

Migration and Belonging: The Caribbean Family and Community as Models of Place and Placelessness

Virgilio Amando Hunter

Department of History, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

Abstract

This paper uses the life-stories of Caribbean migrants, as frames, to argue that place is often imagined in Caribbean migration and that the themes, “migration and belonging” plays a central role in migrants’ decision to relocate or separate oneself, often times without choice or explanation—once migration liquidates through the family unit and/or cultural institutions (the community) models of *place* and *placelessness*. The themes, “migration and belonging” are also essential, in this study, in helping us to comprehend how the interwoven channels of networks Caribbean migrants weave help to maintain links and challenge notions of place. Equally, this paper aims to center *place* and *placelessness* within a wider generational context to analyze Caribbean migrants’ life stories.

