REVIEW by Professor Diane Drachman

English-Speaking Caribbean immigrants - By Lear Matthews

Rave reviews for book on Caribbean Immigrants!

Anew book entitled *English Speaking Caribbean Immigrants: Transnational Identities by Lear Matthews* has received outstanding reviews, the latest by Professor Diane Drachman, one of the leading scholars on immigrant issues in the United States. The book has been adopted as required reading for courses in Immigration Studies at educational institutions in the Caribbean and the US. Below are excerpts from the Review that was published in the Caribbean Journal of Social Work, Volume 11, 2015.

Dr. Matthews’ impressive book examines the migration experiences of the large English-speaking Caribbean immigrant population. The volume is grounded in the phenomenon of transnational migration which is used as the conceptual frame for discussions by contributing authors. He highlights the connections that Caribbean immigrants sustain in both the country of origin and destination country.

The chapters can be broadly grouped under individuals, families, women and special topics... including Anglophone Caribbean women, transnational parenting, the elderly and healthcare, Caribbean immigrant families, Indo- and Afro-Guyanese communities, hometown Associations, occupational change, and culturally competent educational services.

Other issues that influence the identity of immigrants from the English-speaking Caribbean are captured in the discussion on race. Race relations in the United States pose significant challenges. Afro-Caribbeans for example, are often mistaken as African-Americans. They are categorized as people of color and encounter racist experiences similar to the experiences of African Americans.

The reader is informed of the varied ways migrants from Caribbean countries construct their lives transnationally. The content on migrants’ cross-border ties and relationships implies a widening of their social field. Thus, it is important for educators and researchers to integrate their thinking and work with the broader social environment that frames the lives of transmigrants. The book is a fine addition to varied literature including studies in migration, transnationalism, the Caribbean, and social work. The reader gains familiarity with current issues encountered by migrants from the English-Speaking Caribbean and current theoretical approaches that explain their experiences. Application of theory to practice is also integrated into the volume.

It is a valuable book and I recommend it for educators, researchers, services providers, and graduate students with an interest in migration.

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