



The Movement of Venezuelans to the Americas and the Caribbean in the 21st Century

Edited by
Wendell C. Wallace

palgrave
macmillan

The Movement of Venezuelans to the Americas and the Caribbean in the 21st Century

“Dr. Wallace has brought together a fascinating and insightful collection of essays focused on themes relating to the contemporary migration of Venezuelan nationals into the Americas and the Caribbean. The contributions to this edited collection come from a wide range of scholars, at different career stages and representing different disciplines but all exhibit high levels of scholarship. This book should be compulsory reading for students and politicians.”

—Kevin Haines, *Visiting Professor of Criminology, University of South Wales*

“What is a non-Western-focused Caribbean framework on immigrant integration? This book is a great example. While giving voice to Venezuelan migrants’ plight, it explores Caribbean host communities’ concerns, however uncomfortable to raise in international forums: fear of immigrant criminality, rising unemployment of low-skilled nationals, racial capital of Venezuelan migrants, exploitation of migrant women, and illegal border entries. An important contribution!”

—Valerie Lacarte, *Migration Policy Institute*

Wendell C. Wallace
Editor

The Movement of
Venezuelans to the
Americas and the
Caribbean in the 21st
Century

palgrave
macmillan

Editor

Wendell C. Wallace
Department of Behavioural Sciences
The University of the West Indies
St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

ISBN 978-3-031-31761-3 ISBN 978-3-031-31762-0 (eBook)
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-31762-0>

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2023

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use. The publisher, the authors, and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG.

The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

FOREWORD

History records the ebbs and flows of human movement as voluntary and involuntary moments. The movement of people dates as far back as more than one million years ago. This movement was often associated with seeking new places to settle for the short to long term and was frequently connected with nomadic societies. Later, the expansion of the world, through relocation, became associated with wars and the resulting actions of conquering other states, expanding the reign of sovereignty through forms of colonisation and enslavement.

With the dawn of modernity, global phenomenon and eras of industrialisation, the push and pull factors for migration now include sustained civil and political disruption, environmental disasters and the need to access better education, health and protection services. Research indicates that while there are concerns for both the host and country of origin, migratory movements and migrants make significant contributions to their adoptive countries in terms of culture and food, the political landscape and advancements in entrepreneurial innovations. The challenge, however, is that sustained and unregulated migration practices generate circumstances where human rights concerns become complex, where large pockets of vulnerable persons emerge overnight and where issues around social protection and security become points of urgency.

There are three faces of migration; first, the face of *international agreements* that require national signatories and obligations; second, the face of *national procedures* constrained by the availability of scarce resources; and third, the *lived experience* of the boy, girl, man or woman seeking refuge in the circumstances of human rights disasters and confronting the

potential for rejection and dissonance in the host country. The vulnerabilities, created and conditioned by migration and the readiness of systems for migrants (trafficking, lack of access to services, exploitation and xenophobia), are cradles of unease not just for the fields of criminal justice, policing, social work, sociology and psychology, but perhaps more for the field of education.

Response for Venezuelans (R4V) reported that in the first quarter of 2020 over 113,000 Venezuelans have sought the safety of the Caribbean. A significant number of these persons are children and youth, representing 12% of the registered refugee population in Trinidad and Tobago and 31% of the refugee population in Guyana. Despite international legal obligations, refugee children and youth experience significant trials with accessing education services. This is often related to the language barriers and the national legislative rules governing school enrolment where refugees often do not have the required documentation to support school enrolment.

While there is the challenge of the host country's ability to absorb migrants, there is also the socio-cultural challenge of conflicts of cultures and assumptions of abilities, particularly where the required training and resources are not in place at the school level to support integration and inclusion. Thus, for migrant children and youth, learning continuity in a language that is not their mother tongue results in additional reasons for exclusion, decreasing the rates for successful educational outcomes, reducing the ability to experience income independence and increasing the social protection/security costs for the migrant and the host country.

While this volume speaks to the issue of the Venezuelan exodus in the twenty-first century and the social and political contest that this exodus creates for the Caribbean host nations, the recommendations proffered by the authors can also serve to guide the development of harmonised education responses for migrant children and youth. The power of this anthology is in its interdisciplinary nature emphasising the importance of understanding the complexities of migration beyond the intersectionality of politics, economy and security. Migration is a lived experience and brings with it anxieties at all levels and for all actors central and peripheral to the migration ecosystem.

As the reader negotiates and navigates the pages of this volume, he/she will find a wealth of lived experiences and will be pulled into the mosaic of twenty-first-century exodus experiences in the Caribbean. Noting that as the landscape changes and boundaries are re-defined, the facades of the

twenty-first-century Caribbean will be forever transformed. It is up to us in the Caribbean to use the recommendations of the research in this volume to shape legislation, policies, practices and cultures of inclusion, strengthening the social fabric and economic viability of the Caribbean.

Programme Manager-Human Resource
Development
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Secretariat, Guyana
June 30, 2021

Laurette Bristol

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The idea for this project originated from two sources. The first source was a Special Issue in the *Migration and Development* journal that was edited by my erstwhile academic colleague, scholar and longstanding friend from our time as undergraduate students at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Dr Natasha K. Mortley, and my good self. Paradoxically, the second source emanated from the first, as the Special Issue was oversubscribed and unfortunately several high-quality articles were not accepted by the journal due to the limitedness of space.

Instructively, the large number of articles that were initially submitted for publication consideration in the Special Issue of *Migration and Development* (Volume 10(2) by Wallace & Mortley), as well as the extremely high quality of articles that were not accepted due to want of space in the journal, encouraged me to continue the pursuit of knowledge on the migration of Venezuelans from their homeland. Further, the voluminous number of articles that were submitted to the journal highlighted the importance of understanding the migration from Venezuela to smaller Caribbean Islands as the impacts of this migration apparently affected every nation state in the region. When combined, these factors spurred me to seek an avenue for these high-quality, but non-accepted and important scholarly articles that are mostly contained in this book and collectively known as *The Movement of Venezuelans to the Americas and the Caribbean in the 21st Century*.

The most important people in this book are the authors who conducted the research for this collective in the most trying circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns which made data

collection doubly difficult. To Christine Descartes, Priya E. Maharaj, Kevin Peters, Bennie Berkeley, Malisa Neptune-Figaro, Kareina St. Hill, Camille Huggins, Akeem Modeste-James, Daren A. Conrad, Christian Sealy, Cheryl-Ann Boodram, Chanzo Greenidge, Nathan Chapman, Duane Edwards, Alana Griffith, Peter Wickham, Lisa McClean-Trotman, Michelle Nicholson, Ashaki Dore, Marlon Anatol, Khadijah Williams, Ayinka Nurse-Carrington, Avekadavie Parasramsingh Mano, Stephanie Bishop, Tashana Providence, Akilah Procope, Joan Tull, Rhea Mars-Chester, Kadeshah Swearing and Georgina Chami, I wish to personally thank you for your contributions to this book. Without your valuable input and support, the production of this book would not have been possible.

To every author, to every individual who offered advice and to a host of other persons, who for reasons of anonymity and confidentiality, must remain nameless, I thank you. I trust that you all feel a sense of accomplishment as this collective might bear my name, but it is your solicited and unsolicited advice and professional guidance which ensured that this book was transformed from an idea to a meaningful reality. I hope that the book has captured your perspectives on this pervasive issue of migration from Venezuela into the Americas and the Caribbean, and if I have failed to adequately capture your perspectives, I trust that you will forgive any errors of fact and interpretation for which I alone am responsible.

To Josephine Taylor and Palgrave Macmillan, who inspired me to reach for my dreams and to aim for the stars, who provided enthusiastic support and who offered great advice as well as insightful feedback to help with polishing the final product, my heartfelt gratitude goes out to you. To Drs Talia Esnard and Acolla Lewis-Cameron (Head of Department of Behavioural Sciences and Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, respectively), thank you for your inspirational leadership and guidance.

I must also express my gratitude to my friends—Rachel D’Arceuil, Brian Caesar, Allister Glean, Wendell DeGannes, Kenson Douglas and Karen Lancaster-Ellis—as well as to my academic support system—especially Drs Allan Patenaude and Christine Descartes—who are always receptive to my ideas and who have constantly provided moral support as well as constructive criticisms. To the Seales Avenue Crew (Anthony Rosales, Glen Webster, Nigel Gomez and Sean Xavier)—respect. The laughter and joy that you bring to my life is a source of daily inspiration. To my friend Alice Gordon-James, who enjoys my eclectic ways and who provides me

with unforgettable moments of great escape and laughter when boredom and writer's block reared their dual heads, thank you for your support. Eric Smart—my adopted 'big brother', my advisor and my 'go to guy' for any and everything—your support over the years is appreciated.

To Dr Laurette S. M. Bristol, thank you for authoring a riveting and captivating foreword for this book at short notice. Your willingness and enthusiasm for scholarly activities and your competitive, yet, collegial spirit is unmatched. To the book chapter authors, I hope that the insights you have produced and replicated in this collective will contribute to an enhanced understanding of the problems, impacts and effects of migration from Venezuela into the Americas and the Caribbean in the early twenty-first century. Rest assured that as scholars you have done your due diligence on this matter and have contributed to the production of knowledge and the development of a Caribbean scholarship on this pervasive issue that impacts not only the Caribbean but areas beyond.

Finally, to my mother, Ann Eastman-Wallace; my father, Codrington Wallace; and my siblings (Sandra Wallace-Adams, Roger Wallace, Dale Wallace and Merville Wallace), who all encouraged me to indulge in my academic pursuits, I salute you. To Maria, Dariq, Elisha, Antoinette, Malique, Tahj Akeem aka 'Uncle Punk', Dejuan, Abigail, Shaneika and Toni-Lisa—without your love, none of this would have been possible.

January 2023

Wendell C. Wallace

CONTENTS

Part I	Contextual Frameworks of Migration	1
1	The Migration of Venezuelans in the Early Twenty-First Century: Understanding the Contextual Frameworks	3
	Wendell C. Wallace	
2	The Psychology of Caribbean Migration: Situated Contexts, Commonalities and Challenges	21
	Christine Descartes and Priya E. Maharaj	
Part II	Crime and Criminality	37
3	Applying Frequency, Associational and Conclusion Analysis to the Study of Venezuelan Immigrant Crimes in Trinidad and Tobago	39
	Kevin Peters and Bennie Berkeley	
4	Threats to Trinidad and Tobago's Security: An Assessment of Venezuelan Immigrants' Involvement in Crime	61
	Malisa Neptune-Figaro	

Part III	Migrant Experiences and Conditions	83
5	The Experiences, Challenges and Choices of Venezuelan Migrants in Trinidad	85
	Kareina St. Hill	
6	Providing Healthcare to Venezuelan Migrants in the Small Island State of Trinidad: Physicians' Lived Experiences	105
	Camille Huggins and Akeem Modeste James	
Part IV	Impacts and Implications of Migration	121
7	The Impact of Venezuelan Migration on the Labour Market in Trinidad and Tobago	123
	Christian Sealy and Daren A. Conrad	
8	A Case Study of Social Work Practice with Venezuelan Migrants in Trinidad and Tobago: Implications for Social Work in the Anglophone Caribbean	139
	Cheryl-Ann Sarita Boodram	
9	Caribbean Security in an Era of Mass Migration from Venezuela: Implications for the Southern Caribbean	159
	Chanzo Greenidge	
Part V	Attitudes Towards Migrants	179
10	"Trinbago Trumpism": A Digital Ethnography on Local Attitudes Towards Venezuelan Migrants in Trinidad and Tobago	181
	Nathan Chapman	

11	We're Okay with Them but How Many More?: Trinidadians' Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions of Venezuelan Migrants	203
	Duane Edwards, Alana Griffith, Peter W. Wickham, and Lisa McClean-Trotman	
12	Venezuelans in Pursuit of the Goldilocks Policy Environment in Trinidad and Tobago	229
	Ashaki L. Dore and Michelle S. A. Nicholson	
Part VI	The Voice of Venezuelan Migrants	249
13	Migration Experiences during a Pandemic: An Investigation into the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Migrant Venezuelan Women in Trinidad and Tobago	251
	Cheryl-Ann Sarita Boodram	
14	An Examination of the Vulnerable Venezuelan Population in Trinidad and Tobago: Some Considerations	271
	Marlon Anatol	
15	Navigating Gender-Based Violence, Exploitation, Discrimination and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Voices of Venezuelan refugees in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana	287
	Khadijah Williams, Ayinka Nurse-Carrington, and Avekadavie Parasramsingh Mano	
16	Vaccine Hesitancy Among Migrant Populations Residing in Trinidad and Tobago: Does the Health Belief Model Predict Uptake of COVID-19 Vaccines for Migrant Children?	309
	Lisa McClean-Trotman, Stephanie Bishop, Tashana Providence Forde, Akilah Procope, Joan Tull, and Rhea Mars-Chester	

17	Moving Stories: A Narrative Study of Venezuelan Migrants Living in the Cayman Islands	325
	Kadeshah Swearing	
Part VII	Closing Arguments	345
18	Conclusion	347
	Georgina Chami and Wendell C. Wallace	
Index		361

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Marlon Anatol, PhD has taught at the Institute of International Relations, The University of the West Indies, for many years and written numerous journal articles and book chapters on migration, crime and security, economic development, trafficking in persons and youth. He has co-edited four books to date, entitled *Selected Essays on Contemporary Caribbean Issues* and *Contemporary Issues in Caribbean and Latin American Relations*, both with Raymond Mark Kirton; *The Changing Political and Socio-economic Environment in the Caribbean and Latin America: Prospects and Challenges* and *Managing New Security Threats in the Caribbean* with Georgina Chami and Jerome Teelucksingh. He is a senior fellow at the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies.

Bennie Berkeley has been a teacher for the past 40 years. He lectures in the Department of Behavioural Sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. He teaches qualitative research methods and political sociology. Additionally, he teaches theories of conflict and Caribbean social issues in the mediation studies programme. Also, he has supervised many doctoral and master's students on issues such as family conflict, family structure and domestic abuse/neglect (in sociology, criminology and criminal justice, mediation studies and social work). Berkeley has written several articles in the sociology of education, sociology of health and sociological research methods.

Stephanie Bishop, MSc is a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with the UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area, Barbados.

Cheryl-Ann Sarita Boodram is a lecturer/practicum coordinator in the Department of Behavioural Sciences at The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. She has over 17 years of professional social work experience with marginalised youth in community and residential settings, migrants and people experiencing loss due to natural disasters. Her research interests are unified by a focus on collective trauma in the Caribbean as experienced by children, migrants, all forms of violence and experiences of disasters. She is keen on working in communities to widen the use of participatory action methods and to harness these methods to humanise research and stimulate action.

Georgina Chami, PhD holds a Doctoral Degree in International Relations. She is a lecturer at the Institute of International Relations (IIR), The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus (UWI STA), Trinidad and Tobago. Her areas of expertise are diplomacy, peace and security, peacebuilding and international organisations. Presently, she is the coordinator, Diploma programme in International Relations, Internship Coordinator, IIR and Faculty Advisor, Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN) and UWI STA Model UN Club. She was the recipient of a Central America/Caribbean Fulbright Visiting Scholars Award in 2010. Academic affiliations include the International Studies Association, Caribbean Studies Association and the Mixed Methods International Research Association—Caribbean Chapter.

Nathan Chapman is a PhD candidate in Sociology at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. He is envisaged as a decolonial scholar with a research interest in coloniality and socio-cultural inequality. His research interests include coloniality, socio-cultural inequality and global south studies. Presently, Nathan tutors to undergraduate students in the Department of Behavioural Sciences (DOBS) at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Daren A. Conrad, PhD, a graduate of Howard University, achieved his Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Suma Cum Laude) in 1999, Master of Arts in Economics in 2002 and PhD in Economics in 2007. Conrad served as an assistant professor at Bowie State University and an adjunct lecturer at Howard University's School of Business. Conrad is now employed as a lecturer at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago. Some of his secular positions include cost analyst, Republic Bank Trinidad and Tobago Limited; consultant,

PricewaterhouseCoopers in Arlington Virginia; and investment analyst at JPMorganChase in Manhattan, NY. Conrad has written in numerous international scholarly journals. His research interests are in the areas of development economics, urban economics and monetary and fiscal economics.

Christine Descartes is Lecturer in Psychology in the Department of Behavioral Sciences at The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago. She holds a PhD in Psychology, with a specialisation in developmental psychology. Her research interests focus on behavioural and psychosocial development in children and adolescents. In particular, she is currently involved in national and regional research that centres on child maltreatment and trauma, as well as the development problem behaviours in children and adolescents. She is keen to do much-needed interdisciplinary research that will promote children's rights, and advance policies that will positively impact the psychosocial well-being of children and their families. Descartes served as a member on the Board of Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago from 2017 to 2020.

Ashaki L. Dore is a corporal in the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment (TTR) and has 17 years of military service. She holds a PhD in International Relations with her doctoral research exploring citizen participation in the citizen security framework of countries facing high levels of crime and violence. Dore is currently attached to the Military Community Support System Task Force (MCSS) of the TTR. Her research interests include crime prevention, migration and gangs and she has presented research on her postgraduate work at the International Studies Association (ISA), the Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston, the Centre for Citizenship Studies at Wayne State University, SALISES, Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) and the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC).

Duane Edwards is an independent researcher. He currently provides research consultancy services for various local and international organisations. He also engages in academic research in areas of race and ethnicity, migration, social theory, corruption and Caribbean development thought. His research on race and ethnicity involves inquiry into the history of racial and ethnic formations; the nature and forms of correlates of race and ethnicity with other modes of socio-economic differentiation; and their

impact on racial/ethnic conflicts, social cohesion, political stability and the differential life chances of various groups in society. Edwards has conducted research on migration as he examines the experiences of migrant groups in societies with a history of racial and ethnic tension. He has written several peer-reviewed articles in the aforementioned areas.

Tashana Providence Forde, MSc is a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist with the UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area, Barbados.

Chanzo Greenidge is an International Political Economy specialist with a focus on critical territorialities, identities and mobilities. A graduate from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and the University of Toronto, Greenidge has taught advanced methodology, international politics and history, international migration and development, diaspora theory, world dance forms, global cultural literacy and social science theory at undergraduate, professional training and graduate programmes using tools of critical journalism and critical realism to develop theory, strategic thinking and practical frameworks as a scholar and consultant. As a migration expert, he has contributed to the development of Trinidad and Tobago's labour migration policy, Haiti's national migration policy (2015–2030) and regional policy frameworks for skills mobility in South-eastern Africa.

Alana Griffith is Lecturer in Sociology, specialising in social policy, in the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. She has served as a commissioner on the CARICOM Commission on Marijuana and has undertaken consultancies with a number of national and sub-regional agencies. Her research interests include cannabis and its social dimensions, welfare systems in developing countries and broader issues surrounding social justice and she has several peer-reviewed publications. In 2018–2019, Griffith won the Campus Award for Best Applied Research and is also the recipient of The Principal's Award for Excellence for Outstanding Teaching for 2018–2019. She is a member of the Caribbean Sociological Association, Social Policy Association and Caribbean Studies Association.

Camille Huggins is a lecturer on the Social Work Programme in the Department of Behavioural Sciences at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. Huggins obtained her Bachelor's

Degree in Sociology from the State University of New York at Buffalo, a Master's Degree in Social Work from Columbia University and a PhD in Social Work from New York University. She has over 15 years of social work experience and her research interest is older adults and traumatic grief.

Priya E. Maharaj, PhD, CPsychol, CSci, FBPSS is a clinical psychologist in independent practice in Trinidad and actively engaged in Caribbean research on violence against children. Maharaj is a scientist-practitioner focused on addressing mental health and violence against women and children through clinical work, research, training and advocacy. She is the co-founder and operational director of The Alpine Project, a Trinidadian NGO focused on mental health and the rights of women and children in the Caribbean. Maharaj is a chartered psychologist, chartered scientist and fellow of the British Psychological Society.

Avekadavie Parasramsingh Mano holds a PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. Her doctoral research focused on the Belizean sex trade, particularly on the aspect of migratory sex work, and involved the methodological innovation of Attride-Stirling's thematic network analysis technique. This innovative research was published in the *International Annals of Criminology* in 2018. Mano has explored specific areas of her research including the vulnerabilities and stigmatisation faced by sex workers, the influence of culture and migration on the sex trade and xenophobia in Trinidad and Tobago. Mano has shared her research both locally and on international forums. Her other research interests include research methods and crimes against humanity, specifically human trafficking and the many issues surrounding the exploitation of children.

Rhea Mars-Chester, MSc is a UNV Communication Officer with the UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area, Barbados.

Lisa McClean-Trotman has approximately 20 years of experience in strategic communications. She is the Communications for Development Specialist with the UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area (UNICEF ECA) with responsibility for social and behaviour change communication across 12 countries. McClean-Trotman has commissioned and supervised several studies for UNICEF ECA that have been used to influence policy, advocacy and programming on children's rights issues in the Eastern Caribbean. She holds BA in History and Law (Hons) and a

Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations from The University of the West Indies. She also holds a Master's in International Affairs and Doctorate in International Communication with a focus on social and behaviour change from Ohio University and a Master's in Psychology from the University of Roehampton, England. She has peer-reviewed publications and policy review on issues surrounding children in the Caribbean.

Akeem Modeste-James received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. Since graduating, he was appointed as a clinical social work faculty at The University of the West Indies teaching undergraduate social work courses. Akeem has also worked as an outpatient clinical social worker at community health centres focusing on the treatment of trauma and anxiety disorders. Akeem's research interests include disparities in mental health care for young adults and public policy.

Malisa Neptune-Figaro, PhD is a lecturer in the Department of Behavioural Sciences at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to lecturing at this university, she attained a Doctorate in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the Florida State University, where she was also employed as an instructor and programme coordinator in the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She has also served as a part-time instructor at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. Neptune-Figaro has spent the past ten years devoted to criminological research. She has several published articles on topics such as migratory crimes and policing in the Caribbean. Her research interest includes transnational-organised crimes, crimes against women and children and policing.

Michelle S. A. Nicholson is a sergeant in the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Reserves (TTDFR) and has 26 years' military service. She is currently attached to the Welfare Department of the TTDFR and holds an MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology with a double minor in International Relations and Criminology from The University of the West Indies. Michelle also holds a certificate from the William J. Perry Hemispheric School of Defense, Washington DC, in Caribbean Security and Defense. She has presented papers on her postgraduate work at the 1st Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) Law Enforcement Conference and the International

Criminology Conference 2017, Policy Studies Organisation, New Hampshire, Washington DC.

Ayinka Nurse-Carrington is a criminologist who is currently a PhD candidate at The University of the West Indies; her research emphasis is incarcerated mothers and parenting in Trinidad and Tobago. She has experience working with the at-risk youth populations as she currently manages the Student Support Services Division in the Ministry of Education. Her training took her into the fields of defence and security, restorative justice and environmental criminology and crime analysis. As an ardent researcher, and an advocate for social justice, she has presented her PhD research at International Conferences. Ayinka enjoys culture especially carnival and is involved in the management of a Children's Carnival Band which gives many young persons from disadvantaged homes an opportunity to be a part of our culture.

Kevin Peters is a lecturer in the Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies at the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT), Trinidad and Tobago. He is a PhD candidate in the Department of Behavioural Sciences at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. His thesis explores the re/integration of deported men into Trinidad society using the Grounded Theory method of qualitative inquiry. His research interests include the juvenile justice system (with an emphasis on rehabilitation and re/integration of girls), re/entry and reintegration of prisoners, migration and crime and deportation.

Akilah Procope is a consultant for UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area, Barbados.

Christian Sealy, MSc is an economist affiliated with the Trade and Economic Development Unit (TEDU) at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. His research is focused on the nexus of migration and development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), with an emphasis on the Venezuelan migration situation. He believes that this situation should be reimagined as a development challenge for the LAC countries, as opposed to a crisis. He is the founder of the nonprofit, Friends of Refugees, a registered UNHCR partner, which facilitates Venezuelan migrant contributions to economic development in Trinidad and Tobago through labour market integration. He holds a BSc

in Mathematics (hons) and an MSc in Economics (distinction) both from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Kareina St. Hill holds an MSc in Sociology (with distinction) and a BSc in Psychology (Magna Cum Laude Honours). St. Hill is a social sector consultant with six years of experience at Kairi Consultants Limited, where she is heavily involved in social impact assessments and socio-economic research. She is passionate about migration research and policy development within the Caribbean region, especially within her home country of Trinidad and Tobago. St. Hill has presented at the 21st Annual SALISES Conference (2020) on migration impact and the Caribbean diaspora and seeks to do more work in the area of migration for her future endeavours. She views the migration phenomenon as an area ripe for much-needed Caribbean research and development.

Kadeshah Swearing, PhD is an assistant professor at the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI), Cayman Islands, with almost 20 years of teaching experience. Prior to UCCI, she lectured at The University of the West Indies (Mona) and the University of Technology, Jamaica. She holds a Doctorate in Business Administration, a Master's Degree in Economics with concentrations in finance and game theory, a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and a Diploma in Education. She also holds post-graduate certificates in risk management. Swearing is a group work specialist and is a firm believer in Edutainment (education through entertainment). Her students find her to be real and practical. Her teaching philosophy is, 'To whom much is given, much is required'. She enjoys studying and doing research.

Joan Tull is a United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Communications Expert with the UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area, Barbados.

Wendell C. Wallace, PhD is an English-trained barrister, certified mediator with the Mediation Board of Trinidad and Tobago and a criminologist who lectures on the criminology and criminal justice programme at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. His research interests include policing, gangs, violence (domestic and school) and education-related issues. He is the author of seven books (edited and sole authored) and his research has been published in international peer-reviewed journals, for example, *Island Studies Journal*, *Feminist Criminology*, *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, *International*

Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy, Caribbean Journal of Psychology and *Journal of Family Issues*.

Peter W. Wickham is the Principal Director of Caribbean Development Research Services (CADRES), which is the leading political research organisation in the Caribbean. While CADRES focuses principally on political research, under his leadership it has also conducted seminal research into social issues such as domestic violence, attitudes towards homosexuals and women in leadership. Prior to CADRES he was Lecturer in Political Science at The University of the West Indies (UWI) Cave Hill. He has written several peer-reviewed articles on Caribbean integration and attitudes towards homosexuals. He is a regular contributor to the prominent *Nation* newspaper in Barbados and wrote a weekly column 'People and Things' between 1998 and 2018 and continues to contribute on occasional basis. He has also served as a political analyst for several organisations.

Khadijah Williams is an independent consultant, specialising in child and youth welfare. She is a social worker, sociologist and educator. She achieved her PhD from The University of Lancaster, UK, and her Master's, Bachelor's and Postgraduate degrees from The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine. Her experience in migration studies and practice spans across the Caribbean, the USA and the UK working as a local expert in EU research and as a research advocate for Caribbean Child Lifers who migrated to the USA as children. Williams is currently based in Jamaica where she directs a residential school for vulnerable youth and serves on a rural agriculture board where she advocates on behalf of rural women and youth. She is also an honorary consultant at UWI, Mona, Jamaica. In her spare time, Williams is engaged in farming with her husband and two children.

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1.1	Migration theories: level-based analysis. (Source: Faist and Faist (2000), Hagen-Zanker (2008), Hammar et al. (1997))	7
Fig. 1.2	Complex drivers of migration: macro-, meso-, and micro-factors. (Source: Foresight: Migration and Global Environmental Change (2011) Final Project Report. The Government Office for Science, London)	9
Fig. 1.3	Tripartite conundrum of Venezuelan migration. (Source: Fieldwork (2022))	10
Fig. 2.1	Factors in migration and psychological distress. (Source: Adopted from Bhugra and Jones (2001), <i>Migration and Mental Illness</i> , p. 220, Fig. 2.2)	24
Fig. 2.2	Psycho-socio-ecological model of Caribbean migration. (Source: Adapted from Bronfenbrenner (1979, 2005)	25
Fig. 3.1	Percentage of serious and minor crime. Source: CAPA (2020)	48
Fig. 4.1	Immigration crime trends in Trinidad and Tobago, 2016 to 2019. (Source: Crime and problem analysis unit, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service)	70
Fig. 6.1	Model of the interaction of decision-making concepts for the interview (Banning, 2007)	109
Fig. 7.1	Edgeworth Box diagram showing the impact of Venezuelan labour on the production. (Source: Authors' Adaptation, 2021)	128
Fig. 7.2	Impact of the sudden influx of Venezuelan Migrants on the TT Labour Market. (Source: Authors' Adaptation, 2021)	132

Fig. 10.1	Illustrating Trinbago Trumpism: Virtual expression through social commentaries and emoji reactions. Source: <i>Fieldwork</i> , 2018–21	191
Fig. 11.1	Attitudes towards and experiences with Venezuelan migrants (Source: Constructed from fieldwork in 2020)	213
Fig. 11.2	Evolving perceptions, views and opinions of migrants (Source: Fieldwork, 2020)	215
Fig. 16.1	Migrants' reasons for hesitancy about vaccination of their children with the COVID-19 vaccine	318

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1	Frequency of crime by gender, age and ethnicity	47
Table 3.2	Results of the Chi-square test	49
Table 4.1	Bivariate association between explanatory variables and immigrant serious crimes	71
Table 4.2	OLS regression predicting immigrant serious crimes, 2016–2019	73
Table 5.1	Demographic characteristics of the sample	90
Table 7.1	Labour market outline	130
Table 7.2	Labour force participation rate with and without Venezuelan labour	134
Table 8.1	Shows the responses of social workers in NGOs and government organisations on the major themes emerging from this study	150
Table 10.1	Illustrating Trinbago Trumpism: Historical sources and speeches	195
Table 11.1	Comparison of Practices, Attitudes and Perceptions (PAP) scores	216
Table 13.1	Demographic information of participants	258

PART I

Contextual Frameworks of Migration



The Migration of Venezuelans in the Early Twenty-First Century: Understanding the Contextual Frameworks

Wendell C. Wallace

Migration is a complex, global phenomena (Harzig et al., 2009; UN, 2016a) with a host of underlying rationales fraught with uncertainties as the decision to change one's place or country of residence is a difficult one (Sinha, 2005). The phenomenon of migration is also as old as humankind (Castelli, 2018) and is an indication of the symptoms of social and economic change, and can be regarded as a human adjustment to economic, environmental, and social problems (Sinha, 2005). In fact, for economic, educational, humanitarian, political, social, and other reasons, individuals have migrated from one place to another throughout the history of mankind (Habib, 2020). Over the past few decades, migration has increased dramatically (Habib, 2020) as people move from developing countries to other developing countries as well as from underdeveloped to developed

W. C. Wallace (✉)

Department of Behavioural Sciences, The University of the West Indies,
St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
e-mail: Wendell.Wallace@sta.uwi.edu

© The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature
Switzerland AG 2023

W. C. Wallace (ed.), *The Movement of Venezuelans to the Americas
and the Caribbean in the 21st Century*,
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-31762-0_1

and developing countries. However, the considered wisdom that migration occurs from regions in the Global South, for example, Latin America and the Caribbean, to countries in the Global North, has been found to be outdated (Conway, 2013). The position by Conway (2013) is underscored by the migration of Venezuelans out of their homeland into smaller Caribbean countries in droves.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (n.d.) point out that the phenomenon of migration has been indispensable to human histories, cultures, and civilisations, while Wickramasinghe and Wimalaratana (2017) point out that as a practice, migration has a long history. Conway (2013) offers support to the statement by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (n.d.) as he submits that the Caribbean, for example, has been significantly shaped by waves upon waves of immigration and that for centuries, migrants from all over the region have sought employment and opportunities for advancement both intra-regionally and extra-regionally. With this in mind, it is no surprise that migration has continued up to contemporary times as “migration is viewed as an ageless human strategy designed to improve the lives of human beings and is also seen as a natural behaviour of human beings” (Borkert et al., 2006).

To varying degrees, contemporary Venezuela has not been bypassed by the phenomenon of migration. According to the UNHCR (2018, p. 5), “The on-going political and socio-economic developments in Venezuela have led to the outflow of an estimated 1.5 million Venezuelans into neighbouring countries and beyond.” The UNHCR (2018) also emphasises that the number of arrivals in neighbouring states has steadily increased to 5,000 a day as of early 2018. On the other hand, United Nations (2018, p. 4) submits that the Venezuelan crisis has led “to the outflow of more than three million Venezuelans into neighbouring countries and beyond” and that “the exodus of Venezuelan nationals is already the largest in the modern history of Latin America and the Caribbean.” Therefore, what makes migration out of Venezuela a subject of investigation is the multiplicity of problems associated with the migration of Venezuelans away from their home country. These problems include, but are not limited to, xenophobia, economic polarisation, human rights violations, human trafficking, and crime in the receiving countries. In sum, Venezuelan migrants face a plethora of challenges of the twenty-first century, such as xenophobia, lack of respect for the human rights of migrants, and poor services and overburdened infrastructures in receiving countries.

According to the International Organization for Migration (2018), the term ‘migrant’ refers to any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person’s legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is. On the other hand, the International Organization for Migration (2004, p. 41), defines migration as “a process of moving, either across an international border, or within a State. Encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people, and economic migrants.” In a similar vein, Huzdik (2014) and UN (2016b), both state that the movement of people from place to place for living or working purposes is referred to as migration. Instructively, migration is not a new phenomenon (Boghean, 2016); however, it is a complex one (Kahanec & Zimmermann, 2008) that shifts space and time (Borkert et al., 2006).

Migration takes on a variety of typologies and can be legal or illegal, permanent or temporary, as well as internal or external. Additionally, Bell et al. (2010) identify three main types of migration, namely: 1. Labour migration, 2. Forced migration, and 3. International retirement migration. The chapter authors in this collective generally focussed their research efforts on Venezuelan migration as forced migration (forced migration includes refugees and asylum seekers who cross borders due to conflicts and political uncertainties) (Bell et al., 2010).

In spite of the typologies of migration, Hugo (1996) points out that migration has always been a traditional response or a survival strategy for people confronting the prospect, impact, or aftermath of disasters, whether natural or man-made. However, as with all forms of movement of people, it is argued that the increase in migration from Venezuela has surpassed the capacity of public institutions to respond in multiple countries (United Nations, 2018). Further, a great majority of the receiving jurisdictions are under increasing stress and intense scrutiny from their citizens, many who are against the notion of Venezuelan migrants residing in their under-resourced countries and this serves to “undermine peaceful coexistence and feed manifestations of discrimination and xenophobia” (United Nations, 2018). Importantly, instead of seeking to pathologise individuals who migrated from Venezuela in search of a better life, whether legally or illegally, the authors of the chapters in this manuscript seek a better understanding of the rationales behind this ongoing mass movement so as to