
Preface to the Second Edition

The interest and scholarship in Creole religions is like the creolization process itself: always evolving. The prospect of publishing a second edition of *Creole Religions of the Caribbean* was a daunting one, particularly given the surge of scholarship in recent years in the fields of Diaspora Studies and Caribbean Studies. The term creolization has been a contentious one, an issue we address in this second edition, which brings up to date the scholarship on the religions themselves and also expands the regional considerations of the Diaspora to Mexican American and other U.S. Latinos who are influenced by Creole spiritual practices. The increased significance of material culture—art, music, literature—and the healing practices influenced by Creole religions are also taken into account.

Scholars and students have used our work and made helpful suggestions for the revisions included herein. We are grateful for their input and are also keenly aware of the continued need for this work and many others like it. We noted in the Preface to the first edition that Creole religions are “frequently misrepresented, cultural and religious practices” and agree ultimately with Aisha Khan that “[h]egemonic and abiding, prejudices, stereotypes, and presumptions are notoriously slow to become corrected—in either popular or scholarly imagination.”¹ We hope our work contributes to a better informed perception, adding another voice to a crucial ongoing conversation.

