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Resisting Paradise
Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture

Angelique V. Nixon

Tourists flock to the Caribbean for its beaches, an influx which has deeply affected the culture of the islands. 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.

Angelique V. Nixon explores 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. Forms of resistance include critiquing exploitation, challenging dominant historical narratives, exposing tourism’s influence on cultural and sexual identity in the Caribbean and its diaspora, and offering alternative models of tourism and travel.

Resisting Paradise places emphasis on Caribbean people as travelers and as cultural workers who contribute to alternative understandings of tourism in the Caribbean. Through a unique multidisciplinary approach to comparative literary analysis, interviews, and participant observation, Nixon analyzes the ways Caribbean cultural producers are taking control of representation. While focused mainly on the Anglophone Caribbean, the study covers a range of territories including Antigua, the Bahamas, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, as well as Trinidad and Tobago.

Nixon utilizes transnational feminist postcolonialism to explain “resisting paradise” and the sexual-cultural politics of tourism. With gender and sexuality at the center of her inquiry and analysis, she grapples with the dominant role of tourism in Caribbean life.

Angelique V. Nixon, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, is currently a Fulbright Scholar at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. She is author of Saltwater Healing—A Myth Memoir and Poems and coeditor of the multimedia project Theorizing Homophobia in the Caribbean: Complexities of Place, Desire and Belonging.

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Vampires and Zombies
Transcultural Migrations and Transnational Interpretations

Edited by Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and Monika Mueller

The undead are very much alive in contemporary entertainment and lore. Indeed, vampires and zombies have garnered attention in print media, cinema, and on television. The vampire, with roots in medieval European folklore, and the zombie, with origins in Afro-Caribbean mythology, have both undergone significant transformations in global culture, proliferating as deviant representatives of the zeitgeist.

As this volume demonstrates, distribution of vampires and zombies across time and space has revealed these undead figures to carry multiple meanings. Of all monsters, vampires and zombies seem to be the most trendy—the most regularly incarnate of the undead and the monsters most frequently represented in the media and pop culture. Moreover, both figures have experienced radical reinterpretations. If in the past vampires were evil, blood-sucking exploiters and zombies were brainless victims, they now have metamorphosed into kinder and gentler blood-sucking vampires and crueler, more relentless, flesh-eating zombies.

Although the portrayals of both vampires and zombies can be traced back to specific regions and predate mass media, the introduction of mass distribution through film and game technologies has significantly modified their depiction over time and in new environments. Among other topics, contributors discuss zombies in Thai films, vampire novels of Mexico, and undead avatars in horror videogames. This volume—with scholars from different national and cultural backgrounds—explores the transformations that the vampire and zombie figures undergo when they travel globally and through various media and cultures.

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, Heidelberg, Germany, is senior lecturer (retired) in the English Department and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Heidelberg University. She is the editor of Aesthetic Practices and Politics in Media, Music, and Art: Performing Migration and founding coeditor of the interdisciplinary journal Atlantic Studies Global Currents. Monika Mueller, Bochum, Germany, is senior lecturer of American literature and culture at the University of Bochum, Germany. She is the author of George Eliot U.S.: Transatlantic Literary and Cultural Perspectives.

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