

International Small Islands Studies Association
Annual General Meeting
September 23, 2025
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Dr. Laurie Brinklow, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada

I am happy to be bringing you this President's Report from Prince Edward Island, located on Canada's Atlantic coast. This is the first time we've hosted the AGM online, following a change in bylaws. Previously we held our general meetings biennially, in conjunction with our Islands of the World conferences. Now we are able to host a virtual meeting in the years between conferences. I am grateful for the technology that allows this to happen.

In 2024 we reported at the Lombok Conference that our next conferences will be held on Jae-Eun Island, Shinan County, South Korea, in 2026; in Curacao, Caribbean, in 2027; in Gozo, Malta, in 2028; and in Yokohama, Japan, in 2029. Although not the first time we've had two IOW conferences in back-to-back years, this is the first time we'll be doing four, due to fabulous expressions of interest from all four bidders. Today we'll hear from hosts from 2028, 2027, and 2026. I'm looking forward to hearing updates from you all!

In advance of our 2026 conference in South Korea, Anica, Sarah, Adam, and I were invited to check out the venue and to meet the organizing committee this past May. We were delighted to be treated to some amazing hospitality from our hosts Sun Kee, Jae-Eun and all the partners involved. As reported in our last newsletter, the experience was second-to-none, and I know you will not be disappointed.

Other big news from this past year was finally being able to receive membership payments online – which led to making this AGM possible as, beyond our lifelong memberships, we had no members! So, a huge thank you goes to Bobby and Adam for figuring out the technology to make it work. I am happy to report that we now have nearly 80 annual and lifetime members.

A huge thank you goes to newsletter editor Anica and all the people who contributed to two editions, submitting their stories, photos, and events. Thanks to Anna and Sarah who kept the website and social media networks vibrant and up to date. And we also thank editors of and contributors to *Island Studies Journal*, ISISA's official journal. Your efforts have made it truly a gem of a world-class journal.

Over the past year we have also worked to build our connections and collaborations with other island-focused organisations such as the Small Islands Culture Research Initiative (SICRI) and the IGU Islands Commission. Thank you to all who have helped enrich those discussions. I look forward to seeing where they will lead.

I would like to thank the Executive members for their dedication to ISISA and for all their hard work this past year. They are Sarah Nimfhür, Vice-President; Anna Baldacchino, Secretary; Bobby MacAulay, Treasurer; Anica Čuka, Newsletter Editor; ordinary members Ayana Ginoza, Adam Grydehøj, Rose-Marie Azzopardi; and co-opted member Tomislav Oroz (who was part of the Zadar 2022 conference's organizing committee, along with Anica). We look forward to starting the nomination process early in 2026 as we will be looking for new members to take on some of these roles. Watch for the announcement!

And, finally, I thank all the members who help make this organization the success that it is. Thanks for showing up and for contributing to the growing knowledge and understandings of islands worldwide. We couldn't do it without you.

Looking forward to seeing you all next year in South Korea!