

phenomenological.” Chapter 2, at 90 pages the core of the book, examines the case specifics of six different families, documenting Guatemalan migration to the United States by an eclectic, almost dizzying array of research strategies. Vlach sifts through the elaborate details of her fieldwork to furnish, in chapter 3, a conclusion that integrates nicely the general with the particular, the theoretical with the empirical.

Chapter 2 displays Vlach’s talents at their jarring best. Here she combines the technical skills of a tireless social scientist (appendix 2 enumerates her methodological bag of tricks) with the empathy of an ethnographer who refuses to be detached from the tragic lot of the individuals she studies. With artistic economy and warm humanity, Vlach pares down the sad, painful stories of her subjects to capture, in a handful of words, what their disrupted lives existentially represent: conflict, adventure, and death; success and sacrifice; control and freedom; assimilation and loss of identity; family duty, patriotism, and obligation; solidarity, discipline, and progress. Her text lends itself to several interpretations: it can be read in terms Oscar Lewis would label “the culture of poverty” or, just as easily, in terms Nancy Farriss would consider “the collective enterprise of survival.” And Vlach is just as disposed to derive meaning from one of her informant’s dreams as to measure family characteristics by resorting to tests and questionnaires.

The Quetzal in Flight offers many insights into a complex issue. It is a pity the book’s exorbitant price will put it beyond the reach of most students, if not professors, for it deserves a wider readership than selective purchase by university libraries will permit.

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Women and Change in the Caribbean: A Pan-Caribbean Perspective. Edited by JANET MOMSEN. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993. Illustrations. Maps. Tables. Figures. Notes. Bibliographies. Index. x, 308 pp. Cloth, \$35.00. Paper, \$16.95.

This is a timely collection of essays united by the common theme of the relationship between change, development, and gender in the Caribbean. Another common element is the research and theoretical focus on a feature shared by all Caribbean societies: patriarchal structures, with their legacy of female subordination and oppression, along with a strong historical tradition of female independence and autonomy (especially in realms like the market or the household). Although the bulk of the collection deals with the English-speaking Caribbean, the coverage is broad: 21 contributors write about 15 different countries.

Some of the most important research in this volume challenges traditional conceptualizations about Caribbean families, households, kin and club networks, and labor relations. Many of the essays call for eliminating the binary public-private

distinction as a valid or productive theoretical premise. Schiller and Maurer's essay about women in Dominica and Barbuda, for example, shows how household work brings together activities linking the public and the private, such as marketing, communications, networking, and religious activities. Barrow's research in Barbados shows that women view their involvement in agricultural work as an extension of social reproduction. Other topics include a critique of Wilson's respectability-reputation thesis, female participation in working-class Afro-Surinamese clubs and Cuban agricultural cooperatives, and the relationship between migration and the gender division of labor in Venezuela and Puerto Rico. The final four essays analyze the complexities of women's experiences in the labor force.

One of the book's main strengths, its truly pan-Caribbean nature, unfortunately also results in a frustrating lack of synthesis. The collection would have been stronger if the editor had included a substantive introductory review of the main intellectual and research issues related to the book's four sections. Certainly this would have been a difficult task, given the disjointed state of Caribbean research, but a worthy one. Considering the book's attempt to cover most Caribbean societies, it might also have been helpful to include a pan-Caribbean bibliography at the end.

In spite of these shortcomings, this book should be on every Latin Americanist's reading list. Most of the essays make significant contributions toward incorporating gender, ethnicity, and class into mainstream Caribbean research. The editor deserves credit for a remarkably inclusive collection. The book also represents an excellent mix of academic disciplines. The authors are an appropriately balanced group of senior and junior scholars, women and men, from Caribbean and non-Caribbean backgrounds. The variety of approaches, disciplines, and countries in this volume make it an excellent text for college courses dealing with gender and development, as well as for introductory and advanced courses on Latin America and the Caribbean.

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Haiti and the United States: The Psychological Moment. By BRENDA GAYLE PLUMMER. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1992. Notes. Bibliographical essay. Index. xi, 303 pp. Cloth, \$45.00. Paper, \$18.50.

Brenda Gayle Plummer has followed up her admirable book *Haiti and the Great Powers, 1902–1915* with this survey of Haitian-U.S. relations since Haitian independence. In a well-written, carefully researched study, Plummer has made extensive use of U.S. diplomatic archives and a wide range of secondary literature. She deals not only with political and diplomatic relations between the two powers but also with economic and cultural links.

From the preindependence period until Toussaint L'Ouverture, U.S. busi-