

ABSTRACTS

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Privatization as a Tool of Institutional Development in the Netherlands Antilles

by Rupert Silberie.

There is a tendency by some authors to conflate privatization with institutional development. However, sometimes privatization is driven by national motives, sometimes even by foreign requirements. Should not then the objectives of the enterprise itself be emphasized? Is privatization being used optimally to obtain institutional development? These are some of the issues addressed by this study in its investigation of some privatized agencies in the Netherlands Antilles. The purpose of this paper then is the examination of institutional development as a motive for privatization, and the contribution of privatization to the desired institutional development. Based on field work in the Netherlands Antilles, the paper traces the phases of privatization experience and makes recommendations regarding the process which are addressed primarily to the privatization scholars and practitioners.

Pages: 1-19

Key words: Privatization, corporatization, organizational development, Netherlands Antilles.

An Analysis of the Quality Gap of the Registration Services at the UWI

by Surenda Arjoon

This paper seeks to analyze the registration process at the University of the West Indies (St. Augustine Campus), with a view of suggesting possible improvements to the present system. Overall, the “caring factor”, as measured by such constructs as politeness, trust clear and accurate information, should be strategically targeted for improvement in the registration process. Results of this study also show that UWI is becoming more client-oriented in providing service to its primary customer - the students, although there is much room for improvement.

Pages: 20-31

Key Words: Total Quality Management, service quality, customer orientation, customer expectations, UWI.

Wage Developments in the Caribbean

by Andrew S. Downes

In recent years, Caribbean companies have adopted new forms of compensation. In many cases, these new schemes have been associated with the implementation of structural adjustment programmes. This paper reviews the experience of Caribbean companies with these schemes. The experience shows that Barbadian companies have used various forms of gainsharing schemes, while companies in other countries have had a limited experience with gainsharing schemes. The paper also outlines the lessons learned from the Barbadian experience.

Pages: 32-44

Key Words: Productivity, compensation, gainsharing, private sector, rewards, Barbados.

Problems in the Teaching of Social Studies in East Caribbean Schools: The Perceptions of the Teachers

by Anthony Griffith

Factors which impact on teaching and the classroom performance of teachers represent a legitimate and useful area of research, and in this context, the concerns of Social Studies teachers in the islands of the English-speaking Caribbean islands represent an under-researched area in Caribbean education.

This paper provides some insight into the perceived problems of teaching Social Studies in Caribbean schools and the ranking of these problems. Lack of adequate resources, lack of variety in the use of teaching skills, and lack of administrative support emerge as the major problems perceived by Caribbean teachers. Caribbean teachers also do not seem to perceive any relationship between their own attitude or teaching skills and student attitude to the subject.

These findings highlight the need for, and the directions of, future research in Caribbean education, and have implications for the process and nature of reforms in teacher education in the Caribbean.

Pages: 45-62

Key Words: Education, Social Studies, Classroom performance, Barbados, Caribbean.

Service Quality of a Tourist Attraction in a Developing Country: The Case of the Publicly managed Harrison's Cave in Barbados

by Simon Best

The exit survey is common to performance assessment in the tourism industry. However, its use regarding heritage and speleological tourist attractions is uncommon. Taking a TQM perspective, this paper analyses visitor perception and experience by way of an exit survey and attempts to isolate the main factors affecting visitor satisfaction regarding their encounter, based on visitor-identified experience points. That there was a high level of convergence between the perceptions of the three visitor groups examined regarding the services and service components, was not surprising. What was, however, were the attained levels, granted existing management problems. The findings provide a basis for a more rigorous study of the issues affecting customer satisfaction for a comparative analysis of organizational performance and customer satisfaction in other attraction within the tourist industry.

Pages: 63-81

Key Words: Public Sector Management, Heritage Tourism, Total Quality Management, Cruise Tourism, Environmental Preservation, Barbados.

Volume 22 No. 2 June 1997

European Union and Regionalisation in the Caribbean Basin

by José Briceño Ruiz

This paper explores the regionalisation dynamic unfolding across the Caribbean Basin. Special attention is drawn to recent developments between the European Union (EU) and member countries that make up the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). Currently, EU-ACS relations continue to undergo some transformation following the near-culmination of Lomé IV. One such response on the part of the EU has been to explore possibilities for Free Trade Area (FTA) agreements with developed Latin American and Caribbean economies.

If the ACS is to be a serious actor in this process, it must first seek to establish legitimacy as a regional forum by actively building on a new concept of region and fostering functional cooperation between Central America, CARICOM, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Pages: 1-17

Key words: Preferences, tariff, globalisation, regionalisation, non-reciprocity.

The Change Process in a Public Sector Agency: Lewin's Change Model and the Revitalization of the Barbados Port Authority

by Simon Best

Prior to the early 1990s, the Barbados Port Authority underwent a traumatic period of transformative change. This paper analyzes the change process through the lens of the Lewin Three-step Model. Besides being one of the first excursions into the change process regarding a Caribbean public sector agency, the lessons emerging from this study suggest that the involvement and cooperation of the social partners in bringing about the transformation of this agency was extended to, and laid the foundation for, social consultation in the wider national economy.

Pages: 18-54

Key words: Collective bargaining, Lewin three-step model, organizational change, port development, public sector, social partnership, Barbados Port Authority.

National Self-image on a Caribbean Island: Montserrat, West Indies

by Thomas K. Fitzgerald and Howard Fergus

How do Montserratians, especially their young people, conceive of the nation they feel part of, and what are some of the common conceptualizations that make up this collective identity? Using the construct of "national self-image," this research examines Montserratian aspirations (hopes and fears) for the future. However, who could have predicted that in 1995 a volcano would disrupt these dreams, putting them in jeopardy for perhaps the next five years? Volcanic eruptions have bedeviled this tiny Caribbean island for the past two years, causing periodic evacuations, ten deaths, and a reduction in the population by half. Suddenly little Montserrat has become a very unsafe place to live. To understand the full impact of this disaster on the lives of these island people, and certainly before any effective strategy for recovery can be planned, we need to consider Montserratian aspirations for their future, even though a very uncertain future faces this once idyllic island paradise.

Pages: 55-67

Key words: Identity, nationalism, culture, development.

Historicising Capital Accumulation: Appraising Frank & Gills' Millennial World System

by Don D. Marshall

Theoretical discourses that emphasise difference, fragmentation and contingency have presented various challenges to the social sciences today. The political implications of these discourses have generally been expressed in rather vague terms or sometimes left unspecified. Andre Gunder Frank and Barry K. Gills' bold and provocative thesis - that capital has been the central locomotive of our one-world history - goes against 'post prefix' trends in intellectual thought with important social-scientific and political implications.

We are back to the search for an inner logic in the international system, both ancient and modern. This essay intervenes as it explores what it means to establish a historical continuity of developments between then and now in the world systemic whole and all its parts. Apart from the Nile-Valley region in antiquity, one underthought area in world system history is the Caribbean and wider New World and this space ought to be interrogated if the challenge of moving beyond Eurocentric versions of world history is to be met.

Pages: 68 - 87

Key words: Capitalism, modernity, eurocentrism, world system, accumulation, centre-peripher
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Global Change: Restructuring the Enterprise Culture and Power in Contemporary Barbados

by Hilbourne Watson

In this public policy lecture, Dr. Hilbourne Watson highlights what he sees as the key challenges facing Barbados in a restructuring global economy. He argues that a new global enterprise culture has been spawned following developments in the industrial-technological sphere. This new enterprise culture, he continues is reconfiguring the character of global capitalism with profound implications to traditional business practice in Barbados as well as its culture and social relations.

Pages: 1-47

Key words: Techno-paradigm, power-bloc, mercantile, restructuring, neo-liberal.

Fact and Interpretation in Dominican Political History

by Douglas Midgett

This paper provides correction and reinterpretation in regard to events and processes in Dominican political history from 1951 to 1974. Two recent interpretations of this period are critically assessed and factually corrected and amplified. The paper addresses the need for more careful and sophisticated analysis in the modern historical period, a time which has been too often mythologized and oversimplified.

Pages: 48-63

Key words: Electoral, parties, parliament, class, opposition.

The Perceptions of Eastern Caribbean Teachers and the Implications for Teacher-training Programmes: Some Observations

by Anthony D. Griffith

Most of the research conducted internationally into the perceptions and concerns of teachers, clearly identify these as critical indicators of the professional development of teachers; and these perceptions and concerns also seem to relate to their curricular decisions and instructional practices. Some recent research in the Caribbean, though rather limited, has highlighted some of the concerns of Caribbean teachers; and this paper seeks to explore some of the implications of these concerns for teaching and for teacher-training in the Caribbean.

The article focuses, in particular, on the concerns with respect to teacher competence and teacher attitude, which are clearly variables which should normally be addressed in teacher-education programmes. What seems to emerge is that there is perhaps a need to revisit and reconceptualise our teacher-training programme in terms of both its emphases and direction, and with a clearer conceptualization of what are the purposes of education, the kind of teacher we ought to prepare, and the standards we need to establish in order to prepare the type of teacher we need for the future.

Pages: 64-78

Key words: Teacher, techniques, instructional competence, pedagogy, learning processes.

Volume 22 No. 4 December 1997

Is it Beautiful to Be Small, or is it a Burden

by Richard S. Eckaus

The special problems of small countries in achieving economic growth are considered. Relevant aspects of growth and resource allocation theory are examined and subjected to some simple econometric tests. The special hypotheses that have been suggested for small developing countries are also considered. In addition some sociological features of small countries that may be of significance for their economic development are suggested.

Pages: 1-30

Key words: size distribution, scale, monopolistic competition, diversification, economic resources, transactions.

"Old Expectations, New Philosophies": Adjusting State-Society Relations in the Post-Colonial Anglophone Caribbean

by Tennyson S.D. Joseph

The rationale governing decolonisation rested on the state's ability to meet the demands of its labouring population, a group whose interests had been largely ignored by the colonial state. As a result, the early post-colonial period saw the emergence of state interventionism as a response to these demands. This conferred legitimacy on the existing regimes as post-colonial states. The paper seeks to examine the extent to which the transformed global political economy has impacted upon the capacity of the post-colonial state to be truly "post-colonial". The present difficulties faced by Caribbean governments, it will be argued, have resulted in a major effort being expended, since the 1980s, towards surveying 'new ideas' or principles which it is hoped should govern state-society relations. A key conclusion is that the expectations of the citizenry continue to be tied to the relations established in the immediate post-colonial period, and as a result, a fundamental basis for state-society conflict lies in the state's inability either to successfully implant the new philosophies or to meet the old expectations of its populations.

Pages: 34-67

Key words: post-colonial, re-colonisation, globalisation, self-determination, working class.

Editorial Comment

Discussion: Historicizing Social Change featuring: Hilbourne A. Watson, Neville C. Duncan, Don D. Marshall and Andre Gunder Frank.

Pages: 68 – 93.