

# ABSTRACTS

Volume 29 No. 1 March 2004

## **The Digital Divide, Economic Growth and Potential Poverty Reduction: The Case of the English Speaking Caribbean**

*by Lester Henry, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago*

This paper seeks to ascertain how the adoption of computer and Internet technology can enhance the growth prospects for Caribbean countries, and thereby have a significant impact on the reduction of poverty in the region. Firstly, the current debate over the existence and significance of the digital divide is explored. For example, one view holds that the digital divide once corrected can lead to enhanced economic growth and hence to poverty reduction in developing countries. On the other hand, some argue that there is no digital divide and, therefore, policy reforms aimed at correcting it are misguided. Secondly, the arguments linking growth, technology and potential poverty reduction are presented. Thirdly, an analysis of the current situation in the region is carried out. Further, some means by which Caribbean countries can benefit from technological absorption are explored. Finally, a summary with some policy recommendations is presented.

**Pages:** 1-22

**Key words:** poverty reduction, information technology, developed and developing countries, digital divide.

## **Adolescent Leisure Reading Interest and Practices: The Case of Tortola**

*by S. Joel Warrican & H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, Tortola*

This study investigated the leisure reading interests and practices of 114 Year 2 adolescents (aged 14) and 110 Year 4 adolescents (aged 16) in Tortola by gender, age/year group and stream. It also explored the relationship between reading and other leisure activities. Data were collected by means of questionnaire and focus group interviews. Sixty-four percent reported reading for more than one hour daily. Differences in reading amount were found along the lines of gender and stream, in favour of girls and the upper streams respectively. The adolescents engaged in several activities other than reading but these activities did not encroach on their leisure reading time.

**Pages:** 23-41

**Key words:** Gender, focus group, leisure reading, year group and stream.

## **Service Exports and Economic Growth in an Oil Rich Economy: A Case Study of Tourism in Trinidad and Tobago**

*by Roger Hosein and Bhoendradatt Tewarie, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago*

This paper represents a first attempt at exploring the issue of causality between tourism export growth and economic growth for Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). The paper outlines the possible avenues through which tourism export growth could positively impact upon economic growth and then proceeds to detail the current state of the T&T tourism market. In particular, it illustrates that the T&T economy is the fastest growing tourism destination in the Caribbean region.

Evidence from cumulative experience functions and correlation estimates suggest that causality exists and runs from tourism export growth to economic growth. Such indicative evidence, however, is not complemented by more robust Granger causal estimates.

**Pages:** 42-68

**Key words:** Cumulative experience, export growth, tourism, direction of causality.

**Volume 29 No. 2 June 2004**

**Tourism and the Plantation Model: Dimensions of the Worker-Management Relationship in Caribbean Tourism**

*by Noel M. Cowell & Anne P. Crick, University of the West Indies, Jamaica*

While tourism is arguably the Caribbean region's most important industry contributing jobs, foreign exchange and investment to tourist destinations, very vocal critics suggest that it is a new form of slavery that demeans tourism workers. We analyse these criticisms and compare them to the findings of surveys and interviews conducted with inhabitants of the region and workers in the industry. Results suggest that there is little resentment of the industry and that in fact it is highly regarded by many. We suggest reasons for this difference and propose areas for future research.

**Pages:** 15-34

**Key words:** Plantation society, tourism, emotional labour.

**Service Enterprise Development and Global Competition: A Case for the Development of the Tourism Sector in the Caribbean**

*by Hilton McDavid, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago*

The paper argues that the traditional argument that manufacturing exports are to be preferred over personal services because the former has high productivity growth, though not without merit, misses the many tenets of industrialisation that modern day tourism is exhibiting. These tenets such as economies of scale, economies of scope, flexible production processes, industrial concentration and product differentiation are often ignored as the final product, the tourist experience is intangible. The Fordist and neo-Fordist tourism industries are analysed and it is posited that they have the strength and sustainability to support a policy of concentration on tourism as an engine of growth.

**Pages:** 35-49

**Key words:** Tourism services, manufacturing, economic development, Fordism.

**A Genealogy of Barbadian Tourism: the Welcoming Society and Contemporary Narratives of Resistance**

*by Valdene M. Barrow, University of the West Indies, Barbados*

This article uses Frank Fonda Taylor's concept of the welcoming society to examine the development of tourism in Barbados before 1950. It argues that the factors which determined the growth of tourism in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries have imbued the industry with a distinctly colonial complex of relationships which remain evident up to the present. However, amidst far-reaching post-colonial change in Barbadian society, forces of resistance have emerged to challenge the entrenched hegemony of the established order, including those deep-rooted social and economic characteristics of the tourism industry. Thus, the concept of the welcoming society is pressed into service not only to explain the historical development of tourism in Barbados, but also to examine the politics of the contemporary tourism industry.

**Pages:** 50-75

**Keywords:** Welcoming society, tourism development, hegemonic dissolution.

### **(Mis)Representing the Other in the Language of Tourism**

*by Graham M. S. Dann, University of Luton, United Kingdom*

The work of the image constructors makes Third World tourist destinations into veritable paradises where time honoured themes in the depiction of the 'other' - primitivism, simplicity, sensuality, excess, harmony - some of which images have, of course, been well articulated within anthropology itself, are fervently recycled (Crick, 1994:4).

**Pages:** 76-94

**Key Word :** Touristic imagery, language, alterity, text.

## **Volume 29 No. 3 September 2004**

### **The Cayman Islands: Britain's Maverick Caribbean Colony**

*by Howard A. Ferguson, UWI School of Continuing Studies, Montserrat*

Like Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands have sometimes been a colony of a colony. Like Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands the foundations of the prosperity of the Cayman Islands rest on offshore financial services and tourism. In its total profile, however, the Caymans group has been atypical among the British Overseas Territories BOTs in the Caribbean, and this includes its present potential (if not promise) to lead the group in the thrust for constitutional modernisation. The paper explores and explains the development of this proverbial rags-to-riches, conservative-to-progressive colony and prognosticates on its future relationship with the British Government. In the process, the nexus between its economics and politics becomes evident.

**Pages:** 1-20

**Keywords:** Colonialism, offshore financial centre, constitution, maverick, modernization.

### **Secondary School Students' Attitudes to Computers: A Barbadian Perspective**

*by Coreen J. Leacock, University of the West Indies, Barbados*

This article reports a study of computer attitudes of Barbadian school children. A sample of 364 students (190 boys and 174 girls) from the 11 B 12 and 14 B 15 age groups completed a questionnaire about their access to and use of computers, along with a 30-item computer attitude scale that assessed computer anxiety, confidence and computer liking. Statistical analysis was used to investigate gender-related, age-related and experience-related differences in computer attitudes among the sample. Results indicated generally positive attitudes towards computers among the group. While no significant differences relating to gender or home access were found, children in the younger age group were found to be more anxious about using computers than were the older children. Children who played games on the computer were significantly more confident than those who did not.

**Pages:** 21-37

**Key words:** Computers, computer attitudes, attitudes, gender.

### **Understanding Tax Reform Issues in Barbados**

*by Michael Howard, University of the West Indies, Barbados & Philmore Alleyne, University of the West Indies, Barbados*

This paper looks at tax reform issues in Barbados. It provides a selective review of the literature on tax reform theory, with a key focus on supply-side tax policy, and examines the operational constraints

inherent in the tax system. The study finds that Barbados successfully shifted to an indirect tax system *via* VAT, simplified its income tax system, and provided incentives to the offshore and onshore sectors to improve the economy. It was also found that even though efficiency policies were implemented, the system experienced many operational problems including stiff opposition to its classification as a tax haven by the OECD. However, our analysis also shows that the government needs to reduce compliance costs, which are high in the administration of the land tax and value-added tax (VAT), and also seek to meet the challenges of the international community by having internationally converged tax rates.

**Pages:** 38-64

**Key Words:** Tax policy, tax reform, supply side, VAT, efficiency, compliance costs, OECD.

### **Volume 29 No. 4 December 2004**

#### **Macroeconomic Management and Building Social Consensus: An Evaluation of the Barbados Protocols**

*by Andrew S Downes, University of the West Indies, Barbados & Lawrence Nurse University of the West Indies, Barbados*

This paper evaluates the primary provisions in the four Barbados Protocols covering the period 1993 to 2004. It notes that the Protocols started with the implementation of a 'prices and incomes policy' and moved towards the implementation of a 'social partnership'. An evaluation of the economic and industrial relations provisions in the Protocol is undertaken. The results of the statistical data suggest that the Protocols have provided modest, but short-lived, economic gains and a useful mechanism for providing non-governmental parties with 'voice' in public policy making. The paper concludes with a number of lessons identified from the Barbadian experience and suggestions for enhancing the process.

**Pages:** 1-41

**Key Words:** Barbados protocols, social partnership, prices and incomes policy, productivity and competitiveness, industrial relations.

#### **Articles included in this issue are:**

##### **Social Dialogue for Socio-Economic Development: The Case of Barbados and the Implications for the Caribbean**

*by Tayo Fashoyin, International Industrial Relations Association, Geneva*

##### **Social Dialogue in Selected Countries in the Caribbean: An Overview**

*by Evelyn Greaves*

##### **Reflections on the Social Partnership Agreement in Barbados**

Reflections on the Barbados Protocols

*by Lloyd E. Sandiford*

Reflections on the Barbados Protocols

*John S. Goddard*

Reflections on the Barbados Protocols

*by Leroy Trotman*