

# ABSTRACTS

Volume 26 No. 1 March 2001

## **Personalised Service in the New Economy: Implications for Small Island Tourism**

*by Anne P. Crick, Dept. of Management Studies, University of the West Indies, Jamaica*

Full personalised service is a potential source of sustainable competitive advantage for smaller Caribbean hotels but few organisations offer it. The paper distinguishes between *fullpersonalised* service and *pseudo-personalised* service and discusses the findings of a study of entertainment coordinators who were expected to provide full personalised service. Results suggest that some systems intended to enforce personalised service actually hindered its delivery and encouraged employees to pay more attention to management requirements than to guest requirements. The paper concludes with recommendations to managers of small island hotels.

**Pages:** 1 – 20

**Key words :** Personalised service; emotional labour; customisation; small hotels.

## **Finding the Hardcore Roots: Early Post-Soca Tendencies in Caribbean Music**

*by Curwen Best, Faculty of Humanities University of the West Indies, Barbados*

This article discusses the early evolution of the 1990s post-soca dance music called ringbang. It traces the roots of this new style back to the early 1980s and analyses how it began to diverge from mainstream soca of the time. The article suggests that this new style has its basis in a number of drum, percussion, bass, and vocal applications and practices. The evolution of post-soca styles owes much to the impact of new music technologies on Caribbean culture.

**Pages:** 21-34

**Key words:** Caribbean music; music technology; cultural criticism; sound production.

## **Emerging Issues for the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union's Social Security Schemes**

*by Garth P. Nicholls, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, St. Kitts*

This paper examines risks, which confronts the operation of social security schemes in the Emerging Issues for the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) member countries. It investigates the environment within which the schemes operate and critically appraises their sustainability. It also examines the implications of the pay as you go Social Security Scheme (SSS) for the ECCU economy. Finally, a number of reform policy options are discussed.

**Pages:** 35-73

**Keywords:** Social Security, emerging issues, financing schemes, aging population.

**Women or Gender, Anti-poverty or Empowerment? Misplaced Polarities in State-led Poverty Programming in the Caribbean**

*by Donna St. Hill*

Issuing credit to economically disadvantaged groups has recently become widely practised as a means of economic development. Empowerment of the poor and other socially disadvantaged groups is frequently articulated as a goal of these development strategies. In the Caribbean, state strategies for reducing women's poverty have emerged as the obvious choice for public interventions. In this paper, I argue that the current policy fashion, to target or not to target women for anti-poverty resources, is premised on misplaced polarities. Moreover, it does not take into account institutional constraints that prevent outcomes for male-relevant strategies from materialising in identical ways for women. Women-only interventions are proving to be inferior to interventions that target gendered institutions which are the genesis of female disadvantage.

**Pages:** 1-32

**Key words:** poverty reduction, development planning, public spending, targeting, gendered relations of power.

**The Montserrat Volcanic Disaster: A Gender Analysis of Psycho-social Effects and Coping**

*by Vernie Clarice Barnes*

This article discusses the outcome of a study of the psycho-social effects of the Montserrat volcanic disaster and coping strategies from a gender analysis perspective. Qualitative interviews were conducted with thirty-six females and twenty-four males. The study notes that disaster research is often predicated by gender neutral assumptions. Existing gender-focused studies show that there are notable differences in the disaster responses of men and women. This study found that traditional gender roles and disparities in access to resources determine such differences. The study concludes that research of this nature demonstrates that the psycho-social effects of disaster and coping are not homogenous. A complex range of individual and structural factors influences them.

**Pages:** 33-53

**Key Words:** Gender, analysis, men, women, psycho-social effects, coping, disaster, volcanic, Montserrat.

**Economic Growth in St. Vincent and the Grenadines: A Case Study**

*by Garth P. Nicholls*

Since independence, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) has experienced reasonable growth, enabling per capita incomes to double over the last decade and a half. This paper identifies the sources of economic growth in SVG from 1978 to 1996. Capital accumulation, whose importance has grown over time, accounted for the majority of economic growth over this period. Total factor productivity growth was the second most important determinant of economic growth. The analysis suggests, however, that to facilitate a higher rate of growth, policies, which increases total factor productivity growth will have to be pursued. Among such policies are measures to develop and nurture social capability.

**Pages:** 54-79

**Keywords:** Economic growth, growth accounting and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

**Stress 'Bussin' or Counselling in the Montserrat Volcanic Disaster**

*by Vernie Clarice Barnes*

This article discusses Montserratian views of psychosocial intervention in natural disaster. Qualitative interviews were conducted with sixty Montserratians (resident on the island or relocated to the UK). Overwhelmingly participants indicated a preference for group interventions whose content and name reflect familiar social activities. Specific consideration is given to their suggestion that the term 'stress busta' is a preferred and more appropriate description of the content of psychosocial intervention than counselling. The article describes stress 'bussin' as a locally conjured self-help intervention. The cultural appropriateness of this informal approach is discussed in the context of Critical Incident Stress Debriefing and counselling developed in the USA. The paper concludes that the Caribbean is a disaster prone region therefore there is need for managers of the psychosocial effects of such events to draw on our people's experiences to formulate appropriate theory and practice.

**Pages:** 1-22

**Key Words:** Stress, 'busta', 'bussin', counselling, culture, experience, intervention, post traumatic, psychosocial, sensitive.

**Perceptions of Fear, Safety and Community: A Social Psychological Assessment**

*by Derek Chadee University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago*

Recent research addressing fear of crime has used safety measures to measure fear. This article assesses the theoretical differences between these two constructs and empirically demonstrates their difference. The research, based on a random sample selected from two areas (high and low crime areas), was undertaken in Trinidad, West Indies in February 1999. Face to face interviews were used to collect data. A community integration scale showed that the high crime area was low in community integration and low crime area high in community integration. A significant relationship was found between community integration and feelings of safety ( $F=15.27$ ,  $df=1, 152$ ,  $p<.0001$ ) but there was no significant difference between fear levels and community integration. Similarly, where a significant difference in feelings of safety was found for residence ( $F=7.89$ ,  $df=1, 164$ ,  $p<.0001$ ) there was no significant difference in fear levels for residence. Females were more likely to display the fear-safety paradox than males. Implications for future research and policy in the Caribbean are discussed.

**Pages:** 23-41

**Men's Earnings in Trinidad & Tobago: An Analysis by Ethnicity for Men in Conjugal Unions and Men who Head Households**

*by Addington Coppin, Oakland University, Michigan, USA*

This study seeks to further the analysis of the role ethnicity plays in the Trinidad & Tobago labour market, by focusing on the earnings of men in conjugal unions (either married or in common law unions) and men who head households. It finds a statistical similarity in the premium that marriage earned men in the three main ethnic groupings (African, Indian and Mixed) when compared with their counterparts in common law unions.

Contrarily, it reveals a substantial dissimilarity in the effect of urban residence on men's earnings: a sizeable premium for Indians, a sizeable discount for Africans, and no significant effect for their counterparts of Mixed ethnicity. One possible interpretation of the latter finding is that Africans and Indians desired a financial incentive to locate in areas where they would be in the numerical minority. The fact that Indians obtained the lowest average earnings among the three groups was due in part to their lower levels of education, but also to their lower rates of return to education. To the extent that educational access and quality can be equalised, the ethnic earnings gaps in Trinidad & Tobago should diminish.

**Pages:** 42-69

**Key words :** men's earnings; ethnicity; conjugal unions; household heads.

### **Volume 26 No. 4 December 2001**

#### **The Offshore Financial Services Sector: Legal Policy Issues on the Path to Development: A Legal Defence**

*by Rosemarie Antoine, University of the West Indies, Barbados*

The offshore sector, particularly in the Caribbean, has been under severe attack from several quarters, including the OECD, the FATF and national onshore governments. The paper attempts to demonstrate that while legitimate concerns may be raised in relation to the sector, many of the current allegations, though posed as valid legal objections, are coloured by political and economic overtones. More importantly, they are without proper legal justification. Indeed, from a legal perspective, offshore structures and policies are inherently legitimate. Further, developed and developing offshore jurisdictions appear to be viewed differently in the debate on the legitimacy of the offshore sector, even in the responses to legal questions. It is, therefore, an opportune moment to underline accurately the legal principles underpinning the sector and mount an appropriate legal defence.

**Pages:** 1-27

**Keywords:** Sovereignty, offshore/onshore, international law, tax, legal.

#### **The Potential Impact of the Internet and E-commerce on Selected Service Industries in the Caribbean**

*by Lester Henry, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago & Natalie Jaimungal, Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago*

This paper examines the potential impact of the Internet and E-commerce on various Caribbean service industries. A discussion of the benefits and possible costs of E-commerce is presented. Some strengths and weaknesses of selected service sector industries are outlined. It is argued that despite many positive effects on these sectors, the rise of E-commerce could actually be very harmful to a number in some cases. The issue of whether E-commerce and the Internet enhance or undermine the development of the services sector in the Caribbean is discussed against their viewpoint.

**Pages:** 28-44

**Keywords:** E-commerce, telecommunications, information technology.

**International Trade and Comparative Advantage in the Caribbean: An Empirical Analysis**

*by Denny Lewis, Central Bank of Barbados, Barbados & Allan Webster, University of the West Indies, Barbados*

This paper presents an analysis of the pattern of comparative advantage by product categories of Caribbean countries. To do this it uses two well established approaches - measures of revealed comparative advantage and export similarity indices. The paper seeks to identify common patterns of advantage. Given the well known result that the static gains from economic integration depend in part on participating countries having overlapping patterns of specialisation the paper also has implications for current and potential future trade integration within the Caribbean.

**Pages:** 45-65

**Key words:** Comparative advantage, integration, exports patterns, Balassa index, revealed advantage.