Diaspora and Transnationalism in the Americas

Dr. Keith Nurse
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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
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
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
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
## Economic Contribution of Diasporic Caribbean Carnivals

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<th>FESTIVAL</th>
<th>ATTENDANCE</th>
<th>VISITOR EXP.</th>
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<td>Caribana – Toronto</td>
<td>1 million</td>
<td>Cnd$200 mn. (1996)</td>
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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.
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