

ISISA NEWSLETTER

Published by the International Small Islands Studies Association
Volume 29, Number 2, December 2023



Islands and Resilience: Global Opportunities

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO 20th JANUARY 2024!!!

CALL FOR PAPER

19th "Islands of the World" Conference

25th to 29th June 2024 in Lombok Island, Indonesia



Archipelagic
& Island States
Forum

Greetings and a warm welcome to the December 2023 edition of the ISISA Newsletter. A sincere thank you to all our dedicated members whose contributions have enriched this issue.

This edition commences with heartfelt testimonials commemorating the late Grant McCall, a pioneer in nissology, featuring those that have not yet graced the pages of the ISISA website. Grant's profound impact on Island Studies leaves an enduring legacy.

I extend an invitation to all members to submit materials for the July 2024 Newsletter before June 20, 2024, to acuka@unizd.hr.

As we bid farewell to this year, may the upcoming New Year usher in peace, prosperity, and happiness for all ISISA members and their families. Wishing you joyous holidays!

Newsletter editor:
Anica Čuka

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IN MEMORY OF Grant McCall

No one serious about the study of Rapa Nui could ignore Grant McCall. He was an impressive figure intellectually and physically. But above all, he was also an inspiring and enjoyable colleague. Someone who brought substance and relaxation to every room where he appeared and raised his sonorous voice. He was also someone who took his interlocutors seriously, but not too seriously.

A great skill for an anthropologist. This also made him very accessible to colleagues and an excellent mentor for young researchers in the emerging field of 'Nissology'. I am grateful for his friendship over the past 20 years. My suggestion is to name a keynote lecture after him at the ISISA conferences.

Jan J. Boersema
Leiden University



Picture taken at the Rapa Nui and the Pacific Conference, 2012, Santa Rosa, California, showing Grant McCall, Anthonia and Jan. J. Boersema

IN MEMORY OF Grant McCall

I first attended an ISISA Conference on the Isle of Skye in 2000. It opened up my journey in island studies. A year later, Grant wrote to me and encouraged me to submit a proposal to hold an ISISA conference on one of the small islands of Taiwan in 2004. Grant even came to Taiwan to see the proposed venue: Kinmen Island. On that trip, Grant took back a bag of taro roots (local species) from Leiyu (Little Kinmen Island) to Rapa Nui. He said he wanted to share with friends there. I was very inspired by his spirit in studying islands and caring for people! Thanks to Grant, the legacy of the "Kinmen Declaration" from the 8th ISISA conference, which Grant chaired, still remain in the Guidelines of Offshore Islands Sustainable Development in Taiwan. After two decades of attending ISISA Conferences and meetings with Prof Grant McCall, it is indeed very sad to hear about his passing. R.I.P. my mentor.

Here are a few photos from of when I met Grant at two conferences last year: The 18th ISISA Conference in Zadar, Croatia (13-17 June 2023) and "the 10th International Conference on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) and the Pacific" in Leiden, the Netherlands. (19-24 June 2022).

Huei-Min Tsai,
National Taiwan Normal University,
Taiwan.



IN MEMORY OF Grant McCall

Eines langen Baumes Wurzel bist du gewesen.

Eines hohen Berges Stein warst du.

– Eines großen Meeres Tropfen –

Nun geh zu deinem Baum, zu deinem Berg,
zu deinem Meer zurück, Grant, Du großer,
starker Mann!

McCall, that sounds like Highlander's thundering echo and he was thundering – but always with a twinkle in his mischievous, glowing eyes, with hat and Hawaiian shirt, those were his trademarks. I had the privilege of meeting Grant McCall at the 1992 Columbus Year in the Bahamas, my first international professional meeting for island research. That meeting, under the aegis of Theo Hills with Grant, Stephen, Mark, Peter and a few others, was unique and it will remain unique, not only because the entire conference society spent their daily lunch breaks together on the beach and academic discussions continued over Mama Lou's Cracked Conch in the evening. From then on, we met regularly at the now 16 ISISA conferences - only once Grant did not come, when he had to stay at home, bitten by a poisonous spider.

I was privileged to serve as secretary for many years under his presidency (1998-2014), and unforgotten is his balancing and relaxed way of dealing with conflicts and disagreements, whether a conference had to be cancelled at short notice or the founding name was being discussed.

He always knew how to keep calm, to counter where countering was necessary, and to balance where tempers got unnecessarily agitated. So often emails raced back and forth between down under and the north of Germany. Grant always found a way out of crises. That will forever be an example to me.

He taught me what the term 'bloke' means and British politeness as well as Australian directness in all walks of life. His statement on the plane between Taipei and Kinmen, where the collected island research community was on its way to VIII ISISA conference in 2004, is unforgotten. I meant, "imagine if this plane crashed now and wiped out the collected island research community". Grant replied calmly and, as so often, mischievously, "... and nobody would give a dam about it!".

In Penghu 2014 at the XIII Islands of the World Conference, we introduced the Anniversary Exhibition to celebrate the 20th anniversary of ISISA. We both stood on stage and reminisced about 10 conferences and 20 years of ISISA. Grant was on full blast, as so often at these "family reunions" of island research. It was the year when "IS" and "ISIS" circulated through the international media landscape as terror acronyms and we indicated how important such little things as an "A" is after all are, turning international terror into an international peace island community: ISISA.

IN MEMORY OF Grant McCall

For each one of the conferences, he had brought a small paraphernalia or story and made unforgettable island meetings resurface from memory. (Later that evening he confessed to me that he had dug out a few of his supposed "souvenirs" from his current hotel room.) That was who he was. That's how he'll always be remembered.

After the conference on Kangaroo Island he showed me his alma mater in Sydney, Bondy Beach, his favourite pub and he had, as so often, a lot to tell and explain about everything that moved my mind to Aborigines, to anthropology, to cargo cult, to Papalangi....

Okinawa, Mauritius, Isle of Skye, Prince Edward, Kinmen, Mauii, Jeju, Bornholm, BVI, Penghu, Lesbos, Kangaroo, Terschelling - until last year in Zadar where we saw each other for the last time. His plan to drive a rented car from Croatia to the Netherlands to be able to race once over the German highways was crazy for a then 78-year-old. That was who he was, that was Grant.

Grant turned me, a Caribbean into an island scholar. Before Nassau, I didn't know such an academic category even existed. We published together and organized together, we partied together and sang together. We sought to make island life important to islanders and not just an object of study for Western researchers. That was his heart's desire and that's what made the ISISA conferences so unique.

Compassionate friend, you steadfast person, always hard in the wind but cool, calm and empathic - You enriched my life.

Grant, thank you for letting me walk a bit of your path with you. Rest peacefully and with a twinkle in your eye!

Forever in memory!

Beate Ratter

Always close to the
wind, Boat trip from
Amsterdam to
Harlingen, 2018



IN MEMORY OF Grant McCall

Grant was a quirky, forthright and highly distinct presence in Island Studies.

His pioneering work on nissology and his helming of ISISA for many years left an indelible impression on the field. I talked with Grant in the early 2000s when I was setting up SICRI and the journal Shima and he was always positive and encouraging. He attended and spoke at the launch of the short-lived Island Studies Centre I established at Macquarie University in 2005 and he was generous to me as a younger colleague who was treading in his not inconsiderable footsteps.

We spent social time together in Estonia and Finland at SICRI events and I learned about his motivations for his Rapa Nui research and he gave me considerable insights into Rapa Nui - Chilean relations and his time on the island. His presence will be sadly missed.

Philip Hayward
(University of Technology
Sydney & editor of Shima)



Vale Grant.

You were always larger than life, astute and confident to speak out on matters of justice.

Your formidable intellect led the way in defining and celebrating Nissology. Your legacy will live on. We salute you.

Jennie and Bob Teasdale
Kangaroo Island



IN MEMORY OF Grant McCall

Grant McCall in Japan

Hiroshi Kakazu

President Emeritus of the Japan Society of
Island Studies

McCall had a great interest in the Japanese islands. We invited him to our founding conference of the Japan Society of Studies in 1998 as a guest speaker. McCall's speech was on John N. Manjiro (1827-1898), who was saved by an American whaleship when his fishing boat was wrecked on the Japanese island of Toshima. According to McCall, the captain of the whaleship took Manjiro to the U.S. where he studied at college and returned to Japan to become Japan's first official English translator, contributing to Japan's long-standing policy of isolation during the Tokugawa era.

McCall was also interested in migration from Okinawa to Australia. During his stay in Okinawa, I took him to the Okinawa Archives to view documents and videos related to overseas migration, and he shared a few stories about immigrant workers who came to Australia from poverty-stricken Okinawa islands. After a while, a CD of "Sayonara Nakamura," sung by the popular Australian singer Ted Egan, was sent to me by McCall. This is a requiem about a young fisherman from Okinawa named Nakamura who died of diving disease while engaged in pearl diving on Thursday Island in Western Australia and was buried in a Japanese Cemetery in Broome. When the Okinawa islands were under U.S. military rule, 162 fishermen migrated to Thursday Island. Many of them lost their lives on-site due to diving diseases or accidents.



Grant McCall and
members of the Japan
Society of Island
Studies
(July 1998)
Photographed by
Shunsuke Nagashima.

IN MEMORY OF Grant McCall

One of the fishermen who safely returned to Okinawa was Yoshinori Shimabukuro. He married a local woman but was deported to Okinawa for violating the Australian government's immigration laws. Upon his return, he learned that they had a daughter named Sally. Sally also became a mother, and when her child was assigned to look for her family's roots as homework at school, she began a full-fledged search for her father. The clue was SNS information. Toshiko Nagata, an immigration researcher at the University of Queensland, found Shimabukuro's place, and on April 4, 2019, the father and daughter met for the first time in Okinawa. The father was 84 years old, and his daughter Sally was 55 years old. This drama was aired as a documentary program on many television programs and received a significant response. Later, when I sent McCall a photo of the father and daughter hugging, he informed me that it had also made the news in Australia as a "miraculous reunion."



Sally Ladd and Yoshinori Shimabukuro
Source: <http://nichigopress.jp>

Surrounded?: Challenging the Definition of an Island

Most dictionaries agree that an island is defined as a piece of land, typically larger than a rock but smaller than a continent, that is surrounded by water, even at high tide. As definitions go, it makes very strange statement. Imagine defining the human body as a series of different organs surrounded by skin. We can quibble with the various parts of this definition, but it is the word 'surrounding' that troubles me most.

The word 'surrounds' suggests various consequences and implications that are not necessarily fair, or even true.

For example:

- that the sea is a hostile force, like an invading army or enemy, surrounding the islanders, besieging them and threatening their future
- that the land and sea are two distinct media, in opposition to each other, and that they are distinctly separate from each other, the one surrounding the other
- that the sea surrounds the island completely, as if the island were a bubble; when the sea only girdles the island along the horizontal plane
- that the object being defined cannot be defined except by referring to the sea that 'surrounds' it

It is quite ironic and confusing that the word 'surrounded' should be used to define the relationship between an(y) (is)land and water, when at the same time, the island is defined by the encircling water. Is water a benign force, the originator and definer of so many aspects of island life; and yet a dark and evil entity, all out to destroy and overwhelm the island it surrounds? Can water be both these things, and even at the same time?

Additionally, we also know that there are no hard edges between an(y) (is)land and the surrounding water. Hard borders are only found on stylised maps, and all maps lie. Hard borders are tricks of magnification. A clear land-sea edge is a figment of the imagination, a convenient design, an act of legal fiction and an example of geographical falsehood. Ask the marine life that thrives at the intertidal zone; ask the island folk (usually women) who scavenge rock pools at low tide; look at the impact of erosion or accretion of beaches or cliffs, a long series of actions that involve the eliding of land and sea. From sinking Venice, to Majuro threatened by sea level rise, to new islands arising out of the ocean in Japan, islanders know that there is no such thing as land surrounded by sea.

And yet, are there any other, any better, ways of defining an island?

If we were to replace the word 'surrounded', with what word(s) would we replace it with?

Suggestions are welcome.

UNESCO Chair "Societal Climate Change and Resilience"

UNESCO has approved the establishment of the UNESCO Chair "Societal Climate Change and Resilience" for Prof. Dr. **Beate Ratter** at the University of Hamburg, Germany.

With a special focus on small islands sustainable development, the chair seeks to foster and to support the co-production of applicable knowledge and its enaction in 'communities of practice' that span different cultural regions in the global South and North. In collaboration with partners from the Atlantic, the Caribbean, the Indian and the Pacific Ocean, we embody a transdisciplinary approach in which transformative measures will be explored in real world situations together with island, disaster risk and engineering experts and put into practice in cooperation with local educational and DRR institutions.

For small islands, climate change vulnerability means more than sea level rise and increased storminess. Regional geohazards result from complex interactions between sudden and slow onset natural events and societal behavior. Dealing with climate change is not a purely technical or financial problem, but a problem for society as a whole. If we manage to develop transformative adaptation measures that reduce undesirable side effects, if we manage to increase resilience and steer towards sustainable development, then this will often protect the climate at the same time.

The Chair's rationale is co-creating locally relevant climate change knowledge and putting into action. It contributes to the creation of locally embedded climate-proof futures by linking science insights and societal needs and by building trust and self-efficacy. It will highlight the place-specificities and cultural embeddedness of climate change awareness as well as foster reciprocal learning through North/South and South/South collaboration.

Everybody who is interested in more details - or even better, who wants to join in, please contact: beate.ratter@uni-hamburg.de





New project: Abyssal Geography

Today, we are held to live in the Anthropocene, bringing to an end binary imaginaries, such as the separation between Human and Nature, and with them Western modernist assumptions of progress, linear causality and human exceptionalism.

Much Western critical theory, from new or vital materialism to post- and more-than-human thinking, unsurprisingly reflects this internal crisis of faith in Eurocentric or Enlightenment modernity and modern reasoning.

At the same time, a radically different critique of modernity has also gained prominence in recent years, emerging from critical Black studies, which instead places the Caribbean at the epicentre of the development of a new mode of critical thought.

In attempting to grasp what it is about Caribbean thought and practice that has enabled a distinctively new, alternative non-Eurocentric imaginary, the 'Abyssal Geography' project is concerned with what we call 'abyssal thought'.



This has two key aspects.

The **first** is that aspects of Caribbean life, of resistance and survival, from marronage to carnival, calyspo and creolisation, have become generalisable as the abyssal paradigm gathers momentum, challenging the foundations and central tenets of dominant Eurocentric modes of contemporary critical thought.

The **second** key aspect is that, unlike many other influential approaches, abyssal work engages the legacies of modernity and coloniality by explicitly seeking to escape the binds of ontology; adopting a paraontological method or approach to problematise the modern project of the human and the world. Thus, Abyssal Geography draws out the novelty and rise of abyssal thought; how it seeks to desediment rather than to try and remake, save or salvage ontological world-making.

As the 'Abyssal Geography' project develops, we will be expanding the 'Anthropocene Islands' project, including new workshops, study groups and sessions at conferences. Readings will also feed into the monthly [Anthropocene Islands reading group](#).

International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, December 2023



If you are interested in being involved please contact Jonathan.Pugh@ncl.ac.uk and/or d.chandler@westminster.ac.uk

Some of our initial thinking can be found in the below open access publications.

Pugh, J. and Chandler, D. (2023) [The World as Abyss: the Caribbean and Critical Thought in the Anthropocene](https://www.uwestminsterpress.co.uk/site/books/m/10.16997/book72/) University of Westminster Press: London. Free download available here <https://www.uwestminsterpress.co.uk/site/books/m/10.16997/book72/>

[Published keynote at the annual conference of the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers 2022. 'Abyssal Geography'. Free download here https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/sjtg.12473](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/sjtg.12473)

[Jonathan Pugh interviewed by Barbara Gföllner 'The Americas: a Relational or Abyssal Geography?', Journal of Transnational American Studies. Free download here https://escholarship.org/content/qt4pj4n4t2/qt4pj4n4t2_noSplash_c4e6d8a9e086731c4625854d911057aa.pdf?t=rvdhru](https://escholarship.org/content/qt4pj4n4t2/qt4pj4n4t2_noSplash_c4e6d8a9e086731c4625854d911057aa.pdf?t=rvdhru)

[Interstitial and Abyssal Geographies \(published in Political Geography\) Free download here https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0962629822000865](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0962629822000865)

International Small Islands Studies Association

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Key Debates in Island Studies Reading Group

For further details see <https://www.anthropoceneislands.online/page-2.html>

The monthly zoom reading group is lead by [Kasia Mika](#) and [Jonathan Pugh](#). If you would like to take part, have any questions, or further suggestions of texts we might read, please email Jonathan.Pugh@ncl.ac.uk and k.mika@qmul.ac.uk

Building upon the last few years of the Anthropocene Islands reading group, each month we will take a single, important topic for contemporary island-related studies and assign a published paper on this topic beforehand to stimulate thinking and discussion. The explicit purpose of the group is to provide a space to slow down and draw out in more precise ways the analytical and conceptual frameworks which are today being adopted in critical debates in island studies; dissecting in detail framings of, for examples, decolonising the university, positionally and ethnography, relational ontologies, the more-than-human, extractivism, opacity, understandings of blackness, contemporary poetics and island literatures, as these are being developed in today's islands-related research.

To accommodate different time zones, the island studies reading group will meet on zoom **twice per month**.

September meetings 2023: Tuesday 26th Sept (9.30-10.30am London Time) and Thursday 28th September (5pm-6pm London Time). Key theme - grief and loss. An open access paper will be used to get discussion going on the analytical framings which are being developed around this topic today. Selected paper freely downloadable [here Alavez, J. \(2022\). Mapping Intimate Geographies of Grief and Loss. Cartographica: The International Journal for Geographic Information and Geovisualization, 57\(4\), 270-280.](#)

Future key themes for the reading group:

- opacity and islands
- marronage and islands
- invisible islands
- pedagogy and islands
- the abyssal and islands
- Black studies and islands
- the speculative turn and islands
- posthumanism and islands
- extractivism and islands
- relational ontologies and islands
- contemporary readings of Oceania
- poetics and contemporary island literatures

Zoom link for all meetings:

<https://newcastleuniversity.zoom.us/j/7212440124>

Passcode: Meeting1

International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, December 2023



NEW BOOKS:

The World as Abyss The Caribbean and Critical Thought in the Anthropocene

By Jonathan Pugh and David Chandler

Published 5th May 2023

This book is about a distinctive ‘abyssal’ approach to the crisis of modernity and foregrounds another understanding of the world of modernity – a world violently forged through the projects of Indigenous dispossession, chattel slavery and colonial world-making. This approach focuses not on tropes of rescue and salvation, but on the generative power of negation.

The authors:

Jonathan Pugh

Professor of Island Studies,
Newcastle University, UK

David Chandler

Professor of International Relations, University
of Westminster, UK

“With the force of a manifesto, the intensity of a polemic and the nuance of a treatise, this book sets out to disavow the disavowal of colonial violence in the making of the contemporary world.”

Paul Harrison, Durham University, UK

“Articulated in passionate declarative prose, this book powerfully illuminates the trap of the emancipatory instinct and the promise of a deconstructive ethic.”

Mitch Rose, Aberystwyth University, UK

THE WORLD AS ABYSS

The Caribbean and Critical
Thought in the Anthropocene

Jonathan Pugh
and David Chandler

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER PRESS

“This provides an original, intriguing and compelling counterpoint to bland Anthropocene humanism.”

Claire Colebrook, Professor, Penn State University, USA

“The book names an apocalypse that began long ago and reminds us that we have still not yet begun to think a truly Black world.”

**Andrew Culp, Professor,
California Institute of the Arts, USA**

Available Open Access in digital formats at
OAPEN, JSTOR &

www.uwestminsterpress.co.uk

and to buy in print at online bookshops

International Small Islands Studies Association

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NEW BOOKS:

‘Legal Regulation of Same Sex Relationships in Pacific Island Countries: A Conflict of Values’, in Fretwell Wilson and Carbone (eds), International Survey of Family Law. 2023, Intersentia, 307.

By Professor Emerita Jennifer Corrin

The International Society of Family Law is an independent, international, and non-political scholarly association dedicated to the study, research and discussion of family law and related disciplines. The Society’s membership currently includes professors, lecturers, scholars, teachers, and researchers from more than 50 different countries, offering a unique opportunity for networking within a truly international family law community.

The International Survey of Family Law is the annual review of the International Society of Family Law. It brings together reliable and clearly structured insights into the latest and most notable developments in family law from all around the globe.

Chapters are prepared by an international team of selected experts in the field, usually covering 20 or more jurisdictions in each edition. The 2023 Jubilee edition of the International Survey combines reflections on the history of the International Society of Family Law and the last 50 years of family law developments across the globe.

Robin Fretwell Wilson and June Carbone (eds.)

INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY LAW 2023



It also covers the latest updates on topics such as the inclusion of artificial intelligence in family law dispute resolution, the evolution of the relationship between civil and Shari’a courts, the continuing discussion of the nature of marriage and the rights of same-sex couples, reconciling informal families with customary law, reforms in the legal treatment of the elderly, inheritance law, and a comparison of the right to privacy in the United States and Israel, in the wake of the US Supreme Court decision overturning a half century of abortion protections.

More details available here:

<https://www.larcier-intersentia.com/en/international-survey-family-law-2023-9781839704017.html>



OUR MEMBERS' NEW PUBLICATIONS:

International Journal of Geology, Earth & Environmental Sciences ISSN: 2277-2081
An Open Access, Online International Journal Available at <http://www.cibtech.org/jgee.htm>
2018 Vol. 8 (3) September-December, pp. 15-22/Szekiolda
Research Article

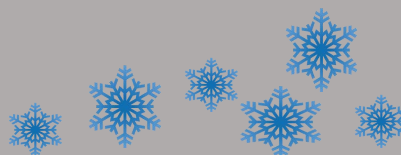
GLOBAL CHANGE CONCERNS IN SMALL ISLANDS WITH REFERENCE TO THE BAHAMAS

Karl H Szekiolda

US Fulbright Scholar Alumni at the University of the Bahamas
City University of New York, Hunter College
Graduate Center, Earth and Environmental Sciences, New York, NY
szekiolda@aol.com

Islands have a coastal zone that is commonly defined as an area covering the surface within 60 to 200 kilometers of the shoreline. This study addresses some general characteristics of the Bahamas to identify environmental concerns, with focus on population, water resources and the anticipated impact of global change, in particular of rising sea level. The population density of the Bahamas has about 39 people km⁻² and hardly any surface flow contributes to the water resources of the Bahamas, and the southernmost islands are practically arid. The Bahamian economy is based primarily on tourism that is largely responsible for a GDP in the neighborhood of \$4 billion. In the Bahamas, the hazards can be demonstrated with intense and frequent hurricanes and the major concern in the Bahamas is the risk related to anticipated impacts of climate change and acceleration of global mean sea level.

Keywords: small islands, climate change, sea-level rise, coastal zone management, population dynamics





OUR MEMBERS' NEW PUBLICATIONS:



International Journal of Geology, Earth & Environmental Sciences ISSN: 2277-2081
An Open Access, Online International Journal Available at <http://www.cibtech.org/igee.htm>
2023 Vol. 13, pp. 100-132/Karl
Research Article

WAKES AND THERMAL ANOMALIES IN THE LESSER ANTILLES SURFACE WATER

Karl HEINZ Szekiolda

Fulbright Alumnus, University of The Bahamas and
International Faculty Member Department of Environmental Science,
Ateneo de Manila University
kszekiolda@ateneo.edu

The appearance and dynamics of sea surface wakes are documented with observations in the Lesser Antilles and a detailed study of the Dominican wake is presented. Cloud data for the Lesser Antilles indicate that clearing of the atmosphere on the leeward side of the islands expose the areas to increasing solar irradiance on the lee side of the island wakes. However, average sea surface temperatures around the Lesser Antilles show slight cooling. Compared to the global average temperature rise of about $0.0180^{\circ}\text{C y}^{-1}$, the slight cooling of sea surface temperature that is observed in the region stays as an anomaly in the Lesser Antilles. Atmospheric anomalies and the islands' thermal variances are not restricted to the near shore region of the Lesser Antilles, rather wakes are impacting the surface water over large areas and increase the surrounding sea surface temperatures. The intensity of warming shows that Guadeloupe, Dominica and Martinique have the major impact on surface warming. The temperature range to identify the wake effect with monthly averaged surface temperature shows that the average recognition temperature is around 0.860°C but can vary between 0.30°C and 2.00°C . The wake temperature goes through a diurnal cycle and night cooling is documented with the difference of day and night measurements. Cooling is especially strong around Guadeloupe and Martinique as indicated by a decrease of about 40°C at night. Averaged data in the wake of Dominica show that day and night temperatures may reach about 3.50°C . Both day and night measurements over twenty years do not indicate a warming trend, rather a decrease in sea surface temperature that is estimated to be around $-0.004^{\circ}\text{C y}^{-1}$ to $-0.002^{\circ}\text{C y}^{-1}$ in the vicinity of Dominica, and the Lesser Antilles region is exposed to a similar anomaly. The analysis of chlorophyll concentrations shows that upwelling around the Lesser Antilles plays not a significant role, although the data in the path of the wake of Dominica exhibits an increase in concentrations compared to the windward side, but in the average, concentration does not exceed 0.2 mg m^{-3} . The most possible explanation for the slight cooling in the Lesser Antilles is due to changes in surface wind speed and precipitation because both show an upward trend during the last decades.

Keywords: Lesser Antilles, wakes, surface temperature anomalies, chlorophyll, climate change

ISLAND GARDENS: BOOK UPDATE

Thanks to over 40 adventurous people who have written or are in the process of writing a chapter for the upcoming publication that explores gardens and gardening on small islands. I am delighted by the variety of the chapters from across the globe, the insights they provide about small island gardening and the engaging human stories they tell about gardeners. As for the photos – they are amazing.

The editing process is moving steadily forward and I aim to have it completed by the Lombok ISISA conference in June 2024. The Lombok conference will be a refining and focusing exercise before publication later in the year.

I am in the process of organizing a **Symposium** about the *Small Island Gardening Project for the Lombok Conference*.

The symposium will have three parts:

1 Brief introduction to the project

2 Roundtable conversation, backed by a photographic presentation that raises a series of critical questions about the uniqueness of island gardens. The conversation will include all chapter writers present and if possible, those not attending, digitally.

3 Professor Godfrey and Dr Anna Baldacchino, project advisors, will conclude the symposium with some reflections and a constructive critique of the project.

I'm also exploring the possibility of an excursion to a beautiful Lombok garden, owned by a chapter writer, quite close to the conference venue.

If you are a chapter writer and wish to make a presentation at the conference, you must register your presentation separately with the conference organisers. The Gardening Symposium is not structured to include paper presentations; it is a roundtable conversation among project writers.

I encourage all chapter writers who are yet to submit their drafts to send them to me as soon as possible please. If any readers want more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jennie Teasdale AM
BA MEc HonDLitt
jitsdl.ki@gmail.com





CALL FOR PAPERS

Island Studies: critique beyond the relational turn

International Geographical Union Congress, 24-30 August 2024, Dublin, Ireland.
<https://igc2024dublin.org/>

Please email your 200 word abstract by **September 4th 2023** to Jonathan.Pugh@ncl.ac.uk and sarah.nimfuehr@kunstuni-linz.at for SESSIONS 1 and 2

SESSION 1: Island Studies: critique beyond the relational turn [1]. Islands of Negation

In recent decades much island scholarship has been dominated by the relational turn which has sought to generatively think with islands as sites for developing relational ways of being and knowing, aiming to challenge the violent hubris of top-down modern and colonial reasoning, the human/nature divide, and a telos of linear progress. These two sessions aim to examine the limitations of this turn at the current juncture of debate in island scholarship. The first session asks, as discussion heightens around colonisation, problematising the appropriative hand in its many manifestations, what does this do today to challenge the relational turn? Are relational ontologies and epistemologies increasingly being understood as too productivist, framing the island and islander as all-too-available, whether for instrumentalization or for a well-meaning ethics of care for the Other? It would seem that a range of discontents are emerging: from developments around opacity, fugitivity and marronage on islands, to understandings of island cultures as desedimenting the delineations of projected ontological framings, to re-readings of how the figure of island in Western philosophy, from Nietzsche to Heidegger, Derrida and Deleuze, has long strained against the projection of human concepts over the world. This session seeks to explore the possibilities of a contemporary development and we welcome both conceptual and empirical papers which engage islands through such tropes as negation, opacity, refusal, the non-generative, non-relation, and withdrawal.



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SESSION 2: Island Studies: critique beyond the relational turn [2]. Islands and Time: Caribbean Temporalities of Refusal

The second session continues to explore critique beyond the relational turn by foregrounding how, whilst the spatial has been frequently opened-up and interrogated in relational approaches, islands and islanders often still tend to be understood as available through a modern, linear notion of time. Thus, whilst Caribbean islands are often observed to have preserved linguistic elements and cultures (e.g., archaic dialects, customs and religious traditions, gender roles, etc.), these are frequently anchored in a modern chronology. Recent work in Black Studies turning to the Caribbean has foregrounded a multitude of different ways of thinking about time, not as linear, but through such tropes as the 'hold' of the slave ship (Spillers, 2003; Harney and Moten, 2013), 'suspended' time (Philip, 2021) and the 'quantum' (Da Silva, 2022), which all work to problematise and refuse modern time.

Saliently, this raises the further question as to how to engage the Caribbean in terms of a place where multiple understandings of time itself meet. What work do different understandings of time, of recall, memory, futurity, the temporal's relationship to ontology, materiality, and spirituality, or otherwise, do? In raising these questions, we welcome papers which engage how different notions of time are framed in contemporary work on the Caribbean, how they problematise and refuse islands understood through a modern, universalistic, linear temporality.



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Dublin City University (DCU)

SESSION 3: What future for European small islands? Challenges and opportunities

Stefano Malatesta¹, Arturo Gallia²

¹Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy. ²Università Roma 3, Roma, Italy

Deadline to submit abstracts to SESSIONS 3 and 4 is the 12 Jan 2024

<https://igc2024dublin.org/call-for-abstracts/#toggle-id-1>

In 2021, the European Directorate for International Policies published Island of the EU. The study aimed to indicate both the 'state of play' and the 'future challenges' of European island regions. The document explicitly refers to the post-COVID scenario and is linked to the current EU Cohesion Policy and Regional Development strategies. On the one hand, islands are presented as one of the forefronts of the Union's main geographical challenges (depopulation, climate crisis, welfare, social justice, spatial inequalities, regional cohesion, blue growth, migration), on the other hand, they deal with a future traced by marginalization and mono-economy horizons (mainly as touristic destinations).

According to this background, "Future" seems to act as a keyword in the definition of the geography of European archipelagos.

The session, referring to Island Studies, Future Studies, Youth Studies and Regional Studies, promotes a reflection, both geographical and political, on the opportunities and dialectics shaping the future of archipelagic and island regions (and islanders) in Europe.

The session focuses on Europe's island regions. Contributions, both theoretical and empirical, on the following topics are encouraged.

- Small Islands and Youth Geographies
- Small Islands and European Policies
- Small Islands and EU Next-Gen
- Time-space Geographies of Small Islands
- Small Islands and Marginalization
- Small Islands and Geographical Challenges
- Small Islands and Migration

A selection of papers will be published by the Journal of Marine and Island Culture (August 2025)



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SESSION 4: Worlds of difference — celebrating island diversity

Professor Huei-Min Tsai¹, Dr Annette Breckwoldt², Professor Sun-Kee Hong³

¹National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan. ²Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, Bremen, Germany. ³Institute of Marine & Island Cultures, Mokpo National University, Mokpo, Republic of Korea

Poetically expressing the worlds of difference that characterize island life, Indigenous islander Syaman Rapongan, from Orchid Island, often presents himself as coming from another planet, so different is the world of his life experiences from those of people from other places. The world of difference we celebrate at this conference has been, across evolutionary time, largely and disproportionately generated on islands. In recent centuries, however, cultural, societal, and natural diversity has rather declined, under pressures of standardization and the homogenizing forces of globalization. Witness: the rapid increase in language deaths and the 'sixth extinction', interdependence of which is felicitously captured in the concept of biocultural diversity. Sustaining worlds of difference is crucially connected to wider issues of sustainability in the face of ecological crises, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' rights, as also acknowledged by the Global Biodiversity Framework.

This session will bring together papers across the spectrum of geographic research, with the common denominator of highlighting aspects of island diversity that give cause for celebration. We invite contributions from any sub-discipline or onto-epistemological orientation. The session aims to assemble a diversity of research papers and researchers, not only to analyze but also to animate conversations on the worlds of difference manifest in our archipelagic universe. Themes of papers may include, but are not limited to:

- Regenerating island cultures
- The right to the island
- Island governance
- Oceanic cultures
- Island isolation and innovation
- Indigenously driven island development
- Local island economies
- Island heritage
- Biocultural diversity
- Islands as hotspots of coastal geography



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CALL FOR PAPERS

Sustainable Livelihoods Regenerating Integrated Development through Innovative Communities

June 17-21, 2024

Atlantic Technological University
Connemara, County Galway, Ireland

<http://northatlanticforum.org/call-for-contributions/>

Deadline Extended to January 31, 2024

Background

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 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 policymakers, 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. Formal partners for the 2024 Irish conference are host community Connemara West and academic partner, Atlantic Technological University.

This collaborative international conference is designed to be a “boutique” event, focusing on real world case examples of rural development policy, practice and research. Over three days, active participants will take part in hands-on field visits to rural communities and directly engage with rural development programmes and projects.



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CALL FOR PAPERS



Each of these will be complemented by a carefully designed and facilitated workshop the following day, during which these field case studies will be examined, discussed, interpreted and rigorously unpacked by participants with rural development initiatives in their own European, North American, and other global contexts. Using the NAF tripartite framework, emphasizing the interrelationships between rural development policy, practice and research, the workshops will, through lively discussion and open debate, illuminate the nature of the interrelationships between policy and practice, observed in the field case examples. Likewise, the relationships between practice and received theory, and our understandings derived from the research, will be critically examined.

Two or three keynote addresses, and a selected number of panel presentations on rural development policy, practice and research, will round out the conference, emphasizing the interconnections between the challenges of sustainable development, integrated rural development and innovation.

NAF 2024 will be a highly participatory event. It will be guided by the commitment to facilitate networking, concrete exchanges of insights and information, exposure to relevant innovation, critical peer interaction, hands-on engagement, and an active interrelating of development policy, practice and research throughout the conference.

More information, including the conference subthemes, can be found at: <http://northatlanticforum.org/call-for-contributions/>

How to submit an abstract

We want to share stories and learn from each other. We encourage academic papers, panels, roundtables, posters, and non-traditional presentations (e.g., storytelling, interactive sessions) from all disciplines and perspectives, from researchers, professional practitioners, community activists, policy advisers, and others. We welcome submissions that look at the dynamics of integrative development for sustainable communities on a case-by-case or regional basis. We are also keen to engage with presentations that adopt a more comparative framework or methodology in their critical analysis.

Abstracts of 150 words are now invited on any of the identified conference themes, identified above. These should be accompanied by the full name and institutional affiliation of the author/s.

SUBMIT ABSTRACT [HERE](#)

For more information, please contact:

Kevin Heanue:

kevin.heanue@connemarawest.ie

Chris O'Malley:

chris.omalley@atu.ie

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CALL FOR PAPERS



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Congress Theme:
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JARÐFEINGI
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CALL FOR PAPERS



Call for papers for a special issue of *Journal of Island and Marine Studies* on 'islands and digital transformations' <http://islandandmarinestudies.press/jims-si-0001/>

Guest editors: Huan Zhang, Jiayu Bai, and H. A. C. C. Perera

Digital transformation has become a buzzword in recent years, as organizations across the globe seek new ways to adapt and thrive in the ever-changing landscape of technology. Digital technology presents major benefits and new possibilities for island countries and regions, communities, businesses, and islander. However, users should be aware of the potential negative impacts of these technologies, such as the spreading false information. Because digital transformations are often even more difficult to pull off than traditional change efforts, careful efforts in island governance must be taken to ensure that digital transformations have the desired results.

In line with this theme, we welcome submissions on the following topics:

- Metaverse, virtual reality and island futures
- Digital justice and island policy
- Digital islands and transformation challenges
- Digital technologies and island tourism
- Digital entrepreneurship and innovation in island regions
- Low-cost digital infrastructure and connectivity in island countries and regions
- Island studies and emerging technologies, such as blockchain, the Internet of Things (IoT), and ChatGPT.

This special issue will be published in the Journal of Island and Marine Studies (JIMS) (<http://islandandmarinestudies.press/>), but individual papers will be published online once they complete the peer review and editorial process. JIMS is a web-based, freely downloadable, open access, peer reviewed journal that publishes papers advancing and critiquing the study of issues affecting or involving islands and seas.

For further information or if you are interested in submitting a paper, contact the special issue co-editors (see below for contact emails). Manuscripts should be between 5,000 and 15,000 words and must be prepared in accordance with the JIMS submission guidelines: <http://islandandmarinestudies.press/guidelines-for-authors/>.

Contact the editors for more information:

Huan Zhang: 0014979@zju.edu.cn

Jiayu Bai: gracefulgl@hotmail.com

H. A. C. C. Perera: chinthap@kln.ac.lk



SAVE THE DATE, ISLAS SUMMER/WINTER SCHOOL 2024

We are thrilled to announce that the Islands as Laboratories for Sustainability (ISLAS) Summer/Winter School 2024 will be co-organised by the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Islands and Sustainability (ISLANDS), The Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), and Bali Tourism Polytechnic (PPB), and take place in Bali, Indonesia, June 17 - 22.

Applications open in January 2024, and more details will soon follow on:
<https://islandsmaster.eu/>



ISLANDS
ERASMUS MUNDUS RESEARCH MASTER



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Call for applications for the 2024 intake for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Islands and Sustainability (ISLANDS)

We are now accepting applications for the 2024 intake of the Erasmus+ Mundus Joint Master Degree Program in Islands and Sustainability (acronym: ISLANDS) offered by the University of Groningen, the University of the Aegean, the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and the University of Iceland.

The ISLANDS programme combines thorough training in scientific research with a thematic specialisation on Islands and Sustainability. It also provides multi-faceted training of research skills for social science and environmental research, including Individual Research Training by senior staff and training to work in a multi- and interdisciplinary research group.

ISLANDS focuses on enhancing the understanding of the distinct characteristics of islands, their socio-economical, geopolitical, and environmental impacts, and the development of policies tailored to address their specific challenges within insular jurisdictions. Furthermore, the programme places emphasis on developing tools, skills, and technology to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical sustainability applications.

ISLANDS graduates receive a double degree from the University of Groningen, including an acknowledgment that it is an EMJM degree involving all partner universities, and a degree from the island-based university where the graduate spends the second half of the first and second year of their studies.

The Erasmus+ Scholarship is valued at EUR 1400 per month and covers a total duration of 24 months. This scholarship will contribute to the costs incurred by the students, including travel, visa, accommodation installation, and subsistence costs. Additionally, tuition fees for scholarship recipients are waived.

Applications deadline for fully funded scholarships is 15 January 2024, and self-funded candidates have until 1 April 2024 to apply.

For more information see <https://islandsmaster.eu/>



Highlights from the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Islands and Sustainability (ISLANDS) 2023 and student testimonials

2023 is coming to an end and ISLANDS is concluding its 4th semester as a programme! We are currently enriched with 30 students in total from the 2023 and 2024 intake, a diverse group of 19 nationalities including Indonesia, Brazil, China, USA, Myanmar, Iceland, Philippines, Spain, Nigeria, and Vietnam. The students are now finalising their courses at Groningen University, with our second year students commencing their master thesis work in the new year, and our first year students soon to relocate to their island-based University.

The last year has been filled with academic highlights, including the first ISLANDS student conference in September where, over two days, our students presented their inspiring research conducted during their mobilities at their respective island-based universities. From examining the complexities of urban island sprawl to uncovering the potentials of public participation in cultural ecosystem services on islands, their diverse research gave in-depth insight into the world of islands and sustainability. We are also grateful for all our esteemed guests visiting us in Groningen and holding lectures and seminars for our students, including Amalia Zepou (KOLLEKTIVA), Prof. Manos Matsaganis (Polytechnic University of Milan), Eddie Smyth (Intersocial Consulting) Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino (University of Malta), Prof. Ajay Bailey (Utrecht University), dr. Bishawjit Mallick (Utrecht University), and Prof. Danny Dorling (Oxford University).

We look forward to a new year filled with academic endeavours and exchanges, and to continue following the future of islands and sustainability research.



Highlights from the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Islands and Sustainability (ISLANDS) 2023 and student testimonials

Below, Luthfi Iqbal, Yulita Muspitasari and Hannah Gliboff are giving some insight into being ISLANDS students.

Hannah Kasak-Gliboff, ISLANDS student at University of Groningen and University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Hi! I'm Hannah, a first year ISLANDS student who will be going to Gran Canaria to study sustainable fisheries management at ULPGC next semester. What attracted me to this one-of-a-kind program was its extremely interdisciplinary angle; island studies is an opportunity to look at a unique geographic phenomenon from a spatial, social, economic, ecological, or biological standpoint. Coming from a social science background with a strong interest in coastal environmental justice, the ISLANDS program was a perfect fit. This year, my classmates and I have worked on a variety of exciting projects with real-world applications. For one course, we are working with Statistics Netherlands on how spatial data can be applied to predict residential status of buildings in Bonaire, in order to provide better estimates of housing availability and needs in the Caribbean Netherlands.

In another project, my classmate and I are modeling how future climate scenarios will impact the species distribution of *Gallotia stehlini*, an endemic lizard unique to the area, and *Lampropeltis californiae*, an invasive snake, on Gran Canaria. Next semester, I am excited to explore Gran Canaria in person and to learn from local experts about the surrounding marine environment and its intersection with the island economy.



Highlights from the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Islands and Sustainability (ISLANDS) 2023 and student testimonials

Luthfi Muhamad Iqbal, student at University of Groningen and University of the Aegean

This program provides me with the opportunities to learn from the best experts in island and sustainability. We are trained to continuously and critically observe and reflect on what we learn and experience, to bring new understanding of, for, and from islands. My typical day in Lesbos began with the ethereal sunrise painting vibrant colours across the Aegean Sea, greeted by the distant silhouette of the Turkish coast that marked the horizon between sky and sea. Morning breezing air with the subtle scent of olive groves and the harmonious chimes of grazing sheep awakens my senses. Swimming in the sea before class is my routine that helps me focus, be productive and happy throughout the day. Overall, this program not only offers an enjoyable learning experience but also teaches us to appreciate island studies wholeheartedly.



Highlights from the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Islands and Sustainability (ISLANDS) 2023 and student testimonials

Yulita Muspitasari, student at University of Groningen and University of the Aegean

What I enjoy about the ISLANDS programme is its diversity in both people and educational content. The students and professors come from various countries and backgrounds, which enriches discussions both inside and outside the classroom. This helps me to understand global perspectives with local insights. Additionally, just like how islands are “isolated yet connected”, the program provides a unique balance of independence and collaboration. It allows students to tailor their learning experience through a diverse choice of elective courses that align with their individual interests. Yet, the program also promotes collaboration through group assignments, internships, and research projects.

The ISLANDS program has given me valuable insight to explore my interest in climate change studies and sustainability in the context of islands. During my mobility in Iceland, I explored climate change visualisations with one of the research groups at the University of Iceland.

As someone who grew up in a tropical country, Indonesia, I never imagined researching glaciers as they seemed so distant from where I come from. However, my academic journey took a surprising turn with this project, which involved geolocating historical photographs of glaciers, and strengthened my fascination with climate change studies.



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Twenty UPEI Researchers Present at International Conference: Turning the Tide: Climate Change, Social Change and Islandness in Oranjestad, Aruba

From October 23rd until October 26th, the University of Aruba and the University of Prince Edward Island co-hosted the Second International Conference on Small Island States and Subnational Island Jurisdictions: Turning the Tide: Climate Change, Social Change and Islandness in Oranjestad, Aruba.

This event built on relationships forged between UPEI's Institute of Island Studies and the UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability, and programs at University of Aruba, during the First International Conference on Small Island States and Subnational Island Jurisdictions in March 2019. UNESCO Chair Dr. Jean Mitchell and Institute of Island Studies Chair Dr. Laurie Brinklow co-organized the conference with U of Aruba's Director of the Sustainable Island Solutions through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (SISSTEM) program Dr. Eric Mijts, U of Aruba Rector Dr. Viola Huetger, U of Aruba Business Manager Patrick Arens, and KU Leuven Postdoctoral Researcher Anouk Mertens. MAIS graduate student intern Megan Lane MacDonald worked with U of Aruba's Centre for Lifelong Learning Coordinator Kristen Haime and Student Affairs and Marketing Department Coordinator Charisse Hoen on organizing the program and logistics.



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This interdisciplinary conference featured a wide range of world-class speakers and experts, including twenty students and professors from UPEI, participating in person and online. They include graduate students Mahir Abrar, Mah Ara Ahmadi, Tristan Atkins, Ross Dwyer, Eliza MacLauchlan, Andrew MacPherson, Jenelle Maillet, Donna Miller-Ayton, Kelly Rivera, and Tianxiang Zhou, and professors in the Master of Arts in Island Studies and Environmental Studies programs Drs Brinklow and Mitchell, Dr. Nick Mercer, and UNB PhD Candidate Andrew Halliday; the Department of Psychology's and UNB Candidate Ryan Drew; Faculty of Business's Dr. Susan Graham; Canada Research Chair in Geospatial Humanities Dr. Joshua MacFadyen; Department of Biology's Dr. Mike van den Heuvel; Canadian Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation's Climate Sense Learning Coordinator Krystal Pyke; as well as a graduate from UPEI's PhD in Environmental Sciences Dr. Kimberly Wishart Chu Foon. They joined dozens more speakers from the Caribbean, the Pacific, Europe, and the Americas.



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In all, there were over 80 papers, panels, roundtables, and keynote speakers talking about the latest research insights and discussions on climate change and social change in an island context.

Islands are at the front lines of climate change. With close proximity to the oceans, they are often the first to experience land loss due to sea-level rise and erosion. The effects of extreme weather events and changes in seasonality and temperature change on land and in the ocean are life-changing and often catastrophic. But what of social change on islands brought about by climate change? How are the effects of climate change impacting islandness?

The Conference featured the following six keynote speakers who will speak on their areas of expertise

- Dr. Stacey Mac Donald – Conservation Action in the Caribbean Netherlands
- Natasha Silva and Tyson Lopez – Biodiversity of Aruba and the Challenges of Nature Conservation in Small Island Contexts.
- Charissa Granger and Francio Guadeloupe – Human-ing Out Loud: Ontologies of Disorder in a Musically Exemplified Trans-Caribbean-Thought.
- Vishal Prasad – Journey to the International Court of Justice: Taking Climate Change to the World's Highest Court

UPEI gratefully acknowledges a Connections Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for Turning the Tide.

More information on our keynote speakers can be found

at <https://projects.upei.ca/unescochair/conferences-events/turning-the-tide/keynote-speakers/>

A detailed program and Book of Abstracts can be found

via <https://projects.upei.ca/unescochair/conferences-events/turning-the-tide/>.

To learn more about the IIS, visit <https://islandstudies.com/about-iis/>



Island Tourism Platform holds round table discussion on pressing issues surrounding tourism sector



This article is reproduced with the permission from **Newspoint** of the University of Malta dated 7 November 2023, available at: <https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/2023/11/roundtable-discussion-tourism>

A workshop and roundtable discussion held by the Island Tourism Platform held on 27 October 2023 focused on four interlinked strategic directions in pursuit of sustainable tourism, namely:

Assigning major importance to controlling the quantity and improving the quality of tourism

Improving the Maltese tourism product offer, which is needed to attract quality tourists by providing them with a quality experience, which should in turn also reduce the negative impacts associated with mass tourism

Directing tourism publicity and promotional funds main to attract quality tourists, and Democratising tourism strategy decisions and their implementation by involving a wide set of stakeholders in decision-making.

The event was held at the University of Malta on 27 October 2023. It was organised by the Island Tourism Platform of the same University and was attended by 33 academics from different Faculties and Institutes. It was jointly facilitated by Prof. Marie Avellino and Prof. Lino Briguglio who are the chair and vice chair respectively of the Island Tourism Platform.

In the introduction to the workshop, Prof. Avellino referred to the meaning of sustainable tourism, which was as defined by the World Tourism Organisation as “tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and the host communities.”

The academics present were invited to refer to the most salient and possibly urgent issues which should be addressed over a 3-year time-frame. The impetus for this is the concern surrounding the negative impacts that significant increases in tourist visits have on the environment and the socio-cultural fabric of the local residents. The sudden rise in visitors is also thought to be negatively affecting the tourists’ experience itself.

During the workshop, the term quality tourism was often mentioned, referring to discerning tourists who care for and respect the host community, its culture and its physical environment, as well as recognise the value of and accept to pay the right price for what is experienced in the host destination.

A view that was often expressed during this event was that in the case of Malta, given its small size and very high population density, and the islands’ environmental and social sensitivities, the strategy should first and foremost address issues relating to the number of incoming tourists.



Island Tourism Platform holds round table discussion on pressing issues surrounding tourism sector

The participants agreed that this necessitates making choices about the type of tourism activity that best suits the country, with due regard to the quality of life of the host community and the islands' fragile ecosystem. This implies coordinated decision-making in different policy fields. Participants at the workshop acknowledged that controlling tourist inflows, possibly leading to no-growth or a reduction in inbound tourism, could lead to a decrease in tourist expenditure, unless better quality tourists are attracted through the provision of a quality tourist offer. If such a decrease materialises, this would adversely affect the income of many businesses and households.

A sustainable tourism strategy should consider this deficit and calls for careful planning regarding the future of tourism business and tourism accommodation in particular, to ensure that this does not cause undue hardship for those affected. However, a change of direction with regard to tourism planning is of paramount importance. It was also noted that quality tourism is likely to usher in new business opportunities and new employment prospects.

The participants discussed how the tourist offer can be improved, and the following issues were mentioned, amongst others:

- cleanliness
- protection of the natural beauty of the islands
- orderly and safe ambience, and
- suitable enforcement of laws and regulations.

Many participants referred to Malta's current reputation in this regard, stating that that this has been gradually eroded over the years, and is at risk of being eroded further as a result of the policy of increasing numbers, without due regard to environmental and social costs, including the increasing pressure on the infrastructure and the strain on public services.

The third strategic direction discussed during the workshop related to promotional funding. It was remarked that some publicity is intended to position Malta as a cultural heritage destination, and to identify its distinctive culture and rich history, but this aspect of tourist promotion would seem to be given secondary importance in large-scale funding. There should be a radical change as to what activities should be sponsored by the government, focusing more on what Malta has to offer for quality tourists, in terms of a unique experience.

The participants also discussed the need to democratise the tourism strategy and its implementation. It was pointed out that the current Government strategic policy was launched after consultation with stakeholders and meetings were also held afterwards for stakeholder feedback.

It was argued that further democratisation of the process would lead to the inclusiveness of the host community, involving itself in the strategy together with the government

Island Tourism Platform holds round table discussion on pressing issues surrounding tourism sector

and business interests. Conflicting interests will inevitably arise, but that is the purpose of policy-making. As argued above, sustainable tourism means balancing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and the host communities, and such a balancing act would not be possible without effective consultation.

It was acknowledged by most participants that changing course, and aiming for quality rather than quantity, will not be an easy task to carry out, as there are various conflicting interests and agendas involved in tourism. For example, business interests, sometimes seeking short-term gains rather than social responsibility, are not likely to relish constraints on their freedom of operation.

Participants agreed that instilling the active participation of the host community, leading to inclusive tourism development, should improve the possibility that tourism enhances the quality of life of the residents, while at the same time providing a memorable experience to the visitors.

Democratisation of the tourism management process should therefore be assigned major importance in a strategy for sustainable tourism.

Link to the article has been provided by professor Lino Briguglio from
University of Malta



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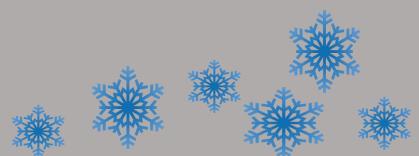


INTERVIEW ON ISLANDS GIVEN BY OUR MEMBERS

Jonathan Pugh, a Newcastle University professor of island studies did an interview for a **Geographical Magazine** about the Western imagination of tropical islands. They have long been seen as distant, lonely places that only exist on periphery. However, dr. Pugh says it has been changing.

About his insights on this topic you can read here:

<https://geographical.co.uk/culture/island-studies-jonathan-pugh-travel-insights>





CULTURAL LIFE AND EVENTS IN PENGHU TAIWAN

We are grateful to our member **Lin WeiChieh**, who has generously shared a collection of articles offering valuable insights into the rich culture and diverse activities in Penghu, Taiwan. Each article is thoughtfully crafted by local contributors, providing an authentic perspective on the region.

Art Treasures from Dachikan - Cheng Huo-Yi (Nihon-shiki romanization: Tei Kakugi)'s Artwork Archive Exhibition

Written by **Yu-Chen Hung, Haishi Cultural Studio**

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From September 16th to October 15th, 2012, "Returns: Cheng Huo-Yi's Oil Paintings in the Collection of Cultural Affairs Bureau of Penghu County Government" held in the Special Exhibition Room of Cultural Affairs Bureau.

Born in Chikan Village, Baisha Township, Penghu County, artist Cheng Huo-Yi (1902-1999) was not only a former artist, but also a witness to the history of art in Southern Taiwan. When Cheng returned to Penghu in his later years, he felt the rapid changes in his hometown and painted 12 pieces of "The Beauty of Penghu Countryside" series of works for the descendants to explore the early appearance of Penghu and presented them to the permanent collection of Penghu County Cultural Center (now the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Penghu County Government). In this year, the Cultural Affairs Bureau has commissioned Peng Xue-fang, a conservator, to carry out the restoration of Cheng's paintings and the work will be demonstrated at the archive site and the exhibition, so as to allow the public to know about the work in a close distance.

In order to retrieve more of Cheng 's life in Penghu, the Cultural Affairs Bureau held the "Rooting Community Art and Culture - Cheng's Art History" seminar at the Chikan Community Center on September 7, inviting former Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts Research Assistant Editor, Tsai Chen-yen to share with the public Cheng 's long history and artistic accomplishments based on her own research experience. The event attracted more than 70 elders and young people to the scene, who came together to learn about the artist and his life in Taiwan's history.

Born in 1902, Cheng was enrolled in Baisha Island Elementary School (now Chikan Elementary School) in 1911, and after graduation, he was admitted to the Taiwan Governor-General's National Language School (now National Taipei University of Education) in 1918, which was reported in the newspaper as one of only three students from the Hōko Prefecture (now Penghu County) who had been admitted to the school at the time. Cheng's first contact with art courses during his school years, learning basic sketching, composition, color, geometry and other technical concepts, the seeds of art sprouted in his heart.

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Under the influence of the art culture of the College, Cheng and his classmates Li Mei-shu, Liao Chi-chun, and Kuo Po-chuan, who were in the same class, started the "Self-Study Room Painting Exhibition" on their own. Cheng's artistic talent was evident during his studies, and his ability to create art was well recognized by the art education community, with all of his fellow students going on to become outstanding artists in Taiwan.

After graduating in 1922, Cheng began his career as an art teacher. The year after graduation, he was appointed to the Rinen Elementary School in Hōzan district of Takao Prefecture (now Linyuan Elementary School in Kaohsiung). At that time, Takao (now Kaohsiung) lacked professional art educators, so Cheng could be considered a pioneer of art education in Southern Taiwan. In 1928, he co-founded Kaohsiung's first art association, the White Day Association, with then Takao Middle School (now Kaohsiung Senior High School) teacher Yamada Shinkichi, and organized art exhibitions to connect and encourage art lovers, actively promoting the beauty of art and culture. After the World War II, Cheng was the principal of Sanmin Elementary School, and after resigning, he set up the Xinmin Bookstore and resumed painting.



Until October 15, the conservator Peng Xuefang will introduce the restoration work one to one with the public in the special exhibition room.



On September 7, Tsai Chen-yen shared the life and achievements of the artist Cheng Huo-Yi.

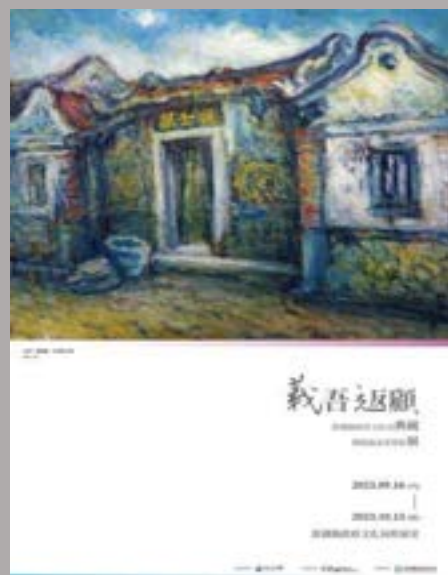
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Since then, he has worked diligently on his artwork and has accumulated many works, promoting the art style in Southern Taiwan and bringing up many young people.

Schools of all levels are welcome to apply for group tours from October 1 to October 15 (free of charge, with a limit of 30 people per tour), which will be arranged by the conservator Peng Xue-fang and the professional guide; for related information, please contact Mr. Chien of the Cultural Affairs Bureau's Performing Arts Division (06-9261141 ext. 231). The Cultural Affairs Bureau's Special Exhibition Room is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; closed on national holidays.



Memories of the Octopus Period,
Cheng Huo-Yi, 1989, Oil on Canvas



Exhibition poster



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Heart of the Ocean- Huazhai Ancient Residences Cultural Journey

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The " Huazhai Ancient Residences Educational Experiential Program" held by the Penghu County Community Development Center provides the public with an in-depth understanding of the architectural and humanistic beauty of the Huazhai Ancient Residences in Wangan Township through on-site visits last month. The program included " Traditional Praise Song (po-kua) Performance", " Tour of Fish Stove", " Wangan Clay Dyeing DIY", and "Tour of Huazhai Ancient Residences ".

For the " Traditional Praise Song (po-kua) Performance", the local senior citizen, Yeh Cheng Ren, presented traditional praise songs. Yeh is 90 years old and a senior fisherman in Wangan. In his early days, he was engaged in the offshore fishing industry and learned to sing praise songs (po-kua) and fishermen's songs on board ships. He is not only a talented musician, but also a skillful craftsman who has made many kinds of musical instruments. On that day, he sang a number of songs and ballads with his homemade musical instruments, such as " Maritime Songs" and "Farewell of the Butterfly Lovers", which were inherited by word of mouth, and the songs were rich in emotions, and they also conveyed the heartfelt feelings of the early sailors and their open-mindedness. Speaking of Wangan, Yeh shared his own memories of local impressions, engaging the audience in a lively exchange of ideas, laughter, and applause.

For the " Tour of Fish Stoves", Yi-Ling Tseng from the Island Complex Culture Studio introduced the functions of fish stoves and their historical rise and fall. In the early days, caught were not easily preserved, thus a small-scale processing industry was developed in the fishing villages on the island. Residents worked together to soak and wash the freshly caught fish in salt water, then steam them on the stove, and then dry them in the open space and pack them into boxes for shipment. Fish stoves were used as a means of making money and a place to cook food for the families in the village at that time.

The program arranges for the public to participate in cooking on the fish stoves and to taste the local cuisine made of loofah and squid noodles.

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In "Wangan Clay Dyeing DIY", we used different kinds of clay and well water from Wangan. The colors of clay dyeing are presented due to the iron oxide in the clay, which is different from plant dyeing, whereas different kinds of clay can bring diverse colors, and the effect of coloring is achieved by rubbing and exposing the clay repeatedly. Each participant is dedicated to the crafting process and brings back their own unique memories of Wangan.

As for the "Tour of Huazhai Ancient Residences", Wen-Ming Tseng, an expert in local literature and history, guided us through the Huazhai Ancient Residences. The residences are one of the best-preserved traditional settlements in Penghu. Starting from the ancient house of the Tseng family and proceeding from the center of Huazhai, which is surrounded by hills, participants were able to visit the Mazu Temple, the Chen family's old house, the traditional Chinese medicine shop, the Zheng family's mansion, and the Yan family's fish stoves... Along the bay of the Huazhai area, they listened to Zeng's narration on the old-time scenes and historical development of the settlement, and enjoyed the stories of the Huazhai local culture and heritage.

Participants expressed that through this in-depth educational experience, they not only had the opportunity to experience the unique humanistic style and the distinctive atmosphere of local life in Wangan, but also had a better understanding and recognition of Penghu's local culture.



Group photo of local senior citizen Yeh Cheng Ren singing praise songs with homemade musical instruments in the old house No.4 of Huazhai ancient residences.



Group photo of the event

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Youth Artist Rou An Chen Creates Creative Art Base “Birth House”

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Rou An Chen established the "Birth House" creative art base in Dachih Village in 2022. "Birth House" is expected to be a platform for collaborative creativity and mutual support for the community, allowing domestic and foreign artists to interact with the children of Xi-yu Township, and allowing the children to broaden their horizons for the future through these artists.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau of Penghu County Government supported Birth House to propose the "Community Art Project with Children in the rural Xi-yu" and held the "Birth House Collective Art Exhibition" from September 9, 2023, onwards. The exhibition displayed the works of the parents and children, the community, and the artists in the Bamboo Street, which used to be "The First Street in Xi-yu Township", and on both sides of the old walls there were the works of the blue-dyed fabrics, paintings, photographic collages, decorative arts made by the floating objects from the ocean, and embroideries, which made the exhibition like a visit to the artistic alleyway. Although the exhibition ended early due to the Northeast wind season, Birth House will continue to engage the public through various art forms in the future. For more information, please contact the Birth House Facebook fan page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087511299613>



Artist leading children from Xi-yu Township to create art



In May 2023, U.S. artists arrived in Penghu and exchange experiences with local artists in Penghu



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Combining Fishery and Temple Culture, Chenggong Community Develops New Highlights of Community Innovation in Penghu

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Chenggong Village is located in Husi Township, Penghu County, formerly known as "(Sha) Gangdi", and was renamed Chenggong Village in 1974 due to the activation of the "Chenggong Reservoir" at the waterfront of the neighboring villages.

The settlement of Chenggong Village is facing the sea on the east side, and the terrain is high in the west and low in the east. Because of the high hill on the west side can effectively block the northeast monsoon, the settlement is mostly concentrated on the east side. Along with a small stream flowing out from the highland on the west side, the stream is not only infused into the Chenggong Reservoir from the channel, but the residents also cultivate fruits and vegetables on both sides of the ditch. For the convenience of cultivation, up to eight bridges are constructed on both sides of the canal at the beautiful landscape of vegetables and farmhouses as its background, which weaves together to form a contemporary scenic view of Penghu called "Chenggong Eight Bridges". In addition, the residents also established "Pig House Café" and "Kiln Baked Pizza" in the agricultural area to attract more tourists to stay in the village.

Traditionally, the residents of Chenggong Village lived a half-farming, half-fishing lifestyle. Besides growing vegetables and fruits as mentioned above, they also practiced "lu hû-tsai" (fingerlings fishing), that is, capturing fingerlings and selling them in order to support their families and their livelihoods. The fish captured in the early days included milkfish and eel fingerlings, etc. The activity of "fingerlings fishing" gradually declined with the change of lifestyle, but all people over the age of 60 in Chenggong community have the experience of "fingerlings fishing". In recent years, this technique has been designed as a special local cultural experience, providing the public with an opportunity to experience the fishery culture of the village.

Apart from the traditional agriculture and fishery ecology, the highlight of innovation in Chenggong Village is the Tien Jyun Temple, a religious center of the village, which has a history of more than two hundred years and also holds valuable historical relics. There are two couplets in the Tien Jyun Temple, the inscriptions on which were written by Syu Shih Chang (who served as President and Premier of the Republic of China during the Beiyang Government) and Liang Ci Chao (who took part in the Hundred Days' Reform of the Qing Dynasty), who were famous Chinese politicians in the early 20th century.

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According to the records, Tien Jyun Temple had been renovated three times, the second time was around 1920s when Penghu was still under the rule of the Empire of Japan. Back then, there was a newspaper reporter named Li Huang Hai in Chenggong Village, who got to know Liang Ci Chao through Lin Sien Tang because of his job, Li was sent to Fujian in the 1900s, and then to Beiping and Tianjin in 1928. Li took the opportunity to visit Liang in Beiping and asked for a calligraphy work for the temple that was being remodeled in his hometown, and he was also fortunate to receive a calligraphy couplet from Syu Shih Chang, who was the President of the Republic of China at the time.

The reconstruction of the temple was completed in 1933, but unfortunately, Li passed away in 1936 in a hospital in Tianjin. Before his death, he did not have the chance to go back to his hometown to witness the completion of the temple, and therefore he did not get to see the two couplets he had received from Liang and Syu, which were hung on the pillars of the temple.

The two couplets of Liang and Syu underwent the reconstructions of the temple, due to the aging of the material and the poor preservation in the early days, the original scripts were lost, and the wooden couplets of the carved scripts were corroded by insects and ants. The Cultural Affairs Bureau of Penghu County Government then commissioned experts Li Bing Guei and Li Yu to carry out a two-year restoration project in 2022. In this year, the wooden couplet finally has a chance to come back to the eyes of the world for visitors to reminisce about the past and present.

After five years of construction, Chenggong community integrates local attractions and temple culture to create an experiential tour that is different from the ordinary tourism mode, so that people can have more diversified choices when they come to Penghu. Those who are interested are welcome to search for "Chenggong Hòu Happy" on Facebook.



Restoration of the pillar of "dharma rain and luminous spirits" in Tien Jyun Temple of Chenggong Community: layering with pig's blood-lime mortar (jhu siě huei).



A landscape site with a pleasant countryside atmosphere is created in the Chenggong Community



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Ghosts Festival Round Pudu Culture in Siyu Township: Inheriting the Century-old Worship of Penghu People for Heaven and Earth

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The seventh month of the lunar calendar, also known as the ghost month, is the most forbidden month of the year. The 15th day of that month, which is the Zhongyuan Festival, is the birthday of Di Guan (Emperor of the earth) and is one of the Sanquan Dadi (Emperor of the Three Offices) that govern the Heaven, Earth, and Water in Taoism Belief. On this day, the two offices of Earth and Water grant amnesty and open the bounders to the netherworld, so that the orphaned souls are able to receive food and spiritual blessings in the human world. All major temples in Taiwan hold dharma ceremonies (Pudu) to offer food, recite sutras, and worship the deceased. Praying for the liberation of the hungry ghosts and inmates from the suffering of reincarnation and the discharge of their grievances. Families prepare plentiful offerings to the temples to welcome their good brothers and sisters into the human world as their guests.

In Taiwan, various forms of Zhongyuan Pudu are developed according to local conditions, and in Siyu Township, Penghu County, there is a centuries-old custom of "Siyu Round Pudu". From July 13th to July 24th of the lunar calendar, the Pudu is held in a relay manner, one day, one village, in turn. On the 13th day of the 7th lunar month, it will be held at Hsiaomen Village; Hengjiao Village on the 14th day; Erkan Village on the 15th day; Houluo Village on the 16th day; Chuwan Village on the 17th day; Tachih Village on the 18th day; Hsiaoichhiao (Chitung Village and Chihsi Village) on the 19th day; Waian Village on the 20th day; Neian Village on the 21st day; Chihma Village on the 22nd day, and Hejie Village on the 24th day. During the time, people of Siyu Township welcome the spirits as if they were friends or relatives, and the villages are filled with incense burning and the warmth of the human world.

The Pudu ceremony starts at around 5 pm in each village, and the ending time is determined by divination blocks (puàhpue), which usually ends between 10 pm to 5 am on the next day. Different villages also demonstrate different characteristics of Pudu, such as the culture of cake stacking (gaozihjàn) in Chuwan Village, the Fruit Pagoda in Tachih Village, the Pudu for children (nanzihpu) in Hsiaoichhiao, the 108 offerings in Neian Village, and the parade of embodiment of Bodhisattva (dashihbo) in Waian Village, which reflect the culture of compassion, piety, mutual help, and praying for blessings to protect families and homeland.

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In the past two years, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Penghu County Government has been actively documenting the culture of "Round Pudu" in Siyu Township through filmmaking. In 2022, it filmed the "Introduction to Round Pudu in Siyu Township" to record the procedures of round Pudu, which was broadcasted in the Waian Wengwan Temple and Siyu Junior High School; in 2023, it filmed the "Round Pudu from Siyu in Waian and Neian Village", in which interviews with the elderly were conducted to show the changes of the Pudu culture over the past hundred years. The director of the film, Zeng Fo Sih, also shared the culture of round Pudu with the public through the radio program "Temple Folklore - Easy Radio FM96.9" hosted by Sie Ci Fong. Video link: <https://fb.watch/nd6VGrB5zs/>

In the future, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Penghu County Government intends to document the special features of each village under the theme of "Round Pudu in Siyu" and expects to share with the public the reverence for heaven and earth and the devotion of Penghu people through the continual and constant documentation on each site.



Cakes stacking (gaozihjhàn) in Chuwan Village to pray to release souls from purgatory



A low table was used for the Pudu for children (nanzihpu) in Hsiaoehchiao

International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, December 2023



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