

know other nurses, both black and white, on a more personal level. Both Cudjoe and Bailey immigrated when there were few blacks in Canada or black organizations, but these women found other means of enjoyment without emphasizing racial, cultural, and ethnic differences that so often divides individuals.

The women in this study did not express any regrets in migrating to Canada. Despite racism, sexism, culture shock, and homesickness they appreciated the opportunities that Canada offered via nursing. Unlike immigrant domestic workers, whose experience was characterized by isolation, exploitation, and sexual harassment (Silvera), Caribbean immigrant nurses differed to some degree. Despite shared experience dealing with the racist structure of immigration, Caribbean nurses enjoyed greater social prestige (as educated women) within the Caribbean community. The nurses admitted they were in a much better position than the domestic workers and cited their benefits, salary, working conditions, and mobility as proof of their status. Indeed, these facts may strengthen their commitment to professionalism.

As the current health care system continues to unravel, more studies are needed that will examine the experiences of Caribbean women currently within nursing and the ways these nurses continue to resist the devaluation of their occupation.

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¹V.V.'s Murray's work is a comprehensive study of nursing and nurses. He examined the nursing activity, (especially the debate around bedside care) working conditions, supply and demand, and issues of education.

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ELISAVIETTA RITCHIE

In Transit

Coming from somewhere else
at any age, even *in utero*,
you're never sure

your feet touch the soil.
Your whole life you hover—
hawk, helicopter

or fat dirigible, fearful
someone might poke a hole,
light a match—

You hang in there, up there,
wondering will they finally
grant permission to land

or forver challenge your passport,
check your fingerprints,
discount your money, question

could you survive as a stranger?
Best stay suspended,
forget the keys to the town.

Here, the air is dangerous, cold,
wind currents tricky, but
God, what a view.

Elisavietta Ritchie's poetry collections include: The Arc of the Storm, Elegy for the Other Woman, and Wild Garlic.