of an agroecological social movement whose political, epistemic, historical and geopolitical dimensions could constitute a component of “a people’s Caribbean”.

Community-Centered Approaches: Black Studies Short Courses for Decolonial Education and Social Equity: a Post 1992 British University Case Study

Dionne Taylor, Birmingham City University, UK

Abstract

Black Studies Short Courses for Decolonial Education and Social Equity presents an innovative approach to education, rooted in the principles of decolonisation, centring community, mobilisation, and applying an intersectional lens to addressing issues of systemic inequity in British universities. This paper explores the emergence and significance of Black Studies at Birmingham City University, examining its intersections with African American Studies, critical race studies, and postcolonial studies. It examines the transformative potential of Black Studies Short Courses, focusing on three key themes: the accessibility and engagement with Black Studies, the centrality of community engagement, and the university as a metric driven space has brought about unintended consequences which have subsequently impacted on institutional priorities and been detrimental to Black students.

The paper outlines the rationale for utilising a multidisciplinary mixed method approach, a survey, and writing retreats as a methodological approach to course development, emphasizing community-based participatory action research and collaborative dialogue. It discusses the objectives and anticipated outcomes of these retreats, including the development of course content, potential for publication, and opportunities for community and professional engagement. Drawing on preliminary survey data, the paper identifies key areas of interest and demand for Black Studies Short Courses, highlighting the diverse perspectives and needs of practitioners across various fields.

Furthermore, the paper outlines the selection process and participant profile for the writing retreats, emphasising diversity in gender identity, geographical location, and professional affiliations which are reflective of the community and Black university students. It provides insights into the current participants and their affiliations with professional bodies, underscoring the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of Black Studies education.

Decolonising Knowledge for Development: From Reflection into Action

Peter Taylor, Institute of Development Studies, UK

Abstract

Alongside many debates on development and coloniality, interest continues to grow around intellectual ‘decolonisation’ or “decolonising knowledge”, which includes efforts to ensure that different knowledges and experiences from around the world are acknowledged and integrated, whilst also paying attention to addressing racial and social hierarchies. Within these debates and practical efforts, for example to decolonise research and teaching in the field of Development Studies,

inequalities and asymmetries loom large, including knowledge asymmetries. With its normative agenda, Development Studies is interested in the generation and use of knowledge not simply for its own sake but as a means of offering concrete approaches that can contribute to wider political change towards a more equitable and sustainable world. It is now widely accepted that there is no such thing as a single homogenous voice which can represent 'the local perspective' or 'the global South'. Drawing on the notion of a Pluriverse, the co-existence of different development debates is important to acknowledge and welcome, since these can help identify potential areas for practical action on decolonising knowledge. As part of this panel on decolonising knowledge for development this paper, will reflect on four key questions:

- What, and whose, knowledge is valued, counted, and integrated into development processes?
- How do we go about decolonising knowledge asymmetries – learning through research and teaching, and as researchers and educators?
- What kinds of investment are needed to promote learning and change?
- What is 'our' role in needed transformations, as individuals, as organisations, as institutions?

This reflection will aim to indicate how a convergence of development debates around decolonising knowledge can offer potential for actions that help drive positive transformations in development.

Food Security and Insecurity in Kingston, Jamaica and the Role of Migration Remittances as an Enabler for Inclusive Social Development

Elizabeth Thomas Hope, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

This paper raises questions about the implications of migration for inclusive social development in Kingston, Jamaica. This is based on an assessment of the relationship between remittances and food security at the household level. Emphasis is placed on whether remittances have made a difference in reducing the food insecurity associated with poverty and thus could contribute to inclusive social development. A city-wide survey of Kingston based on a sample of households in communities spanning different socioeconomic sectors was conducted to provide the data. Three indicators were used to measure food security/Insecurity. Since there were the highest levels of food insecurity among the poorest households, the correlations between remittance receipt and household food security of the poor were measured. Although there was no evidence of a trend of migrant remittances that promote food security to the extent that they would contribute to inclusive social development, remittances in cash and food were of considerable importance in mitigating the consequences of poverty by improving the levels of food insecurity existing among the urban poor.

A Grounding: Seeking Reparatory Justice through Collectivity

Nyala Thompson Grunwald, University College London, UK

Abstract

The Plantation structure, as implemented in the Caribbean and the Americas, crucially shaped the manufacture of race, processes of racialisation and colonisation in the world. As a social, agricultural, political, and economic system, the Plantation housed the 'refinement' of non-human capital, processing 'human' as the negative space of commodity. This paper will address the legacies of Plantation economy (as Best demonstrated), their realisation in Caribbean realities, and in the long emancipation (theorised by Rinaldo Walcott) of Caribbean bodies and communities. How can we think beyond Plantation economy and society through collectivity, as conceived in the Caribbean through such (for instance) modes of 'being' as marronage (following Wynter) and steelpan?

Homophobia as a Legacy of Colonialism

Catherine Trotman, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Abstract

As an archaic legacy of colonial rule, after independence Barbados opted to keep legislation signalling heterosexuality as the norm (Robinson, 2009). These laws indicated that homosexual acts carried out in private or public were illegal under the buggery act and punishable with a life sentence in prison (Sexual Offences Act 1992, Chapter 154, sec. 9; Sexual Offences Act 1992, Chapter 154, sec. 12). Recently, the country has repealed these laws in its creeping journey to grant equal rights to persons in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and other minority sexuality community (LGBTQ+).

Discriminatory laws invite stigma, oppression and violence – they serve to legitimise discrimination and hostility (Human Rights Watch, 2018). The United Nations note that criminalisation of private consensual homosexual acts is a violation of an individual’s right to privacy and non-discrimination, constituting a breach of international human rights law regardless of if these laws are enforced (United Nations Human Rights Council, 2011). The laws reinforced homophobia and societal prejudices and increased the negative effects of prejudices on the lives of LGBTQ+ persons (United Nations Human Rights Council, 2011).

This shift towards decriminalization reflects Barbados' commitment to inclusivity, social progress, and aligning with international standards of human rights. However, changing laws do not indicate social inclusion. The LGBTQ+ population experience the correlates of living within a homophobic society: reduced employability (Hoyte & Parry, 2018), struggles with homelessness and stable housing (Corliss, Goodenow, Nichols & Austin, 2011), gender-based violence (Wirts, Poteat, Malik & Glass, 2020) and increased mental health issues (Iguarta, Gill & Montoro, 2003).

This paper reviews current literature to discuss themes such as social justice, human rights and dignity, intersectional issues and the impact of decolonialisation and subsequent cultural shifts on the experience of the LGBTQ+ population in Barbados. Recommendations for future governmental and non-governmental action will be discussed.

Recognizing and mitigating cognitive biases: An imperative for productivity, equity, and sustainable development

Grace Virtue, Elite Global Public Affairs, USA

Abstract

Among the broad sweep of his work in psychology and economics, Nobel Prize winner Daniel Kahneman and his partner Amos Tversky, introduced the term “cognitive bias” to describe the normalized but often flawed decision-making process, even among highly competent thinkers, and the skewed outcomes they produce.

Defined as mental or heuristic shortcuts, cognitive biases in education, the workplace, and society at large, are problematic because they typically result in wholly unsupported judgments in favor of, or against a thing, person, or group. The advantage that accrues to some individuals or groups, automatically means that those without similar characteristics (whatever they are), are disadvantaged or penalized.

Where these practices are widespread and deeply entrenched, it is reasonable to conclude that intractable inequities, social conflict, and even violent crimes have their genesis in our tendency to act on biases, typically grounded in variables like race/skin color, ethnicity, gender, marital status, age, disability, social class, religion, or nationality, among others. These conditions are widely prevalent in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.

Foundational to decolonization and equitable societies, without which maximum productivity or authentic development is not possible, is the need for leaders at all levels to be able to identify, understand, and dismantle systems built on biases.

My presentation explores the nature of biases, how they manifest, and strategies to mitigate them.

Remittances and government expenditures on human capital in developing countries

Kevin Williams, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Abstract

I investigate the effect that remittances have on government expenditures on human capital within a large panel of developing countries. Remittances reduce government expenditures on education by 0.23 - 0.84 percentage points for every 10 percentage point increase in remittances. Remittances, by contrast, increase government expenditures on health by 0.99 - 1.83 percentage points for every 10 percentage point increase in remittances. These findings indicate that remittances induce reallocation of government expenditures from education to health. Democratic political institutions shape the relationship between remittances and government expenditures on human capital. I present additional evidence that government expenditures on education respond differentially to remittances in Small Island Developing States, a group of countries with unique characteristics that make them vulnerable to adverse economic and environmental shocks.

Geographical Indication Laws: Towards Post-Colonial Justice for former Plantation Economy Crops

Yentyl Williams, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Bryan Khan, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago,

Enrico Bonadio, City University, UK

Abstract

Geographical Indications (GIs) are signs which protect the reputation, quality, and characteristics of goods originating in a specific territory. They have gained prominence as subject matter in international trade, especially via their inclusions in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). While they have been developed and used in the European context for two centuries, they have only recently been implemented in law in CARICOM countries (2000s) as they have become compliant with their obligations under World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). This emergence of GI laws in the Caribbean prompts important questions about GIs in the contemporary context of globalization, calls for reparative justice and the pursuit of sustainable development to eradicate global inequalities through economic liberalization. This paper applies an inter-disciplinary approach - law, socio-legal and political economy analyses - to assess out how GI laws can be harnessed as emancipatory legal tools to contribute to sustainable development and the aspirations of poverty eradication sought by Caribbean SIDS in today's post-colonial setting, specifically for former plantation economy communities historically deprived of this opportunity. It draws on the case study of Caribbean rum GI, a quintessentially Caribbean product made from the colonial cash crop, sugar. The paper seeks to assess how rums are protected across the English, French and Spanish and Dutch-speaking Caribbean territories, and by extension, the opportunity for these GI products to contribute to promoting sustainable development for Caribbean SIDS.

Finding strength within – The use of culturally affirming approaches to effect positive and sustainable social change

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Abstract

Historically, policy makers, programme planners, researchers and academics have relied on Western approaches to discover the 'truths' behind social issues in the Caribbean. The gaps between these approaches and the practices of local people have threatened the extent of participation, buy-in, and ownership to ensure effective and sustained change. More recently, there has been a thrust (especially from within academia) to establish the need for decolonial approaches to understand Caribbean people and their experiences. Yet these approaches still exist against the backdrop of the colonial discourse, maintaining a standard of comparison to prove and justify the worth of these decolonial methods.

This paper is not intended to discredit the contribution of decolonial approaches in the Caribbean, but rather to challenge us to focus more inward on the intrinsic values and strengths of local ways of knowing and understanding Caribbean people and their experiences. Culturally affirming methodologies draw on the values, practices, and traditions of those from whom knowledge is sought or change is required. The illustration is given of the use of liming and ole talk as one such affirming methodology within some Caribbean countries. It represents the pulling together of people in a shared space to discuss a common issue. The process is usually fluid yet intentional in ensuring the participation of all in yielding a collective understanding of the nature of the issue and a consensus on strategies to effect change that can positively impact those involved. The success of culturally affirming approaches as tools for social transformation and development have been evidenced in other cultures (such as the use of Kaupapa Māori in New Zealand). Similarly, it is expected that the use of our own ways of knowing and doing will yield an in-depth understanding of our practices and establish a common ground for effecting positive and sustainable social change.