

The Determinants of Migrant Transfers to the Caribbean and Policies to Enhance and Sustain such Flows for Development

Principal Researcher:
Dr. Dillon Alleyne
 Department of Economics

The study, which was conducted over the period 2004 to 2005, examined the determinants of migrant transfers to the Caribbean. It was designed to answer a number of questions related to migration and the flow of international remittances to the Region. The Inter American Development Bank (IADB) estimates that some US\$180b was transferred from developed to developing countries in 2005, of which approximately US\$54b went to Latin America and the Caribbean. This represents the largest amount going to any region and exceeded the entire flow of foreign aid and foreign direct investment to the region. Despite the magnitude of these flows, few papers have examined its possible impact on Caribbean economies before 2004.

The major objectives of the study were:

- to develop a global data base of remittance data in general and for Latin America and the Caribbean in particular;
- to develop a special remittance module to be administered by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ);
- to develop a theory of remittance flows to Latin America and the Caribbean;
- to study the macro determinants of remittances to the Caribbean;
- to examine the institutional arrangements which help to encourage remittances and return migration to the Caribbean; and,
- to examine the impact of remittances on poverty and income inequality in Jamaica.

The findings of the study revealed that while the impact of remittances has been substantial within the Caribbean region, government policies designed to encourage such flows have not been informed by best practices in other jurisdictions. The results of the macroeconomic analysis suggest that government policy can help to increase the flow of remittances over time. These can take the form of fiscal and monetary policies, as well as, incentives towards groups and associations interested in developing the region. Additionally, remittances increase access to credit and open up opportunities for poor and middle income earners to become more entrepreneurial.

At the microeconomic level, the study examined the impact of remittances on poverty and income inequality in Jamaica and found the biggest impact to be in rural areas. However remittances did not alter the distribution of income since remittances were received by all income groups.

Further analysis is ongoing. However, the findings to date could help policy makers and advisors to develop better policy responses regarding the use of remittances for development initiatives locally and regionally.

Below is a list of the articles/publications that have emanated from the project to date:

The Determinants of Migrant Transfers to the Caribbean and Policies to Enhance and Sustain such Flows for Development

Alleyne, D. 2006. Motivations to Remit in CARICOM: A GMM approach. *Social and Economic Studies*. (forthcoming).

Alleyne, D., G. McLeod, C. Kirton and M. Figueroa 2006. Short-Run Macroeconomic Determinants of Remittance Flows to Jamaica 1983.1-2001.4. Accepted for publication in the Journal, *Applied Economics Letters*.

Alleyne, D., C. Kirton, and M. Figueroa 2006. Macroeconomic Determinants of Migrant Remittances to Caribbean Countries. Panel Unit Roots and Cointegration. Accepted for publication in, *Journal of Developing Areas*.

Kirton, C, D. Alleyne, and M. Figueroa 2006. The Determinants of Migrant Remittances: The CARICOM experience. (Forthcoming), the *Association of Caribbean Economists (ACE)*. •

The Impact of Violence on Children and Families in Jamaica

Principal Researcher:
Dr. Claudette P.J. Crawford-Brown
 Department of Sociology,
 Psychology & Social Work

This research project examined the impact of community violence on children and adolescents who were victims and perpetrators of different forms of violence in their homes, schools and communities. It looked at the impact of violence on the social and behavioural functioning of a cohort of 115 children, drawn from two primary schools, that were observed during the school year over a two-year period. This study was part of a larger project set up to test the effectiveness of specific clinical and community-based intervention models for reducing symptoms of violent behaviour in inner-city primary and all-age school children in Kingston, Jamaica.

CLIENT PROFILE

Client Name:

Client Age:

Client Sex: Male Female

Type of Crisis:

Duration of Crisis: Ongoing Sudden

Previous Crisis:

Nature

Incidence

Crisis Resulting in Death:

Nature

Client System Affected

Crisis Resulting in Harm/Injury to self/others:

Nature

Client System Affected

Owing to the purposive nature of the sample, all of the children were drawn from communities where they had been exposed to ongoing violence for at least a year. Of the total sample investigated, approximately 80% had either witnessed 5-8 murders or had personally known 5-8 murder victims. For approximately 10% of the sample, the number was less than 4, while the remaining 10% had witnessed 9 or more murders or had personally known 9 or more murder victims. In one case, a child reported that he had witnessed "plenty plenty more than nine Miss but not as much as 20". In the majority of the cases investigated, the children had been exposed to multiple types of traumatic incidents involving gun warfare and/or violent injury.

Given the nature of the trauma that these children experienced, the most significant and surprising finding of this study was that only a relatively small proportion of the sample of children and adolescents interviewed exhibited the classic symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other disorders usually associated with exposure to this level of trauma. This suggests that there were specific adaptive (or maladaptive - "*The Ah Nuh Nutten Syndrome*") responses that the children had developed as coping mechanisms which requires further investigation.

In investigating one set of these responses dubbed the "*Ah Nuh Nutten Syndrome*", the researcher sought to examine the phenomenon in greater detail and developed a model to explain the range of reactions that are currently being presented by Jamaican children and adolescents as a response to the constant bombardment of their psyches by various forms of violence. With the help of graduate students in social work and psychology, a prototype of an

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assessment tool for trauma reactions in Caribbean children was developed and could potentially be tested and used by Caribbean researchers in the future.

Many of the reactions reported in this study are not documented in the traditional listing of mental disorders used internationally, in terms of their behavioural definitions and clinical presentation. The survey results suggest these reactions include, but are not confined to, forms of reactive depression which are similar to those which gave rise to various names previously assigned to inner-city urban Jamaican gangs, such as the "Nah live fi Nutten Crew" which links back to older names which emerged out of the 1970's such as The "Born fi Dead Posse". The study also suggests that these are possible adaptive attitudes (some of which may represent an element of pathology) which have become institutionalized in Jamaican urban youth for some time, but which are now percolating through the schools and communities and other agencies where children are being socialized.

The discussion of the findings suggests that if these children continue to grow up without intervention at various levels, the society may be producing a set of children who are at risk of developing, or have already developed a pervasive sense of hopelessness and an almost trivialized sense of death and dying. This is manifested by the mind-set of criminalized youth who espouse the "Mek a Duppy Syndrome" when referring to the act of killing someone. Here, the act of killing is almost perceived as a game, where the lives of victims, whether children or adults are seen merely as pawns in that game.

The research suggests that these may be clinical behavioural presentations, perhaps unique to Jamaica and possibly the Caribbean, that require further study and intensive intervention at the level of the individual within the family, the community, and the society.

The following presentation / publications emanated from the study;

1. Presentation at the Criminology Conference in February 2006, hosted by the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago.
2. Presentation titled, "The Impact of Violence on Children in Jamaica", delivered at the Caribbean Conference on Children sponsored by UNICEF and the UWI Caribbean Child Development Centre.
3. Manuscript titled, "Children in the Line of Fire: The Impact of Violence on Children and Families in Jamaica", accepted for Publication by the UWI Press. •



Principal Researcher:
Dr. Anne Crick
 Department of Management Studies

The Role, Value and Management of Front Line Work in Caribbean Hotels

The Caribbean is the world's most tourism dependent region and is likely to continue to be so as other sectors decline in competitiveness. While the issue of sustainability has been placed in the spotlight in recent years, the human resource aspect of the industry has received less attention, although it too is of critical importance. Indeed tourism is somewhat unique in that there are relatively few 'back office' jobs and most employees can be expected to have some form of interaction with visitors. Furthermore, according to tourism experts, it is the quality of these interactions that will determine the level of success of the industry and distinguish one destination from another. In these host-visitor interactions, the onus is always on the host employee to display the appropriate demeanour and attitude towards the visitor.

This study examines the origin of the attitudes of tourism front line workers towards their jobs, and in particular to the emotional and aesthetic aspects of those jobs. The study extends previous work done by the researcher by examining how these attitudes vary among different Caribbean destinations and are influenced by their history, tourism product and culture. The completed work will provide an overview of the nature and source of attitudes towards front line work in Caribbean tourism and clearly indicate the challenges as well as the opportunities in the industry. It will provide data on which regional policy makers such as the Caribbean Tourism Organization and Caribbean Hotel Association can build their strategies and to which educational institutions throughout the region can respond. It will also provide the first such overview of front line work in Caribbean tourism and will therefore be useful to students and academics alike. •



Principal Researcher:
Dr. Marie Freckleton
Department of Economics

The Competitiveness of CARICOM's Exports

The research project analyses the competitiveness of CARICOM's main exports in North America and the European Union. The main focus of the study is on the calculation of quantitative indicators of competitiveness to determine CARICOM's competitive position in its major export markets. Other aspects of the study include qualitative analysis of the factors that constrain export production and an assessment of the effectiveness of the region's export promotion policies.

The findings of the study will be useful to both academics and policymakers but will be of particular interest to policymakers. Restructuring of export production is critical if CARICOM countries are to adjust to the new global realities of increasing competition and diminishing trade preferences. It is envisaged that the findings of the study will assist regional policymakers by providing some of the information required to make decisions relating to the repositioning of the region's export sectors to meet the challenges of increasing competition in the global market. •



Principal Researcher:
Professor Brian Meeks
 Department of Government

Envisioning Caribbean Futures

The aim of this research project, which was conducted in three phases, was the exploration of possible mid-term political and economic futures for Jamaica and other Caribbean countries. In the first phase of the project, a theoretical and methodological approach was outlined for the remainder of the study, through the engagement of a selection of contemporary Caribbean social theorists. Phase two of the project examined the nature of the contemporary social and political situation in Jamaica, described as one of 'hegemonic dissolution'. This was complemented by a critical exploration of the state of the world economy, which was mooted to be in a period of long-term decline. In the third phase, the researcher outlines a series of possible social, political and economic measures that could address the difficulties associated with the present national and international conjuncture.

The overarching proposal was for the establishment of a 'constituent assembly of the Jamaican people at home and abroad', which along with a process of national reconciliation and a deepened land reform, would address matters including a more substantial democracy, a more popular Caribbean unity and a new and inclusive approach to economic development. The conclusion argued that while these proposals were presented in the first instance as future projections, they could be politically realistic options if the critical nature of the present moment was appreciated and if new, unprecedented coalitions emerged across the traditional 'partisan divide' to demand change.

Below is a list of conference presentations which were done, based on the work on this research project, and the findings are to be published as a book which will be titled, *Envisioning Caribbean Futures: Jamaican Perspectives*.

University of Cape Town, 23-25 October, 2006 "Workshop on African and African Diasporic Knowledge". Paper presented "Imagining Caribbean Futures".

Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, May 29-June 2, 2006, "Beyond Life and Debt: Closures and Openings in Jamaica's Political Future" on the panel "Life and Debt: Stephanie Black's 2001 Documentary".

Brown University, September, 2005, Africana Intellectual History Collaborative Project: Brown, University of the West Indies, University of Cape Town. Seminar presentation: "Explorations in New Caribbean Thought". Discussant: Paget Henry.

UWI Mona, June 16-18, 2005, Centre for Caribbean Thought conference, "The Thought of New World: The Quest for Decolonisation". Paper presented, "Explorations in New Caribbean Thought". •