

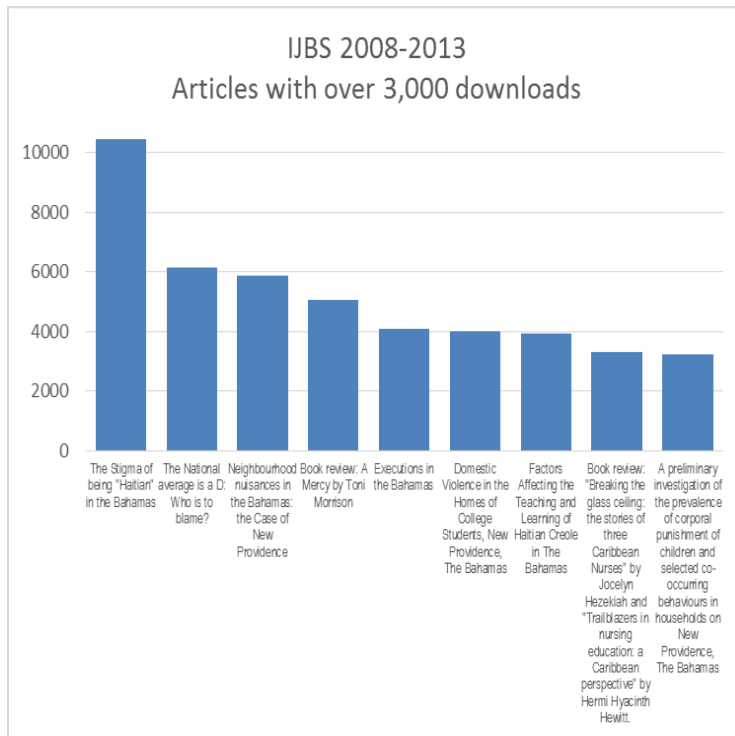
THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BAHAMIAN STUDIES

EDITORIAL Volume 20, 2014

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This year The College of The Bahamas celebrates its 40th anniversary. The *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* is celebrating the publication of its 20th volume and its fifth year as a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to publishing scholarship about The Bahamas or with significant Bahamian content.

The Bahamas is a small place: geographically, a mere spot in the ocean, barely visible from space; its population is not much more than that of a small city elsewhere; its economy is similar to a major city in the United States. Given this viewpoint, some might consider Bahamian studies to be insignificant, but on the contrary, the closer one looks at something, the more interesting it becomes. Under a magnifying glass—whether politics, history, sociology, economics, natural sciences—The Bahamas is very interesting, indeed fascinating, not only to Bahamians but to scholars elsewhere: hence the need for publishing a niche Bahamian studies journal. And the statistics on the usage of these articles are proof that this is the case.



Since becoming an online journal, three papers published in the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* (and its antecedents *The College of the Bahamas Research Journal* and *College Forum*) have been downloaded or viewed over 10,000 times. Over half the articles published by the journal have been downloaded over 1,000

times. Further evidence that the articles are being used in research both here in The Bahamas and elsewhere.

A search of the journal name in Google Scholar™ shows that there were nearly 90 “Cited by” references for 50 articles published in the journal. These articles have been cited in books, academic research papers, conference presentations, reports and dissertations: not only in in the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* but also in academic journals published internationally, in dissertations from a variety of universities or at conferences and symposia held in The Bahamas or “away”. This is clear evidence that the journal is making an impact on scholarship locally and internationally.

Which articles are being cited the most? It should come as no surprise that the most cited article is also one with over 10,000 downloads: the “Haitian Stigma” (2008) article has been cited six times. Other articles that have been frequently cited are those about Bahamian linguistics: articles by Oenbring (2010), Hackert and Holm (2009), and Donnelly (1997). Studies about violence in Bahamian society have been often used: Fielding et al. (2011), Brennen et al. (2010), and Plumridge and Fielding (2009). And, the article about nationality, citizenship and statelessness by Belton (2010) has made an impact. These themes are also reflected in the year’s volume.

There are four original papers in Volume 20: two by scholars at The College of The Bahamas and two by researchers in the United States. It also includes four other types of scholarly work: a revision of a previously published paper, a conference presentation, a scholarly bibliography and a music CD review.

Charmane Perry’s article “Invasion from the South: Social Construction of the Haitian ‘Other’ in The Bahamas” addresses the perceived threat of Haitians and Haitian migrants on Bahamian society. She argues that this perception is perpetuated by the media, reflected in government policies and internalized by the Bahamian population—and has led to a denial of human rights for Haitians and people of Haitian descent residing in The Bahamas.

It is hard to believe that the economic impact of the Junkanoo festival has never been studied and analyzed: how much does it cost to put on annually? How much revenue does it generate? Is it a good investment? What are the returns to Bahamian economy? Nicolette Bethel has been collecting data on all aspects of mounting the annual parades and in her article “The Economic Impact of Junkanoo in The Bahamas” has concluded that they cost well over \$18 million annually.

Fresh water resources on San Salvador Island were sampled and analyzed to establish a baseline knowledge of what bacterial species are present and whether there is water contamination. In their article “Identification of the Microbial Population Found in Water Sources in and around San Salvador Island, Bahamas” researchers from State University of New York at Brockport designed and carried out their study while at the College’s Gerace Centre. They concluded that most of the bacteria they found would pose no danger to human health.

The fourth original study in the volume reports on Grade 10 and 12 student attitudes about relationships – with the surprising results that girls were the aggressors in relationships and that sex-role stereotypes were being perpetuated. The paper, “Attitudes of High School Students Regarding Intimate Relationships and Gender Norms in New Providence, The Bahamas,” was a collaboration between researchers at The College of The Bahamas and the Bahamas Crisis Centre.

The volume includes a revised version of Ian Strachan’s essay “Goin’ Back to Da Islan’: Migration, Memory and the Marketplace in Bahamian Art” – in this instance internal migration from “da Islan” to Nassau. Using Bahamian popular music, poetry and art, Strachan argues that nostalgia for the good old days is deep in the Bahamian psyche.

In November 2013 the School of English Studies and the School of Social Sciences held a day-long symposium to explore the issues of belonging: citizenship and statelessness among (predominantly) children of Haitians resident in the Bahamas. Fiona Joseph, a College of The Bahamas biochemistry student, presented a paper about her experience. Her presentation was re-written as a scholarly paper and peer-reviewed.

The migration theme was carried through in Christine Swann’s bibliography. She has compiled references on migration to The Bahamas, migration by Caribbean people both within the Caribbean and to

the “metropole”, as well as reverse migration, back to “da Islan”. She ends the bibliography with references on the international phenomenon of nurse migration, including research on why Bahamian nurses have not followed the world-wide trend of nurse migration.

The issue is completed with a review of *Deep Blue*, the latest CD by C Force, The College of The Bahamas’ resident trio, by Adam Waters, a professor of music at the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

Producing the journal is the work of many: I owe thanks first and foremost to the authors and peer reviewers for their invaluable contributions. Marjorie Downie continues to be a copyeditor “par excellence”. Thanks also to members of the Editorial Board for their guidance and advice.

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