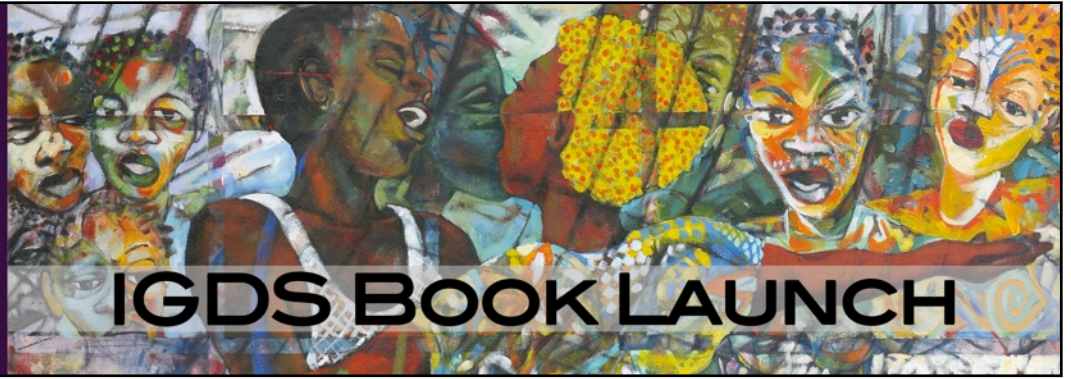




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RESISTING PARADISE

Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture Angelique V. Nixon



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of

RESISTING PARADISE

Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture

by

Dr. Angelique V. Nixon

Lecturer, IGDS

with

Review by

Dr. Lyndon K. Gill

Assistant Professor
University of Texas, Austin

Wednesday, October 28th 2015

6:30 P.M.

Faculty of Science and Technology Board Room
(next door to the IGDS)
The University of the West Indies
St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

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Dr. Angelique V. Nixon is a writer, artist, teacher, scholar, activist, and poet -- born and raised in The Bahamas. Her research, cultural criticism, and poetry have been published widely. She strives through her activism, writing, and art to disrupt silences, challenge systems of oppression, and carve spaces for resistance and desire. Angelique holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Florida (2008), where she specialized in Caribbean and African diaspora literatures, Caribbean and postcolonial studies, women's studies and gender research. She is the recipient of a number of awards including a postdoctoral fellowship in Africana studies at New York University (2009) and a Fulbright Scholar Grant (2014). Her scholarly book *Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture* was recently published by the University Press of Mississippi Press (2015). Her current research areas include feminist praxis and discourse, Caribbean sexualities, sexual labour and social justice movements. She is a Lecturer at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies.

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RESISTING PARADISE

Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture

Dr. Angelique V. Nixon

A study of the sexual-cultural politics of tourism and how Caribbean writers, artists and activists resist the powerful production of paradise.

Resisting Paradise explores the import of both tourism and diaspora in shaping Caribbean identity. It examines Caribbean writers and others who confront the region's overdependence on the tourist industry and address the many ways that tourism continues the legacy of colonialism. And it interrogates the relationship between culture and sex within the production of "paradise" and investigates the ways in which Caribbean writers, artists, and activists respond to and powerfully resist this production. *Resisting Paradise* places emphasis on the Caribbean people and its diasporic subjects as travelers and as cultural workers contributing to alternative and defiant understandings of tourism in the region. Through a unique multidisciplinary approach to comparative literary analysis, interviews, and participant observation, this study analyzes the ways Caribbean cultural producers are taking control of representation. While focused mainly on the Anglophone Caribbean, it covers a range of territories including Antigua, the Bahamas, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, as well as Trinidad and Tobago, to deliver a potent critique.

"A deeply insightful reading of the ways Caribbean cultural workers from inside and outside the region negotiate the complexities of tourism and critique controlling cultural myths about the Caribbean as paradise. But as importantly, Nixon takes us beyond tourism's double-bind and shows how writers and artists offer counter-narratives to exploitative tourism and neocolonialism that are grounded in resistance culture, shared histories, and diasporic connections. *Resisting Paradise* is an inspiring study, full of hope and love for the Caribbean, offering us new ways of thinking about ethical tourism and Caribbean freedom."

— **Kamala Kempadoo**

Department of Social Science, York University and
 Author of *Sexing the Caribbean: Gender, Race, and Sexual Labor*.

"Whether rooted resident, mobile diaspora, or open-eyed tourist, we all have something to learn from *Resisting Paradise*, Angelique Nixon's empirically elegant and fiercely honest inquiry into the discursive, sexual, and material effects of tropical paradise. She teaches us how Caribbean cultural producers have created alternative ways of resisting and rerouting the damaging cultural, ecological and spiritual effects of tourism."

— **Mimi Sheller**

Author of *Consuming the Caribbean: From Arawaks to Zombies; Tourism Mobilities: Places to Play, Places in Play; and Citizenship from Below: Erotic Agency and Caribbean Freedom*