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**Gender, Generation and Memory:
Remembering a Future Caribbean**

Alissa Trotz©2008

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by deploying the politics of polarization and division. She also suggests ways in which Caribbean peoples might rework narratives of exclusion through a preliminary discussion of counter-memories embedded in practices that do not follow the logic of borders internally or externally implied.

Alissa Trotz's analysis is insightful, rich and compelling. She presents a rarity in the academic community because while she sojourns in the academic community, she traverses the terrains of Caribbean communities whether diasporic or state defined. As a scholar activist her voice and vision are clear and compelling. In the process she reveals the multiple and shifting realities of Caribbean women. Trotz uses these complex realities to question our understanding of migration, working class communities, regional integration and Caribbean development, and the place of gender in all of these sites.

KEY WORDS

Caribbean gender relations, migration, Caribbean development, globalization, regional integration, Caribbean diaspora.

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INTRODUCTION

My paternal grandmother died in 2003 at the age of 95. Some years earlier, she had begun to lose her short-term memory, although this did not diminish her ability to recall events in (what was for me) the distant past, complete with time of day, what she was wearing and doing, in absolutely astonishing and minute detail. There is a medical diagnosis for this condition, but in the context of what I want to offer, I sometimes wonder whether my grandmother's selective forgetting metaphorically indexed a deeper sense that, in the dusk of her life, there was little that was memorable in the contemporary Caribbean.

This is a provocatively harsh opening, one that a glance at any Human Development Report – which notes that the Caribbean experience is one of political stability and

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