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Title: Conversations on Climate Change adaptation and the calls for justice in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

ABSTRACT

There is scientific evidence that the phenomenon called global warming is real and that it is negatively affecting the earth's climate. The changes being wrought are driving some of the biggest environmental challenges that are facing the world today.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Barbados and those in the Caribbean region contribute the least to the climate change problem but have the greatest risks and suffer some of the worst impacts often with devastating and tragic consequences. Rising temperatures, drought, sea level rise, coastal erosion and more severe weather events not only create a more hostile natural environment; they disrupt economies, livelihoods and threaten futures.

The climate problem in Barbados and the Caribbean has deep historical antecedents and troubling continuities that have gone unaddressed based on the way that the climate problem is framed, understood and managed. Climate change is a justice issue for Caribbean SIDS; therefore, adaptation, resilience and vulnerability conversations need to take place within justice discourses.

This paper will present an overview of the discussions, debates, histories, ideas, theories, themes, cultures and laws that are critical to understanding the Caribbean climate change problem. It will also consider the aforementioned issues within a justice framework that is transformational because the severity of impacts and ongoing risks requires new thinking and new approaches. It will explore and assess the relevance and ability of this emerging theoretical framework to shape and inform strategies that can respond to the Caribbean's climate change problématique.
