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**Citation:** COMITAS, LAMBROS / Teachers College, Columbia University. **ETHNOLOGY: WEST INDIES.**

**Subjects:**  
[ETHNOLOGY: WEST INDIES.](#)

**HLAS Volume:** 37

**Essay:** IN MY INTRODUCTION TO THIS SECTION in HLAS 35, I argued that Caribbean anthropology appeared to have become more eclectic, to be very much in a state of transition and, given the volatile nature of determining factors external to the discipline, it was likely to remain in flux and uncertainty for some time to come. Two years later, I find no reason to change this assessment in any substantial fashion. The cursory review which follows is essentially in support of this position. Utilizing the scheme developed in my last introduction, anthropological scholarship on the West Indies can be conveniently divided into three gross categories: Continuities, that is, research and publications dealing with theoretical, methodological, and problem themes, or population segments, which have received considerable attention or development in the past and which have persisted to the present; Newer Thrusts, or research which, in terms of problem or subject matter, departs from past experience; and Consolidations, or bibliographic work, collections of essays by single authors, and readers. During the current review period, two more or less traditional themes continue to be of interest to Caribbeanists: East Indian studies (see items 1211, 1228-1129, 1248 and 1253- 1254) and Amerindian-Bush Negro studies (see items [1217](#), [1230](#), [1237](#), [1246](#), [1249](#), [1282- 1283](#) and [1290](#)). It is of more than passing moment to note that East Indian studies, with only few exceptions, appear to be increasingly a specialization of Trinidadian and Guyanese East Indian scholars trained in disciplines other than anthropology. This is in sharp contrast with the period no more than a decade ago when this particular field of inquiry was dominated by North American anthropologists. On the other hand, Amerindian-Bush Negro studies continue to be almost exclusively the province of Dutch, French, British, and occasional American anthropologists. In any case, other traditional areas of research in the West Indies, such as family organization, religious behavior and micro-economics of black, lower-class Antilleans have not fared well during this period. There also has been little recent, substantive work on the nature of West Indian society, a theme which held great promise for social scientists and which generated considerable scholarly excitement after the ground-breaking work of M.G. Smith, Lloyd Braithwaite, R.A.J. van Lier, R.T. Smith, H. Hoetink, and Leo Despres. Several new, or not too deeply rooted, research themes appear to be developing. One is centered on social and cultural descriptions and analyses of coastal Creole populations of Surinam and, to a lesser extent, of the Netherlands Antilles by Dutch sociologists and anthropologists (see items 1216, 1251-1252, 1263, 1269, 1278, 1286, 1298-1300, 1303- 1304 and 1306- 1307). Much of this research has been stimulated by the social science faculties of the Universities of Leiden and Amsterdam.

Another trend, perhaps only an artifact of publishing vagaries, is the dispersal of North American anthropologists to the smaller and lesser known islands of the Caribbean archipelago and away from territories long studied and politically more sensitive (see items [1233](#), [1242](#), [1256-1259](#), [1277](#), [1297](#) and [1305](#)). A third and perhaps more important new focus is on the systematic study of West Indian migrants abroad (see items [1205](#), [1212-1214](#), [1223](#) and [1243](#)). Held in Amsterdam, a recent two-day symposium on the adaptation of migrants from the Caribbean in the European and American metropolis confirmed that considerable research was underway on West Indians in the United Kingdom, in France, and in the Netherlands and that there was growing interest in the US. We might expect a dramatic increase in publications on this complex topic in the near future. Bibliographies, readers and collections of essays by single authors consolidate the scholarship on a region and help to focus pertinent theoretical and methodological issues. An unusually large number of such works has appeared during this review period. Bastide, for example, edited a volume, on women of color in Latin America; Price has brought together a unique collection of essays on Maroon societies; and Mintz has organized his principal articles on slavery, plantation systems, peasantries and Caribbean nationhood into one volume. In addition, a comprehensive bibliography on Surinam (see item [1209](#)) has been produced by the Netherlands Foundation for Cultural Cooperation with Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles; Mevis has compiled an overview of social research on the Caribbean by Antillean, Dutch and Surinamese scholars during the period 1945-73; Nagelkerke has compiled three bibliographies, one on the Netherlands Antilles from the 17th century to 1970, another on Surinam from its colonization to 1940 and the last on Surinam from 1940 to 1970; and finally, Evelyn has compiled a useful social science index for the radical Commonwealth Caribbean publications Moko, New World Quarterly, Savacou and Tapia.