

# **ABSTRACTS**

**Volume 38, Nos. 1 & 2, March/June 2013**

## **Civil Society Consultation in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM): Why Conceptual Clarity Matters**

*By Kristina Hinds Harrison*

This article uses a social constructivist approach to evaluate the ways in which the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has communicated the need to institutionalise civil society participation in the region's decision-making processes. This article analyses the CARICOM's construction of language pertaining to 'civil society', 'consultation' and other participation related terms. What emerges from this discourse analysis is the observation that for just over twenty years, the CARICOM as an institution has transmitted unclear and sometimes contradictory signals surrounding the identity of individuals and groups to be included in proposed consultative arrangements. CARICOM's failure to imbue terms such as 'civil society' with meaning for this institution's context is connected to the institution's inability to create participatory mechanisms for CARICOM.

**Key words:** Caribbean Community (CARICOM), civil society, consultation, participation, regional integration, social partners, stakeholders.

**Pages:** 1-34.

## **Exploring Factors Influencing Whistle-blowing Intentions among Accountants in Barbados**

*By Philmore Alleyne, Diana Weekes-Marshall and Roger Arthur*

This study sought to obtain perceptions of whistle-blowing, and to examine the relationship between organisational commitment, corporate ethical values and whistle-blowing among accountants in Barbados. Self-administered questionnaires were distributed to accountants working in organisations. As a result, 236 useable responses were obtained. Accountants did not perceive whistle-blowing to be wrong but were still unlikely to blow the whistle. This reluctance was cited as stemming from high personal costs in the form of retaliation and victimisation, a close relationship with the wrongdoer, and publicity that could negatively impact the organisation. Factors cited as encouraging whistle-blowing included job satisfaction, severity of the incident, anonymity, personal benefits and the need to correct wrongdoing that may harm the organisation. Accounting staff were aware of their organisation's code of ethics and encouragement of whistle-blowing, but most seemed to be unaware of adequate mechanisms to protect potential whistle-blowers. Organisational commitment and corporate ethical values were significant predictors of internal and external whistle-blowing intentions. To encourage internal whistle-blowing, the organisation should provide training, education, improve the organisation's code of conduct and ethical culture, create acceptance of internal reporting mechanisms, increase job satisfaction, and reward ethical behaviour.

**Key words:** Whistle-blowing, accountants, Barbados, organisational commitment, corporate ethical values.

**Pages:** 35-62.

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**estminster Challenged, Westminster Confirmed: Which Way Caribbean Constitutional Reform?**

*By Paul Sutton*

The lecture explores why there has been so much activity associated with constitution reform in the Commonwealth Caribbean but so little change. It begins with a brief consideration of the reform experience and the nature of the Westminster model in the region and then goes on to identify three aspects which collectively begin to explain the lack of change: the distinctive political culture, the fact of small size and the practice of constitutional reform. It ends by considering the future of reform concluding that the Westminster model will remain dominant in the region unless or until there is a move toward federation.

**Key Words:** Commonwealth Caribbean, Westminster model, political culture, small size, constitutional reform

**Pages:** 63-79.

**A Note on the Fuel Charge Adjustment in Barbados**

*By Adrian Carter, Roland Craigwell and Winston Moore.*

**Pages:** 80-93.

**Proximate Determinants of Poverty among St. Lucians: A Cross-sectional Household Level Analysis**

*by Victor Mlambo and Godfrey St. Bernard*

Identification of factors that are strongly associated with poverty is imperative if sound poverty reduction strategies are to be implemented. This study employs 2006 St Lucian household level data to examine relationships between household poverty status and selected household variables and household head characteristics. The proportion of non-poor households in rural districts was lower than the national average. Total household expenditure was higher in male-headed households than in female headed households in 8 of the 10 districts. Households headed by younger (< 25 years old) individuals tended to be poorer than those headed by older individuals. Regression analysis revealed that level of education of household heads was the strongest determinant of household welfare. Expansion of investment into secondary education may be a

good initial strategy towards poverty reduction since 55.6 % of household heads in St Lucia had no more than a basic primary education.

**Key words:** proximate determinants; place of residence; total expenditure; socioeconomic status; household heads; gender

**Pages:** 94-125.

### **Human Trafficking in Barbados: Achievements and Continuing Hurdles**

*By Tom Durbin and Jill St. George*

**Pages:** 126-154.

### **Cuba and the Question of Employment**

*By Leroy Binns*

**Pages:** 155-166.

## **Volume 38, No. 3, September 2013**

### **The Small Business Finance Dilemma: An Exploratory Study of Barbadian Firms**

*By Stacey Estwick*

This paper explores the fit of the pecking order theory of finance, and the demand for external financing, by closely held and family-owned small and medium enterprises in Barbados. The study is exploratory and uses in-depth interviews with 7 Barbadian entrepreneurs to explore small business financing choice. This study reveals that these entrepreneurs only resorted to debt financing after internal funding was exhausted. External equity funding is not a consideration. Analysis revealed that these finance preferences were influenced by the desire to maintain control of the business. Exploration also revealed a possible relationship between entrepreneurial experience, ownership composition, education levels, and the desire for control and future quantitative research is needed to investigate these relationships. Understanding of SME financing will assist Caribbean practitioners and policy makers in addressing the causes of slow capital market development.

**Key words:** Small and medium enterprises; financing; independence; entrepreneurial experience; education; demand.

**Pages:** 1-28.

## **‘Saving for a Rainy Day’: Coping with Extreme Weather Events in Small Island Developing States**

*By Jonathan Lashley*

Low income persons possess a variety of assets that can assist in coping with shocks and stresses to their livelihoods. However, as extreme weather events increase in intensity and frequency, average losses over fixed periods may increase, while the time available to recoup these losses is reduced. Such a scenario suggests a need for mechanisms to be introduced through which low income persons can either reduce losses through mitigation, or increase the speed with which to rebuild assets, or indeed both. While multiple mechanisms exist to cope with such livelihood shocks, the following paper queries the specific role of weather-related microinsurance to reduce the reliance on more severe asset depleting mechanisms such as: the use of savings and credit as pseudo-insurance; selling assets; relying on governmental assistance and perpetuating a culture of dependence or maladaptation; or simply *‘doing nothing’*. The paper draws on surveys of 1,645 low-income persons involved in agriculture and tourism in the Caribbean and the South-West Indian Ocean. The results indicate that in both regions respondents are mostly utilising medium-stress coping mechanisms which are eroding current assets with limited utilisation of low stress, non-erosive, mechanisms such as insurance. The paper concludes with a preliminary assessment of the feasibility of microinsurance as an alternative risk management mechanism.

**Key words:** climate change, coping mechanisms, microinsurance, small-island developing states, Caribbean, Seychelles, Mauritius.

**Pages:** 29-62.

## **Exploring Determinants of Aggression – Self Esteem, Narcissism and Exposure to Violence from a Sample of Jamaican School Children**

*By Corin Bailey*

Increasing levels of violence in the Caribbean among the young call for investigations into why some children exhibit higher levels of aggression than others. Using a sample of Jamaican children, this paper seeks to identify factors that may lead to violence, through an exploration of possible correlations between three variables (self-esteem, narcissism and exposure to violence) and levels of aggression. The identification of such factors has important implications for early intervention throughout the Caribbean region. Through the application of a quantitative methodology using existing research instruments, the paper finds no statistical association between any of the three variables, and aggression. Levels of aggression are however high across the sample. This raises important questions as to the impact this has on controlling for specific variables. Results point the way towards future research aimed at identifying the factors associated with the high levels of aggression among Jamaican children.

**Key words:** Self-esteem, narcissism, aggression,

**Pages:** 63-84.

### **Higher Education Practice in Trinidad and Tobago and the Shadow of Colonialism**

*by Erik Blair*

**Pages:** 85-92.

## **Volume 38, No. 4, December 2013**

### **Perceptions of Childhood among High School Students in Jamaica**

*By Aldrie Henry-Lee*

This paper examines the perceptions of childhood among students in an urban high school in Jamaica. The research forms part of a larger study of perceptions of childhood but only the findings from one school are discussed here. The students answered questions about the quality of life in Jamaica, the treatment of parents, teachers and community members, what makes children happy or sad and the levels of violence directed at them in the home and in the wider society. One of the important findings is that children felt especially susceptible to violence with 78.5 per cent of them stating that direct violence against children in Jamaica is high or very high. However, when asked about the quality of life in Jamaica, a total of 72.9 per cent described the quality of life in Jamaica as fair to excellent. Furthermore, 56 per cent of them claimed that children in Jamaica were happy or very happy. It would appear that although they were aware of the high levels of violence that surround them, they were able to 'detach' themselves from the harsh reality. They were able to 'construct' a reality that helped them to cope. When the analysis of the larger data set is completed, gender and residential differentials will be explored. The examination of the findings from this school, however, reveals that adherence to many of the rights stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child is unsatisfactory. Policy recommendations are proposed to increase adherence to these rights in the best interest of the child.

**Key Words:** Perceptions, childhood, Jamaica

**Pages:** 5-24.

### **Deliberate Self-harm in the Caribbean**

*By Zahra Jacobs*

Addressing deliberate self-harm (DSH) in the Caribbean this paper seeks to firstly, establish its prevalence; secondly, determine its relationship to depression and self-esteem; thirdly, explore help-seeking preferences. Three hundred and eighty-three (383) students completed the Deliberate Self-harm Inventory, Kutchner Adolescent Depression Scale and Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale. Forty per cent (40%) of students had engaged in at least one form of DSH. DSH

was related to higher numbers of depressive symptoms. No associations between DSH and self-esteem were found. Two-fifths of students indicated that they would not talk to anyone if they were experiencing distress. The implications of these findings for schools, public health initiatives and future research are discussed.

**Key Words:** deliberate self-harm, adolescents, Caribbean, self-esteem, depression, suicide

**Pages:** 25-50.

### **‘Mature Audiences’ – Content, Child Rights and Mediation**

*By Anthea Edalere-Henderson*

Jamaica’s media landscape has been transformed radically in the past three decades. This exploratory study uses qualitative data from focus group interviews conducted amongst parents and guardians in Kingston and St Andrew, Jamaica in November 2012, to unearth data on their media literacies and mediation strategies in a liberalised, converged media environment. The paper will show that while Jamaican parents are demonstrating an increasingly informed approach towards mediation of their children’s exposure and use of media technologies, their perceptions of their own literacies are marked by a measure of ambivalence, as well as a distinct reminiscence for a past era. It is theorised that many mature Jamaicans identify with a ritual model of media rather than a publicity model, which is harder to maintain in a liberalised media environment, and even harder to share with their children. It is recommended that ‘well-being’ goals embodied in the provisions of the UN CRC be defined as necessarily incorporating the development of robust media literacies, and that parents become equipped to mediate competently in the contemporary media environment.

**Key words:** media content, parental mediation, media literacy

**Pages:** 51-77.

### **Addressing Unmet Educational Needs of Children and Youth in Detention in Trinidad and Tobago**

*By Wendell C. Wallace*

Children and youth who come into contact with the Criminal Justice system in Trinidad and Tobago and who are subsequently institutionalised at Industrial Homes and youth detention facilities are in need of high quality education, similar to that of other children. This is a requirement if they are to develop the core competencies and skills necessary for them to become positive contributing members of society. Sadly, this is an infrequent occurrence as many of these children and youth who are in the State’s care often demit the institutions without any academic skills or socio-emotional competencies to facilitate their survival in the twenty-first century. This paper pays attention to the unmet educational needs of children and youth in detention in Trinidad and Tobago and makes suggestions on how to address these deficiencies. A new direction for public policy and planning regarding the unmet educational needs of children

and youth in detention in Trinidad and Tobago is recommended from an ethical/theoretical standpoint as informed by global best practices and comparative international findings.

**Key words:** unmet educational needs, children and youth, detention

**Pages:** 78-105.

### **Improving Life Chances of an ‘At Risk’ Group in Trinidad and Tobago: An Exploratory Analysis of Missing Girls’ Data**

*By Melissa Berkley and Godfrey St. Bernard*

In Trinidad and Tobago, the phenomenon of ‘missing girls’ is a misnomer given its representation in police record-keeping. Though not applicable to all cases of ‘missing girls’, it may rather be indicative of a pattern of delinquency characterising a specific group of females under 18 years. Considering child rights that are geared towards protecting those with the greatest predisposition to all forms of violence, public health risks and deprivation, all of which limit their life chances, females under 18 years constitute a critical sub-population

Bearing in mind similarities and differences in the distribution of missing teenage girls in Trinidad and Tobago during a four-year period between 2008 and 2011, the paper constitutes an exploratory study that provides clues for further research and policy prescription. This study seeks to examine critical attributes such as age, ethnicity and episode characteristics across time and space to discern profiles of ‘missing girls’ in Trinidad and Tobago.

Micro-level data are drawn from police-records for the period January 2008 to December 2011. Descriptive statistics examining patterns of variation and association are analysed to discern similarities, differences and inequities. Available data indicate increases in the frequency of missing girls’ reports during the period, an urban bias with respect to such reports despite their increasingly ubiquitous character with the passage of time. Though the whereabouts of the vast majority of girls were known, there is evidence of some measure of criminal activity with girls being offenders and victims. The majority of the reported cases occurred on the weekend and irrespective of temporal or spatial domain, the median age of missing girls is 15 years.

**Key words:** missing girls’, phenomenon, Trinidad and Tobago

**Pages:** 106-138.