

## ABSTRACT

Globalisation and the Services Economy in the Anglophone Caribbean:  
Implications and Prospects for the Telecommunications Industry

Natasha Fiona Ward

This dissertation examines the implications of the logic of globalisation and the growth of the services economy in the Anglophone Caribbean for the regional telecommunications industry. The analysis is set against the background of the migration of telecommunications issues from the national level to the global plane. The dissertation also represents an interrogation into the asymmetries of power, knowledge, finance and technology as regional actors interact with powerful transnational interests and multilateral agencies. The prospects for the regional telecommunications industry are deduced from the analytical examination of these processes and the interrogation into these asymmetries. In addition, the potential role of the telecommunications industry in the economic development of the Anglophone Caribbean is assessed.

The dissertation adopts a hybrid approach to the telecommunications industry based on theoretical concepts borrowed from the World-systems paradigm and Interest Group Theory. The World-systems epistemology, methodology and historiography provide the theoretical tools for an analysis of the telecommunications industry in the region and provide a critique of the neo-liberal paradigm which has been the dominant perspective in constructing knowledge in the area of telecommunications. The Interest Group Theory's methodology allows for the analytical treatment of the behaviour of micro-units of analysis and of the impact of micro-level dynamics on state-level decision-making.

The study found that while the production of services offers the region the opportunity to diversify its economy, the region is still relegated to producing low value-added services in the world-economy. It also revealed that the telecommunications industry has acted as a brake on the development of other industries within the regional economy. It was further determined that the

transformations which are occurring in the telecommunications industry in the Anglophone Caribbean are the outcome of the dialectic interaction of global pressures on individual states and domestic dynamics which compete to shape national policies.

**Keywords:** Natasha Fiona Ward; Telecommunications, Service economies; Globalisation.