

ABSTRACTS

Volume 36, No. 1, March 2011

Using the Theory of Planned Behaviour and Risk Propensity to Measure Investment Intentions among Future Investors

By Philmore Alleyne and Tracey Broome

The purpose of this study is to determine individual factors that are likely to influence the investment decisions of potential investors. The study uses the dimensions of Ajzen's (1991) theory of planned behaviour (attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioural control) and Sitkin and Weingart's (1995) risk propensity as predictors of investments intentions. The study used a self-administered questionnaire of a sample of business students in an undergraduate institution. It was found that attitudes, subjective norms, perceived behavioural control, and risk propensity were significant predictors of investment intentions. We also found that risk propensity did not moderate the relationship between the predictors (attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioural control) and the dependent variable, intentions to invest. These findings are consistent with prior research and do show support for the theory of planned behaviour. Additionally, this study provides evidence of risk as further supporting the theory of planned behaviour.

Pages: 1-20.

Keywords: investment intentions, attitudes, subjective norms, perceived behavioural control, risk propensity.

Reflecting on Development Outcomes: A Comparative Analysis of Barbados and Guyana

by Kari Grenade and Denny Lewis-Bynoe

This study undertakes a comparative analysis of post-independence development outcomes of Barbados and Guyana. The study finds that differences in policies as well as institutional and governance structures were the key factors underpinning the marked divergence between the two countries during the period 1970-1999. In assessing performance post 2000, the study finds that improvements in macroeconomic management, institutional strengthening, deeper social cohesion and political stability have allowed Guyana's growth rates to catch up and even surpass Barbados'. The research evinces key lessons that should help support the more even development of Caribbean countries.

Pages: 21-42.

Keywords: comparative development, gross domestic product, endogenous growth, debt.

St. Croix's Secession Movement in the United States Virgin Islands: Sentimental or Serious

by Lomarsh Roopnarine

The following article analyses a secession movement in the United States Virgin Islands (USVI). Since the turn of the new century, a significant number of individuals have clamoured for the separation of St. Croix from St. Thomas and St. John. Their reason for secession is that St. Croix has contributed to the territorial

coffers but the island has received unequal representation, unfair treatment, and mal-distributive justice. St. Croix's secessionists do not want independence. Rather, they desire an individual associated status with the United States in the same manner the Dutch Antilles and Anguilla have with Holland and Britain respectively. The article shows St. Croix's rights for and against secession and then argues that there must be substantive criteria and sound procedural policies before St. Croix's secession can be taken seriously. Finally, the author does not advocate secession but rather seeks to understand the desire for secession in the USVI.

Pages: 43-66.

Keywords: United States Virgin Islands, St. Croix, mal-distributive justice, marginalisation, insularity and secession.

COMMENTARY

Unintended Consequences of Remedial Measures taken to correct the Global Financial Crisis: A Regulatory and Compliance Perspective

by Marion Williams

There are many lessons of the global financial crisis for which it is imperative that governments and regulators take cognizance of, many of which flow from their attempts to deal with the crisis. Among these is the prospect that remedial action taken may be in contravention of international agreements, conventions and commitments given under World Trade Organisation (WTO)'s Generalised Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Also it is essential that measures used to mitigate the effects of the crisis do not contain the seeds of future problems.

Pages: 67-80.

Volume 36, No. 2, June 2011

Psychosocial Responses to a Disaster in the Caribbean: A Case Study of a Barbados Cave-In

by Jomo Phillips, Karen Ring and Patricia Hackett

A Barbados cave-in contributed to several deaths and residential evacuations; there was also an unprecedented social service mobilisation. This study examines the preparedness of social workers responding to the disaster and examines challenges in coordinating and delivering psychosocial services to affected community members. A case study design, which includes a survey of affected community members, a focus group with responders and interviews with agency managers is utilised. Data indicates poor service coordination, communication challenges and lack of preparedness of workers and agencies to meet the needs of the affected.

Pages: 1-35.

Keywords: cave-in, psychosocial, disaster response, disaster management, social services, social work, case study, ecological systems.

Decline in Output Volatility in Two Small Open Economies: The Cases of Barbados and Guyana
by Kari Grenade

This article utilises Vector Error Corrections Models for Barbados and Guyana to assess the relative importance of internal and external factors in explaining the decline in output volatility in each country over the past two decades. The findings for Barbados suggest that stable tourism inflows, as well as smaller external shocks have been the main contributors to lower output fluctuations. The findings for Guyana suggest that internal policy improvement has been the overriding factor reducing output fluctuations. Policy-makers in both countries are encouraged to keep strengthening economic resilience to ensure that the scope for continued stability is increased.

Pages: 36-65.

Keywords: output volatility, Vector Error Correction Models, Barbados, Guyana.

Gender, Sexuality and Sexual Violence: A Feminist Analysis of Vincentian Women's Experiences in Violent Heterosexual Relationships

In this article, I examine three separate, but related themes on women's experiences of violence in intimate heterosexual relationships: sexual infidelity as a rationalisation of men's violence against women, the construction and surveillance of women's sexuality, and narratives of sexual violence. The analysis is drawn from interviews with 34 women and men from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Using a feminist poststructuralist approach to discourse analysis I argue that acts of physical violence against women, as well as other forms of control, coercion and abuse, are indeed embedded within broader asymmetrical gendered relations of power. Violence against women is often rationalised and justified as a means of responding to threats to traditional arrangements of gender and sexuality.

Pages: 66-95.

Keywords: gender, sexuality, sexual violence, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, feminist poststructuralism, discourse analysis.

Volume 36, No. 3, September 2011

An 'Argonauts' Strategy to Reduce Caribbean Economic Vulnerability*
by Jay R. Mandle

In the past, Caribbean nations have attempted to offset their vulnerability by negotiating Special and Differential Treatment for their products and by advancing the process of regional integration. Neither is likely to be successful in the future. An alternative way to reduce vulnerability would be for the region to become more technologically advanced. This paper advances a strategy to encourage well-educated members of the Caribbean diaspora to return home to help the region to become more technologically progressive.

Pages: 1-15. - *Revised Version of Paper Prepared for 1st International Conference on Governance for Sustainable Development of Caribbean Small Island Developing States, University of Netherlands Antilles, 3 – 7 March, 2011.

Credit Growth and the External Current Account in Barbados

by Daniel O. Boamah, Mahalia Jackman and Nlandu Mamingi

Using the bounds testing approach to cointegration, this paper examines empirically the relationship between domestic credit and external account developments in Barbados in the period 1993-2007 with quarterly observations. A simple model that links the current account balance to domestic credit, along with a number of standard control variables is utilised. The results suggest that domestic credit has a significant negative impact on the external current account, in both the short and long run situations, giving credence to the hypothesis that balance of payment developments in Barbados may be considered primarily a monetary phenomenon. As such, controlling aggregate demand measures to reduce excessive credit creation remains an important strategy to ensure stability in the country's balance of payments accounts over the short to medium term.

Pages: 16-39.

Keywords: current account, credit growth, bounds testing, cointegration.

The Difference between the Constabulary Force and the Military: An Analysis of the Differing Roles and Functions in the Context of the Current Security Environment in the Caribbean (The Case of Jamaica)

by Hilton McDavid, Anthony Clayton and Noel Cowell

This paper analyses the separate roles and functions of the police and the military in the context of the current security environment in the Caribbean, which now includes such diverse factors as trans-national organised crime, corruption, links between politics and crime, natural disasters, oil dependency, high levels of public debt and the chronic marginalisation of large sectors of the population. Some have argued that the Caribbean is unlikely to be invaded, and that the military can therefore be merged into the police as a cost-saving measure. This paper argues, by contrast, that the rapidly-evolving challenges require that the roles, functions and training of the police and the military be kept separate and distinct, and that the policy community needs to understand why the purpose and architecture of the training has to be appropriate for the different missions of the respective organisations. This argument is supported by a model of discipline which defines the different organisational and individual roles and functions. It is further argued that it is essential that the police forces of the Caribbean continue to move further from their former quasi-military roles, functions and attitudes, and become fully modern police services. The paper accepts that there will continue to be a need for specialist units in the police services that will have paramilitary roles and functions, but concludes that these specialist units should not define the normal role and function of mainstream policing.

Pages: 40-71.

Keywords: Constabulary, military, Caribbean, criminal gangs, national security.

BOOK REVIEW

US-Grenada Relations: Revolution and Intervention in the Backyard

by Gary Williams

This book provides a fresh look at the Grenada revolution, its implosion and the US invasion, with the benefits of almost thirty years hindsight.

Pages: 72-77.

Special Issue – HIV AND AIDS IN BARBADOS
Volume 36, No. 4, December 2011

Risk, Vulnerability and Gender in the Caribbean Context of HIV

By Christine Barrow

The articles in this collection were initially prepared as panel presentations at the 2009 Research Symposium organised by the Barbados National HIV/AIDS Commission (Barbados National HIV/AIDS Commission 2009). They address diverse issues and concerns around HIV and AIDS, providing new insights while reconfirming what we already know, and combining individual behaviour and risk perspectives with an emphasis on the structural drivers of HIV.

Key words: HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), gender relations, sexual-economic exchange relations, power, vulnerability

Pages: 1-5.

Narratives of innocence: framing AIDS in the Barbadian press, 1995-2004

by Jakub Kakietek

This article examines how the press in Barbados and Barbadian public discourse defined the social groups most susceptible to HIV and AIDS and how the nature of their susceptibility was understood and described. Content analysis of 243 articles from Barbadian newspapers from 1995 through 2004 shows that the press discourse concentrated on nonproblematic social groups—women and children—as the principal victims of AIDS and emphasised structural societal vulnerability over individual risk. Those "narratives of innocence" were critical in shaping the public discourse and public health policy in Barbados.

Key words: heterosexualisation, narratives, same-sex sexual behaviours, stigma

Pages: 6-27.

Further Reduction in Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Barbados following intervention with HAART

By M. Anne St. John, Kemi Mascoll, Ira Waterman, Shawna Crichlow

From January 2002 to December 2010, a historical prospective study was carried out involving consenting HIV infected pregnant women who were treated with anti-retroviral drugs for PMTCT prophylaxis. Infants received a week of oral zidovudine or single dose nevirapine plus one month of zidovudine.

Mothers and infants were followed-up after discharge and tested for HIV. The transmission rate in treated pregnant women was calculated, with statistical analysis using the Fisher Exact Test. There were 22,859 live births, 224 delivered by infected pregnant women and 3 (1.3 %) infected infants. The intervention using ART protocols in HIV infected pregnant women has resulted in the most significant reduction in transmission rate to date.

Key words: Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV, PMTCT HIV HAART Barbados, PMTCT prophylaxis Barbados.

Pages: 28-38.

Intersections between HIV/AIDS and Violence Against Women: Research to Develop Pilot Projects in Barbados and Dominica

By Caroline F. Allen

More than half of people living with HIV in the Caribbean are women. Is the high prevalence of violence against women (VAW) an explanatory factor? This article explores Caribbean quantitative and qualitative evidence of associations, and the extent to which services to address HIV and VAW are integrated in Barbados and Dominica. Qualitative studies present the strongest evidence of links, while quantitative studies are methodologically limited. Service providers generally focused either on VAW or HIV. There is a need to address HIV at the level of gender norms and to develop mechanisms to integrate VAW and HIV services.

Key words: HIV, violence against women, gender.

Pages: 39-59.

Drug Use and Risky Sexual Behaviour in Tertiary Institutions in Barbados: Personal and ‘Liberal Campus’ Effects

By Jonathan Lashley and Jonathan Yearwood

Theoretical and empirical linkages have been made between drug use and risky sexual behaviour, and the relationship these have to the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), especially HIV. In seeking to investigate the prevalence of these behaviours and their relationships, the study draws on a survey of 942 tertiary level students in Barbados conducted in 2007. While the study details drug use prevalence and sexual behaviour, and the relationship between the two, the issues of exposure to ‘campus life’ and personal characteristics are also investigated, revealing that type of campus and sex both had an effect on risk levels, with females indirectly at risk from drug use and consequent risky sexual behaviour.

Key words: drug use, sexual behaviour, sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Pages: 60-90.

BOOK REVIEW

Who Cares? The Economics of Dignity

by Marilyn Waring, Robert Carr, Anit Mukherjee and Meena Shivdas

This ground-breaking study presents insights into the hitherto hidden world of unpaid carers of persons living with HIV.

Pages: 91-94.