

ABSTRACT

The Caribbean-Latino Diaspora: Globalization, Migration and Identity in Contemporary International Relations

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The thesis examines the extent to which migration and the creation of diasporic communities have grown in salience in contemporary international relations and global development. The Caribbean region has one of the largest diasporas in relative terms and diasporic flows such as labour migration, the growth of the remittance economy as well as diasporic tourism, trade and investment have emerged to be a key driver of development. The thesis involves a global and historical analysis of the intersection of globalization and diasporization with a focus on the case of the Caribbean-Latino diaspora and specifically the Dominican diaspora in the United States.

The study utilizes both world-systems theory and a postcolonial approach to analyze the evolution of the global capitalist economy and the incorporation of peripheral societies like the Caribbean in the new global political economy. From this standpoint diaspora is used as a unit analysis, thereby avoiding the limitations of statecentrism while incorporating the issues of ethnicity, cultural identity and transborder activities. The study argues that the importance of migration and diaspora to the region is not gaining the attention that it merits and points to an endemic problem in both the region's conceptualization of nation-state and the methodological approach to treating with development issues. Because of the large presence of Caribbean and Latin American emigrant groups in North

America and Europe, and the links between poverty and migration as a development issue, the study makes a contribution to the debate whether migration in the Caribbean-Latino context is symptomatic of development failure in the Caribbean or a solution to the region's development problems.

Key words: Diaspora, migration, globalization, identity, development, Caribbean-Latino