

ISISA NEWSLETTER

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Volume 29, Number 1, July 2023



Gili Bidara Island, Indonesia

Dear ISISA members,

I am thrilled to present to you our July 2023 Newsletter issue, packed with enriching contributions. In the introductory section, you will find an insightful report from our esteemed president, Dr. Laurie Brinklow. Following that, I invite you to delve into a valuable article exploring slavery, reconciliation, and reparation in Curaçao.

Additionally, this issue features the release of a compelling new book and highlights our members' latest papers on islands, offering you a glimpse into their cutting-edge research. I encourage you not to overlook the calls for cooperation, as they provide the perfect opportunity to establish connections with other esteemed island scholars. The issue features the release of a compelling new book and highlights our members' latest papers on islands, offering you a glimpse into their cutting-edge research.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you thoroughly enjoy the extensive content within our vibrant newsletter.

Anica Čuka, Newsletter editor

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Laurie Brinklow, BA, MA(IS), PhD
President, International Small Islands
Studies Association
Assistant Professor
Co-ordinator, Master of Arts in Island
Studies
Chair, Institute of Island Studies
University of Prince Edward Island,
Charlottetown, PE, Canada
Brinklow@upe.ca

It's been just over a year since I took over the ISISA reins from Godfrey Baldacchino at Islands of the World XVIII in Zadar. I am honoured to follow in his footsteps, and, before him, Grant McCall. Since its inception in 1992 at the Islands of the World III Conference in Nassau, Bahamas, ISISA has covered a lot of territory, thanks to these two fine scholar-leaders and the teams they've put together. I am humbled to be carrying on the legacy.

Over the years, we've hosted conferences in Victoria, BC; Hobart, Tasmania; Nassau, Bahamas; Okinawa, Japan; Mauritius; Isle of Skye, Scotland; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Kinmen Island, Taiwan; Maui, Hawai'i; Jeju Island, S. Korea;

Bornholm, Denmark; British Virgin Islands; Penghu Archipelago, Taiwan; Lesvos, Greece; Kangaroo Island, Australia; Leeuwarden and Terschelling, Netherlands; St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador; and Zadar, Croatia.

We have welcomed hundreds of scholars, policymakers, and community members into our midst, and numbers continue to grow, creating an amazing network of islophiles from nearly every corner of the globe.

At the same time, we've witnessed a proliferation of like-minded organizations and academic programming pop up around the world. As part of "[Scottish Island Futures 2050 and Beyond](#)," hosted May 26, 2023, by Andrew Jennings and colleagues at the [Institute for Northern Studies](#) at the University of the Highlands and Islands (which also offers an MLitt in Island Studies), I participated in an online session entitled "[Networking for the Future – islands doing it for themselves](#)." Within the 15 minutes allotted to me, I tried to describe some of these organizations, starting with my own: the [Institute of Island Studies \(IIS\)](#) at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), Canada.

Founded in 1985, we are a research, education, and public policy institute focusing on the culture, environment, and economy of small islands around the world, with an emphasis on Prince Edward Island. Through the [Master of Arts in Island Studies \(MAIS\)](#) program we welcome 20-some students each year with the express purpose of teaching them about islands. We also host a prestigious [UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability](#), which is currently held by Jean Mitchell, Professor of Anthropology at UPEI.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Up until a few years ago, were also institutional home to ISISA's flagship journal, [Island Studies Journal](#), until it moved to the University of the Faroe Islands.

Other early adopters of Island Studies include the Islands and [Small States Institute \(ISSI\)](#) at University of Malta, first established as a programme in 1989. Now under the directorship of Stefano Moncada, ISSI researchers focus on health, climate change, and tourism while hosting master's and PhD programs. ISSI is also home to the [Small States & Territories journal \(SST\)](#), edited by Godfrey Baldacchino.

Because I couldn't cover them all in 15 minutes, I directed the audience to the [Global Islands Network \(GIN\)](#). Early in ISISA's history, then Secretary Graeme Robertson created this website which includes links to current island-related news headlines from around the world, as well as links to dozens of organizations that focus on islands, from national to regional to local; they are also listed thematically. These include everything from the [Small Islands Culture Research Initiative \(SICRI\)](#) (home to the journal, [Shima](#)), [Global Islands Partnership \(GLISPA\)](#), and the [Alliance of Small Island States \(AOSIS\)](#), to the United Nations' [SIDSnet](#), the [North Atlantic Forum](#), [Island Innovation](#) (creator of the [Virtual Island Summit](#)), and the [Thematic Network on Northern and Arctic Island Studies](#), part of the University of the Arctic.

In 2020, James Randall published *Island Studies* inside (and outside) of the academy: The state of this Interdisciplinary Field in *The Challenges of Island Studies* (Springer) edited by Ayano Ginoza, editor of the [Okinawan Journal of Island Studies](#), hosted by yet another islands-related institution, the [Institute for Islands and Sustainability](#) at the University of the Ryukyus in Japan. Indeed, in another issue of the Okinawan journal, Adam Grydehøj published "[An Expanding World of Islands: The Emergence of Chinese Island Studies.](#)" And as recently as May, Godfrey and I were invited to join the board of the new Archipelago Institute at Abo Akademi University in Finland, while colleagues at the National Swedish Network for Island Research are gearing up for their first Island Studies conference in October. Meanwhile, colleagues in Croatia will host the 11th Anatomy of Islands symposium in Hvar in September.

Although Island Studies is often referred to as an "emerging" discipline, it is easy to see that the discipline is thriving. In 2012, when I wrote and published [The Proliferation of Island Studies](#), I directed readers to 13 different organizations. You'll find some of them above, but also dozens more. Congratulations to all who have chosen Island Studies as their area of study.

And one final note: the ISISA Executive and I are very much looking forward to working closely with our partners in Lombok, Indonesia, who are hosting Islands of the World XIX just under a year from now, June 25-29, 2024. Please be sure to join us to celebrate being part of our ever-expanding ISISA family!

SLAVERY, RECONCILIATION AND REPARATION intended FOR CURAÇAO

Curaçao has nearly 150,000 inhabitants and consists of a landmass of 444 km². Curaçao was granted by the Dutch an autonomous status within the Dutch Kingdom on December 15, 1954 as part of the Netherlands Antilles, a federation consisting of six islands situated in the Caribbean. Curaçao played a major role in the initial phase of the Dutch slave trade, in the last half of the seventeenth and in the first quarter of the eighteenth century.

On Curaçao, an estimated 86,000 slaves were supplied by the so called West Indian Company (WIC). At that time it was settled in the provinces of Holland. These slaves were for export within the Caribbean, middle America regions. But it had to yield as much as possible. The slaves formed the largest population group in the eighteenth century, according to archive documents. They worked as plantation slaves, house slaves and craft slaves.

There were also maroons who hid in the dense undergrowth or in caves. The maroons had fled the plantations and lived in freedom. The maroons often went out to steal or were fed by captive held slaves. In the society that arose on Curaçao, separate classes of blacks (named negroes) and mulattoes, Jews and whites were based on skin color. In the eighteenth century, laws were introduced by the colonial company director that aimed to keep slaves and ex-slaves in a subordinate position.



The Netherlands as former colonial state has now become the first nation by word of mouth of its Prime Minister Mark Rutte. He formally apologized for their role in chattel slavery on December 19, 2022. But this gesture is highly contested. The key question is: 'whether King Willem-Alexander himself will apologize, since the Dutch Monarchy were slaves masters?' You 've an increasing pressure of campaigning states, former colonies that are favoring reparations. Real atrocities happened in slavery.

Chattel slaves were used for their labor, sex, and breeding, and they are exchanged for camels, trucks, guns and money. The children of chattel slaves remained then the property of their master. The Dutch was during the 19th century the last of the former colonial states that decided for abolition of slavery. On July 1 st , 1863 slavery is abolished by the Dutch. Coming up on July 1 st , 2023 it will be exactly 160 years ago that this pivotal moment happened.

International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, July 2023



Campaigners expect that the King of the Netherlands will not let this moment go in silence without an apology.

Today the campaigners hope that the Dutch King symbolizing the highest authority within the Dutch constitution, but nowadays with much lesser constitutional powers towards governing in the earlier days that he will rise to the occasion. Also in the exercise of moral authority by example this is seen as a must. Reparation has the same meaning as restitution, which is also used by lawyers to describe what must be done when one person has unjustly enriched him-/herself at the expense of another.

On November 25th , 2000 the distinguished guest-speaker Lord Anthony Gifford, attorney-at-law living in Jamaica presented a paper to a public forum held in Curaçao about the topic reconciliation and restitution. It was organized by the movement for reconciliation and restitution (MORERE) of Curaçao.

Anthony gave the following description for 'reparations': "It means that when some terrible wrong has been done by one people against another, the wrongdoing people must compensate the people who have been wronged, repair the wrong done, and as far as possible restore the position of the wronged people to what it would have been had the wrong not been committed."

"The act of reparation necessarily involves the acknowledgement by the wrongdoing people that the wrong was done, and is often accompanied by an apology." (Lord Anthony Gifford, 2000).



Eleven European states were involved in slavery. To mention: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal and United Kingdom. Most examples of acts of reparation in general concern the payment of compensation to the direct victims of the wrong done.

In 1995 Queen Elizabeth II personally presided over the signing of the Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Bill, which gave reparation for the seizure of Maori land by British colonists. Land was handed back to the displaced people. US\$ 40 million was paid in compensation. The Bill embodied an apology in these terms:

"The Crown expresses its profound regret and apologies unreservedly for the loss of lives because of the hostilities arising from its invasion, and at the devastation of property and social life which resulted." (Lord Anthony Gifford, 2000).

Ten point action plan CARICOM Reparations Commission. The movement in Curaçao is joining these:

1. Full formal apology
2. Indigenous peoples development program
3. Reparations for those who choose it
4. Building of cultural institutions
5. Attention to the public health crisis
6. Illiteracy eradication
7. African knowledge program
8. Psychological rehabilitation
9. Technology Transfer
10. Debt cancellation/ compensation return



A local foundation 'The Tula Museum' (www.fundashonmuseotula.com) has been organizing Masterclasses with the aim to broaden the knowledge and understanding about slavery and reparations under citizens. They can as well develop their skills in evidence analysis, critical thinking, and reasoning with regard to these themes and their impact.

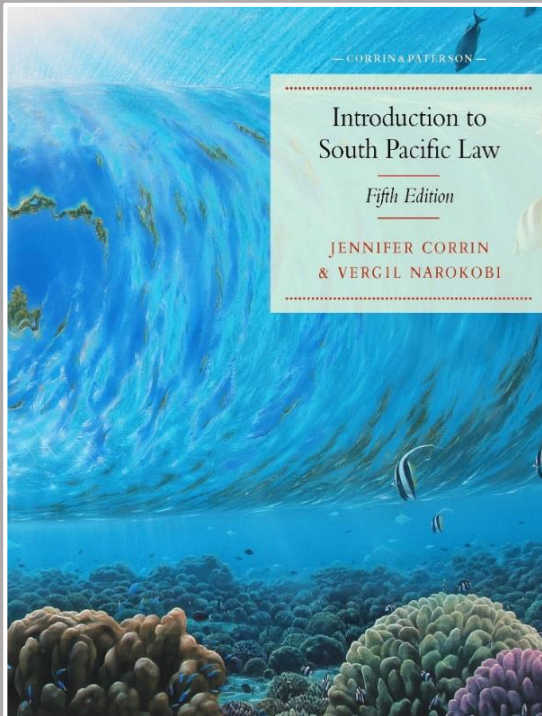
Tula was a slave, which acted as a freedom fighter for liberation of slaves in Curaçao. He died for this cause. Nowadays he regarded as a resistance and national hero.

**Written by Sharnon Isenia
Indigoblue, Curaçao**



*“Restitution may include other things as well as money. It may include the recognition and teaching of your (native) language. It may include the development of local enterprise and culture. It may include a different form of constitutional relationship. It may include the refocusing of your trading links away from a remote European nation towards your natural partners in the Caricom region with whom you share so much history and values.”
(Lord Anthony Gifford, 2000)*

NEW BOOK RELEASE



The only book of its kind, *Introduction to South Pacific Law* provides an overview of law in Pacific Island countries and in Papua New Guinea. It sets out the framework of South Pacific legal systems and also describes the substantive law on a broad range of topics. Examining both State laws and customary laws, the book highlights common patterns and explains some of the principal differences between the laws and legal systems of the countries of the region. The introductory chapter looks at the development of South Pacific law and at South Pacific jurisprudence. Individual chapters are devoted to State laws, customary laws, constitutional law, administrative law, criminal law, family law, contract law, torts law, land law and court systems.

The book makes extensive reference to legislative provisions and case law of individual jurisdictions. Including a discussion of recent changes in the law, this new edition of *Introduction to South Pacific Law* is a useful and up-to-date resource for all those interested in the law of the region.

Jennifer Corrin is Professor Emerita at The University of Queensland. She is an academic and consultant on law reform and development in plural legal regimes and legal issues affecting small States. Before joining The University of Queensland, she spent five years at the University of the South Pacific, having joined the Faculty after nine years in her own legal firm in Solomon Islands. She is author of *Contract Law in the South Pacific* (now in its second edition) and co-author of *Courts and Civil Procedure in the South Pacific*. She is co-editor of *Legal Systems of the Pacific*.

Justice **Dr Vergil Narokobi** is a Judge of the National Court and Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea. Prior to his appointment as a judge in 2020, he was Legal Counsel at the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea and President of the Papua New Guinea Law Society. His PhD from Victoria University of Wellington examined the implementation of Papua New Guinea's national goals and directive principles and basic social obligations. He also holds an LLM from the University of Cambridge.

More details can be found here:

<https://www.larcier-intersentia.com/en/introduction-to-south-pacific-law-9781839702914.html>

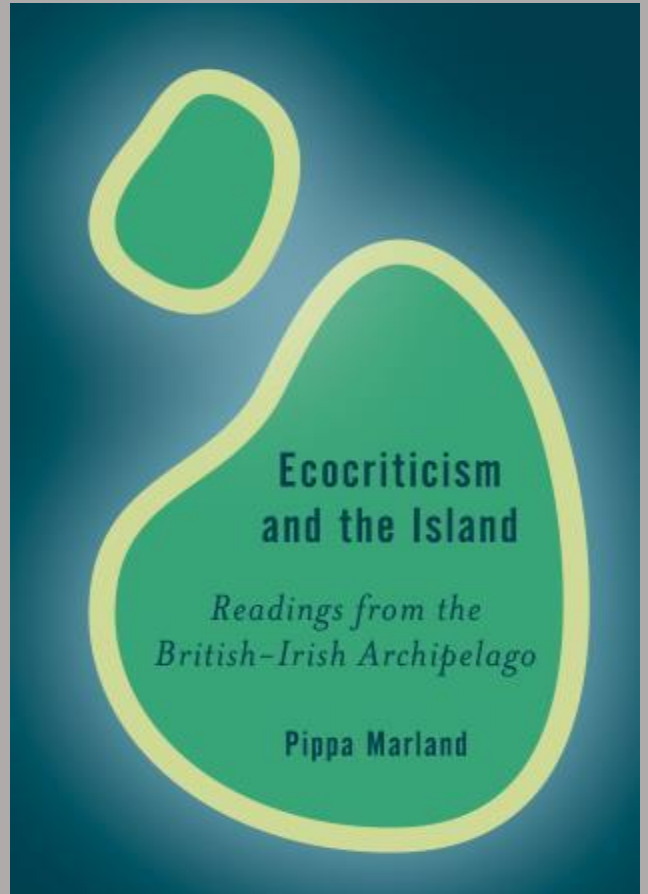
NEW BOOK RELEASE

Ecocriticism and the Island: Readings from the British-Irish Archipelago – Pippa Marland (Rowman and Littlefield, December 2022)

Pippa Marland is a Lecturer in Humanities at the University of Bristol

Ecocriticism and the Island explores a wide selection of island-themed creative non-fiction, offering new insights into the ways in which authors negotiate existing cultural tropes of the island while offering their own distinctive articulations of “islandness.” This book represents an important intervention into both island literary studies and ecocriticism.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781786607089/Ecocriticism-and-the-Island-Readings-from-the-British-Irish-Archipelago>



Endorsements:

“*Ecocriticism and the Island* is a fascinating study of the diversity and importance of literature and life across the north Atlantic archipelago. Written with clarity and insight, it is a guide to the histories of communities around Ireland and Britain and an augur of our collective future through engagement with art, language, and climate science, all brought together in a compelling critical and creative narrative. It is an important addition to the archipelagic and blue humanities and marks a good step forward in island thinking.” — **Nicholas Allen**, director, Wilson Center for Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia

International Small Islands Studies Association NEWSLETTER, July 2023



“Drawing upon an impressive breadth of theoretical reference as well as interviews with key writers, Pippa Marland offers sensitive and illuminating close readings of a diverse range of creative non-fictional texts. The result is a brilliantly original and engagingly lucid work of ‘archipelagraphy’ that demonstrates how ecocriticism might contribute to island studies and how island-themed texts might advance ecocritical practice. Ecocriticism and the Island is essential reading for all researchers and students interested in the intersections of literature, place, and contemporary environmental thought.” —**David Cooper**, founding co-director of the Centre for Place Writing, Manchester Metropolitan University

“Read this book if you are drawn to the ever-more-crowded bookstore shelves of creative nonfiction about place and about living in, traversing, or mapping distinctive geographies and their communities. Ecocriticism and the Island is a meticulously researched study of island-themed books by some of the most important writers on these shelves. It is a gift to researchers seeking new approaches to island literary studies, offering thorough and utterly persuasive close readings that confirm the ultimate inseparability of actual and imagined islands. It is also a gift to researchers seeking a route between the concepts and methods of island studies and of ecocriticism, two approaches that, as Marland amply demonstrates, need each other.” —**Lisa Fletcher**, Head of Humanities, University of Tasmania

NEW BOOK RELEASE

CHATHAMS RESURGENT

How the Islanders overcame 150 years of misrule

By Sir Hugh Rennie KNZM CBE KC

Published November 2022, reprinted
December 2022

In 1989 the Chatham Islands faced crisis. Since the crayfish “boom”, central government had stripped Island resources. Yet infrastructure was decades behind New Zealand. In Wellington the talk was of Islanders as parasites living on “subsidies”.

For years, Island leaders – David Holmes, Fred Lanauze, then Bunty Preece and Patrick Smith led a battle for justice. Imi and iwi likewise claimed rights, Treaty compliance and settlements.

The Council was bankrupt. Bunty spoke publicly of seeking independence. Driven by Rogernomics, the government insisted it would keep sovereignty and the wealth that went with it, but “walk away” from the rest. Infrastructure would be abandoned to the Islanders. They could save themselves, or fail and leave. Failure was expected in Wellington. After all, if the Crown could not succeed, how could a bunch of locals?

In 1989 the first truly independent review of the Islands, by Taylor Baines, recommended an answer. An economic development and infrastructure organisation, separate to the Council, should be created; plus a rebuild of the Council. Local control the Islands had never had. Could it work?

From 1990, the Chathams rose to the challenge, and succeeded.

Hugh Rennie’s book reveals in its 380 pages:

- How 150 years of being part of Aotearoa New Zealand had come to this.
- The truth of broken government promises and monies called subsidies.
- How Islanders took over, saved air and sea services, then the Council, and went on to build what Taylor Baines recommended.

Hugh, asked by Bunty Preece to chair the new Trust for six months, was chair for eleven years. His book details an extraordinary history of 150 years of misrule, exploitation, and oppressive control of the Islands. Then, from 1990, how the Islands fought back – and won.



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NEW BOOK RELEASE

A New Edition of the *Encyclopedia of Japanese Islands*

Hiroshi Kakazu

(President Emeritus of the Japan Society of Island Studies)

Japan, an island nation consisting officially of 6,852 small, remote islands (0.1km and over the whole coastal line), has been a world center of island studies. The first refereed Japanese island study journal was published in 1933. The Encyclopedia of Japanese Islands (Island Dictionary) was first published in 1995. This new, expanded edition has covered 15,700 islands, more than twice as many islands as the first version, including all inhabited and uninhabited islands, isles, atolls, reefs, and rocks. The Dictionary carefully traces the formation of the islands from Japan's Nansei Islands to the North Sea, their natural, historical, and socio-cultural characteristics, and their transitions, making it an unparalleled database of Japanese islands.

After the ISISA conference in Okinawa Island and the Japan Society of Island Studies in the 1990s, various island-related organizations, networks, study programs, and journals emerged. Nissology is now recognized as a new field of academic research. Because of their ambiguity, diversity, and environmental vulnerability, islands require interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and qualitative approaches that transcend individual disciplines. This Dictionary meets that need.

The Dictionary was edited by Professor Emeritus Shunsuke Nagashima of Kagoshima University an avid ISISA member and former president of JSIS, with co-editor Mr. Yukishige Watanabe. This masterpiece is recommended not only for island researchers, island fetches, and people involved in remote island administration but also for all readers who are interested in islands.

New Edition

Encyclopedia of Japanese Islands

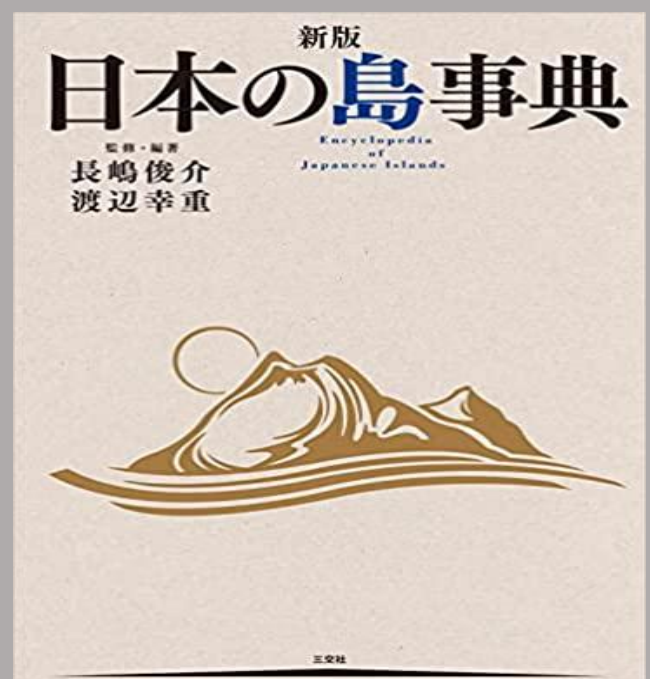
- Publisher: Sanko-sha (Tokyo)
(December 2, 2022)

- Hardcover: 1600 pages

- ISBN-10: 4815540551

- ISBN-13: 978-4815540555

Price: ¥ 77, 200 (about US\$600) at Amazon



OUR MEMBERS' NEW PAPERS:

Jan Petzold, Elphin T. Joe, Ilan Kelman, Alexandre K. Magnan, Charlotta Mirbach, Gabriela Nagle Alverio, Patrick D. Nunn, Beate M. W. Ratter and The Global Adaptation Mapping Initiative Team (2023): ***Between tinkering and transformation: A contemporary appraisal of climate change adaptation research on the world's islands***

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fclim.2022.1072231/full>

Abstract:

Islands are at the center of discourses on climate change. Yet despite extensive work on diverse island systems in a changing climate, we still lack an understanding of climate change-related responses amongst islands and what shifting from what might be called “tinkering” (perhaps heat warnings) to “transformational” adaptation (perhaps relocation) means for these vastly different landmasses which are often grouped together by default. Through a systematic review of the climate change adaptation scientific literature, this paper critically reflects on how considering islands as a homogenous ensemble and the use of buzzwords such as “transformational adaptation” may be problematic for diverse island realities under climate change. Our findings show that the adaptation evidence base actually provides literature on contrasting island types and cultural and political contexts, including Small Island Developing States as well as other island territories. This study finds research gaps with respect to regions (e.g., South America, Africa, and Mediterranean) and that there is overall both little evidence of and a lack of context-specific definitions of transformational adaptation in island contexts. The adaptation literature does not yet fully reflect the experiences or needs of islands regarding transitions and transformations throughout history.

OUR MEMBERS' NEW PAPERS:

Special Forum: Archipelagic Spaces and Im/Mobilities, The Journal of Transnational American Studies (Volume 14, Issue 1, 2023)

https://escholarship.org/uc/acgcc_jtas/14/1

A segment from the Introduction chapter (Steffen Wöll, Barbara Gfoellner, Gabriele Pizarz-Ramirez, Alexandra Ganser):

„This special forum of JTAS brings together the work of international scholars from the fields of archipelagic American studies, island studies, and mobility studies. It is the result of two thematic workshops in Leipzig, Germany organized by the collaborative research center “Spatialization Processes under the Global Condition” and the Vienna research platform “Mobile Cultures and Societies” that set out to investigate the relationship between transnational studies, archipelagic studies, and mobility studies. In **seven articles, an interview, and an exploratory conversation**, the twelve contributors open up and navigate new paths of thinking through the intersections of archipelagicity, mobility, US-American imperialism, and decoloniality.

As part of a rising tide of critical voices that express discontent about global neoliberal regimes of im/mobility and their representation, the contributors concurrently identify and answer to con-temporary needs of renegotiating spaces, places, identities, and power relations. Archipelagic epistemes, the authors demonstrate across a diverse range of topics, provide a lens through which to critically interrogate traditional binaries of continentalism and islandness. They challenge colonial discourses of static, self-contained islands and bring into focus the role of im/mobilities and relational entanglements...”

OUR MEMBERS' NEW PAPERS:

Nimführ, Sarah (2023). Memoria archipelágica. Confluencias judeo-transnacionales dentro y fuera del Caribe. ISLAS 65(204), e1269. Open Access here:

<https://islas.uclv.edu.cu/index.php/islas/article/view/1269>

Las islas del Caribe fueron uno de los pocos lugares de refugio para los judíos que huían del régimen nazi. Se desarrollaron comunidades judías autosuficientes, y su judaísmo se mezcló con las historias y memorias de las islas. El objetivo de este artículo es reunir los imaginarios, discursos y prácticas entrelazados mostrando cómo son constitutivos de una narrativa archipelágica del Caribe que se desplaza al espacio continental. Transmitiré un enfoque en el que el pasado se recuerda como una serie de espacios, culturas e historias fragmentarias que convergen en un espacio fluido. Recurriendo a la experiencia de los descendientes, revelaré cómo se define y se recuerda una narrativa caribeña. Siguiendo a Glissant, el Caribe se «escribe» recíprocamente dando lugar a una identidad caribeña como experiencia vivida en un mundo archipelágico.

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The Caribbean islands were one of the few places of refuge for Jews fleeing the Nazi regime. Self-sufficient Jewish communities developed, and their Jewishness was entangled with the histories and memories of the islands. Aim of this article is to bring together interwoven imageries, discourses, and practices showing how they are constitutive of an archipelagic narrative of the Caribbean that is shifting to continental space. I will convey an approach in which the past is remembered as a series of fragmentary spaces, cultures, and histories that converge in a fluid space. Drawing on descendants' experience, I will reveal how a Caribbean narrative is defined and remembered. Following Glissant, the Caribbean is reciprocally «written» resulting in a Caribbean identity as a lived experience in an archipelagic world.



OUR MEMBERS' NEW PAPERS:

Foley, A., Brinklow, L., Corbett, J., Kelman, I., Klöck, C., Moncada, S., Mycoo, M., Nunn, P., Pugh, J., Robinson, S., Tandrayen-Ragoobur, V., & Walshe, R. (2023): Understanding "Islandness", *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 0(0) 2023, pp. 1–18.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2023.2193249>

Abstract:

Islandness is a contested concept, not just between disciplines but also cultures, entangled with what islands, island studies, and island identity are understood to be. The purpose of this article is to explore some of these different meanings, without necessarily unifying or reconciling them, with the aim of keeping multiple understandings of islandness in creative tension. We begin by considering islandness as smallness, recognizing that though many entry points into island studies relate to size in some way, what constitutes small is dependent on both context and worldview. Next, we consider islandness as culture, and the concept of island identity, which is expressed in varied forms. Finally, we consider framings of islands as others, and the extent to which contemporary narratives linked to islands are really inherent to islands or not. Ultimately, we conclude that although there is much to be gained from appreciating differing understandings of islandness, these multiple meanings make it critical to reflect on context wherever the term is used, and exercise care in assigning attributes and outcomes to islandness.

COOPERATION PARTNER(S) AND INTERESTED PERSONS WANTED :)

Together with my colleague Luis Ramón Campo Yumar (Universidad Central de Las Villas, Santa Clara, Cuba) I'm currently working on a transdisciplinary research project idea on Jewish cemetery culture in the Caribbean. The architectural design, gravestone inscriptions and funerary traditional practices were not unaffected by the influences of the cultural surrounding and by the past time. Based on a prestudy conducted in 2022, we found connecting points on the topography, onomastic patterns, and cultural heritage of Jewish-Caribbean cemeteries in Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Due to the steady decay of the cemeteries caused by exposure to the environment and lack of maintenance, Jewish foundations and communities try to protect and restore the cemeteries to preserve the funerary heritage.



The project aims to contribute to this preservation process with a digital database as well as an investigation and creation of shared connections of Jewish cemeteries in the Spanish Caribbean.

To validate our observations for the entire Spanish-Caribbean area, we are still looking for information and cooperation partners on Puerto Rico. Therefore, we would like to (formally and informally) collaborate with others who may be interested in exploring this topic in more detail.

If you are interested, please contact me on:

sarah.nimfuehr@kunstuni-linz.at

**Sarah Nimführ,
University of Arts Linz, Austria**



A FINAL CALL FOR CHAPTERS !!!

A Final Call for Chapters ... for a book that explores gardens on small islands. Don't miss an opportunity to contribute to this exciting project.

Join the expanding number of writers who have committed to contributing a chapter, more than 30 thus far. The Northern Marianas, New Zealand, North Uist, Tasmania, the Maldives, Tonga, Suvarrow Island, Iž Island, Madeira, Sri Lanka, the Maltese Archipelago, the Falklands, Ven Island, Prince Edward Island, Seychelles, Okinawa, Greenland, Isle of Man, Samoa, Faroe Islands, Kangaroo Island, Frisian Islands, Reunion Island, Norfolk Island and more will be represented. Here is your chance to add a chapter to a kaleidoscope of gardens already included.

1 Please write and submit an Expression of Interest by 31 July 2023

Please provide:

- 1 The name of the small Island you are writing about
- 2 Your proposed Chapter Title
- 3 Brief details of you as author and of any collaborator
- 4 A brief outline (3 or 4 sentences) about the content of your paper

2 First Draft due 31 August 2023

This is to allow time for us to see how chapters might fit together and how they might connect.

All contributors will be responded to and given feedback

3 Writing Guidelines

After receiving feedback, please write your small island garden chapter.

We invite you to systematically address the following in around 1,000 words:

- 1 Describe some gardens on your island, and how they have been created and maintained by their gardeners.
- 2 Prepare a case study of one particular garden and its gardener.
- 3 Answer the following question: What are the unique features of island gardens, gardening and gardeners; and why?



A FINAL CALL FOR CHAPTERS !!!

4 Other Writing Considerations

- 1 The writing style should be a blend of storytelling, description and 'gentle scholarly writing'.
- 2 Please include some high-resolution colour photos of the garden/s in focus. To add human interest, include a photo of a gardener in her/his garden.
- 3 If you draw gardening ideas and information from other sources, please include a Further Information list.

This publication will be of broad interest to educated lay people, including gardeners, travellers, environmentalists as well as small island studies specialists. It is not proposed as an academic text.

Hopefully, it will inspire island writers to explore how a study of the unique qualities of small island gardens, gardeners and gardening can deepen our understanding of that elusive concept of 'islandness'.

We would like to see a book that informs, engages and delights its readers.

5 Final Draft including illustrative material due 30 November 2023
Please pass on this information to other potential writers.

Project Coordinator

Dr Jennie Teasdale, Independent Researcher,
Kangaroo Island, Australia.
ISISA member.

Project Advisers

Professor Godfrey Baldacchino, (ISISA Immediate Past President)
Dr Anna Baldacchino (Immediate Past Editor ISISA Newsletter)

Contact the Project Coordinator Jennie Teasdale on jitsdl.ki@gmail.com (mobile +61 487 876 427) if you are interested, willing and able to contribute a chapter, if you have creative ideas or require further information.

Many thanks
Jennie Teasdale AM
BA MEc HonDLitt



CONFERENCE REPORT

Title: 'Eco Islands, Blue Development', 2022 International Island Forum

Organizers: Pingtan Comprehensive Pilot Zone Administrative Committee of Fujian Province, the Island Research Center (IRC) of the Ministry of Natural Resources of China (MNR), the China Ocean Development Foundation (CODF), Fujian Normal University (FJNU), the Third Institute of Oceanography (TIO) of MNR and the Fujian Key Laboratory of Island Monitoring and Ecological Development. Xiamen Center for International Ocean Cooperation and Key Laboratory of Coastal Disaster and Protection (Hohai University), Ministry of Education of China (MOE) participated in the conference and co-organized the forum.

Location: Pingtan, China

Dates: November 10, 2022

In November 2022 the sixth Island Forum has been organized by IRC in collaboration with relevant agencies. As well as focusing on island ecological restoration in 2021, it also addressed ocean issues in island regions. Scholars from around the world participated in the forum to study and discuss the latest developments in ecology protection, blue economy, resource utilization, disaster mitigation, and ocean governance in island regions.

During the opening ceremony, Vice President Xinchun Pan of CODF pointed out that the sustainable development of Chinese islands has some lessons that could be replicated in other island countries (regions), such as strengthening infrastructure construction, cultivating and developing island-based industries, and closing exchanges and collaboration in various ways. He said that CODF has established the Maritime Silk Road Project to support the development of maritime economies in island countries (regions).

According to Prof. Qinghua Chen, Vice President of FJNU, 2022 marks FJNU's 115th anniversary. The university plans to increase its support for research in areas such as global island governance and sustainable development from this year onwards. Dalian Ocean University (DLOU) Vice President Prof. Guochen Zhang stated that the university was founded in 1952 and has been in operation for 70 years.

As part of the development philosophy of 'Blue University,' a training system for blue talents has been established.

Detailed conference report have been published in Elseviers' journal **Marine Policy**, and it is available here:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308597X23000532>

Yuncheng Deng



CONFERENCE REPORT

Title: **Water and Culture on Islands – Looking at the Balearic Islands, the Mediterranean, and Beyond**

Organizers: Dr. Laura Dierksmeier, Dr. Sophie Hüglin & Dr. Frerich Schön, SFB 1070, University of Tübingen, Germany and Prof. Dr. Mateu Riera Rullan, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona-FHEAG-ICAC

Location: Museo de Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain

Dates: May 4-6, 2023

Islands and their inhabitants have a unique relationship with water. Though surrounded by it, water scarcity used to be and still is one of the greatest threats islanders face. Therefore, the necessity for inventions addressing this problem existed for a long time – from the prehistoric period until today. This conference provided insight into various methods of combating water scarcity in insular contexts such as the Balearic Islands and discussed the roles of different actors in the periods of Al Andalus or Christian monasteries before and after Muslim rule.

After an introduction by Laura Dierksmeier, Sophie Hüglin, Frerich Schön, and Museo de Mallorca Director Maria Maria Gràcia Salvà Picó, the director of the natural park of Cabrera Island, Maria Francesca Lopez, spoke about the relevance of the topic of island water to today.

Many of the speeches at this conference were relevant to island studies at large. For example, Christian Depraetere (Montpellier) spoke about the entanglement of human communities and water resources on islands.

Using the Mediterranean as his lab space, he demonstrated variables such as population size, position, local climate, the periods considered and the various needs of populations. With examples from Gavdos, Cyprus, Formentera, Crete, and Malta, he contrasted the variability of rainfall, the seasonality of surface runoff and underground storage. His analysis could easily be applied to other insular regions facing various environmental conditions.

Miguel Gómez Gómez (La Laguna, Tenerife) analyzed the environmental, social and economic transformations related to water as a consequence of the conquest and colonization of the Canary Islands, which led to important changes in the way the new settlers managed water on each island. As they focused on agriculture, the land was adapted for irrigation by means of hydraulic structures for water storage and distribution. At the same time, systems were used to collect water artificially: wells and mines (qanats), as well as technical applications.

CONFERENCE REPORT

Frerich Schön (Tübingen) and Stefano Cespa (Rome) presented an overview on water management techniques in the Punic and Roman Mediterranean drawing on literary and archaeological sources. Based on recent archaeological research on the Italian islands of Pantelleria and Sardinia, they compared the operation and efficiency of the ancient cistern types. Based on recent archaeological research on the Italian islands of Pantelleria and Sardinia, they compared the operation and efficiency of the ancient cistern types.

Opening the panels on the Balearic Islands, Gabriel Alomar-Garau (Barcelona) explained the role of water-extracting windmills in the agricultural landscape of Mallorca. He has catalogued more than 2,400 traditional windpumps. They are mainly located in three different geographical locations where summer sea breeze and subsoil water convene. These “hotspot”-regions are the southern plains of Sant Jordi, Campos-Ses Salines and the northern plain of Sa Pobla-Muro. Most of these windpumps are not active anymore partly due to groundwater salination. Aina Escobar (Balearic Islands) presented her study of the rain-seeking ceremonies on Mallorca in the 16th and 17th centuries. The pro pluvia rogatives are documented as an interplay between peasants indicating the water shortage to the religious institutions and local authorities paying for the ceremonies.

The main rogation ceremonies were the novenas, the procession of the main relics of the diocese and the Quaranta Hores. Rain-seeking ceremonies are a very good draught indicator for the pre-instrumental era and are being collected in the International Pro Pluvia Rogation database.

From 2005 to 2010, Jesús Cardona and Ferran Vizoso (Menorca) have documented Menorcan rainwater storage systems of the so-called aljibes, cisterns, ponds and artificial ponds from all periods. As a follow up the architects also restored the aljub at Mercadal, a cistern from 1733 that originally was built under British Governor Kane with a catchment of 20x40 m and a capacity of more than 250,000 m².

Returning to the early medieval period, Mateu Riera Rullan (Barcelona) used the small island of Cabrera just south of Mallorca as an example for the water management of the earliest eremitic and monastic settlements in the Mediterranean. Would there not be clear historical evidence for a community of monks from AD 603, it would have been difficult to interpret the archaeological remains of buildings and graves. The density of eremitic and monastic remains makes it likely for him that Cabrera was perceived as a holy island (isla santa).

CONFERENCE REPORT

Helena Kirchner, Félix Retamero And Glenda Graziani (Barcelona) focused on the period of Al-Andalus which comprises the Muslim colonization of the Balearic Islands from the early 10th century to the Christian conquest of 1287.

Identifying Byzantine monastic sites had been the methodological challenge David Hill (Oslo) and Maria Z. Sigala (Athens) had taken on in the highly fragmented island landscape of the Aegean. They were more successful than they had hoped and even newly discovered an ancient oracle within a standing church.

Regarding water in cult creation they emphasized the role of holy springs

(Hagiasma) that were venerated in Constantinople and throughout the Byzantine Empire.

Islands in rivers face other challenges as Andrea Kiss and Jozsef Laszlovszky (Vienna) were able to demonstrate for the Middle Danube region. They presented an insight into flood resilience and mitigation in medieval island monasteries such as the Dominican convent at the uppermost end of Margret Island in Budapest.

More looking from north and western Europe, Louis Sicking (Amsterdam & Leiden) investigated the importance of insularity for monasticism and how it influenced Christianization.





CONFERENCE REPORT

While hermits and monks sought isolation to dedicate their lives to God, this isolation was compromised by both mission activities and pilgrims.

The conference brought together historical, archaeological and architectural research as well as geographical, technological and natural sciences approaches to a topic that is part of landscape, island and water management studies at the same time. This made a *longue durée*-approach possible and allowed for regional detail under a much larger remit. With the help of a translator, it also united scholars with very different cultural backgrounds that otherwise would rarely have had the opportunity to meet.

The contributions shall be published either as a joint article looking at water management on the Balearic Islands over time or in an edited volume on *“Islands, Monasteries and Water”* that will be an open access series (University of Tübingen Press).

Dr. Laura Dierksmeier
University of Tübingen

UPCOMING EVENTS: ISISA WORLD CONFERENCE 2024

ISISA: 19TH ISLANDS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Lombok Island, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, June 25-29, 2024

Call for Papers deadline: February 2024

As soon as we have more specific information on the Call for Papers, we will send it to all members via email.

Indonesia is ready to welcome you all!



University of Mataram (Venue)

Indonesia, the largest archipelagic state in the world, has more than 17,000 islands stretching across the equator. Indonesia is one of the countries with a mega diversity of coastal and marine resources, including mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs, fisheries, and tourism.

Please join us at the 19th Islands of the World Conference 2024 in Indonesia. The conference will be held on June 25-29, 2024, in Lombok Island, a beautiful island in West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. The conference venue is the University of Mataram, Mataram City—an exotic city in southeast Indonesia. IPB University, Archipelagic and Islands States Forum, and the University of Mataram organize the conference.

UPCOMING EVENTS: ISISA WORLD CONFERENCE 2024

The main **theme** of the conference is “**Islands and Resilience: Global Opportunities**”, a topic that is becoming a big challenge for scientists and managers of small islands to build appropriate governance and sustainable development. The subtheme will cover climate changes and environmental issues, small island governance, blue economy, island cultures, small island networks and digital ecosystems, and island and small islands development issues.

The conference will discuss topics related to, but not limited to, climate and island sustainability, environmental vulnerability, island economy, island governance studies, blue foods studies, marine tourism, blue energy studies, island sociology, island culture and ethnology, island digital ecosystem, small island network, island economy, and others.

The host will provide travel grants for students with excellent papers to strengthen and expand the forum. The committee has also prepared several locations for **excursions, including Gili Gede Island, Gita Nada Island, Gili Petagan Island, Gili Bidara Island, Gili Pasir Island, and others.** Islands with diverse resources and management models, both for tourism, fisheries, and conservation.

This conference will be a promising discussion forum for international and national presenters, participants, students, scientists, practitioners, and local communities. As the first small islands international conference in **Indonesia**, we are sure that many exciting topics will be presented and examined as milestones for developing small islands and archipelagos.

Gili Trawangan Island (Excursion)



UPCOMING EVENTS: ISISA WORLD CONFERENCE 2024

The exchange of knowledge, ideas, experiences, and management practices of small islands will be a pleasant process on the island which is the center point of the Indonesian archipelago. And the conference will be an excellent forum for new members of the association.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN INDONESIA IN 2024!



Gili Pasir Island (Excursion)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

6TH INTERNATIONAL ST MAGNUS CONFERENCE 'THE NORTHERN ISLES AND THE ARCTIC. ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND TOURISM', 18-20 April 2024, Shetland, Scotland

The Institute for Northern Studies, University of the Highlands and Islands, would like to welcome abstracts for panel sessions, papers and poster proposals for the 6th International St Magnus Conference, which will be held in the Shetland Islands, Scotland, 18-20 April 2024.

This conference seeks to share knowledge of, and celebrate the Northern Isles relationship with the Arctic, past, present and future.

- Shared Histories – Exploring the historical relationship between the Northern Isles and the Arctic.
- Changing Environments - The impact of Climate Change on the Northern Isles and the Arctic.
- Preserving and Promoting Heritage - What lessons can we share?
- An Extractive Industry? - The Impact of Tourism on the Islands in the North.
- Northern Synergies – How will the relationship between the Isles and the Arctic develop in future?

Further details at: <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/research-enterprise/cultural/institute-for-northern-studies/events/6th-international-st-magnus-conference-the-northern-isles-and-the-arctic-environment-heritage-and-tourism.html>

Photos: [Andrew Jennings](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Islands and Audiovisual Media

Call for conference papers University of the Faroe Islands, SICRI, Shima

CONFERENCE: ISLANDS AND AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA University of the Faroe Islands, Tórshavn - June 17-19 2024

Held in collaboration with SICRI (the Small Island Cultures Research Initiative) and Shima journal

Focus:

Islands have been extensively represented in cinema, television and various forms of video. Local community film and video productions and documentaries by outside producers have often looked at the minutiae of island life and the nuances of living on islands. There is also the expedition genre, representing journeys to islands (with the outsider's impressions as the key topic). YouTube has many examples of personal travel videos. Many fictional and documentary productions have utilised familiar tropes of island paradises and their opposite, island 'hells' - places of confinement, menace and despair. Island paradises have been the subject of comedy and romance whereas hellish islands have been featured in genres such as horror, action and SciFi. Reality television has also drawn on these paradigms and a number of music videos have also represented islands in various ways.

Proposals:

Proposals from researchers from any Humanities field are invited that address one or more of the following topics:

- The representation of actual islands in one or multiple audiovisual texts
- The representation of fictional islands in one or multiple audiovisual texts
- The representation of islands in particular genres and/or national cinemas
- The relationship of island-themed audiovisual productions to broader social political factors and histories
- Gender issues in island themed audiovisual productions
- Colonial and postcolonial discourses in island-themed audiovisual productions

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Island community media productions and/or organisations
- Ethnographic approaches to island themed audiovisual productions
- Reconstructions of historical island life in audiovisual productions
- Issues of film/video style with regard to representations of islands

Proposals (300-400 words long) should be sent to **Dr Firouz Gaini** FirouzG@setur.fo and **Dr Philip Hayward** prhshima@gmail.com

An early acceptance program is in place, for those wishing to apply for travel funding. All proposals received by August 1st 2023 will be considered and replied to by October 1st 2023. **Final deadline** for submissions of proposals will be **January 30th 2024**.

NB **cheaper accommodation** in Torshavn tends to book out early, so the earliest possible submission of proposals is advised.

More details about the conference: <https://nordmedianetwork.org/latest/call-for-papers/islands-and-audiovisual-media/>

There will be a **special issue of Shima** on the topic of *Islands and Audiovisual media* published in **late 2024**. Conference delegates are invited to submit extended versions of their accepted papers for consideration for publication by **August 1st (absolute latest)** and may submit these prior to the conference for online publication in advance of the special issue (at the editor's discretion) – contact Dr Philip Hayward at prhshima@gmail.com for further information.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

REGENERATING INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INNOVATIVE COMMUNITIES

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

<https://northatlanticforum.org>

June 17-21, 2024

**Atlantic Technological University
Connemara, County Galway, Ireland**



For the first time, the North Atlantic Forum (NAF) bi-annual international conference will take place in Connemara, Ireland, June 17-21, 2024. Founded in 1998, the vision of NAF (<https://northatlanticforum.org>) is to support the improvement of public policy and practices, focusing on sustainable rural regional development, place-based identity, cultural development, and the resilience of North Atlantic islands and coastal regions.

The North Atlantic Forum is a “collegial assembly” which builds on a network established by the North Atlantic Islands Program at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. It remains an informal network of researchers, regional policy-makers, and practitioners from the North Atlantic region who share research and best practices and support community, business, and government exchanges across the North Atlantic region for increased collaboration and partnerships.

The conference provides the main networking event and focal point of communication for the extensive NAF network. The conference has been hosted in various North Atlantic regions such as Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Canada; Hólar, Iceland; St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada; Bornholm, Denmark; Shetland Islands, Scotland; Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada, and others.

In addition to policy advisers, practitioners, and researchers from Ireland, these highly participatory conferences have drawn international contributors. The event features a combination of inspiring presentations on new development policy initiatives, and new and ongoing research, as well as a rich array of development practices. These conferences always have a very strong applied focus, and the conference programme, developed by a local planning committee, includes a number of community tours and other in-field events. These hands-on experiences provide an opportunity to explore how communities and regions advance solutions to address local issues, and to compare and share parallel experiences from other development contexts.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The multi-day conference provide a very rich and highly resourced hands-on experience for policymakers, practitioners, community organisations and activists, social enterprises and local businesses, students, researchers, and others. Conference outcomes usually include a book, other publications, a rich wave of practitioner sharing and networking, student projects, and other initiatives.

The formal partners for the 2024 Irish conference are host community Connemara West and academic partner, Atlantic Technological University. The call for papers will be released shortly.

For updates, check:

<https://northatlanticforum.org>

Contacts:

Kevin Heanue: kevin.heanue@connemarawest.ie

Chris O'Malley: chris.omalley@atu.ie



UPCOMING EVENTS:

1ST ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS, TÓRSHAVN, THE FAROE ISLANDS September 4 – 6, 2024

Every two years, starting in 2024, the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) will organise a prestigious congress focused on Freshwater and Islands, aiming to address the unique challenges and opportunities related to water resources faced by islands worldwide. In collaboration with an island partner, the congress seeks to foster administration, collaboration, and innovation in the field. The inaugural edition of the congress will be held in the stunning Faroe Islands from September 4 to 6, 2024, under the theme of "Administration, Collaboration and Innovation.,,"

While the congress primarily aims to equip the island partner with practical tools to tackle specific water-related issues of special interest, its impact is intended to extend beyond the host island. The event will cater to a global island audience and, notably, small island developing states (SIDS). It endeavours to transcend the boundaries of a conventional academic gathering, incorporating a policy-oriented approach that will captivate water professionals working in islands, including the younger island generations. Additionally, the congress will celebrate the significance of freshwater within an island context, embracing the realms of arts, culture, and youth engagement.

During the Faroe Islands congress, the primary focus will lie on regulation to maximise impact. Specifically, there is a pressing need to reframe regulations to adapt to changing circumstances faced by island communities. Traditionally blessed with abundant water resources, these islands must now grapple with the challenges posed by climate change, necessitating a fresh approach to freshwater management. As such, regulations and policies need to be reconsidered, aligned, and made resilient in the face of a changing climate.

For further information on the congress, please visit the official website at:

<https://islandswatercongress.org/>.

The call for papers will be announced in **September**. To stay updated on the latest developments, including the timely release of the call for papers, we encourage you to save the webpage in your your bookmarks.

Francesco Sindico and **Óluva Eidesgaard**, Co-Chairs of the Congress International Scientific Committee



UPCOMING EVENTS:

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RIVER ISLANDS REDEFINING THE ANTHROPOCENE

October 16-17, 2023

Ashoka University, Haryana, India

Recent years have seen a repositioning in the focus of river research towards a deeper understanding the diverse, humanised, dynamic and muddy worlds of river islands existing within the rivers. Social science disciplines such as geography, anthropology and history have been instrumental in initiating the shift presenting these islands as integral part of what is broadly described as “social nature” (Castree and Braun 2001). This conference, perhaps the first of its kind, is an attempt to bring together river islands scholars and practitioners from around the world to discuss various important issues concerning these riverine ecologies and explore pathways for future research.

River islands are relatively small, often transient pieces of land that exist between the banks of rivers. They are found in most large river systems in the world, and abound in the Himalayan Rivers in South Asia where they are known variously as char, chapori, baet, and diara among others. They present “hybrid [geographies] ... neither fully land nor entirely water ... [representing] the fluid and complex worlds that lie within the rivers” (Lahiri-Dutt and Samanta 2013: x). Put differently, these are “fluidscapes” (Mukherjee and Ghosh 2020), or “liminal spaces” (Lahiri-Dutt and Samanta 2013: 14), “constantly adapting to the changing courses and configurations (Baruah 2022: 149). Although generally they are the products of both fluvial dynamics and human interventions, some river islands also refer to catastrophic tectonic events in their ancestry. These are the quintessential hybrid water/lands that defy, and blur, conventional notions of borders and territorialities (Sur 2021).

Although river islands are home to millions of people everywhere, in South Asia the chardwellers, or choruas (or chouras), are people who are both economically and socially on the margins. A sizable section of this population also consists of migrants and refugees, people who are constantly on the move “like the drifting grains of sand” (Lahiri-Dutt and Samanta 2007) or sedentarised at the risk of illegitimacy (Chakraborty 2009) despite the significant numbers living in these islands.

The conference is founded on the growing evidence that the unique hydrotopias of river islands are on the brink of fundamental changes in the Anthropocene. Although people in river islands have always lived with – and adjusted to – environmental changes and disasters, today they are encountering the unknown and unpredictable changes that the Anthropocene poses.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Small Pacific island nations, despite their small population sizes, are under the microscope of the global Climate Change research community, yet river islands with millions depending on them continue to experience an invisibility as the “slow disasters” (Baruah 2022) continue to devastate them, rendering chouras homeless and landless, and uprooting them from their traditional livelihoods.

Yet char-dwellers are not mere victims of environmental disasters. Lahiri-Dutt and Samanta’s (2013) phrase “dancing with the river” perhaps is an apt description of life on chars, except that sometimes this dance gets arrhythmic due to the crises discussed above. Khan (2022: 9) talks about a “chaura mode of existence” to highlight the dynamic relations that the 2 chauras/chouras develop with moving lands, and an environment that is constantly shifting. Baruah (2022: 149) calls for a “deep reflection on the natural history of these landscapes and envisioning life in these places accordingly.” The task is, following Stratford et al. (2023: 1268), to reconsider the Anthropocene in a way that refuses to “(re)produce modes of relating with islanders that seem and are colonizing,” thereby reiterating the fact that islands are “not mere objects and islanders are not powerless victims” (ibid: 1258). This conference will articulate a new “epochal epistemology of islands” (ibid: 1268) that fully enables the restitution of their historical and local specificities in terms that are provided by islanders first and foremost.

The proposed two-day conference is organized by the departments of Sociology and Anthropology and Environmental Studies at Ashoka University, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, and The Australian National University. It is aimed at assembling the river island narratives, discussing and critically interrogating concepts and empirics, and enabling a meaningful conversation between early career researchers and senior, established scholars in the domain. The immediate output will be a special issue/section on river islands in an international, peer-reviewed journal that will include six to eight selected conference papers, with co-authorship being encouraged between junior and senior scholars (also adhering to gender inclusion and geographical representation principles). The long-term goal however is to initiate a larger, more systematic conversation on river islands, across the global North and South, and promote interdisciplinary scholarly and action research on these hybrid ecologies through global partnership, facilitating cross-sectoral dialogues and collaborations.

Session Themes:

1. Islands, Anthropocene and decoloniality
2. Islands, place-making, and the everyday
3. Infrastructure, “development,” and sustainability of river islands
4. Islands as spaces of disaster and vulnerability
5. Island (id)entities along shifting times
6. Islands in relations: rethinking “islandness” in a globalized world

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Deadline:

Please submit your abstract (between 350-500 words) by **July 20**, and the full paper by **Sep 30**. You can **submit** your abstract as well as write to us for any further query at:

riverislandsconference@ashoka.edu.in

The venue for the conference is **Ashoka University campus, Sonipat, Haryana** (<https://www.ashoka.edu.in/contact-us/>).

Participants are expected to **arrive on Sunday, Oct 15**, and leave by late-afternoon, Oct 17. A conference dinner will be hosted in Delhi on Oct 15, details of which will be communicated in due course. Due to limited funding, Ashoka will not be able to pay for your airfare (except in special cases). However, **we will take care of your local transportations, accommodations, and all meals, including the conference dinner.**

Conference Organizers:

Mitul Baruah

Assistant Professor, Sociology & Anthropology and Environmental Studies Ashoka University

Jenia Mukherjee

Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

Contact email: riverislandsconference@ashoka.edu.in

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HOW TO REACH ISISA?

There are various options how you can reach ISISA. You can do it via web page and/or social networks facebook and twiter:

<https://www.isisa.org/>

You are warmly invited to submit your **contributions** for the upcoming ISISA Newsletter by **December 20th, 2023**. We greatly appreciate your participation and look forward to receiving your submissions to acuka@unizd.hr.

