



ISISA

Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, ISISA's 17th *Islands of the World* Conference has, unfortunately, been postponed to 2021. This will still take place in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

Instead, for 2020, the first-ever Global Island Studies Webinar took place on June 24.

Anyone who has something to say or share about islands and Island Studies, or can submit a review about a suitable book, is welcome to send them over to me, to be considered for the next issue of the ISISA Newsletter.

Kindly send over material for the January 2021 Newsletter by not later than December 15, 2020.

Thank you for your continued support and contributions.

Anna Baldacchino

ISISA

17th *Islands of the World*

Conference:

14 – 18 June, 2021

St John's, Newfoundland, Canada

ISISA

18th *Islands of the World*

Conference:

13 – 19 June, 2022

Zadar, Croatia

Global Island Studies Webinar – June 2020

Feedback Report

ISISA made history when it conceived and organised the first ever 'Global Island Studies Webinar' (GISW 1). This became a reality on June 24, 2020, hosted on a WebEx platform by the Leslie Harris Centre of Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada. Since the presenters came from all over the world, you can imagine the bewildering time zone management one had to deal with. The Webinar was replacing the biennial ISISA conference that was to take place this year in Newfoundland, but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Webinar comprised 70 presenters in 62, 30-minute blocks, from 30 countries and territories. All this of course, came with some technical glitches during some sessions. After the event, ISISA President Godfrey Baldacchino sent out a short questionnaire to collect feedback about this event. 27 out of the 225 individuals who attended the Webinar replied to the questionnaire. This report is based on the responses of these participants.

The following three questions were asked in the feedback questionnaire:

1. Was the Webinar useful, instructive, intellectually challenging? (If yes/ no, do let us know why.)
2. What could we have improved / done better?
3. Should we do it again, for example during the years when an ISISA Conference is NOT taking place?

This report discusses the responses to the above questions one by one, incorporating direct quotes from respondents. To assure anonymity of respondents, each one was given a number according to the order in which they submitted their questionnaire.

Question 1

This question asked whether the Webinar was useful, instructive and/or intellectually challenging. Respondents also found it inspiring, diverse stimulating, interesting and varied:

Yes, it was useful and intellectually challenging. It gave me insight into the very diverse fields of island studies, and to very new perspectives on the challenges and possibilities of islands, for example, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic (R4).

Yes, it was very stimulating to hear colleagues in Island Studies grappling with conceptual frameworks (R10).

I found the very concept of a day-long, global Webinar to be inspirational. It's simply a fantastic idea... (R7).

Yes, to everything. It gave so many people, including me, the opportunity to be part of it, when I could not have been there in-person (R11).

Various respondents offered a general overall feedback of the Webinar. Most of their statements are quite encouraging and appreciative of all the work it took for such a Webinar to be planned and executed:

Topics were fantastic and well delivered. Excellent job putting together a diverse and interesting programme (R2).

The Global Island Studies Webinar provided an excellent platform for researchers and practitioners to exchange views and discuss the current state of research in the field of island studies, including giving voice to places/presenters hardly reached by mainstream research. The structure of the Webinar was adequate and involved all participants and presenters in what were suitable slots (R3).

The online platform makes it much easier for participants across the world to attend and present. While virtual conferences do lose some of the in-person networking opportunities that occur during coffee/tea breaks and lunches, this is a great way for us to share our work with a broad audience. And to support those who might not otherwise be able to attend conferences because of cost, time, or travel restrictions (R15).

... it demonstrated the resilience of ISISA. The organisation's ingenuity and determination to continue its exploration of 'islandness', in spite of a social distancing pandemic and the challenges of making the relatively new medium of Webinar work on a world scale, is to be celebrated (R19).

The Webinar afforded the unique opportunity to connect with scholars across the globe and to share with a wide, public audience (R21).

The opportunity to be a 'fly on the wall' during presentations and discussions featuring so many island scholars from around the world (and so many big names) from the comfort of my shady back deck was just brilliant. I feel like I got all of the goodness of a conference, without the typical overload and burnout. What really stood out to me was that, because of the platform and lack of formal conference room setting, there seemed to be a more comfortable and casual camaraderie about a lot of the sessions. There was nobody at the front of the room; we were all just there together, on a relatively equal level, and I felt like the discussions flowed accordingly (R23).

GISW once again showed the heterogeneous and vast spectrum of topics studied by the ISISA community. Moreover, I think that Q&A sessions were, in some cases, more dynamic than the ones we normally have in conferences and seminars. Maybe that is because the chat works as an icebreaker (R24).

I greatly appreciate all of the effort and expertise that you and your team invested into the ISISA Webinar. Thank you very much for facilitating my involvement in such a novel event! It was invigorating and connective across so many island cultures and across such an engaging diversity of disciplines spanning academia and well beyond. The wide range of viewpoints united in such a unique global forum felt, to me at least, to steadily build synergy through the uniquely stimulating event (R27).

As one can gather from the comments above, respondents overall found the Webinar to be a benefit to their field of study and knowledge about islands.

Question 2

This question asked what could be improved or have done better. The responses offered a lot of constructive feedback, to be considered if and when another Global Webinar of this magnitude takes place. The main suggestions that came out of the 27 responses consisted of:

1. The use of a different platform
2. More training about the platform before the actual event
3. Better advertising of the event
4. Organisation of sessions thematically
5. Presentation of PowerPoint slides without much text
6. Coping with minor technical difficulties
7. Moderators to chair sessions in which they are not presenting
8. Improving the efficacy of both the Chat box and Question and Answer box.

Here are some of the comments respondents made regarding the above:

I did not like the platform used. Zoom, in my opinion, would have made a much more pleasant user experience (R2).

I wouldn't have used the WebEx platform as it was new to everyone. Most of us know how to use Zoom now and it would have been easier. Handing over host responsibilities, etc. was unnecessarily stressful (R12).

Compared to other web platforms, I think WebEx did not work too well. In particular, the chat box and the Q & A box were not clearly separated (R14).

...My son is an IT programmer who fixed my sound issue, and was very disparaging about the WebEx platform. He said there are better options (R25).

Some moderators were not ready for the technical setup; they could have had some better training (R4).

Potentially you could think of some guidelines about the use of the platform and, more importantly, a few short pre-conference possibilities to join the platform with an expert and test the functions of the platform in order to make sure screen sharing and changes of rights work out nicely (R6).

In light of what R6 is suggesting, it is good to note that there was indeed a test session with an expert from the Leslie Harris Centre of Memorial University of Newfoundland (the host of the Webinar) a few days before the actual event. Moderators got the chance to navigate in advance of the event through the platform, learn how to share screens, hand over host responsibilities from one person to another, etc.

...More advance information on various aspects of how the seminar works. The harrowing minutes during which one of the presenters was absent from the Webinar also emphasized the need for some kind of backup system (R7).

Even people who were trained in the software seemed to forget some of the basics at times. Too much asking "Can you hear me?" rather than watching the in-built function for that.

There could have been a more attractive and informative flyer/website for non-presenting scholars wanting to take part in the Webinar (R4).

If it was run again, and we had more time to arrange it, it would be great to get a full Webinar 'page' on our website, with details of the sessions, and information about joining (R16).

I think more important than working out very minor bugs, advanced notice and active advertisement of the event much earlier (as well as early notification of accepted abstracts) could greatly help build the participating audience (R27).

Organise the sessions more thematically. I know this was a challenge given the time zones, but perhaps it could have been done more appropriately (R3).

I appreciate this may be difficult due to the timings but, thematically organised sessions could be useful (R5).

I found presentations with slides more easily accessible than talks and chats that had no additional material (R6).

Too many slides with too much text (not a function of a Webinar) (R11).

...Some slides were chock-full of text. I think there is definitely an opportunity to encourage presenters to be more engaging (and provide resources/guidance/justification accordingly). In a digital presentation setting, PowerPoint slides and communication style are more important than ever (R23).

Naturally, there were a number of small technical issues, such as unmuted participants unknowingly disrupting participants over short windows, moderators not knowing how to regain WebEx lead from a presenter, presenter's short videos not being seen on screen by participants, broken segments of video, etc. (R27).

One suggestion would be to have moderators moderate session blocks in which they are not presenting. Presenting in the session I moderated made it difficult for me to ensure everyone could hear me and that my share screen was showing up properly – there was no point person to ask (R15).

Perhaps have a moderator who was not among the presenters, so that (they) could focus on coordinating the session (R24).

I am not convinced that having a chat box, Q & A box, and hand raising is efficient. Questions were missed (R11).

Typing questions on the chat worked well but, sometimes questions appeared rather fast and got buried in a long list of lengthy comment-question hybrids (R10).

The chat box and the Q & A box were not clearly separated (at least for me) (R14).

Question 3

Feedback was requested from respondents as to whether a global Webinar should be held again, for example during the years when an ISISA Conference is NOT taking place. As you

know, ISISA face-to-face conferences are held biannually: so maybe a Webinar would be a good way of filling that gap and keeping everyone connected.

There was a resounding “Yes” from all the 27 respondents. However, the ‘yeses’ were followed by various reasons ranging from environmental concerns, to saving on travel costs, and also because of the comfort and convenience of such events. Here are some noteworthy reasons/suggestions made by respondents:

Yes, I think it is very valuable, and it is very different from “regular” old-school conferences. It is nice to listen to cutting edge presentations from your own living room! (R4).

Definitely. In a way, there was less distraction and it was easier to stay focused (R9).

Yes, please! It would be fantastic as a networking and reflective exercise in between conferences: where we can present work-in-progress, or teaching practices that are relevant to islands/islandness, run new ideas by audiences, etc. (R10).

Yes, I can really only afford one or two conferences a year, so I've never been to ISISA as I usually go to my primary affiliates' conferences (MLA, CSA). This would let me participate in a community I'm already remotely a part of. (R12).

Yes! Thank you for showing us how to work with excellent scholars from 30 countries and territories, around the clock and globe. Wonderful (R13).

Yes, absolutely! The main reason I didn't sign up for ISISA St Johns this year was the distance - travel would have meant taking longer away from home than I felt I could with a young family (R16).

Of course! You could also consider hosting it "hybridically", namely including the option of one presenting either physically or online (R18).

The Webinar allowed us, at least partially, to see presenters in their own contexts. This could be further explored. We certainly would avoid jet lagged presenters! (R19).

It may actually be an added value for those who cannot travel because of work or other commitments. This format made it more feasible for me to participate. The recording also permits me to follow specific interviews on topics of interest which I could not follow because of the time difference or because of work (R20).

I definitely think it is a viable alternative that still allows for thoughtful conversation. I do, however, very much miss the social aspect of the ISISA Conferences! (R21).

That is a good idea. We can, perhaps, think about a parallel online session. Anyway the value of bringing the island studies community together is irreplaceable (R24).

As it is highly unlikely that I am going to make it to one of your face-to-face conferences any time soon, YES PLEASE! If it's not too much trouble to organise, it would be good to do something like this every year - offset 6 months with the face-to-face conference in those years. It would really build the strength of this globally dispersed community and overcome the difficulties of travel whilst minimising environmental impact (R25).

Yes, do it again! This event was exceedingly unique and powerful due to its novel, environmentally sustainable, format as a model for reduced carbon use via air travel within academic networks. I found the whole experience to be an inspiring success in both connecting small island networks across the globe and as a model for developing less consumptive academic pathways (R27).

Yes, we should do it again, and yes on the year that there is no conference seems a good idea. That being said, I have to be honest, that after my panel, and assisting to a panel earlier in the day, my attention on a computer gets lower and lower.... As this was continuous, to host it on a longer period (and have each panel be recorded so participants could go back to it if it was, let's say in the middle of the night, would be great); I think I would not mind paying a small fee (registration fee) for that (R1).

Definitely! But maybe break it into more manageable chunks? I had a busy day and so could not join many. But, if it had been more spread out or had recorded sessions it would have been more feasible (R2).

One full day was great, but it was also quite tiring and I could enjoy it because I was on sabbatical (hence not teaching/marking) and have a very supportive family environment. I wonder whether going forward a series of thematic Webinars may not be also a possibility. Another option is to maybe not have a one-day marathon, but something across three days. Having said that, the idea of an annual marathon may be appealing (R14).

May be not for conferences of this length but for meetings of more limited length and scope I think it is great. Maybe we could also think of an option to streamline our meetings so that people who physically not attend the conference can still follow and if possible also participate (R22).

I think we should consider this as a viable option for pandemics, but also as a possibility to lessen our carbon footprint (R6).

Yes. Think of the saving of environmental resources, travel costs and the conference costs to hosting islands, if a digital platform was used (R19).

As seen from the above quotes, this pioneering Global Webinar was well received, at least by the 27 persons who completed the feedback questionnaire. Their constructive suggestions need to be considered for future events like this. On the whole, respondents were appreciative of all the hard work that went into such an event and in such a short period of time:

I found the whole experience to be an inspiring success in both connecting small island networks across the globe and as a model for developing less consumptive academic pathways. I remain deeply honored to have been a part of this highly successful, novel event, uniting island cultures across the globe in an exciting whirlwind of presenting and networking. I hope such exciting foundations continue to be built upon in the near future (R27).

Anna Baldacchino

ISISA Newsletter Editor

Unsettling the Rhetorics of the Politics of Filipinos on Guåhan

Tabitha Espina successfully defended her doctoral dissertation: "Unsettling the Rhetorics of the Politics of Filipinos on Guåhan," passing with distinction. She has thanked ISISA and its generous support of her research in her dissertation acknowledgments. She continues to say: "The connections I've made through the ISISA Conferences (for example, Dr. Karides had chaired my panel last year at ASA) and your generous student scholarships have been invaluable to my work's development and completion". While her graduation ceremony was cancelled due to COVID-19, she was able to be featured on Guam news to discuss her work and celebrate this accomplishment remotely:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OdQvyxjVac>

https://www.postguam.com/forum/letter_to_the_editor/island-girl-criticism-turned-into-inspiration-for-doctoral-study/article_328aaeda-9349-11ea-9d5c-dff2e2827887.html

https://www.postguam.com/news/local/espina-defends-dissertation-earns-ph-d/article_c6a38f90-926a-11ea-b454-8b58d4866684.html



Island Studies Journal (ISSN: 1715-2593) was set up in 2006 as a freely downloadable, peer reviewed, scholarly and interdisciplinary journal dedicated to the study of islands and island life.

ISJ is institutionally housed at the Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada: www.islandstudies.com

ISJ is, since June 2012, the official journal of ISISA and, since 2013, the official journal of RETI (the Network of Island Universities).

Manuscripts to be considered for publication are welcome at: isj@upei.ca Website: www.islandstudies.ca/journal

The Luciano Minerbi Collection

I am glad to reconnect with ISISA and all of you. Since news about me is on the web, I can put it in some context. I retired from the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa Campus in Honolulu on December 2018. I donated part of my Collection to my university's Hamilton Library. The University Archivist, Mrs. Helen Smith Wong, kindly accepted this donation. A graduate library studies student, Sharnelle Renti Cruz, took the initiative to prepare a display of the material she processed. I am so

grateful to both of them for all of this. Because of the Covid-19, she highlighted this collection directly on line (weebly.com web page below):

[THE LUCIANO MINERBI COLLECTION- UH ARCHIVES - Home](#)

lucianominerbicollection.weebly.com

The Hamilton Library web site announced the creation of the Minerbi Collection at:

[Urban planning emeritus professor shares life's work ...](#)

[www.hawaii.edu > news > 2020/05/20 > luciano-minerbi-collection](http://www.hawaii.edu/news/2020/05/20/luciano-minerbi-collection)

The University of Hawai'i Office of Communication posted an announcement on UH News and also on three social media platforms Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

[The Luciano Minerbi Collection: 50 Years of Collaborative ...](#)

[manoa.hawaii.edu > Home > About > Exhibits](http://manoa.hawaii.edu/Home/About/Exhibits)

The web page by Sharnelle Renti Cruz is dynamic so that the images of projects, maps, localities, students and people slowly alternate on the computer screen and visualize what the Minerbi Collection contains so far.

May 5, 2020 - The *Luciano Minerbi Collection: 50 Years of Collaborative ...* View the Online Exhibit at: <https://lucianominerbicollection.weebly.com/> · A collage ...

[Images for lucianominerbicollection](#)

The archivists sorted the material by type as: (a) university research projects and practicum, (b) island planning research and instructional projects, and (c) contract projects.

Why I am transferring more than 50 years and dozens of bankers' boxes to the archive instead to the dump? Most reports have been self-published with research and data timely provided to community groups, neighborhood boards, city, state, federal entities, legislative bodies or international UN agencies and village councils and government in Oceania. But little time was available for publishing in academic journals, because of the pressing needs to move projects from one island issue to the next. I had no choice but respond to the next community request that kept coming in. Now I can revisit and reassess make what we researched and produced. Sometime the background information is as useful as the final research report, if not more.

Most planning issues studied take generations to be addressed and resolved. The material is not really dated, even if decades old, when we learn the context at the time a planning proposal was embraced or rejected. We then can learn a lot and apply lessons from past events to contemporary one, even under new circumstances. An old Latin says to underscore this point is below my e-mail address: "*There is no truth without memory*".

All our learning, teaching, research, and service, in solidarity with local and indigenous island people, had them as our immediate clients and interlocutors.

My integrated teaching, research, and services was possible through the "graduate planning practicum course" where we have students engaged in "team-work" by addressing a "pressing planning issue" and by dealing with a "real client". The clients were often community and indigenous groups, government agencies and landowners with challenging planning issues confronting all of them as stakeholders. These endeavors are "instructional research" or field work done in the context of academic instruction:

The students are really a "junior planning team" able to deliver professional quality work. They are often seen with less 'baggage' than conventional private consultants, with less axes to grind, as they act like a 'mini united nations', being from different regions of the world). Their research is like a 'friendly audit' of a planning issue. This is a great role for the university to serve the local community in a meaningful way, and can be offered by most academic disciplines.

Because of the usual good work by the students, at times we received more requests for research service than we can undertake. Government agencies may fund the fieldwork that enables students to service-learn not just in our home island but also other islands in the Hawaiian archipelago and even in Oceania. What I explain, when I formalize a contract, is that the main "deliverable" and task is to "search for the public interest" in the case at hand and to document findings in a report that is public information and that everyone can use. I have published a book chapter about this pedagogy of the planning practicum in Pacific Islands:

Minerbi, Luciano. 2014. "Reflection on Participatory Community Research and Planning in Pacific Islands" published in French as "Reflexion sur la Recherche et la Planification Participative et Communautaire dans le Pacifique Insulaire" in V. Filloi & P.-Y. Le Meur (Eds.), 24th Colloquium CORAIL on Terrains Oceanien. 2012: Fieldwork in New Caledonia (and the Pacific): Theoretical, Methodological and Ethical Challenges. University of New Caledonia, Noumea.

Realistically, the Collection will take us some time to select, process, archive, design finder-aids, and make accessible. This entails integrating the hard copy collections to the electronic records by scanning, uploading to Scholar space and the like. Financial resources to implement all this will have to come by.

The island communities we serve like to have a record of their planning history and they can use some of our material for their next planning steps. At the university we have a new generation of young island faculty that have the academic credentials and scientific & community knowledge base, their island students, their local families and an interest in institutionalizing "cultural appropriate place base research" and access related previous case studies of the island they love. And that is what we provided for half a century.

When people ask me what I am doing in retirement and I answer: "the same, more than before, just not on a payroll" ...they look at me puzzled; but then they smile.

Luciano Minerbi, Professor Emeritus

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Life on San Juan Island USA under COVID-19

We are small, 6,600 people (46% bring over age 65) on 142 km², mainly pasture. We are a summer destination for people from all over the country and many people from Seattle have second homes here.

When COVID-19 hit us here, we stayed home, wore masks and gloves and were very compliant. The only stores open were two groceries and the pharmacy was only open for curb side pickup. People appeared to become more fearful as time went by. When some of the second home part-time residents arrived during Level 1 (only essential travel), there was some vocal protest about their presence.

Now that we have moved to Level 2, tourists are returning although the essential travel rule is still in effect. A local law was passed at the beginning of level 2: masks are required at all times in indoor public places. This law is not widely known by visitors and currently some establishments provide masks at the door, hoping for compliance. Mostly every resident is.

Hotels and short term rentals are still banned from operating at the time of writing; but we are aware some are operating and there is no enforcement that has been acknowledged by our governor. Restaurants are beginning to open for seating; but enforcement of our local law for indoor masks can only be enforced by proprietors. Residents feel lucky that we are an island and have been isolated during the pandemic. Naturally, there are some who want tourism to return for business; others who wish to remain isolated.

Our health services got organized quickly and established a system for services and air lifts. There seems to be a general agreement that they did an excellent job in spite of a shortage of PPE gear. We have had five cases, no deaths and we are here, being resilient.

Gail Richard

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Sustainable Island Verbiage

The sustainable development industry has generated its own vocabulary and jargon. Words and phrases such as adaptation, adaptive capacity, consilience, panarchy, resilience, social-ecological systems (among multiple variations), transformation, and vulnerability are bandied about without first determining whether or not they are meaningful.

Taking many of the key and common buzzwords together to produce a foundational phrase, we could consider Sustainable Holistic Integrated Transformation for Climate-Resilient Adaptation and Preparedness. The lesson is that sustainable development fields end up with vocabulary which is almost meaningless for communicating what is needed, especially regarding action.

Meanwhile, island contexts reveal significant drawbacks to such sustainable development vocabulary being imposed on them, such as poor translatability, cultural mismatching, clashes of values, and distraction from needed action. To overcome the self-

serving structure of this sustainable development terminology, islands provide ways of locally contextualising key concepts in order to keep them tangible, communicable, pragmatic, lucid, and applicable.

These are ways of enacting sustainability processes from multiple angles, without being caught in the intractable mesh of jargon, the superficiality of branding, the eco-trap of nonsensical phrasing, and the selling or prostituting of sustainability and its vocabulary. Perhaps we should start by transforming ourselves from a focus on nomenclature to a focus on reality.

Figure: Solar power in Barbados. (Photo: Ilan Kelman)



Ilan Kelman

<http://www.ilankelman.org> and Twitter [@IlanKelman](https://twitter.com/IlanKelman)



Your Invitation to Join the Virtual Island Summit 2020!

After a successful first Virtual Island Summit last year, we are thrilled to invite you to the Virtual Island Summit 2020. We hope to exceed last year's 4,000 participants and reach 10,000 islanders globally.

This is a free and entirely online event designed to connect global islands to share their common experiences through a digital platform. Join islanders from around the world to share ideas, good practices and solutions. Plus, as a virtual event, the conference will be **zero carbon**.

The summit will be wide-reaching and include topics such as sustainable development, geopolitics, energy, gender issues, cultural preservation, journalism, climate change, digital communications and other issues pertinent to all island communities. We invite institutions and individuals interested in partnering to get in touch.

The final program is available here: www.virtualislandsummit.com

Each session within the summit will be streamed live to encourage interaction and opportunities to network with other attendees, including Q&A for speakers. As there will be many sessions in various time zones, they will also be recorded and available for anyone registered after the event.

James Ellsmoor

Director, Island Innovation

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Early Reflections on the Significance of the "COVID-19 and Islands" Database

“COVID-19 and Islands” is a specially curated database of weekly reports of the rate of infection of the novel coronavirus pandemic as it affects islands around the world. The current database can be downloaded in several formats from the [ISISA.ORG](https://isisa.org) website. By nature of the available data, the bulk of the information shows the incidence of COVID-19 cases in approximately 100 island nations, and some major island dependencies. Following are early observations by Bruce Potter <BPotter@IRF.ORG> former president of Island Resources Foundation, who has been helping update an Excel workbook incorporating these data.

First and last, it needs to be recognized that data quality in the "COVID-19 and Islands" database is not good. Consistency of data reporting is spotty; comparability of even basic concepts, such as “case” and “death” is not clear, verified, or even assured over time for any one reporting country; timeliness is not common. These deficiencies are compounded by the lack of global leadership for this vital set of measures for both immediate management by island policy managers of the COVID-19 pandemic and for insights into strategies for future epidemics — in fact there are pressures for increasing the political manipulation of data with little or no “third party” oversight or supervision. The data is useful because it is globally comprehensive, it provides a great many complementary observations, and it is better than any other source.

As a matter of priority, island governments should seek improvements in the global database for epidemics and pandemics because of the special relevance of this data to island management of these plagues. Ideally this "threat data" resource would be complemented at the regional level with well-maintained “response" resource lists for information and specialty tools (e.g., mobilization plans, reagents, Personal Protection Equipment, computer software and networks). The Regional Response Team for coordinated hurricane response in the Caribbean is a partial model for such a system. These needs are not unique, but they are especially significant for islands coping with a pandemic.

Even with the current information deficits, there are two advantages to the “COVID and Islands" information collected by Iain Orr, of Biodiplomacy <biodiplomacy@yahoo.co.uk> and available for download from the ISISA web site at [ISISA.ORG](https://isisa.org). The data from standard data sources, such as “[WorldoMeter.info](https://worldometer.info)” as excerpted by Iain every five-days for the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic, shows that such global scale data can still be useful for relatively short-term management. In addition, the ability to aggregate data from several dozen islands shows patterns (often at the regional or sub-regional level) of disease spread that can be used to coordinate multi-national response teams.

An important conclusion from "COVID-19 and Islands" is that islands have been more successful than continental nations in confronting COVID-19. On a per-capita basis, island states are twice as likely to have lower than median case rates for COVID-19 (by a margin of 39 to 18 — *WorldoMeter*, 25 July 2020).

Especially for tourism-dependent islands, this success needs to be nurtured in order to encourage the resumption of travel, but islands must find means to combine longer term tourist visits with versions of quarantining, and the creation of contact tracing that meets the safety requirements in the “new Coronavirus age.” Protection of a low case rate for COVID-19 infections is a strategic need for many islands.

The five-day information frequency in the first 20 weeks of the "COVID-19 and Islands" database has been helpful in illustrating the speed with which COVID-19 outbreaks occur in islands, which have the added liability of small staffing, limited facilities and small or non-existent PPE reserves. For example, in 30-days, Sao Tomé and Príncipe saw a 2.4 times increase in caseload, burdening an already inadequate health services system; similarly, on the other side of Africa, the French overseas department of Mayotte went from 1000 to 2700 cases, and in the Caribbean the Dominican Republic zoomed from 7,000 cases on the first of May to 40,000 cases on July 1st — joining Mayotte among the 10% of countries with the highest case-rate-per-million population.

The "COVID-19 and Islands" database will continue to be updated every ten days, and the most recent report accessible on the [ISISA.ORG](https://www.isisa.org) website will incorporate the individual reports for all previous dates. It is hoped this data, and growing awareness on the part of island decision makers may be pointing to some common strategic responses that islands, especially tourism-driven small islands, may want to prepare to bootstrap themselves out of dependency, instead of being mired in a perpetual COVID-afflicted world.

Bruce Potter

bpotter@irf.org



A Thought Leadership Paper on Knowledge Mobilization on Small Islands, from the Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island.

Earlier this year, the Institute of Island Studies at UPEI was successful in receiving a grant from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) to research and write a thought leadership paper on how knowledge mobilization, also referred to as knowledge transfer, dissemination, translation, adaptation and exchange, plays out on small islands (and

especially on islands in and around Canada). Given the tight deadlines, we were not able to undertake an extensive research project on this topic. However, we did conduct a literature review and reached out to island studies researchers and practitioner groups nationally and internationally, conducting interviews and virtual focus groups. After an initial review, we also asked many of those in the international island studies community, including some of the readers of this Newsletter, to comment on the draft paper. We appreciated the many responses, all of which allowed us to be more confident about what we were saying regarding the kinds, characteristics, flows, and challenges to knowledge mobilization by islanders. The final paper has now been submitted to CCUNESCO for translation into French and posting on our national research platforms. However, in advance of that official posting, we wanted to share with you the final paper. It can be found at the following links (<http://projects.upei.ca/iis/> and <http://projects.upei.ca/unescochair/>) and the abstract is provided below. Since these thought leadership papers are intended to continue discussion of the topics, we welcome your thoughts on the paper, and particularly on the recommendations.

Submitted by James E. Randall, lead author, on behalf of co-authors Laurie Brinklow and Marlene Chapman. Comments can be sent to jarandall@upei.ca

Insular knowledge: Building a community of islands through knowledge mobilization

Abstract

The premise of this paper is that islands are an integral part of Canadian geography, history and identity, and that knowledge mobilization (KMb) on islands is too often overlooked or misunderstood. The paper provides an overview of the kinds, characteristics, flows and challenges associated with knowledge creation and dissemination on islands in and close to Canada. In so doing, it offers insights intended to spark a dialogue on how KMb on islands assists us in addressing the major challenges facing our islands and society in general. Findings suggest that much knowledge on and about islands is informal and undervalued, but critical to maintaining viable island communities. This informal, situational knowledge is often combined with formal, theoretical knowledge to build resilience in ways that may be applied more broadly across different contexts. The paper recommends that more effort must take place to expand and strengthen island networks to share resources and stories and improve training in the value of informal KMb, and that governments need to reduce islander transportation costs, strengthen local governance, and filter policies and programs through an island lens before they are adopted.

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Coronavirus: A Reset for Tourism in the Wadden Sea Area?

In recent years, the call for tempering tourism development on the Wadden Sea Islands has grown louder and louder. The term ‘over tourism’ was often heard. Some islands developed strategies for a more sustainable tourism. Quality of life, rather than growth, became the motto. And suddenly coronavirus reared its head. The dependency on tourism was immediately evident. If tourism is suddenly halted, even in the pre-season, the impact is severe. Also on the mainland, which experiences less tourism, there were signs of trouble. Many entrepreneurs saw their turnover reduced to zero (a booking agency actually had a negative turnover). Most will be glad if they can attain a turnover of 50% compared with 2019. It has become more than clear that tourism should be about the balance between the three Ps: people, planet and profit.

What did the other countries in the Wadden Sea World Heritage do? In Germany, the islands went into full lockdown from one minute to the next. Guests were given 24 hours to leave. Denmark closed the borders; and only domestic tourism was allowed. The Danish Wadden Sea area depends for 70% on foreign guests, so it is also being hard hit.

In the Netherlands, an ‘intelligent’ lockdown was imposed. People were advised to stay at home, group gatherings were forbidden and social distancing was mandatory. The mayors of the Dutch islands called on tourists to stay away. The tourism sector was supportive, but also said: ‘it’s not forbidden to come’, ‘we have a lot of space here’ and ‘behave like you would at home’, which sent out conflicting signals. The mayors of the Dutch islands sent a joint urgent message to the national government. In Germany, they took a different approach. Needless to say, they implemented the orders immediately and within 24 hours all tourists were gone. In addition, the mayors and tourism managers sent a joint video message via Facebook to the minister. This message, explaining the hardship and need for support, was viewed over 400,000 times.

Coronavirus has highlighted the dependency on tourism. However, it can also serve as a reset. It offers opportunities for a transition towards sustainable tourism with the three Ps in balance. The EU-funded, INTERREG North Sea project PROWAD LINK is performing research in the three countries to monitor this balance. If one of the three ‘P’s is under pressure, the rest will suffer too. In the Netherlands, for instance, the coronavirus outbreak shows that a fall in tourism has direct consequences for local people, with many having no work. Google statistics show a 35% rise in the number of people spending time in natural surroundings. In Denmark, rangers say there are already noticing a negative influence resulting from this increase. How do you maintain a balance?

Sustainable tourism is not only about balance, but also about cooperation. In the Netherlands, the roles are clearly separated. The municipality takes care of the facilities, the tourist office handles marketing and sales. The German model, in particular, offers opportunities for the Netherlands. Tourism is managed via a ‘*Kurverwaltung*’: a tourism administration in the form of a business, belonging to the local municipality, but greatly influenced by entrepreneurs. Marketing, sales, development and management are centrally managed, and financed by tourist tax and mandatory contributions (turnover tax). As a result, they can act quicker and more comprehensively. Modern tourism demands strong DMOs (Destination Management Organisations), with the ‘M’ no longer standing only for Marketing – as is currently the case with Visitwadden.nl – but also for Management. This means that integrating the interests of all stakeholder, with a view to optimising the three Ps, becomes the guiding principle. The Dutch Wadden Sea coast is a destination under development. This is a great opportunity to focus

efforts on establishing genuine DMOs. Inhabitants, businesses, and nature organisations jointly developing the product and creating a truly sustainable destination.

Sjon de Haan

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World Environment Day release of the Local Green-Blue Enterprise Radar toolkit for community enterprises by CANARI

Port of Spain, June 5, 2020 – Unleashing the potential of local community enterprises in the Caribbean will help to ensure that COVID-19 economic recovery is fair, environmentally sustainable, low-carbon and resilient. This effort is supported by the release of *The Local Green-Blue Enterprise Radar: A tool for community enterprises* by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in collaboration with the Green Economy Coalition (GEC).



Figure 1. *The Local Green-Blue Enterprise Radar: A toolkit to support community enterprises* was developed by CANARI and provides practical guidance for facilitators working with MSMEs to assess how they are delivering on 'triple bottom line' benefits using the simple but effective LGE Radar tool.

The *Local Green-Blue Enterprise (LGE) Radar* is a simple but effective tool that can help community micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) assess how they doing and where they can improve in delivering on 'triple bottom line' benefits of economic, environmental and social sustainability as well as good governance. CANARI developed, tested and refined the LGE Radar through an action learning process with business support experts and over 47 formal and informal MSMEs or MSME associations across 10 Caribbean countries over the past four years.

“Putting nature and nature-based livelihoods at the centre of the COVID-19 response and recovery is critical and the release of this publication on World Environment Day 2020 is very timely,” according to Nicole Leotaud, CANARI Executive Director. “As we commit to transforming Caribbean economies coming out of the COVID-19 crisis, practical and easy to use tools, like the LGE Radar, are necessary to empower these MSMEs to understand their role in this economic transformation.”

Since 2010, CANARI has been engaging Caribbean stakeholders in dialogues to explore 'green economy' and 'blue economy' in the Caribbean context and the pathways for transformation of our economic development models to ones that are more environmentally sustainable, inclusive and resilient. MSMEs are a key pathway to drive such an economic transformation since they already deliver many economic, social and environmental co-benefits. Many enterprises heavily depend on natural resources (e.g. ecotourism, agriculture and craft) and have the potential to ensure healthy ecosystems and

sustainable use of natural resources. MSMEs can also be powerful providers of solutions to address environmental degradation and climate change.

This toolkit is intended to be used by small business facilitators, trainers and mentors from government, academia, civil society and international and regional organisations who provide support to community MSMEs. It includes activity sheets, lessons learnt and case studies from previous Radar sessions done by CANARI and our partners. This toolkit is designed for those working with nature-based enterprises in the Caribbean; however, many of the approaches are applicable to MSMEs in other countries, particularly developing countries and small island developing states. CANARI will continue to use this toolkit in its work to support MSMEs across the Caribbean and to advocate for more enabling legal, regulatory, fiscal and funding frameworks for MSMEs, especially for green/blue and social enterprises. This toolkit was developed and piloted with support from two regional projects being implemented by CANARI: *#GE4U: Transformation Towards an Inclusive Green Economy in the Caribbean* and *Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES)*, which are both being funded by the European Union.

The toolkit can be downloaded in full here: [The Local Green-Blue Enterprise Radar: A tool to support community enterprises](#)

The associated LGE Radar Workbook can be downloaded here: [LGE Radar Workbook](#)

About the projects:

The four-year regional project *#GE4U: Transformation towards an inclusive green economy in the Caribbean (2016 – 2020)* was implemented by CANARI in collaboration with the Green Economy Coalition (www.greeneconomycoalition.org), the world's largest movement for green and fair economies. The project aimed to support the transformation to green, fair and resilient economies. This project was supported by funding and assistance from the European Union (DCI-ENV/2016/372-847). See <https://canari.org/ge4u/>

The four-year regional project *Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES)* is being implemented by CANARI in partnership with the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM), the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), the Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM), Sustainable Grenadines Inc (SusGren), and the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT). PISCES will contribute to addressing priority issues and needs in the Caribbean by enhancing marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic development. This project was supported by the European Union (ENV/2016/380-530) *Civil society and small and micro enterprise innovation for marine and coastal conservation in the Caribbean*. See <https://canari.org/pisces/http://canari>

About CANARI: The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional technical non-profit organisation which has been working to promote and facilitate stakeholder participation in the stewardship of natural resources in the Caribbean for over 30 years. See <http://www.canari.org/>

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<https://www.isisa.org/index.php?c=executive-committee>

