

Editorial

Understanding the Caribbean through the Lens of Research and Practice: A Selection of Graduate Papers from the April 11th, 2013, Department of Behavioural Sciences Post Graduate Conference, UWI, St. Augustine

For this third volume of the Journal of the Department of Behavioural Sciences (JDBS) presenters from the Department of Behavioural Sciences', Post Graduate Conference, entitled "Understanding the Caribbean through the Lens of Research and Practice" were asked to submit papers for development and publication.

The one-day conference consisted of 52 different presenters, across 10 different panels, and included a poster session and a poster workshop. In terms of audience, over 300 persons signed the attendance sheet on the day, including 25 scholars from beyond the region. The conference was also picked up by all three dailies and carried on the three consecutive days after the conference.

While it is clear the research of our Post-Graduate community is diverse and wide-ranging enough to stage a successful conference, the post-conference world for young Caribbean scholars is limiting.

One of the biggest problems young and emerging scholars face in universities located in the "Global South" such as the Caribbean is a lack of writing mentorship and publishing opportunities.

Not only do emerging Caribbean scholars encounter a global academic culture industry that does not see the Caribbean as significant in terms of research and publishing (mostly an argument about profits and lack of audience); there is also a culture of resistance to 21st century solutions such as Open Access Journals such as the JDBS. Sadly such resistance while offering decent critique fails to offer solutions to the current impasse young scholars and Caribbean scholars face more generally.

Into this breach the editors of the JDBS felt it only right to offer space, encouragement and revision advice to young authors who presented at the Department of Behavioural Sciences', Post Graduate Conference.

Six papers survived the peer review process, which included double-blind peer review, and at least two rounds of revise and resubmit. Each paper is still a work in progress, with all the authors still engaged with their research and its on-going development, and each article should be digested as such.

Any comments, thoughts or insights readers might want to pass on to the authors is greatly appreciated as they continue to refine their ideas and disseminate their findings. The authors' email addresses are contained in the header of each article.

The papers span a broad sway of Caribbean research including; **Worker's Rights, Work-Place Dynamics, Tertiary Education, Policing, Homophobia, and Identity**; from researchers in the fields of Psychology, Criminology, Sociology, Human Geography, and Anthropology.

Both the conference itself and this short volume of papers from the proceedings demonstrate the breadth of research and practice within the Dept of Behavioural Sciences and the wider university. Publishing these papers is also a means by which the Department of Behavioural Sciences at St Augustine can connect our Post Graduate community to the wider public and for our young researchers to receive feedback on their ideas/research from a wide span of people. Both these things were stated aims of the original conference.

Peer review for this issue was provided by both present and former faculty from the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus.

Dr. Christine Descartes served as co-editor for this issue and endeavoured greatly over its evolution to get the content out to our peer reviewers and online. Due to unforeseen circumstances this issue was sadly delayed by over 4 months. We offer the authors and peer reviewers our apologies for that and ask for understanding.

For further information about the journal, please see our web page at: <http://journals.sta.uwi.edu/jbs/index.asp>

Dylan Kerrigan
Editor