

# Shifting Relations, New Players: What Future for Caribbean Regional Integration?



**ANNITA MONTOUTE**  
**CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMY**  
**UWI ST AUGUSTINE**  
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# Thesis



- Changing geo political realities are forcing the Caribbean to re - think the regional integration project.
- Declining interest of traditional players has created a void, providing opportunities for new relationships with the aim of achieving sustainable development and advancing regional integration.

# Introduction



- **Regional integration has always been seen by the Caribbean as a means of achieving development goals.**
- **There are events that are impacting Caribbean development and the Caribbean regional integration project.**

# The Caribbean in a Changing World



**There are shifts that have taken place in the global political economy that have led to the decline of old relationships and the emergence of new ones.**

# The Caribbean's Response to Globalisation



- CARICOM's decision in 1989 to embark on a Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) was a response to the forces of globalization (Girvan 2008).
- Girvan has also stated that the Caribbean (economic) integration is based on a neo liberal model.

# The Caribbean's Response to Globalisation



**CARICOM member states are also engaging in a multiplicity of new relationships with the aim of achieving development outcomes.**

# New Players – Friends or Foes?



**The bilateral relationships if not managed properly could hinder regional integration.**

**CARICOM - wide engagement works better for regional integration.**

**Engagement within the LAC framework reinforces the Caribbean's relationship with Latin America but could cause fragmentation and marginalization of the Caribbean.**

# Questions



- Could the BRICS be meeting the development needs of individual states and making the regional integration project less urgent?
- Could we use the BRICS to advance a more relevant form of economic integration?



# Implications and the Way Forward



- A new model of development is emerging as a result of engagement with BRICS countries.
- This model especially that of China is beneficial in some respects but can be potentially harmful as a sustainable model of development and for regional integration.
- A coherent approach is needed to deal with the BRICS and other partnerships.