



# ISISA

## Newsletter

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### EDITORIAL

To start off this issue, we have an invitation to the 15<sup>th</sup> ISISA *Islands of the World* Conference, and an extension to the call for abstracts for the conference.

This Newsletter includes interesting articles from our members, a poem and conference announcements.

Remember that the Newsletter is only what you make it. We encourage anyone who has something to say, or share about Islands, Island Studies or Book Reviews about Islands, to send them over to me for the next issue.

*Kindly send over contributions for the July 2017 Newsletter by not later than June 15, 2017.*

Thank you and seasonal good wishes to you, your families and friends.

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# 15th 'Islands of the World' ISISA Conference 2017

*A Conference not to be missed*

It's time to start planning for the 2017 ISISA Conference!!

Here is a unique opportunity to travel 'down south' to Australia, and south again to Kangaroo Island, where the locals are eagerly waiting to welcome you.

Be assured that we are wonderfully hospitable hosts, and keen to share our special part of the world with ISISA participants.

Start exploring the Island right now on:  
<http://www.tourkangarooisland.com.au>.

We are a relatively large and diverse island geographically, with a land area of almost 4,500 km<sup>2</sup>, yet small in population, with only 4,500 residents. We are surrounded by pristine national parks, remarkable wildlife and stunning coastal scenery.

### Exploring 'Islandness'

As ISISA continues to explore the notion of 'islandness', Kangaroo Island is preparing to host a Conference that allows participants to share ideas and insights about what it means to be an islander in the complex world of today. ISISA President, Professor Godfrey Baldacchino, will open the Conference with a keynote address that draws on his extensive research and personal experience of islands across planet earth.

This is a multidisciplinary conference that encourages participants to think beyond their own areas of study and to speculate on the importance of small islands in a global context. Keynotes, plenaries, posters, papers, field excursions and public forums will provide opportunities for Conference participants and Kangaroo Island's local community to share together on the role of small islands in ensuring global survival. You can find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kangarooisland2017/>

### Calling for Papers and Posters

We are calling for papers and posters that explore any aspect of our theme: *Small island communities: models for global survival*. Look closely at the sub-themes on the website and you will find that whatever your discipline there is place for you to present an academic paper or poster. Please submit your abstract by **15 January 2017**.

Scholarships are available to full time students. Full details about abstracts and scholarships are on our website: <http://www.kangarooisland2017.com>

### Register Now

Kangaroo Island is keen to learn from you and to provide you with an island experience that you will never forget. The five-day interactive Conference program will engage your mind and stimulate your thinking. Stay on or come early for pre- and post-Conference tours. But please **REGISTER now** to get an Early Bird registration rate.



<http://www.kangarooisland2017.com>

## Islands, Godfrey Baldacchino, and *Island Studies Journal*

### Musings

My introduction to the field of island studies came in 2008. I was two years into my PhD in Ethnology & Folklore at the University of Aberdeen, having done fieldwork on folk belief and conceptions of local identity in Shetland. And amidst my research into fairies; ghosts; Vikings; and hirsute, swarthy pygmy savages, I happened upon a book: *Lessons from the Political Economy of Small Islands: The Resourcefulness of Jurisdiction*, edited by Godfrey Baldacchino and David Milne.

I did not know what ‘political economy’ was. But I knew what ‘small islands’ were (Oh, the certainties of youth!), and I realised that I had, entirely unconsciously, been choosing small islands as places to live over the previous years. I gave the book a go, and it made such an impression that I promptly added both politics and economy (in lieu of political economy) to the topic of my doctoral thesis, no doubt prompting crisis talks among my PhD supervisors from the noble discipline of folklore, who wondered just where they had failed in their tutelage.

As fate (resourcefulness?) would have it, I e-mailed this Baldacchino fellow. The contents of my e-mail I do not recall, but I *do* recall that Godfrey (as I would later know him) responded by recommending I attend an island place branding conference in Åland and remarking upon the joys of “flexing jurisdictional capacity,” a turn of phrase that to this day strikes me as simultaneously irresistible and vaguely obscene. Thus did I get my start in island studies.

I have since become aware that thus have many bright-eyed young people got their starts in island studies. I was not so special after all. But I will not hold that against me. Eight years of hard graft and soft science have led me to my present state of happy expectation: a mere month away from officially taking the helm of *Island Studies Journal*, the open access publication that Godfrey founded in 2006 and has edited ever since.

Without Godfrey and without *Island Studies Journal*, I would not be where I am today. Quite specifically, I would not be writing this missive in the middle of the night from a house in Eqalugalinnuit, Nuuk. And there is a good chance I would still be answering the innocent question of “So, what do you do?” with the dreaded words “I study fairies.” *Island Studies Journal* began as a window into a still-emerging field of research and is today an established – even a *respectable* – journal, though no less innovative than it was in the start.



It is such an honour for me to be taking over from Godfrey as *Island Studies Journal*’s Executive Editor that I am sorely tempted not to be frivolous about it. I know that I cannot do what Godfrey has done. Yet in my role as his irrepressible protégé, I look forward to carrying on Godfrey’s tradition, tending to his legacy, and nurturing *Island Studies Journal*. Island studies has given me so much.

In the coming years, I hope to be able to give something back to it. Thank you, Godfrey, for your matchless service to the field and for the faith you have shown in me.

**Adam Grydehøj**

Incoming Executive Editor of *Island Studies Journal* (2017-2020) [agrydehoj@upei.ca](mailto:agrydehoj@upei.ca)

# A Theory of Island Studies: Outlines for a Discussion

Professor Per Lind, University of Uppsala, Sweden - [per.lind@fek.uu.se](mailto:per.lind@fek.uu.se)

*Editor's Note: This discussion document was presented at the Island Tourism School held at the Valletta Campus of the University of Malta, Malta, on November 21, 2016. Present for the Discussion was the paper promoter Per Lind, academics Arjen Alberts, Wouter Veenendaal, Jack Corbett, Yoko Fujita and Godfrey Baldacchino.*

## Introduction: Some General Reflections

The idea of Island Studies is an interdisciplinary approach but the term is loosely and insufficiently defined which makes it vague and difficult to grasp. Joe Moran, British social and cultural historian suggested (Moran, 2001) that interdisciplinary means *any form of dialogue or interaction between two or more disciplines* which essentially means crossing and interacting between disciplinary boundaries. It is, however, mostly unclear what is the meaning of crossing a boundary and indeed also where are these boundaries. A useful definition of interdisciplinarity therefore requires a brief discussion about academic disciplines.

The understanding of an academic discipline is a branch of knowledge that addresses a problem or problem area or a phenomenon being specific for the branch. A discipline furthermore requires that a theory has been constructed that is fully contained within the discipline. The theory should thus elucidate and address the problem area having been identified and should provide methods for the elaboration of the problems. Since there is no theory construct with particular focus on islands we may try to identify a problem area and/or a phenomenon that would be particularly relevant to islands. Such a problem or phenomenon might be formulated as *Balancing Opportunities and Threats in Island Development*. The task for Island Studies that would follow from this could be: *Saving, preserving and developing island identities in a globalised world through sustainable use and management of limited island resources*.

Island Studies as a generic term belongs to the relatively new academic concept of 'Studies' that is typically lacking theorisation or specific methodologies (Krishnan, 2009). Studies can either aim at remaining undisciplined like Women's studies in the 1970s and Critical Management Studies of the 1990s, or engage in the process of becoming an academic discipline and institution. It is the latter being in focus below.

Theorising about islands has predominantly taken the perspective of social science in disciplines like anthropology, ethnology and history with emphasis on cultural and social aspects but also [human](#) and [physical geography](#) have found their applicability in island studies. Botanists and Zoologists have contributed from the natural science perspective. The generic and global approach takes a helicopter view on the islands to be studied and together with the manifoldness and great number of islands this has created next to unsurmountable difficulties in the attempts to mould island studies into a comprehensive form. Instead the richness of metaphors has tried to capture the essence of islands and island spirits from various perspectives.

Being an islander myself and living on a small island, I sometimes find the romanticization and invention of ingenious metaphors something of an academic language game. They seem to emanate from a mainland perspective and tend to obscure the reality of the islands themselves

and their living conditions. Lisa Fletcher does indeed have a point in her comment: *if islands are to be studied as representations, images, ideas, what to make of all the islands as physical places?* (Fletcher, 2011). As a complement to the cultural and mythical study perspectives that tend to reduce islands to metaphors we must acknowledge the reality of islands and islanders on their own premises. It is therefore necessary to distinguish between the studies of islands as a general phenomenon and the study of an island. To facilitate comparison, the study of an island may follow a structure based on five categories, as follows:

- Aspect - which aspect is to be described and assessed? Without a well-defined focus the study may result in an unclear and poorly articulated focus;
- Perspective (internal and external perspectives) - an external perspective sees the island in its context where it is compared and assessed in relation to other islands. From the internal perspective phenomena can be observed that may not be visible from outside;
- Structure – islands are structured and organised in accordance with their historic roles and activities. Therefore, the structure is not static but adapts to changes in the environment;
- Process – life on an island takes place as a process in relation to time. The process also takes place within a structure defined by the surrounding society with its legal, political and cultural structures. The society structure is mostly permanent in time compared with daily activities; a structure may be part of a process in the longer time perspective!
- Chronology – the island is what it is today because it was what it was yesterday. The process/structure discussion indicates the importance of time.

Collecting case studies based on the five categories may help creating a broader understanding of islands. If island studies were to generate a meaningful story about island realities at the expense of fancy metaphors one must include a variety of perspectives discussed below. What we see now is more a study about the study of islands rather than a study of islands.

### About Theories

With reference to theory building, it makes sense to distinguish between how a theory is discovered (context of discovery) and how the newly discovered theory is supported (context of justification). In this case it is the first approach to be discussed; the support (or lack of support) will follow at later stages through discussions and in workshops.

In a discussion about theory development Lind (2015) suggested to find analogies between disciplines so that a model in one discipline is translated into a model of another discipline and with the same explanation power. A theory is then primarily a form of insight facilitated by the model, a way of looking at the world rather than having firm knowledge of how the world is. *Culture* may here serve as an example. As organisation scholars once borrowed the concept of culture from the anthropologists the thus created model of organisational culture presented a new approach to the study of organisations. The rich research on cultures created a research platform and a source of literature studies which has considerably contributed to improve the understanding of organisational behaviour. Organisation culture is now an area of its own within organisation theory. In a similar way islands might be studied from a development perspective since many islands find themselves in a transition process from untouched to touched, from isolated to included, exposed to changes in society to which they up to recently have primarily

been followers. Developing studies with focus on sustainable development and dependency relations may be well suited to reflect analogue processes of development that have affected islands and island societies.

### A Theory of Island Studies

To avoid becoming ‘a white elephant’ by covering all aspects of islands a theory of island studies should be an umbrella concept for sub-theories addressing different aspects of relevance for islands. It is here suggested that three areas will constitute cornerstones of significance and uniqueness for island studies, viz. Performance, Preservation, People – the 3 P’s.

Performance: as a generic concept, this is context dependant and needs to be defined with respect to study objective. A common performance method used by many governments today is the ‘new public management’ approach, a highly criticised tool based on private business models and not applicable for the study of islands! Therefore, performance must be of a particular kind and the challenging question is how one should define performance of an island and what parameters should be used.

Preservation: Island societies, particularly those of small and medium size are characterised by vulnerable and small scale structures. Preservation of traditional cultures and value systems need to be balanced with modernisation trends that can be of benefit to island societies. This process must be handled with great care and based on understanding of islands, islanders and their historic and value backgrounds.

People: those living on islands but also visitors and policy makers having relations to islands as islanders, tourists or politicians and civil servant in charge of island communities. A variety of aspects are worth to be studied, for example types of living conditions, relation to modernity, relations to mainland, demography, and life styles.

The three corner stones can be compared to the CPRs of the US based Earth Island Institute - Conservation, Preservation, and Restoration (Gillis, 2004).

### References

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Krishnan, A. (2009). *What are Academic Disciplines? Some observations on the Disciplinarity vs. Interdisciplinarity debate*, ESRC National Centre for Research Methods, NCRM Working Paper Series, 03/09.

Lind, P. (2015). *Monitoring business performance: models, methods and tools*. New York: Routledge.

Moran, J. (2001). *Interdisciplinarity: The New Critical Idiom*. London: Routledge.

## **Small islands make big impact in Brussels**

### **Islands as beacons of low carbon and sustainable living**

“The Small Islands of Europe are extremely precious as potential beacons of sustainability and low carbon living” was the message delivered at the conference organised at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels as part of the 16<sup>th</sup> AGM of the European Small Islands Federation (ESIN), the organisation that federates 11 small islands federations throughout Europe.

“The ESIN conference and AGM in Brussels on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September were a resounding success” said Máirtín Ó’ Méallóid from Cape Clear island, vice-chairman of Cómdhail Óileán na hÉireann, the Irish Islands Federation, “we are delighted that the European Small Islands were welcomed so warmly at the heart of Europe.”

The valuable work done by ESIN, notably regarding renewable energy issues, and promoting the use of sustainability indicators to describe the small island situation was noted by the European Commission. It also garnered the strong support of Mr George Dassis, President of the EESC, who sponsored the conference, and Pierre-Jean Coulon, President of the EESC’s TEN section who championed the EESC Smart Islands study.

### **Smart strategies to counter-act brutal love**

It is in the islands’ nature to be smart as they have to constantly re-invent new solutions for their issues, notably those resulting from their popularity as tourist destinations. The home of 359,000 all-year islanders, the European Small Islands also have 3 million summer residents and 30 million yearly visitors: they are the objects of a somewhat brutal love which may bring them money but also uses vast amounts of energy and water and leaves huge amount of waste to be dealt with, not to mention the marine waste which ends up on their shores.

Initiatives at opposite ends of Europe such as storage of energy from wind and sun in the small Dodecanese island of Tilos (800 inhabitants), which already boasts unique protection for wild birds (it has 10% of the world population of Eleanora falcons), the well-established Green Grid on the isle of Eigg, an island in the Scottish Inner Hebrides (100 inhabitants) and the brand new tidal turbine providing electricity to the 3 unconnected islands of Ouessant, Sein and Molene in Brittany’s Iles du Ponant, (900, 170 and 216 inhabitants respectively), show what can be done through European programmes such as Horizon 2020 and the European Structural Fund as well as with collaboration with a forward thinking electricity company.

### **United Small Islands of Europe**

The total number of inhabited islands in Europe, big or small, bridged or un-bridged, in seas, rivers and lakes, which are states, regions, municipalities or local communities is 2,418 with a resident population of almost 14 million people.

Among these, 1,640 are small islands in the 11 nations that are members of ESIN: Åland Islands, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Scotland and Sweden.

Founded 16 years ago, the aim of ESIN is to present issues of common interest for its members to the European institutions, and to exchange knowledge and experiences between its members.

“Islands are ‘buttons of the European Coat’ and as such, they are one of the EU’s great assets. It is important that their reality is adequately captured, because it is not the case at present” said Christian Pleijel from Kökar island, Åland, who has presented his pioneering work on the concept of ‘Atlas of the Small Islands of Europe’ at the conference. Mr Pleijel is ESIN’s newly appointed general secretary, working closely with the ESIN board to implement a library of island good practices, zero waste strategies and island product labelling among other projects as part of the federation’s smart objectives. He is also the editor of ESIN’s website.

### **New Chair from the Scottish Islands**

French born Scottish resident of 35 years on the isle of Eigg, historian and social entrepreneur Camille Dressler is new chair of ESIN. Being also the chair of the Scottish Islands Federation, she says: “The Scottish Islands Federation has been involved with ESIN from its very beginning and took an active part in the very valuable 3 years exchange of experiences financed by the INTERREG 3 C programme. Along with all the ESIN members, we are extremely encouraged by the support we have now received from European institutions such as the EESC and the interest shown by the European Commission. It sends a very strong signal to everyone that the EU has a strong interest in supporting grass-root organisations and help European citizens exchange examples of best practice. I am delighted that the work which the Scottish Islands Federation has put into ESIN has been recognised by my appointment and I will ensure that the Scottish Islands can continue to share their valuable experiences with our friends and colleagues throughout Europe. ESIN will also work closely with the CPMR’s Island Commission to help tackle the effect of climate change on our islands and we are also very excited by some of the ideas mooted at the conference such as a possible Erasmus plus for our small islands’ youth and the setting up of a ZeroWaste Island strand within ZeroWaste Europe.”

Mrs Dressler takes over from Bengt Almqvist, resident of the small island of Sankt Anna in Sweden, founder of ESIN, who has been championing ESIN issues from its inception in 2001. The board as a whole and its national members all expressed their gratitude to Mr Almqvist for his devoted contributions to the small islands of Europe.

### **Making the most of our opportunities in the EU**

As to Scotland’s position in the EU, Mr Gary Robinson, member of the EU Committee of the Regions and political leader of the Shetland Islands Council, who also attended the conference as panel member on the discussion about the need for new island indicators, was unequivocal: “Scotland is in Europe until such time as someone tells us we are not. For that reason, we’ve got to make the most of our opportunities.”

Just such an opportunity for close collaboration between all ESIN members is the ESIN INTERREG Europe proposal - Developing Island Entrepreneurship - which one of the two ESIN vice-chairs, Eleftherios Kechagioglou from Hydra in Greece, will be taking forward with the Hellenic Small islands Federation (HSIN) as lead partner. “We want to help those who want to

help themselves,” said Mr Kechagioglou, “and especially our young islanders. We need to help them find ways to stay on the islands and contribute meaningfully to island life. All our islands in Europe have a huge natural, cultural and renewable energy potential that we must learn to utilize to the best advantage in the digital age.”

### **Contact list**

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### **Relevant links:**

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ESIN: <https://europeansmallislands.com/>

EESC: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.home>

Committee of the Regions: <https://www.cor.europa.eu/>

Zero Waste Europe: <https://www.zerowasteurope.eu/>

**ESIN ATLAS** is on the ESIN website: <https://europeansmallislands.com/esif-structured-dialogue/>



**ESIN – AGM**



**Christian Pleijel with Camille Dessler**

# Call for papers

## Sea, Port, City 2017

Aberdeen, Scotland, UK- 11-15 September 2017

<http://www.sea-port-city.org/spc2017.html>



This international island and maritime studies conference concerns marine urbanism and sea, port, city processes worldwide, past and present. The conference will feature academic, industrial, and governmental perspectives on maritime systems, cultures and traditions, politics, history, clusters, operations, economics, logistics, environmental issues, and infrastructures.

In order to understand human interactions with the ocean, it is necessary to take an integrated view of terrestrial and marine urbanism. How does a harbour develop into a port? How do ports interact with cities? How do offshore activities influence onshore life? Is urbanisation of the sea on the increase? What roles do small towns and large cities play in the global network of port processes? Sea, Port, City will consider these questions and more, discussing such topics as shipping and transport logistics, offshore cultures, port operations, fishing supply chains, the sea-port-city interface, maritime technologies, offshore energy, social dynamics in maritime communities, and climate change and the environment.

Sea, Port, City is a research network under Island Dynamics. Network partners include the University of Aberdeen's Elphinstone Institute; University College London's Institute for Risk & Disaster Reduction and Institute for Global Health; and Zhejiang University's Ocean College.

*About Aberdeen:* Aberdeen (population 229,000) is among the UK's most important port cities, formerly a major fishing port and today centre of the country's offshore energy activities. Although it was the development of the North Sea oil industry that revived the city's fortunes in the 1970s, Aberdeen has a venerable history. From the majestic architecture of Old Aberdeen to the imposing monuments of the city centre to the cloistered fishing village of Footdee to the industrial harbour at the mouth of the River Dee, Aberdeen is a city of surprises – at once the cultural and economic capital of Northeast Scotland and this region's gateway to the wider world.

*About the conference:* 11-12 September are devoted to tours around Aberdeen city, harbour, and the surrounding area. 13-15 September will feature conference presentations by delegates and invited speakers. Presentations will be held at the University of Aberdeen.

*How to make a presentation:* Conference presentations will concern all aspects of sea, port, city processes. Presentations are invited from academic researchers, policymakers and government representatives, the business community, and NGOs. The deadline for abstracts is 31 March 2017, but to ensure that you have the opportunity to seek funding from your institution or government, we recommend that you early.

You can submit your abstract here: <http://www.sea-port-city.org/spc2017/cfp.html>

For more information, contact convenor Adam Grydehøj at [agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org](mailto:agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org)

**Being in love, on the descent into Kangerlussuaq (having read Castells during the flight)**

Beneath the clouds: landscape  
made whole by height,  
an outlook strange to nature,  
which conceals,  
makes secret  
promises broken by cartography  
out the plastic window.

Low sun warms the inland ice.  
Gold veneer upon snow  
softens the cold blue enormity  
of unpeopled millennia,  
peaks and chasms, ageless to we  
who know no better than to count  
ages by dead gods and fashions in Italian art.

I am waiting for you  
though we move apart.  
Interstitial romance? Love conquers time zones?  
– or the sigh of ice passing  
through glacial waters?  
When I land, it will be morning still,  
yet the day feels nearly done.

Space of flows, public sphere,  
discipline and punish,  
jurisdictional capacity,  
assemblage and A.N.T.:  
empty theories before limitless ice  
and coffee in paper cups.  
Civilisation comes to die.

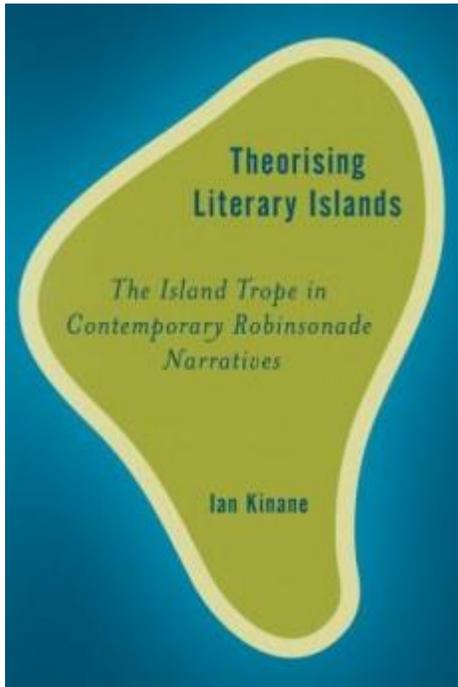
I am waiting for you  
beyond the borders we apply  
for our distinction.  
To make distance less, I take consolation  
in that tautest of tautologies:  
I am for you,  
as you are for me.

**Adam Grydehøj** is Director of Island Dynamics, incoming Executive Editor of *Island Studies Journal*, Visiting Lecturer at Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland, and Research Associate at the University of Prince Edward Island's Institute of Island Studies. He is also author of the Shetland-based novel *I Have Not Answered* (<https://www.forewordreviews.com/reviews/i-have-not-answered/>).



Photo courtesy of Gerard Persoon

## Theorising Literary Islands



Rowman & Littlefield International are proud to announce the publication of *Theorising Literary Islands: The Island Trope in Contemporary Robinsonade Narratives* by Ian Kinane, which we believe will be of interest to you and the readers of ISISA: International Small Island Studies Association.

*Theorising Literary Islands* is a literary and cultural study of both how and why the trope of the island functions within contemporary popular Robinsonade narratives. It traces the development of Western “islomania” – or our obsession with islands – from its origins in Daniel Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe* right up to contemporary Robinsonade texts, focusing predominantly on American and European representations of fictionalized Pacific Island topographies in contemporary literature, film, television, and other media. *Theorising Literary Islands* argues that the ubiquity of island landscapes within the popular imagination belies

certain ideological and cultural anxieties, and posits that the emergence of a Western popular culture tradition can largely be traced through the development of the Robinsonade genre, and through early European and American fascination with the Pacific region.

“In *Theorising Literary Islands* Ian Kinane deals with the notion that *Robinson Crusoe* persuaded readers that ‘islands were not confining but liberating; not lonely but contemplative’. Certainly the ‘Robinsonade’ genre to which Defoe’s *Crusoe* gave rise in literature and later other media has had major impacts on the perception of islands in guises from narratives of imperialism to contemporary tourism to any one of a huge number of insular destinations marketed – or perhaps given an often challenging reality, rather hyped – as ‘paradise islands’. Focusing on the Pacific, Hau’ofa’s ‘sea of islands’, Kinane considers the ‘imaginative representation of island landscapes’ and its meaning at spatial and cultural scales ranging from the ‘topography of self’ – ‘I-land’ – to the seemingly endless mass appeal of the television series *Survivor*. *Theorising Literary Islands* will be of value to scholars of literature and also has wider appeal to those interested in the burgeoning field of Island Studies.” – Stephen A. Royle, Emeritus Professor of Island Geography, Queen’s University Belfast

“*Theorising Literary Islands* makes an important contribution to island studies by pulling disparate prior scholarship on the island motif into conversation with under-discussed castaway texts. By drawing together various threads into a cohesive discussion, Kinane makes a cogent argument for larger implications of Western literary and cinematic islands, one that will benefit island scholars worldwide.” – Rebecca Weaver-Hightower, Professor of English and Postcolonial Studies, University of North Dakota, USA

“Theorising Literary Islands is a lively addition to island studies exploring the evolution of the Robinsonade from founding literary narratives such as Robinson Crusoe to twenty-first century remediations in film and television including Lost and Survivor. Kinane offers new understanding of the ongoing centrality of the geo-imaginary space of the Pacific to discourses of neo-colonialism, Western individualism, and redemption within contemporary British and American culture.” – Sherae Deckard, Assistant Professor, University College Dublin

More information on this title can be found on our website:  
<http://www.rowmaninternational.com/books/theorizing-literary-islands>.

Catherine de Mello

Marketing Executive, Rowman & Littlefield International

A Note from: Elaine Stratford

- (a) Delighted to announce a new publication with several colleagues: Elaine Stratford, editor (2017) *Island Geographies: Essays and Conversations*. London and New York: Routledge. For the contents page see <https://www.routledge.com/Island-Geographies-Essays-and-conversations/Stratford/p/book/9781138921726>
- (b) Just as delighted to announce the first books to be published as part of *Rethinking the Island* – a series with Rowman and Littlefield International. See <http://www.rowmaninternational.com/series/rethinking-the-island>

## Association of Social Anthropologists of Oceania

The 2017 ASAO meeting will be held on the island of Kaua'i at the [Kauai'i Beach Resort](#) in Līhu'e, Hawai'i from February 7-12, 2017.

The ASAO Board and Officers' meeting, as well as the opening plenary, will be held on Wednesday, February 8th. The closing plenary will be held on Saturday, February 11th.

The conference is not only for anthropologists as people from many allied disciplines. The full description is on the ASAO website:  
<http://www.asao.org/venue.html>

## **“Sustainable Energy for SIDS”: Online course reached out to 1,000 learners**

By Franziska Wolf

Energy-related training is one means to improve access to energy, increase energy security and foster energy efficiency in Small Island Developing States, thereby contributing to the Sustainable Development Goal #7. Online learning, especially if designed as open access format, can offer innovative formats of practice-centered approaches that can help overcome geographic constraints by effectively reaching learners on remote islands. From July to September 2016, the EU project L3EAP ([www.l3eap-project.eu](http://www.l3eap-project.eu)) piloted a learner-driven, collaborative online course that focused on problem-based learning, flipped classroom settings and peer-review mechanisms. It allowed its learners to apply their localized knowledge and practice real-world skills. The didactic concept thus built on state-of-the-art teaching/learning approaches found in today's higher education systems. Produced by the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, in collaboration with the University of Mauritius and the University of the South Pacific, the six-week long course comprised six modules with a set of videos, training booklets, case studies, quizzes, assignments, and much interaction and discussion within a truly global learning community.

By making current knowledge openly accessible to students and energy practitioners, the course first of all aimed at broadening awareness for sustainable energy provision and use in SIDS. Its content was closely related to real energy-related demands and distinctive local cases from Mauritius and Fiji which were presented by experts from the islands, underscoring the real-life relevance of the interdisciplinary curricular themes and deeply embedding island perspectives into the overall course design. Thematically, learners were guided from the global energy context to concrete actionable projects in SIDS. By following this storyline, learners could acquire latest knowledge and, at the same time, strengthen their proposal writing skills on a distinctive energy-related problem of a SIDS of their choice.

The pilot course reached a geographically dispersed, heterogeneous audience of 1.000 learners from all over the world, with more than half located in SIDS of the Caribbean, AIMS or Pacific regions. All in all, the course showed learners from 29 SIDS, coming from businesses, governments, NGOs and academia. Reflecting the heterogeneity in participants' personal learning goals, almost two-thirds wanted to follow the suggested learning path and complete assignments whereas others choose to go through the content in one's own time, maybe submitting assignments, or just look at the content. Another type of learners were teachers who were interested in the open educational resources, with some of them applying and/or re-using them in their own lectures nowadays. Interestingly, almost half of the participants never took such an online course before, suggesting a considerable unseized potential in such distinctive such distinctive online learning approaches given they are designed as open access offers.

It may be concluded that the megatrend digitalization allows educators around the world to create new learning experience. These may change the way people have learned in the past – interactive, collaborative learning is getting more and more popular, it may complement or even

supplement classroom teaching and reflects current lifestyles found everywhere, including most remote islands. Designing such learning approaches with real-life demands in mind appeared to be a success factor, like offering a variety of methods and material and allow learners to self-determine how they learn in a distinctive interactive learning environment. For these reasons, the course “Sustainable Energy for SIDS” has proven to be a valuable example of how ICT-based learning may support the quicker uptake of sustainable energy technologies in SIDS. As such, it resembles a valuable measure to start addressing a SIDS-specific challenge: The chronic lack of skilled human resources.

- Second run of course to start at 9/1/2017 – join us and register at <http://e-learning.project-l3eap.eu/>!
- Have you designed similar online courses? Please share your experiences and get in touch: Franziska Wolf, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Research and Transfer Center FTZ-ALS, mailto: [franziska.wolf@haw-hamburg.de](mailto:franziska.wolf@haw-hamburg.de)

Conference Announcement:

## **World Symposium on Climate Change Communication with Special Session on ICT and SIDS: 22-24/2/ 2017**

From 22-24 February 2017, the World Symposium on Climate Change Communication is being held in Manchester, UK (further info and registration: <https://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-als/events/communication.html>).

A special SIDS session titled "Promoting Digital Literacy - Utilizing ICT for Communication and Education on Climate Change" will be organized. Special attention will be paid to ICT solutions benefitting Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Linking climate change, development and learning, the aims of the session, which is organized as part of the EDULINK project L3EAP (<http://www.project-l3eap.eu/>) are as follows:

- Introducing online learning approaches for environmental education, including climate change and sustainable energy;
- Showcasing ICT-based solutions, i.e. projects, initiatives, apps, that contribute to better awareness and understanding of climate change and related impacts;
- Discussing suitable didactical approaches for online communication

We are particularly looking for papers/presentations looking at: E-learning approaches (web-based, blended learning, MOOCs, synchronous/asynchronous, self-study/instructor-led, OER etc.); climate-risk management solutions (informing, early warning, monitoring, mapping, cooperating, sharing, organizing etc.); and best practice didactical designs for web-based and blended learning approaches.

If you are interested to contribute to this session, please contact Franziska Wolf at [franziska.wolf@haw-hamburg.de](mailto:franziska.wolf@haw-hamburg.de) by **15 December 2016** to discuss your inputs.

**Island Studies Journal** (ISSN: 1715-2593) was set up in 2006 as a freely downloadable, peer reviewed, scholarly and inter-disciplinary 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: [www.islandstudies.com](http://www.islandstudies.com)



ISJ is since June 2012 the official journal of ISISA and, since 2013, the official journal of RETI.

Manuscripts to be considered for publication welcome at: [isj@upei.ca](mailto:isj@upei.ca) Website: [www.islandstudies.ca/journal](http://www.islandstudies.ca/journal)

## Conference Announcements

By Adam Grydehoj [agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org](mailto:agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org)

### 1. Island Cities and Urban Archipelagos 2017

08-12 November 2017, Funchal, Madeira  
<http://www.islandcities.org/icua2017.html>

This international conference brings together researchers from across the globe to explore urban life on islands and archipelagos.

Islands are often associated with peripherality, yet even remote, sparsely populated islands host urban centres. On small islands, physical separation from the mainland and spatial limitations can also encourage the transport of products and ideas, improved defence infrastructure, construction of social capital, consolidation of political power, formation of vibrant cultures, population concentration, and ultimately the development of major cities. Fostering dialogue between the fields of island studies and urban studies, this interdisciplinary conference will feature presentations that explore and critique the varied connections between the urban and the insular from a diversity of perspectives on culture, architecture, planning, politics, economy, and environment in island cities worldwide. We welcome papers and panels focusing on individual case studies as well comparative analyses and conceptual frames.

This conference is a collaboration between Island Dynamics and the University of Madeira's Research Centre for Regional and Local Studies. Island Cities and Urban Archipelagos 2017 takes place in association with the III INSULA International Colloquium: Beyond Nature & Artifice.

*Keynote speakers:* Keller Easterling (Yale University), Lindsay Bremner (University of Westminster), May Joseph (Pratt Institute), and Olivia Bina (University of Lisbon).

*About Funchal, Madeira:* The Autonomous Region of Madeira is an Atlantic archipelago to the west of Morocco. Madeira is a major tourism destination, but the islands are also famous for their wine, endemic flora and fauna, and spectacular natural beauty. Although remote from the Portuguese mainland, Madeira came to serve as a key point for transatlantic transport and exchange. Even today, the International Business Centre of Madeira free trade zone means that the islands have a financial reach extending far beyond their own coasts. Funchal (population 112,000) is Madeira's capital. Founded in 1424, this historic city possesses a wealth of cultural heritage.

How to make a presentation: Presentations are welcome on any aspect of urban island studies. The deadline for abstracts is **31 May 2017**, but we recommend that you submit early so that you have time to take advantage of early registration rates. You can [propose a presentation here](#).

Presentations are invited to address such as questions: How does islandness sustain processes of urbanisation? How can urban planning and urban design address the challenges faced by island societies? Why are islands historically privileged sites for urban development? How does islandness influence urban cultures? What roles do island cities play in national, regional, and global frameworks and processes? How does urbanisation affect island society and environment? How does island city status affect distributions of political authority? How do urban archipelagos relate to their hinterlands and oceanic environments? How are island cultures reconstituted in (mainland) urban diasporas? What challenges do island environments pose to urban development and planning? How does the particular mobility of island populations shape the development of island cities? What other topics are critical to the future of island cities?

*About the conference:* Conference presentations will be held on 9-11 November. 8 and 12 November will be devoted to cultural activities and excursions out beyond the city.

*Publication:* Presenters are invited to submit papers for consideration to the online, open access journal *Urban Island Studies*. Because all papers are subject to peer review, publication is not guaranteed. There is no deadline for submission, but authors who wish to make an impact on research resulting from the conference may wish to submit papers by 30 May 2017. You can learn about the journal and how to submit a paper on the [Urban Island Studies site](#).

To learn more about the conference, please visit the website (<http://www.islandcities.org/icua2017.html>) or contact convenor Adam Grydehøj at [agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org](mailto:agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org).

## 2. **EXTREME: Rethinking the Limits to Community, Architecture, and Urbanism**

21-25 January 2018, Longyearbyen, Svalbard

<http://www.islanddynamics.org/extreme.html>

Density and sparsity, height and depth, hot and cold, centre and periphery, wet and dry, war and conflict: People the world over have adapted their living practices, architectures, and landscapes to extreme conditions. In our globalised era, local conceptions of the ideal dwelling, city, and community are increasingly exposed to alternative understandings. How do the house in the country and the flat in the skyscraper, the remote mountain village and the hyper-dense world city, the frigid arctic science station and the blazing desert financial district differ from and resemble one another? Can extreme environments foster innovative lifestyles that are conducive to community and inspire beneficial future urbanisms? Or do the technical solutions relied upon to help people cope with extremes of population, climate, light, height, and other factors necessarily distance people from each other and from the natural environment?

This interdisciplinary conference probes the limits to community, architecture, and urbanism from the perspectives of urban studies, geography, design, architecture, anthropology, sociology, and other fields and disciplines.

*About Longyearbyen, Svalbard:* Longyearbyen (population 2200) is the world's northernmost town, the main settlement in Norway's vast, icy Svalbard archipelago. The polar night, when the sun never breaches the horizon, lasts from late October until mid-February. Most residents stay for only a season or a few years, and even those who remain must eventually return to their homelands: Because Norway provides no health and social care, it is colloquially said that 'In Svalbard, it is illegal to die.' Furthermore, the risk of attack by polar bears means that people are only permitted to leave town in the company of someone with firearms training. Although Longyearbyen is iconically remote, the town is highly cosmopolitan, hosting citizens of over 40 nations and an economy based on tourism and mining.

*How to make a presentation:* Presentations are welcome on all aspects of life in extreme conditions. Presentations last 20 minutes and will be followed by around 10 minutes' question time. The deadline for abstracts is **28 February 2017**, but to take advantage of early registration rates and ensure that you have time to seek funding from your institution or government, we recommend that you [submit your abstract early](#).

*About the conference:* Delegates will arrive in Longyearbyen on 21 January. On 22 and 25 January, delegates will take tours out into Svalbard's spectacular arctic landscape: a hike to an ice cave and a trip out into the polar night on by dog sled. Conference presentations by delegates will be held on 23-24 January at Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen. Full registration covers five dinners and all conference activities.

## **“A World of Islands”: Archipelagic Studies**

By Jenny Isaacs

**Call for Panelists:** Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers, Boston MA, April 5-9, 2017

**Organizers:** Jenny R. Isaacs (Rutgers University), Kyle McAuley (Rutgers University)

**Panelists:** Elizabeth DeLoughrey (University of California, Los Angeles), Jonathan Pugh (Newcastle University), Sasha Davis (Keene State College)

"We are headed toward understanding the whole planet as a world of islands" (Quammen 1996:130).

Archipelagic Studies is a growing area of interdisciplinary scholarship offering a framework to contextualize spatially-attuned research within a broader network of geographic and cultural relation. For geographers and other scholars interested in examining interrelation across and between spaces, utilizing the archipelagic heuristic allows for critical, multi-layered research—simultaneously providing an ordering matrix, model, site, metaphor, and theoretical framework. In this session we aim to discuss what a generation of archipelagographies might include and draw upon.

Archipelagic scholars trace their intellectual lineage to Island Studies, historically concerned with critical perspectives of power demonstrated on island spaces, often utilizing subaltern, decolonial, and postcolonial theory. David Quammen summarized the usefulness of islands as study objects stating that they offer observers, “a simplified ecosystem, almost a caricature of nature’s full complexity” (1996:19), easily extended to island as metaphor, island as framework. To illustrate and critically investigate global flows, flux, mobility, and change, a “relational turn” within Island Studies “challenge[d] the landlocked nature of geography and related disciplines,” pushing relational archipelagic studies to the cutting edge (Pugh 2016). Geographers Elaine Stratford et al echoed Edmond & Smith (2003:7) asserting that the archipelago is a conceptual tool “so useful to break out of stultifying and hackneyed binaries; privileging instead the power of cross-currents and connections, of complex assemblages of humans and other living things, technologies, artefacts and the physical scapes they inhabit” (2011:125). Such formulations ground archipelagic studies in the abiding historical interest in networks and imbalances of power over and across landscapes while permitting relational analyses and flexible theoretical applications. These thinkers have effectively thrown down the gauntlet and begun the work of crafting a first generation of intentional archipelagographies.

In this session we will discuss how the archipelagic framework is and might more fully be applied by geographers and other scholars, specifically considering what fleshed-out archipelagographies look/read like and what might be/is in them. The term archipelagraphy was coined by Elizabeth DeLoughrey (2001, 2007) who asserted, “no island is an isolated isle” and called for “a system of archipelagraphy: that is, a historiography that considers chains of islands in fluctuating relationship to their surrounding seas, islands and continents” as a more appropriate “metaphor for reading island cultures” (2001:23). More recently, Stratford et al

expanded on DeLoughrey's archipelography, recasting it as a type of counter-mapping, requiring "a double-destabilization: dislocating and de-territorializing the objects of study—the fixity of island difference and particularity—and constituting in their place a site or viewing platform by which they are perceived and analysed afresh" (2011:114). The endeavour to imagine and weave together an archipelago—to draw a map, to identify routes, stopovers, nodes, knots, and flows—intentionally binds together dispersed actors, movements, silences, histories, stories, overlapping layers, scales, spaces, and places. Given the tradition of critical attention to histories of colonial violence within Island, Archipelagic, and Critical Area Studies, we expect that archipelographers' works will reflexively acknowledge the political potential and transformative power of our work (Massey in Pryke et al 2003:85). For this session we ask:

What is archipelagic studies? What is its power and promise? What is the connection between the archipelagic as a conceptual tool and archipelagraphy?

Is there a canon—or, at least, a nascent syllabus—of essential archipelagic texts? From which theories and subdisciplines might archipelagraphy draw? What sets it apart from network analyses, travel writing, memoirs, comparative literature, for instance?

What is the role of materiality within archipelagraphy? Can we have archipelagoes/graphy without actual islands/separated by bodies of water?

How does one create an archipelagraphy? What forms might archipelagraphies take as finished products? How do we recognize it and who is writing them? Who is the audience?

Given the diverse disciplinary background of scholars at the forefront of this work, what authority do geographers have with archipelagraphy and archipelagic studies? Is this the proper disciplinary home of such texts?

Is there an ethics or politics implicit within archipelagic studies? Do archipelagraphies necessarily exist at the margins of accepted geographies and histories, and if so, what can they say to the existing mainstream?

If you are interested in participating in a panel discussion on this subject, please send a 200-word abstract detailing how you are working with and thinking about archipelagoes/the archipelagic within your work, with particular attention to what you might contribute to the conversation on developing archipelagraphy. Please send your paragraph of interest to both Jenny R. Isaacs (jenny.isaacs@rutgers.edu) and Kyle McAuley (kyle.mcauley@rutgers.edu) by January 20, 2016.

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## **ISLANDS OF OKINAWA: GEOGRAPHY AND *CHAMPURU* CULTURE**

### **American Cultural Influence**

By Hiroshi Kakazu

America, or more precisely the United States Department of Defense at the Pentagon, ruled Okinawa for twenty-seven years from 1945–1972. Huge US bases remain, including Kadena Air Base, the largest airbase in the Far East. The American influence on Okinawan culture came mainly through military base activities. American bases gave birth to "Okinawa rock music," which became a brand-name of Koza (current Okinawa) City located near Kadena Air Base. The rock music, combined with traditional Ryukyuan music and *shimauta* (island songs), produced a unique music culture in the postwar period. Okinawan popular singers (such as Namie Amuro, Kiroro, Da Pump, Speed, Max, Shokichi Kina, and Orange Renge to name a few) gained enormous popularity in Japan and Asia. In particular, Namie Amuro dominated Japan's R&B and pop music and culture in the late 1990s and early 2000s. She was a product of US bases in Okinawa; her grandfather was a US serviceman stationed on the island of Okinawa. Amuro quickly became a commercial success, producing several million-selling records and starting several fashion trends. Her single "Can You Celebrate?" (1997) became Japan's best-selling single by a solo female artist.

One of the most important cultural legacies of American occupation of Okinawa may be the "anti-war culture." Since the end of WWII, Okinawa has been the "Keystone of the Pacific" for the defense of the US and Japan (Kakazu, 2012b). The San Francisco Peace Treaty, concluded between the United States and Japan in 1951, mandated huge military bases on Okinawa. It is still the case that 74% of all military base facilities for the exclusive use of US forces in Japan are located in Okinawa, which is only 0.6% of Japan's total land area.

If we regard symbols and meanings as cultural elements, then we have to list the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, which may also be considered as a legacy of the US-involved Pacific War. The most visible symbol of the park is the Cornerstone of Peace (*Heiwa no Ishiji*), which was unveiled in June 1995 in memory of the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa and the end of WWII. It was erected to: (1) remember those lost in the war, and pray for peace; (2) pass on the lessons of war; and (3) serve as a place for meditation and learning (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornerstone\\_of\\_Peace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornerstone_of_Peace)). The Peace Memorial Park and Museum have been visited by numerous students and pupils from mainland Japan for peace study.



The Cornerstone of Peace (*Heiwa no Ishiji*)

Masahide Ōta, then-governor of Okinawa Prefecture, detailed about the Battle of Okinawa in his book of the same name, *Okinawa: Heiwa no Ishiji* (1996). The name Cornerstone of Peace alludes to the Japan-US security partnership. Ōta writes that it “would not be an exaggeration to say that the motivation which led to build this ‘Cornerstone of Peace’ has also become the basis for the people of Okinawa to devote their heart and soul, night and day, to solve the military base issue” (Ōta, 1996). When US President Bill Clinton visited the Cornerstone of Peace in 2000, he delivered a speech promising efforts to reduce and consolidate US bases in Okinawa, as previously agreed by the US and Japanese governments.

The Cornerstone of Peace is inscribed with the names of all those who died, regardless of nationality, civilian, or military status. As of June 2015, there were 241,336 names. The breakdowns of the inscription are as follows: 149,362 from Okinawa Prefecture; 77,402 from other prefectures of Japan; 14,009 from the US; 82 from the UK; 365 from the Republic of Korea; 82 from North Korea; and 34 from Taiwan. A significant aspect of the Battle of Okinawa was the greatest loss of civilian life, which far outnumbered the military death toll.

The US bases have been the most controversial socio-political and economic issue since the inception of the US occupation of the island. It is not an exaggeration to say that Okinawa’s daily life has revolved around US bases. Okinawa’s economy has been and is still dependent on US bases. This was the case particularly in the 1950s and 60s. At the same time, however, bases have always been associated with The Battle of Okinawa, which not only devastated the Islands’ properties and priceless cultural assets preserved for centuries but also implanted a key “cultural cord” into the minds of the islanders, namely *nuchidotakara* (life is the most precious thing in the world).



*Kadena Airbase*



*Rock Music*



*American Fast-Foods*

The anti-base movements have intensified as time has passed—not only from the standpoint of anti-war sentiments but also due to the detrimental consequences of having bases in Okinawa, including environmental pollution and heinous crime committed mostly by the marines, which make up more than 60% of the troops stationed on Okinawa. The US bases also gave birth to new professions such as garden boys, housemaids, dry-cleaners, drivers, and prostitutes, who also bore biracial children. Biracial children were called *konketsuji* (mixed-blood children) or *ainoko* (half-breed children). They suffered discrimination and prejudice in the Okinawan community, partly because people tended to connect them with the sex entertainment industry that catered to American soldiers in Okinawa. These terms, however, have evolved into *hafu* (half) or *daburu* (double), which are used positively in Japan today to describe all racially mixed people. The term Amerasian (children fathered by US servicemen on the Island of Okinawa), which was coined by Pearl Buck, the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, has been frequently used today (see Murpy-Shigematsu, 2002). Although they still face discrimination and hardships in Okinawa, their social status has remarkably improved due to their exceptional talents, particularly in the areas of music, sports, and performing arts. According to Suzuki, there are about 2,000–3,000 Amerasians in Okinawa (Suzuki, 2003).

Compared with Hong Kong, Singapore, and the South Pacific (which were under British and American colonial rules), Okinawa’s overall English proficiency is lower. It also never surpassed that of mainland Japan, which was occupied by the Americans for seven years. Even after forty years of Okinawa’s reversion to Japan, Okinawa still hosts 74% of all US military bases in Japan, and the bases are continuously a hot socio-politico-economic issue. Although the majority of islanders are against the presence of the US bases, they are fully aware of the economic consequences of base withdrawal. Researchers have just begun to investigate how the presence of US bases, which is an enclave zone in Okinawa, intertwine with the local culture and shape Okinawa’s lifestyles positively, as well as negatively (Yamazato, 2005). It will take time to untangle the complex knots of cultural influence and confluence.

This text is adapted from a keynote speech at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Small Islands Cultures Initiative [SICRI] Conference (ISIC 12) - Naha, Okinawa, 16-20 June 2016



## **Pacific-Caribbean learning exchange to strengthen capacity for researchers and extension officers**

**Monday 10 October, 2016**

**KINGSTON, Jamaica** – Nine Pacific Island researchers and extension officers commenced a two week learning exchange in the Caribbean islands of Jamaica and Trinidad. Over the next 2 weeks extension officers from Vanuatu, Samoa, PNG, Fiji and the Pacific Community will learn and exchange practices covering staple crops such as yams, dasheen (taro), cocoyam (*xanthosoma*) and sweet potatoes with their Caribbean counterparts.

This exchange, is hosted by the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and supported by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA), and the Pacific Community (SPC) through the European Union supported Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP). The exchange will take place at two centres – The Biotechnology Centre at the University of the West Indies (UWI), and the Scientific Research Council. In addition, the exchange will involve interaction with Caribbean farmers and exposure to root crops value chains such as the UWI-Columbia cassava flour project, Red Stripe cassava beer initiatives and *bammy* production.

Vili Caniogo an APP Adviser stated that these south-south exchanges were extremely valuable given the similarity in climatic conditions, the much needed focus on food staples and the common goals for the agriculture sector in both regions.

“This exchange focusing on food staples is extremely topical and is selected for strategic reasons. There is evidence that Pacific crop staples such as taro, sweet potatoes and breadfruit and related cropping practices are relatively resilient to projected climate change – hence the need to increase their role in meeting food demand. We hope that these south-south learnings will help officers from both regions exchange, adopt and disseminate new, proven methods”

Mr Caniogo went on to state that a recent review by SPC of *National Agriculture Sector Policies* covering 15 Pacific countries showed that food security and climate smart agriculture was a key goal for many countries and as such “Exchanges like these will help implement these strategic goals”

The exchange which starts on the 9<sup>th</sup> October and ends on the 27<sup>th</sup> October is the third of a series of ‘*south-south*’ initiatives for knowledge sharing and learning across the two regions. It follows two previous attachments by Caribbean researchers and extension officers with the Pacific Community (SPC)’s Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) in Suva, Fiji in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Sustainable development across both the Pacific and Caribbean regions is increasingly focused on food and livelihood security. A recent spate of highly damaging natural disasters including Tropical Cyclones Pam and Winston (which severely impacted several Pacific countries),

highlighted the extreme vulnerability of small island states to these now frequent occurrences. The extent of devastation from these natural disasters have been widespread, adversely affecting thousands of households, infrastructure and farming systems.

According to SPC Deputy Director General, Dr Audrey Aumua, “as part of SPC’s programmatic efforts to improve resilience to climate change and disaster in our region, climate smart agriculture is at the forefront of our contribution to the global agenda on sustainable development. We are grateful to our valued donors such as the European Union and our partners, CARDI and CTA through the Intra-ACP PAPP for the significant collaboration on this technical exchange”.

Participants during the two-week exchange were selected following a detailed process managed by SPC and CTA through its existing networks which include the Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services (PIRAS), and the Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON). Participants are all currently involved in existing work with roots and tubers in the Pacific, to ensure post-impact implementation following the Caribbean exchange.

### **Background:**

The Intra-ACP Agriculture Policy Programme (APP) supported by the European Union. The Pacific component is implemented across the 15 Pacific Island ACP countries by the Pacific Community (SPC). More info on the project is found at the following link [www.spc.int/pafpnet](http://www.spc.int/pafpnet)

### **Media contacts:**

Salome Tukuafu – Information and Communications Management Officer, SPC [salomet@spc.int](mailto:salomet@spc.int)  
Vili Caniogo – Team Leader, Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP), SPC [vilic@spc.int](mailto:vilic@spc.int).

### **Photo below:**

Pacific scientists and Caribbean hosts with Pacific-Caribbean exchange coordinators, Salome Tukuafu of SPC (Pacific Community), Suva (sitting, far right) and Samson Vilvil Fare of the Technical Centre for Agricultural & Rural Cooperation, The Netherlands (standing, 4th from right).



## Island Tourism Symposium and School in Malta

**RETI**, the Network of Island Universities, (in French: *Reseau d'excellence des territoires insulaires*), held its 6<sup>th</sup> symposium and autumn/fall school at the Valletta Campus of the [University of Malta](http://www.um.edu.mt), in Malta, over November 18-23, 2016. 42 presenters, both students and scholars, from 10 countries delivered papers or ran sessions focussing on island tourism, with a particular focus on economic and labour market implications. The successful event was co-organised by the Centre for Labour Studies and the Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture of the University of Malta:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/events/islandtourism2016>

The next (2017) RETI Symposium and School will be held at the [University of the Ryukyus](http://www.ryukyus.ac.jp), Okinawa, Japan, over 17-22 November 2017.



**RETI** was set up on the initiative of the [University of Corsica](http://www.univ-corse.fr), France, in 2010. It now boasts 26 island based universities as its members. It is run by a Governance Committee composed of the Presidents/Rectors of its Member universities. The current President of RETI is [Prof. Clive Mulholland](http://www.univ-corse.fr), Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, UK:

<http://reti.univ-corse.fr/>

## You can also reach ISISA through:

Listserv: [isisa@yahoogroups.com](mailto:isisa@yahoogroups.com)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Isisa-International-Small-Islands-Studies-Association/126009170815354>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/intsisia>

ISISA website: [www.isisa.org](http://www.isisa.org) (includes blog)

