



Diaspora and Transnationalism in the Americas

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Diaspora and the New Transnationalism

- Globalization of labour – more restricted than previous era of globalization
 - Globalization of travel, communication, media & consumption style
 - Globalization from below – “globalization in reverse”
 - Deterritorialization of nation-states
 - Proliferation of transnational communities, networks & hybrid identities
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The Global Migration Context

- The migratory flow of people from LAC is driven by two contemporary global imbalances:
 - The widening socio-economic polarization (i.e. the widening income gap) between and within the countries of the North Atlantic and LAC.
 - CULTURE OF EMIGRATION
 - Demographic polarization in terms of the relative ageing of the population of the North and the looming generational crisis.
 - REPLACEMENT MIGRATION

Diaspora & the New International Division of Labour

- Labour importation is the flipside of the relocation of production
 - Labour importation is for the jobs that are not yet ready to migrate:
 - Agricultural jobs
 - Personal, education & health services
 - Science & technology, IT & technical skills
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Global Migration Problematique

- The exodus of human capital is a function of diminishing returns in Latin America & the Caribbean
 - Labour migration is a process of shifting cultivation
 - The labour migration problem is one of the devil take the hindmost
 - Rural → Urban → Global Cities
 - Low income → Middle income → High Income
 - Haiti → Dom. Rep. → New York
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Diaspora & New LAC Political Economy

- The growth of the Diasporic political economy signals the emergence of a new post-national and post-development phase in the GPE:
 - Diasporic flows exceed traditional external flows, for example, FDI, ODA, Debt financing.
 - Remittances, barrel imports, diasporic tourism, exports & investment are the new drivers of the LAC economy.
 - Diasporic diplomacy emerging as new plank of international relations and international security in the post 9/11 era.

Diasporic Caribbean Carnivals

- There are over sixty Diasporic Caribbean Carnivals:
 - 31 in the UK
 - 21 in the US
 - 7 in Canada
 - 3 in Europe
 - The largest Diasporic Caribbean Carnivals are:
 - Notting Hill – London
 - Labour Day – New York
 - Caribana – Toronto
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Economic Contribution of Diasporic Caribbean Carnivals

| FESTIVAL | ATTENDANCE | VISITOR EXP. |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Notting Hill - London | 2 million over two days | £93 mn. (2003) |
| Labour Day – New York | 2 million | \$70 mn. (1996) |
| Caribana – Toronto | 1 million | Cnd\$200 mn. (1996) |

CARIBBEAN MUSIC INDUSTRY: ECONOMIC IMPACT

- The **Jamaican** music industry is estimated to employ 15,000 people and control 15 – 20% of the US\$300 million (1999) in reggae music sales.
 - Genres like merengue and bachata from the **Dominican Republic** account for 8% of the Latin music market in the United States, which is valued at US\$626 million (1999).
 - The entertainment industry in **Trinidad & Tobago** earned US\$60mn in 1999 which ranks in the top ten export earning sectors.
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Goals of Upcoming June 2004 Conference – Jamaican Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1. To strengthen the linkages among Jamaican communities overseas;
 2. To create the platform for increased business contracts between Jamaicans at home and abroad;
 3. To create a platform to comprehensively involve more overseas Jamaicans in the political, social and cultural life of Jamaica;
 4. To elicit ideas from the Diaspora community for the formulation of public policy, and
 5. To see the formulation of high-powered lobby groups in the US, Canada and the UK to assist Jamaica in international trade
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