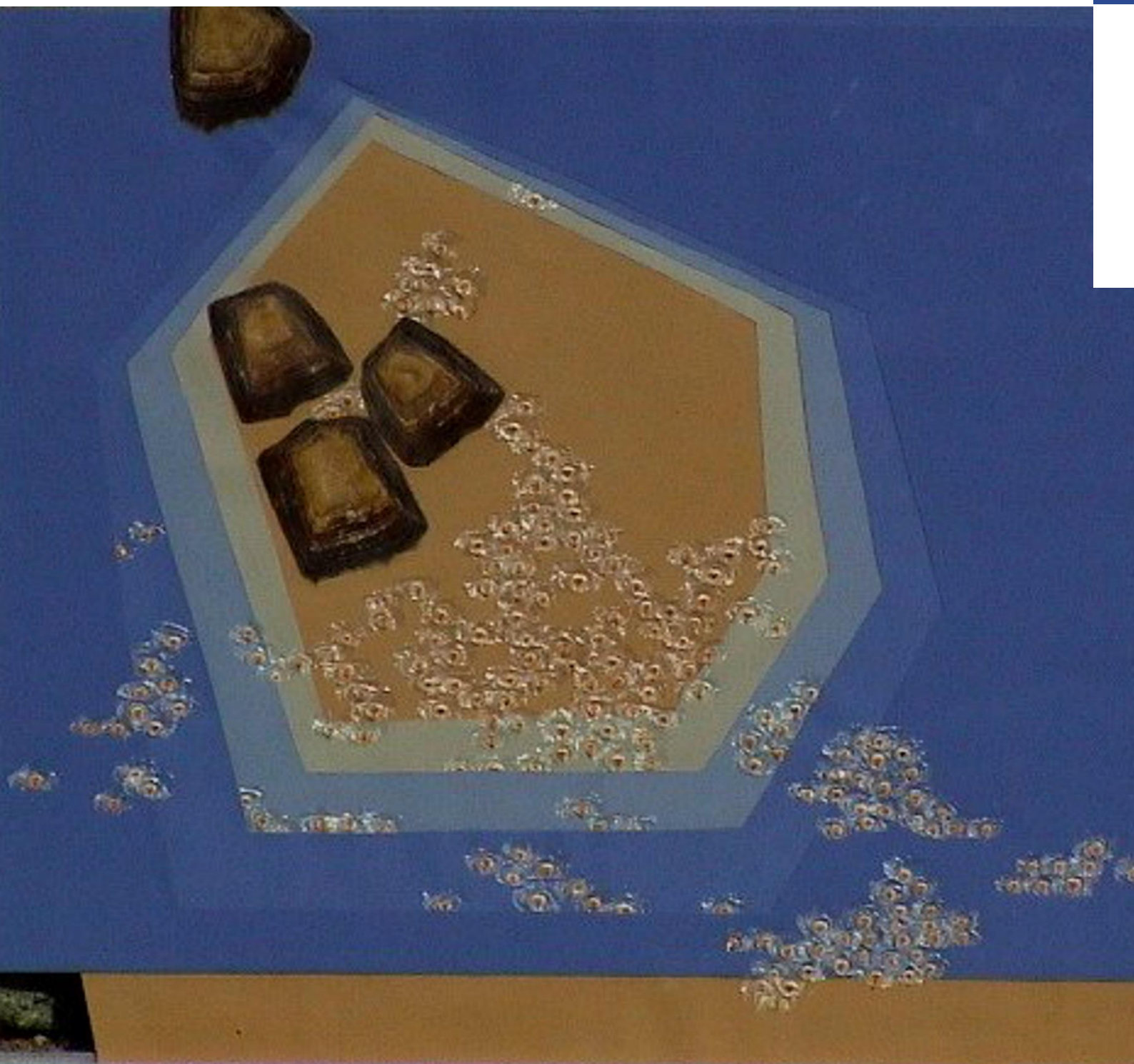


CARIBBEAN REALITY STUDIES CENTER

Research for transformative action





CARIBBEAN REALTY STUDIES CENTER

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crscenter@crscenter.com

Research for transformative action



1. PROFILE

Caribbean Reality Studies Center is a research and training center that focuses on research for transformative action. Since its foundation in 1999 in Aruba, it has carried out many research projects, with a wide variety of topics in the social field, as well as international projects in cooperation with universities, private organizations and foundations. CRSCenter conducts comparative, cross-cultural, cosmopolitan and development-based research on social, cultural, economic, environmental, political and communication issues. The pillars of its research are a context-based, social reality oriented, forward-looking and policy-relevant approach to development that is different from traditional dominant development models and theories, which have all failed. Development is the mobilization of the inherent potentialities in interactive response to the challenges posed by nature, habitat and history to realize a sustainable project with an internal locus of command. The Center's extradisciplinary approach avoids fragmentation within the traditional boundaries of today's social science disciplines. Research at CRSCenter is at the service of development to give back to the community knowledge and insights derived from society.

Given its development orientation that connects with the life-giving force of evolution, which is *Life always seeking more life*, CRSCenter made a significant contribution to the publication of the book *Quest to Rescue Our Future* (Amsterdam, Rescue Our Future Foundation, 2016, 555 p., see www.rescueourfuture.org), which reflects the Center's research philosophy and practice. In part it is the product of the International Amazon Forest Encounter, an annual four-day retreat on the top of an Amazon rainforest mountain, which CRSCenter organized for 12 years. It brought together more than 180 professors, researchers, critical thinkers, innovators, NGO representatives and social and environmental activists from 16 countries to reflect on ideas for responding to the existential challenges facing humanity today and to discuss alternatives for a better future for humanity, with comments that helped shape the recently published book.



2. ORGANIZATION AND EXPERTISE

CRSCenter is a registered public liability company established in Aruba in 1999 to carry out scientific research, training and consultancy. The director of CRSCenter is Dr. Glenn Sankatsing, a methodology expert with four decades of experience in scientific research in various countries, who holds a PhD in social and economic sciences. In addition to the permanent staff, the Center establishes for each research project a customized team of experts and researchers qualified to address the specific research questions of the study. The Center has access to a pool of experienced interviewers, data entry specialists and other support staff from previous research that can be used for specific research projects. The Center's research infrastructure is continuously updated by adapting to new methodological knowledge, improving access to data sources, updating documentation and expanding the pool of associated researchers. The institutional strengthening of CRSCenter also focuses on the accumulation of methodological advances, research results and experiences to improve the validity and reliability of research methods and conceptual models in the social context of the place of research.

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3. RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY AND THE CONTOURS OF RESEARCH

An extradisciplinary approach, based on context and social reality, not fragmented along the traditional boundaries of current social science disciplines, provides the methodological basis for studies, analyses and actions to promote development at the national, regional and global levels. The mobilization of one's own potentialities, the promotion of self-realization and the resulting internal social dynamism inform the Center's research priorities and the search for valid theoretical approaches and appropriate methodological techniques. While critically borrowing from research methodology and available theoretical knowledge, we transcend fragmentation by academic claims on certain segments of social life and society, which current social science disciplines appropriate as their exclusive competence. The extradisciplinary approach rejects the dominant inverted logic that the anatomy of the academy determines the anatomy of society, which means that societies are divided in the same way that universities are separated in faculties.

Achievements and devices of other places that can be successfully seasoned for their proper use are taken advantage to benefit a process of self-realization. However, paternalistic context-free imitation, self-denial and the transfer of achievements, models and standards from outside can never be the engine of development. Context-based internal social dynamism is the engine of progress.

No society can be responsibly managed when there is a lack of knowledge of its own reality, its past, its genesis and its present. Critical decisions about our development, our social and political stability and our future require solid data. However, it is a persistent misunderstanding that scientific research is directed towards objective knowledge. The aim of research is not to discover the truth, but to reduce the degree of speculation by proposing the most plausible explanation,



while constantly seeking better ways to face challenges and offer solutions. Unfortunately, the level of speculation in policy-making remains unacceptably high, which is why CRSCenter focuses on policy-relevant research.

No therapy is possible without diagnosis, no diagnosis without analysis, no analysis without knowledge and no useful knowledge without scientific research into social reality. That is why diagnosis, therapy and prevention are important in addressing immediate social ills. However, from a development perspective, it is not the social ills, but above all social health in a balanced society that should be at the center of attention. The primary goal of research is therefore to understand the underlying factors that cause social ills and manifest themselves in acute problems. This places problem solving, policy formulation and development at the heart of the research exercise. CRSCenter aims to improve life opportunities and prospects by expanding the knowledge base for actions that promote social, economic and political stability and well-being in healthy societies, which is a prerequisite for a sustainable future.

The Center's code of ethics consists of freedom of research, thought and action, based on pluralistic tolerance and a critical position, characterized by the determination to accept the results of systematic thinking, examination and analysis in an unadulterated manner, regardless of whether they conform to one's own wishes or to the interests of the group.

4. WHAT DOES CRSCENTER OFFER?

In a spirit of development, Caribbean Reality Studies Center offers scientific research, analysis of existing data, research training and a platform for discussion and dialogue. CRSCenter is open to contract research and consultancy at the national, regional and international level that is consistent with its research philosophy and objectives, in addition to research on its own behalf.

1. Scientific research with implementable results

CRSCenter carries out scientific research projects under contract for governmental, non-governmental, private, regional and international institutions on social, cultural, economic, environmental, political and communication issues. Based on



comparative, cross-cultural, extradisciplinary and development-based research, CRSCenter conducts research for transformative action to help overcome the challenges facing humanity and its societies today. Instead of technical reports that culminate in recommendations, CRSCenter strives to provide implementable results that are already translated into actions and measures to be taken with the participation of key actors on the ground.

2. Analysis of existing data

CRSCenter offers services to organize, digitize and analyze existing data for organizations and institutions and to improve their data recording to make it suitable for statistical analysis in support of policy and decision-making.

3. Consultancy and training

CRSCenter provides advice on the research, statistical and methodological needs of organizations. It also helps organizations to formulate their research proposals. CRSCenter offers training in research methodology and a basic and advanced course in data processing and analysis with SPSS for individual researchers, organizations and research institutions.

4. Platform for discussion and dialogue

Given its general concern for the future of humanity, CRSCenter offers a platform for reflection, discussion and dialogue on the prospects and opportunities of life at the local, national, regional and global levels. In order to gather a critical mass of scholars and thinkers concerned with development and to form a young critical generation, CRSCenter regularly organizes meetings and scientific exchanges on the most urgent and critical issues on the agendas of countries, regions and the planet, in the form of seminars, workshops, courses and expert meetings.

To arrange an orientation meeting to discuss your research, data organization and data analysis needs or to use our training facilities, please contact CRSCenter by telephone (297-5863852, 5936369) or e-mail (crscenter@crscenter.com).



ANNEX CRSCENTER RESEARCH REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS ON ARUBA

Over the past 20 years, CRSCenter has conducted research on many topics, including the following projects in Aruba:

Sociale Impact van Drugs op Aruba (Social Impact of Drugs in Aruba)
Glenn Sankatsing. Oranjestad, Fundini, 1997, 190 p. (Executed by the director of CRSCenter)

Gemeenschapsstudie voor het Ontwerp Van Parke Di Recreacion Mabon (Community study for the design of the Entertainment Park Mabon)
Rapport uitgebracht aan het Ministerie van Publieke Werken. Aruba, Caribbean Reality Studies Center, 1999, 33 p.

Gemeenschapsstudie voor een Commercieel en Recreatief Centrum te Sabana Basora (Community Study for a commercial and entertainment center at Sabana Basora)
Rapport uitgebracht aan het Ministerie van Publieke Werken. Aruba, Caribbean Reality Studies Center, 1999, 36 p.

Gemeenschapsstudie voor het Ontwerp van Parke di Recreacion Kas Ariba (Community study for the design of the Entertainment Park Kas Ariba)
Rapport uitgebracht aan het Ministerie van Publieke Werken. Aruba, Caribbean Reality Studies Center, 2000, 64 p.

Evaluatie Stageregeling Aruba-Nederland (Evaluation of the training program Aruba-The Netherlands).
Onderzoek uitgevoerd voor de Directie Economische Zaken en de Vertegenwoordiging van Nederland op Aruba. Aruba, Caribbean Reality Studies Center, 2001, 58p.

Beroepsonderwijs en Arbeidsmarkt op Aruba (Vocational education and labor market in Aruba)
Glenn Sankatsing. Aruba, CELA (Conseho di Educacion y Labor), 2001, 146 p.

Sociale Sector van Aruba in Perspectief. Een Beleidsrelevant Diagnostisch Onderzoek (Social sector of Aruba in perspective. A policy-relevant diagnostic study)
Aruba, Caribbean Reality Studies Center, Uitgevoerd in opdracht van het Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Infrastructuur van Aruba, 2003, 202 p.

Craft Development in Aruba
Study executed for UNESCO at the request of the National Commission for UNESCO by Glenn Sankatsing, Caribbean Reality Studies Center, 2004, 40 p.



Contextrelevante Opties voor Kinderopvang op Aruba

Onderzoek uitgevoerd in opdracht van CEDE Aruba. Aruba, Caribbean Reality Studies Center, 2009, 53 p.

Leesomgeving van Kinderen van 0-5 Jaar op Aruba

Onderzoek uitgevoerd in opdracht van Fundacion Papiamente. Aruba, Caribbean Reality Studies Center, 2009, 23 p.

Evaluatierapport Bon Nochi Drumi Dushi

Onderzoek uitgevoerd in opdracht van CEDE Aruba. Aruba, Caribbean Reality Studies Center, 2010, 53 p.

Een Goede Oude Dag. De Stem van de Zestigplusser op Aruba

Onderzoek uitgevoerd in opdracht van CEDE Aruba. Aruba, Caribbean Reality Studies Center, 2011, 88 p.

Antwoord op het Drugsprobleem op Aruba

Verslag van de eerste onderzoeksfase van een nationaal drugsonderzoek op Aruba. Caribbean Reality Studies Center, 8 februari 2020. Deel 2 gaat binnenkort van start *Respons op Problematisch Drugs- en Alcoholgebruik op Aruba: Cliëntenonderzoek, Levensgeschiedenis en Beleidsimplicaties.*