

Introduction

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In the spirit of productive dialectics, the origins for this thematic issue come from a July 2022 symposium on Race, Class and Nationalism after Empire: The Fundamentals of the Caribbean Situation. In this issue of *New Proposals*, Antonia Mungal and Juan Vicente Iborra Mallent provide details on the presentations and how the contributors have been talking about the enduring consequences of colonial capitalism in the contemporary Caribbean. Many of those themes on Caribbean colonial capitalism can be found in the various papers in this issue, which includes ethnographic studies on care-economies, church relations, music scenes, an analysis of the 2020 election in Suriname, and papers on how the political thought of CLR James and Aimé Césaire have been adopted to expand the visions of emancipatory social change.

I wish to draw attention to some overlapping themes. The first paper by Nadia Whiteman-Charles is a study on the politics of taste, civic ascription and antagonisms in Jamaica. Tackling the idea of 'authentic nation music', Whiteman-Charles examines how race is deployed to protect hard fought for representations and how minor music genres have to negotiate 'authentic' blackness. Meghan Cleghorn tackles similar issues around becoming and belonging in

Trinidadian church politics, discussing how fading syncretism means a hardening doctrine that makes it more difficult for queer people to be included as full members of Presbyterian Indo-Trinidadian congregations. Both papers allude to how different Caribbean classes deal with eurocentrism and its consequences.

The papers by Shelene Gomes and Antonia Mungal have several common themes about the materialist basis of care-labour and care economies. Drawing on Marxian political economy frameworks to contextualize women's labor and well-being within broader structures and ideologies, both papers examine the often undervalued and 'invisible' social reproductive labor performed by Anglo-Caribbean women. They examine the burdens faced by women caregivers as these obligations are shaped by class expectations.

Kirtie Algoe's paper speaks to some of these overarching themes as they are mobilised and contested during elections. Her case study of the 2020 Surinamese elections examines online campaigning. The election was shaped by the global coronavirus pandemic. The analysis of social media content helps clarify local issues, like the role of ethnicity in the formation of election pacts in this consociational society. Given the relative sparseness of election analysis in Caribbean political scholarship, Algoe provides a

data point for understanding contemporary political dynamics in ethnically diverse Caribbean societies like Suriname. Algoe's work can help readers think about how politics will 'carry on' in times of disruption, a topic that will greatly matter as the Caribbean is shaped by the global climate emergency.

I am pleased to republish P.I. Gomes's 1978 working paper *The Marxian Populism of C.L.R James*, which was originally circulated in the Working Papers on Caribbean Society, a series produced by the Department of Sociology, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. In consultation with the author, minor changes have been made to modernize the text. Republication can make this paper available for people interested in the history of Caribbean intellectual thought, a theme that carries over to the paper on Aimé Césaire and his influence on Achille Mbembe. Both papers showcase productive dialectical encounters about key issues related to modernity and social transformation.

Later this year, *New Proposals* intends to publish a special issue on Class, Skill and Exploitation: Harry Braverman's Labor and Monopoly Capital after 50 Years, guest edited by Benjamin Anderson, Steff Hui Cui Ling, and Enda Brophy. Special issues like theirs underscore the value of and continued relevance for interdisciplinary class analysis the world over.

With appreciation,
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