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The Determinants of Migrant Transfers in the Caribbean and Policies to Enhance and Sustain such Flows for Development: Theoretical and Empirical Considerations

Principal Researcher: Dr. Dillon Alleyne
Department of Economics

The purpose of this ongoing research project is to determine the factors which explain total resource flows from Caribbean migrant communities to the region, at the micro and macro-levels, and to examine the various ways to encourage the sustenance of these flows for economic development. This analysis will focus on total resource flows from the Caribbean migrant communities to the region. The role and impact of migrant remittances in the Caribbean cannot be ignored and in recent years, there has been some work in explaining the factors determining such flows (See Kirton, 2003, Campbell, 2003, Samuel, 1996). The extent to which these flows make a difference can be seen from looking at the data since 1996. For example, of the countries for which data are available, Jamaica accounts for 76% of the total remittances to the region and remittance to Jamaica increased by almost 50% between 1996-2001. Belize, Bahamas, Barbados and Guyana account for 3.5%, 0.1%, 8.7% and 4.4% percent of the regional inflows respectively (Kirton, 2003). Two OECS countries, St. Kitts-Nevis and St. Lucia received increases in remittances of over 40% during the period.

When one examines remittances as a percentage of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), the remittances are significant for Jamaica, Belize, Barbados, and Grenada. Remittances as a share of GDP were between 11% and 12% for Jamaica between 1996 and 2001 and were 14.7% and 18.5% for Montserrat in 1996 and 1999, respectively. The size of these flows in some of the economies of the region is so large that instability in these flows can have destabilising effects.

The new trade regime and its impact on traditional exports such as sugar, bananas, and rum, will pose balance of payments difficulties for many Caribbean economies in the short run. This is complicated further by the decline in import duties, which increase the stress on fiscal management, a problem that has already emerged in St. Vincent. From a policy perspective, any effort that encourages remittance flows can help to ease the pain of adjustment. Remittances can also help to lift the balance of payments constraint in a number of developing economies (See Thirlwall and Hussain, 1982 Moreno-Brid, 2001).

In terms of output from this project, a body of theoretical and empirical research work, which explains the factors influencing migrant transfers to the Caribbean and shows their impact on economic development will be published. To this end, the study will seek to gather and analyse new data from a remittance module to be administered by STATIN.



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It will also bring together a network of colleagues engaged in the teaching and research in this area to build expertise and research skills in understanding migrant resource flows to the Caribbean. At Mona, there is a working group consisting of colleagues from the Department of Economics, the Department of Sociology and the Department of Management Studies who are engaged in analyzing the various aspects of this issue from a multidisciplinary perspective. This group, the Mona Research Group, will assemble resource material constituting both macro and micro data that could help to enhance the study of this topic and provide a better basis for policy analysis.

This work will also provide an opportunity for the introduction of a new course in microeconomics that focuses on the economics of migrant resource flows and how these impact on economic and social development. Given the significance of such a course, it could also be tailored to suit policy makers engaged in crafting policies towards migrants.



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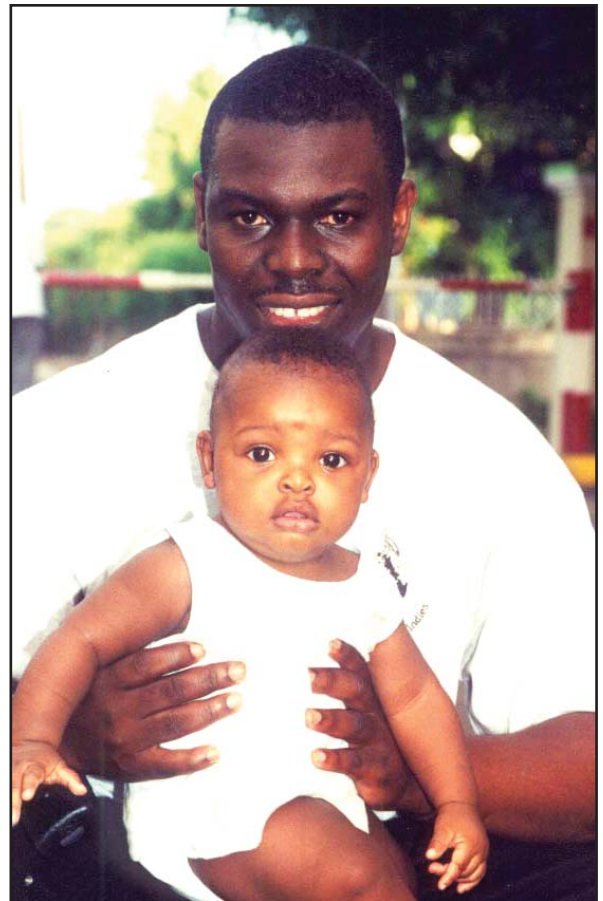
The Changing Roles of Fathers in the Context of Jamaican Family Life

Principal Researcher: Dr. Patricia Anderson
Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work

The objectives of this ongoing research project are to examine the current attitudes and behaviour of a cross-section of Jamaican men in regard to their fathering roles, and to assess how far these represent a change from the patterns documented by the researcher 13 years ago. This project seeks to locate such changes within the wider context of socio-historical and cultural changes in Jamaica, and in relation to the growing movement around fathers' rights.

The first phase of the project involved qualitative work, which is to be followed by a survey of men in four communities. The qualitative work entailed focus-group discussions with men from two social classes, based on occupation level, and two age-groups. From these discussions among fathers, the following patterns emerged:

- (i) It was evident that fathers themselves go through a developmental cycle which entails their being able to ultimately accept the child as another adult. Among both classes, there was the repeated definition of the father's role as "being there" for the child. This is in contrast to earlier studies, which reported that the father's role was defined primarily as economic provider.
- (ii) It was observed that among the middle class fathers, there was a prolonged period of supporting children and trying to guide them onto a secure career footing. This may be related to efforts to prevent downward mobility. There was also evidence of continuing gender differentiation in the rearing of boys and girls, with the father's role being that of a mentor for boys, while being a support for girls.



Father & Child



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- (iii) Among the working class, the father role seemed to be that of a master status, so that once they had decided to publicly declare this role, they were now recognized as “a good man” and as “someone you can trust”. The importance of the father role in providing motivation and direction was made explicit by the working class sample (“Being a father gives me the drive to survive”). This was not expressed in the same manner by the middle class sample, although some of this may be taken for granted by this stratum. All of the fathers in the working class group stated the importance of being physically affectionate to their children, even while acknowledging that other persons may regard them with suspicion. The dangers that beset children in poor violence-prone communities, as well as their strategies for dealing with these, were made explicit by this group.
- (iv) The question of outside children, different sets of children and the stepfather role pointed to a pattern which has not received much attention – namely that where the mother keeps the child of her first union in the new family, she may actively discriminate against the child. From the fathers’ perspective, the stepfather role seems to work best when the child is accepted at a young age, and therefore grows with him as his own child.



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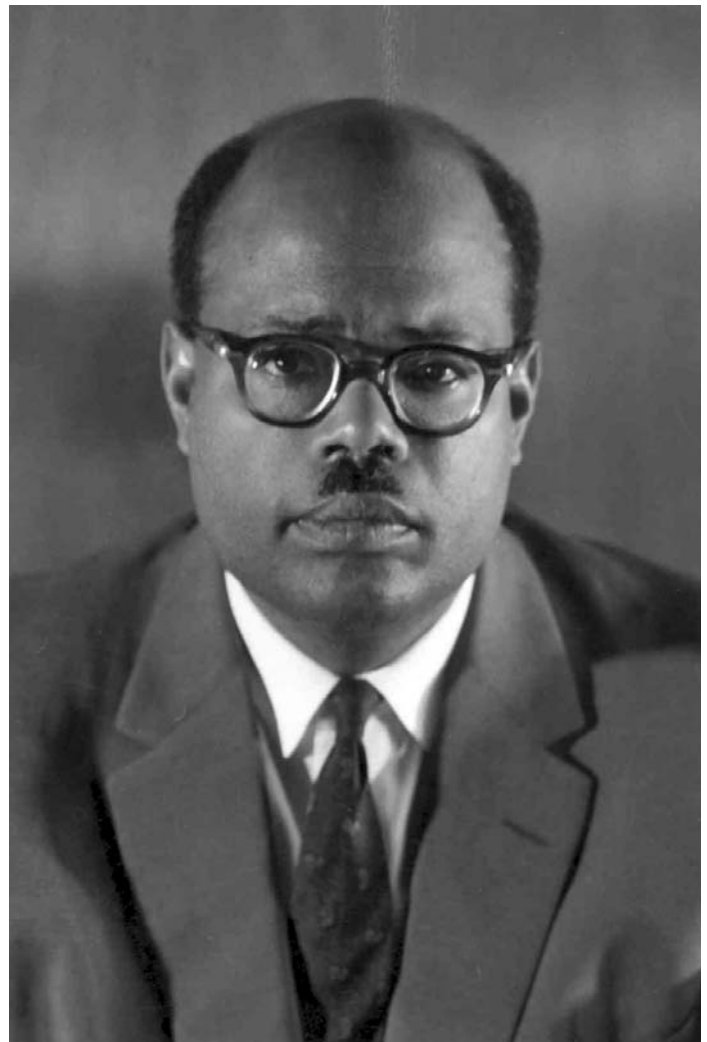
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Caribbean Economic Thought: Establishing a Firmer Foundation for the Field of Study

Principal Researcher: Mark Figueroa
Department of Economics

The research project aims to compile a critical mass of scholarly work (research and teaching material) on the History of Caribbean Economic Thought. Based on this research, a number of articles and edited collections will be produced which should contribute to the development of the subject as an established field of study. The work to be undertaken in the project relates closely to a number of recent initiatives that focus on UWI, Mona as a centre for the study of Caribbean culture and, more specifically, a centre for the study of Caribbean ideas.

This work will also be carried out as a collaborative venture across the four main Caribbean language sub-regions and efforts will be made to forge links with a broad team of Caribbean researchers engaged in similar activities. By pursuing an approach that is truly pan-Caribbean in its focus, this project should contribute to greater regional understanding and cooperation in the field of research and teaching in Economics. This approach should enable the researchers to develop a better understanding of how economic policy was developed in the past and also indicate what directions might be possible in the future. So far the greatest interest has been elicited from Cuban colleagues and as a result, the translation and publication in Spanish of works by English-speaking Caribbean economists is presently being done.



Sir Arthur Lewis



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Research findings to date strongly support the view that the Caribbean has a rich tradition of economic thinking, both academic and pre-academic. While there are many common aspects to Caribbean history, each language area and major territory within these areas have evolved in ways that are sometimes quite distinctive. Significant texts and individuals have been identified throughout the history of Caribbean Thought that merit more detailed study beyond what has been undertaken thus far. The material produced from this research will be used in the teaching of the history of Caribbean ideas across the Caribbean.

A website has been established at <http://acecet.uwimona.edu.jm/> where papers related to the project's work can be found. In addition, two papers have been completed for publication, *Thought and Freedom: Thirty-five Years After* in Independent Thought and Caribbean Freedom: Essays in Honour Lloyd Best, ed. by Selwyn Ryan, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, 2003 pp. 35-70 and *W. Arthur Lewis's Legacy: Industrialization or Agricultural Development?*, in The Manchester School of Social and Economic Studies, 2004, 72, 6, pp. 734-48. Other papers, being finalized for publication, can be obtained from the researcher including: *Recovering the Caribbean Intellectual Tradition: the Case of Economic Thought* and *A City Confronts Its Problems: Kingston's Mayor Anderson's 1938 Economic and Industrial Conference*.



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The Social and Aesthetic Foundations of Popular Jamaican Music, 1952 to 1972

Principal Researcher: Dr. Clinton Hutton
Department of Government

This research project seeks to study the social, political and cultural ethos which gave rise to the sound system that developed as a national movement in Jamaica in the early 1950s. There will also be an examination of the aesthetic roots (including the methodological) of the popular music form. The work involved interviews with key players in the Jamaican music industry and a review of the relevant artifacts, literature, and audio-visual material.

Based on the work done to date, it was found that this popular movement consisted of tens of thousands of mainly young and emerging Jamaican adults who coalesced around the sound system in weekly performance rituals for aesthetic and entertainment gratification. This movement evolved to become the most significant national identity constructing cultural phenomenon within the last fifty years and probably in the entire social history of this land.

At its most basic level, the sound system is a portable electronic music playing assemblage designed for mass (dance) entertainment. It combines various elements, namely: amplifier(s), turntable(s), a variety of speakers installed primarily in wooden based boxes (speaker boxes), a significant stock of records, mostly made from vinyl, though more recently tapes and CDs are included as a supplement to vinyl stocks, and is operated by one, two or a small group of Selector-Disc Jockeys (DJs). The aesthetic sense and skill of the DJ in selecting, toasting (dj-ing), choreographing and playing the music, to a great extent, determine the mood, success and consequently, the reputation and viability of each sound system.

At the broader level, the sound system is a Jamaican invention. The agency of this creation utilized improvisational aesthetic practices similar to those evident in traditional Jamaican music and dance forms, such as Burn, Jangkuun and Mento-quadriple, to develop what has become a Jamaican institution. What is amazing about the creation of the sound system phenomenon is that it spawned a national cultural/entertainment movement of global ontological significance. The sound system inspired Headley Jones to dramatically improve upon the imported amplifier technology and ushered in new breakthroughs in electronic sound technology in Jamaica and the world. Jones's innovation





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pushed the wattage of the amplifier from 50 up to 200. The impact of this on the electronic production of sound was immediate to the ears of the dance fans. Moreover, Jones was able to use this innovation to separate different sounds in a particular musical composition. He, in effect, made an equalizer.

In terms of its contribution to the society, the sound system movement was able to unearth, inspire and mobilize the creative genius of the largest constituency of creative persons in Jamaica. Indeed, one could consider this constituency in the vanguard of a national cultural identity constructing movement which was part of the wider national movement for independence and sovereignty.



Dizzy' Johnny Moore - one of the founders of Ska's greatest band, the Skatalites

The father of Jamaica's recording industry, the late Clement Dodd in 2004 at a function marking the renaming of Brentford Road to Studio One Boulevard.



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Envisioning Caribbean Futures

Principal Researcher: Professor Brian Meeks
Department of Government

This research project will seek to move beyond the typical short term studies on Caribbean political economy in order to envision and imagine the middle and even long term possibilities for a better life in the Caribbean region.

The study is conceived in two parts. The idea in the first is to utilize the contemporary literature both for and against globalization in order to suggest possible realistic scenarios for the global environment that the region will have to face over the next few decades. From this foundation, an attempt will be made to interrogate the recent and contemporary literature from the Caribbean which proposes new social and political arrangements in order to arrive at a syncretic and alternative philosophical approach beyond 'developmentalism' and neo-liberalism. In the second part of the study, this approach will be used to suggest and elaborate an entire framework for novel social and political arrangements for the region.

The broad 'Ideas Draft' for the study has recently been published as: "Envisioning Caribbean Futures", *Social and Economic Studies*, vol.52 no.4, May/June 2003, pp. 165-187.





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Strengthening Caribbean Democratic Governance: Institutional Dimensions

Principal Researcher: Professor Trevor Munroe
Department of Government

The purpose of this completed research project was to conduct an in-depth examination of the new challenges facing democratic governance in the Caribbean that stem from recent developments associated with corruption, illicit narcotics-trafficking and, more generally, from corporate globalization. On the basis of this study, a range of policy-relevant recommendations were developed for use in the ongoing efforts to reinforce strengths and reduce weaknesses in Caribbean democratic governance.

The research findings pointed to a “clear and present danger” for Caribbean democratic governance posed by the power-imbalances in corporate globalization, the immensity of illicit narcotics-trafficking and corruption-related crime. Nevertheless, the real strengths in Caribbean democratic systems were found to be the deep foundations of competitive party politics, a highly developed freedom of the press and an increasingly active civil society. The study posited that, under the prevailing circumstances, urgent reforms are needed to sustain democratic governance in the region. It therefore proposed a menu of measures for institutional transformation related primarily to the criminal justice system, legislative-executive relations, labour market reform, political finance reform and differential treatment of small island states in the international community.

These findings had been and are still being presented to the scholarly community, policy makers and international development partners in a series of conferences, workshops and symposia. It is anticipated that this research should not only advance academic research and theorizing on the Caribbean but also contribute to the elaboration and implementation of urgent reforms in Caribbean democratic governance. As such, much use was made of the research in debates in the Jamaican Senate and in the Joint Select Committees of the Jamaican Parliament. The findings were also utilized in the preparation of several publications, technical papers and conference presentations.

Summary of Published Work from Research include:

- “The Menace of Drugs.” Chapter 4 in Caribbean Security in the Age of Terror: Challenge and Change. Ed. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Ian Randle Publishers, Kingston 2004, pp. 154 – 175.
- “Governance under threat: The impact of corruption and the fight against Corruption.” Chapter 19 in Governance in the Age of Globalisation: Caribbean Perspectives. Eds. Denis Benn and Kenneth Hall, Ian Randle Publishers, Kingston 2003, pp. 369 – 382.



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- National Integrity System – Country Study Report: Caribbean Composite 2004 Commonwealth Countries Project – Transparency International, March 2004.
- National Integrity System – Country Study Report: Jamaica 2003 – Commonwealth Countries Project – Transparency International, August 2003.
- Party Funding and Campaign Financing in Jamaica (Report for The Organisation of American States), June 2003. “Combating Corruption in Jamaica” sponsored by the Media Association of Jamaica and the Carter Centre Kingston Jamaica.
- “Analysing the business response” Research Colloquium Management Studies Department, UWI, Mona. Presented “Building a Strong and Cohesive Team” to Senior Management Team Retreat, Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (Jamaica), Kingston.
- “Globalization, Trade Unions and the Challenges of Leadership in Small Island States” sponsored by the Bermuda Industrial Union, Hamilton, Bermuda.
- “Corporate globalization and Caribbean Labour Policy” at 1st Caribbean Labour Policy Conference sponsored by the University of the West Indies and the University of Toronto, Kingston, Jamaica.
- “Towards the Development of Broad-Based Participatory Growth in Jamaica” on panel “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: How Critical is the Broad-Based Participatory Growth Process?” at 9th Annual Retreat of the International Development Partners (IDPs) in Jamaica Beaches Boscobel Resort, Oracabessa, Jamaica.
- “Political Parties in Jamaica: The Way Forward” at Patriots West Public Lecture Series, Montego Bay Community College, Jamaica.
- “Corruption and Anti-Corruption in Jamaica” to World Bank staff during Public Sector Learning Week, World Bank, Washington D.C., USA.
- “Corporate Globalisation and the Way Forward” at Retreat, Executive, National Commercial Bank Staff Association, Beaches Boscobel Retreat, Oracabessa, Jamaica.



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- “Between the Old and New Politics” at symposium on the Implications of the 2002 General Elections for Policies and National Development in Jamaica, Department of Government, UWI, Mona.
- “Crisis in Leadership? Searching for Solutions” at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica Forum on Public Sector Leadership Responsibility, Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica.
- “The Ombudsman and Parliament” at the Third Regional General Conference of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association, Breezes, Runaway Bay, Jamaica.