

## ABSTRACT

Globalization and the Dialectics of Difference: Freedom, Fusion and Endless Possibilities?!!

Catherine Boodhoo

Postmodern research and theorizations have continued to transform the ways in which identities and social constructs have come to be created and understood. Moreover, they have come to challenge the taken-for granted assumptions that lie behind terms and definitions commonly used to describe these constructs. This thesis examines the extent to which individual agency, socio-cultural integration and freedom of outcome, as given designation by the terms freedom, fusion and endless possibilities, reflect the contestation of the primordial/traditional, the modern and the globalized postmodern influences on social modalities in Trinidad.

In order to validate this postmodernist claim, case studies are used from the Central Borough of Chaguanas in Trinidad to show that the 'lived experiences' of individuals are reflective of hybrid forms of social reality. The friction, slippage and collusion of the meaning of these terms and social constructs, as exists in this changing society, are reflective of contending social modalities that act upon each individual to create potentially new ways of interacting, speaking and living.

Keywords: Catherine Boodhoo; Freedom; Fusion; Endless possibilities; Postmodernism; Modernism; Dialectics of difference; Globalization.