

NETRIS Lecturing mobility at The University of The South Pacific (USP)

Prof. Tim Shaw, representing The University of The West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago:

Title: Post-crisis Regionalisms in the Caribbean: beyond the demise of the trans-Atlantic axis to the rise of the BRICS

The Caribbean may be the only region in the global South not to be growing in response to rising demand & prices for commodities from the BRICS, especially China & India. Its traditional reliance on the trans-Atlantic economies, especially the US & UK, has led to the importation of economic contraction, exacerbated by the EU Euro-zone PIIGS. Brazil & UNASUR constitute another direction by contrast to the stagnant SOA & dead FTAA. If inter-state regionalisms are problematic, non-state varieties burgeon from supply-chains & remittance flows to TOC & familiar nexus of drugs/guns/gangs/boys. Neither human development nor citizen security are secure as protracted inter-regional rebalancing leads towards global restructuring.



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Ms. Vanessa Tang, representing the KwaZulu-Natal University, South Africa

Title: Regional Economic Integration in Africa: Impediments to Progress?

An all inclusive African Economic Union has been a longstanding objective of many in Africa and the United Nations. While some modest achievements have been realized, the long-held goal of effectively integrating Africa economically remains elusive. Against the backdrop of Africa's place in the world economy this paper assesses the major impediments to a continent-wide economic integration.

Title: Trade Openness and Economic Growth: An Empirical Investigation of Mauritius

The relationship between trade openness and growth remains a highly debated topic. Whilst theory and anecdotal evidence in general favors the notion that openness to trade is positively related to growth, there is gradually, however, an increasing number of studies that have contested this positive generalization. In the light of this, using various proxies for openness ranging from trade outcomes to trade policy and international capital flows, we investigate the empirical association between openness to trade and economic growth using time series analysis and Mauritian data. Our results show that contrary to widely held expectations, there is a negative relationship between openness to trade and growth. This therefore raises the possibility that real economic forces are giving us results consistent with the immiserising growth literature.



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