

ISISA NEWSLETTER

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Volume 30, Number 2, December 2024



As we close a remarkable year marked by the opportunity to connect at the ISISA World Conference, this newsletter serves as your go-to resource for staying informed about our community's activities and achievements. This year, we proudly expanded our membership, unlocking exciting new opportunities for collaboration among organization members. In this edition, you'll find a variety of highlights, including calls for papers, announcements of upcoming conferences, reviews of published works, and recaps of recent events. We are excited to feature even more contributions in the June 2025 issue! Submissions must be sent to acuka@unizd.hr no later than June 15, 2025, to ensure inclusion. Wishing you joyful holidays and a prosperous New Year!

Newsletter editor:
Anica Čuka

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Upcoming events

The **European Society for Oceanists ESfO** is the European network for Pacific Islands Studies. Website is: <http://esfo-org.eu/>
ESfO organizes a global Conference every 2-3 years. The next one is planned in Luzern, 24-27 June 2025.

Conferences, and members data base are organised through another website :

<https://www.pacific-studies.net/conferences/public.php?confID=5>

The panels selected for the June 25 Conference are presented in detail on:

<https://www.pacific-studies.net/conferences/public.php?confID=5&action=sessions>

The Call for Papers, which was brief, closed on December 10th. However, everyone is warmly invited to register for the conference, attend the sessions, and actively participate in the discussions.

Serge Tcherkézoff

European Society for Oceanists 2025 Conference : Venue

Lucerne, Switzerland
From 24 June 2025 to 27 June 2025

Venue: University of Lucerne



University of Lucerne
Froburgstrasse 3
6002 Lucerne
Switzerland

Upcoming events

Remote Communities in Transition:

Join us in the remote and spectacular Westfjords of Iceland for the 2025 Islands as Laboratories for Sustainability (ISLAs) summer school!

This year's summer school is co-organised by the University Centre of the Westfjords (UW Iceland), the University of Iceland (Háskóli Íslands), and the University of Groningen - Faculty of Spatial Sciences.

The final application **deadline is 23 February 2025**. Selection will take place on a rolling basis. A limited amount of 20 spaces is available

More information:

<https://www.rug.nl/education/summer-winter-schools/islands-and-sustainability/>

The summer school is an initiative of the **Sustainable Landscapes** research group of the University of Groningen and the international **Erasmus Mundus Research Master Islands and Sustainability programme ISLANDS**.

You can read more about the previous ISLAs summer schools here:

<https://islandsmaster.eu/islands-as-laboratories-for-sustainability-islas-summer-school-2024/>

Sissal Dahl



Islands as Laboratories for Sustainability (ISLAs) Summer School

Overview

- Explore how remote island communities adapt to environmental, social and economic transitions.
- Gain interdisciplinary insight into sustainability, resilience and cultural challenges in remote settings.
- Hosted in the breathtaking Westfjords of Iceland, combining academising exploration with real-world experiences.
- Programme includes: Thematic and methodological academic sessions and field work, field excursions to villages and natural sites.

Isafjörður, Iceland

Practical Information

- Target Group: Postgraduate students, PhD candidates, postdocs and practitioners.
- Fee: €950
- Includes accommodation in Isafjörður, lunch/snacks, transport to/from Reykjavik.
- Academic credits: 5 ECTS.

Application Deadline:
23th February 2025

(rolling admissions, apply early!)

Apply here:
tinyurl.com/islas2025



Upcoming events

Call for applications for the 2025 intake for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Islands and Sustainability (ISLANDS)

We are now accepting applications for the 2025 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.



The poster features a background image of a coastal landscape with mountains and a bay. On the left, there are five blue snowflake icons. The top left corner includes the European Union flag and the text 'Co-funded by the European Union'. The main title is 'International Joint Research Master in Islands and Sustainability'. Below this, it says 'Apply now: islandmaster.eu'. The application deadline is '1 April 2025' and the scholarship application deadline is '15 January 2025'. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'ISLANDS ERASMUS MUNDUS RESEARCH MASTER' and a row of logos for the participating universities: University of Groningen, University of the Aegean, University of Iceland, and University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Co-funded by the European Union

International Joint Research Master in Islands and Sustainability

Apply now: islandmaster.eu

Application deadline: 1 April 2025

Scholarship application deadline: 15 January 2025

ISLANDS ERASMUS MUNDUS RESEARCH MASTER

UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN / UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN / UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND / UNIVERSITY OF LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

Upcoming events

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 2025** and self-funded candidates have until **1 April 2025** to apply.

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



Upcoming events: CALL FOR PAPERS!

10th EUGEO Congress, *Geographies of a Changing Europe*, 8th to 11th September 2025 in Vienna, Austria – Session on Islands

Among the many sessions, the only one dedicated specifically to islands has been proposed by the IGU Islands Commission.

The call for papers is open until **20th January 2025**.

Our session, 182: *Islands and Their Geographies in a Transforming Europe*, welcomes your contributions.

Topics of particular interest are listed here with all other relevant details:

- Sustainable economic development and implementation projects aligned with SMART Islands initiative
- Advancing the social economy
- Financialization, real estate land grabbing and tourism
- Enhancing island infrastructure and leveraging technological innovation and digitalization
- Demographic challenges facing islands, Migration and its impact on island societies and spaces
- Dispossession and right to the island
- Improving healthcare and social services on islands
- Climate change, island ecology, biodiversity hotspots, limiting biophysical factors and other key issues and challenges

More details can be found here:

https://www.eugeo2025.eu/eugeo-2025-sessions/?fbclid=IwY2xjawHRAAt9leHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHckTO733bA3xMdKt31KdVWB4gAhDD9lJAL0idTHBvheZ5OKJgROe1UjKqQ_aem_QMb1hPb1KrJ96RgHMfTAGw



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CALL FOR PAPERS!

Okinawan Journal of Island Studies

Okinawan Journal of Island Studies (OJIS, Online ISSN: 2435-3302) is a peer reviewed journal published by the Research Institute for Islands and Sustainability (RIIS) at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan.

We call for research papers, book reviews and other writings/works written in English on issues and topics related to islands and islandness. Writings/works in the humanities and social sciences are especially welcome.

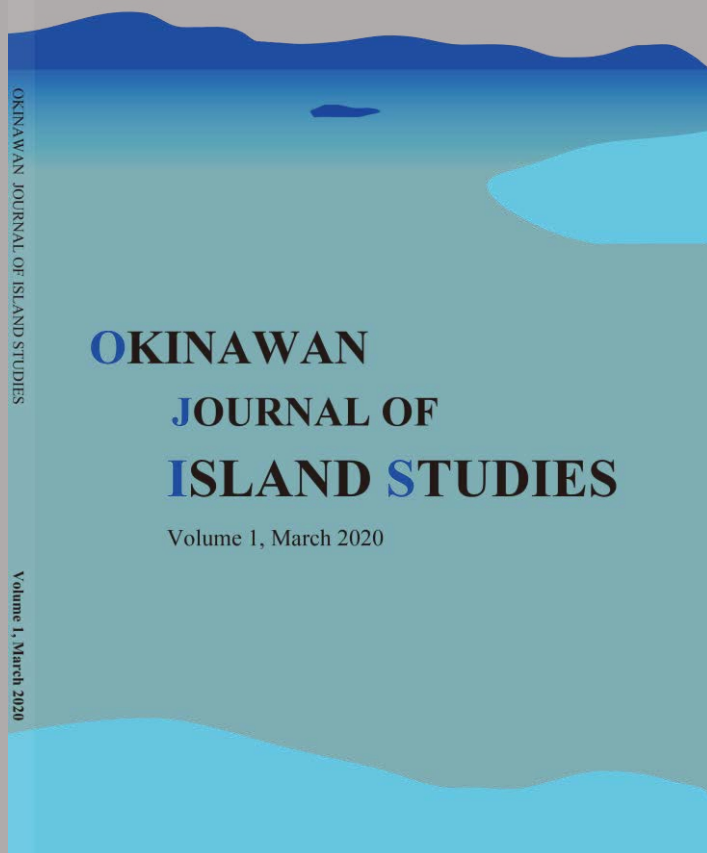
OJIS is published annually in March, and the submission **deadline is June 30th** (Japanese standard time) of each year.

We are currently looking for submissions for **Volume7**, which will be published in **March 2026**.



Research Institute for Islands and Sustainability
University of the Ryukyus

Online ISSN 2435-3302
Print ISSN 2435-3310



For details and submission guidelines:
<https://riis.skr.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/publication/ojis>

We look forward to your submission and collaboration with us.

Yoko Fujita
Editor-in-Chief of Okinawan Journal of Island Studies, vol.7
Professor, Research Institute for Islands and Sustainability
University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan



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12th Anatomy of Islands Symposium, Jelsa, Hvar island, Croatia, 26 – 28 September 2024 - REFLECTIONS

It has been 12 years since a small group of locals and occasional residents, so-called "weekenders", gathered on the island of Vis, one of the most remote Croatian islands.

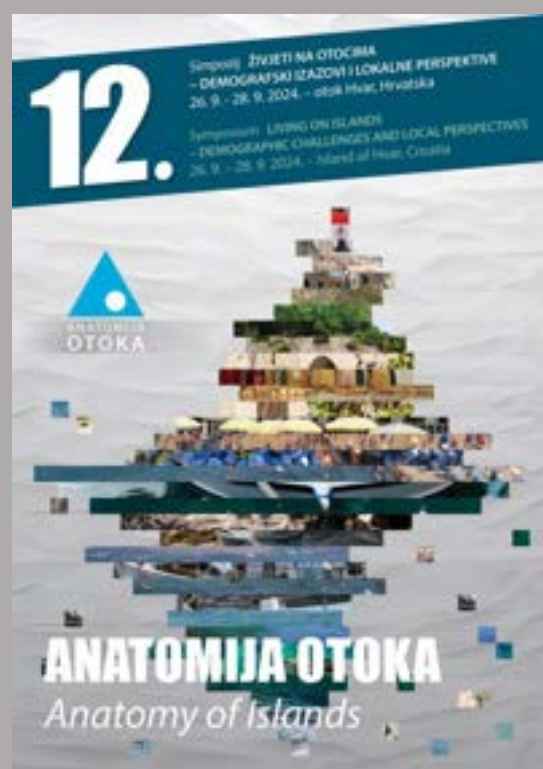
During the usual conversation about the remoteness and infrastructure deficiency, someone suggested that the island, which is in many ways on the margins should host scientists dealing with islands. The group covered quite a few fields and disciplines; we were architects, ethnologists, art historians, later joined by lawyers, economists, demographers and environmentalists and it was easy to realize how many addresses there were to contact. We used acquaintances and academic connections, announced the idea and invited domestic and foreign scientists, professors and their students.

It turned out that the idea was good and, above all, feasible. Scholars from Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Austria, UK, France and Japan were attracted and the first workshop was held in 2012. Architecture students in search of topics for their diploma theses dispersed around the island, their professors held the first lectures, the first discussions were initiated and it soon became clear that our initiative was a complete hit.

We called the gathering Anatomy of Islands. In the following years, we were joined by islanders who showed and proved that what we now call citizen science can also be developed on the island: the collaboration of academics and non-academic islanders who

proved to be quite capable of researching, making conclusions and contributing to the work that for perhaps too long has been reserved only for academics. In just a few years, Anatomy has grown into a group of researchers and lovers of islands.

On Vis, in the midst of discussions, we easily realized that we are dealing with something that necessarily requires interdisciplinarity and that the **Anatomy of Islands** has the opportunity to gather scientists who, staying with one foot in their basic disciplines, use the other to step into the research of the island in their own terms and discover nissology.



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Since then, supporters of the brave new discipline gather every year at a symposium where they always focus on islands and special island topics. After four fruitful years on Vis, we moved to the island of Lastovo, where we stayed for another four. This year and last year we were on the island of Hvar, where we will stay for another 3 years. Invitations also come from the northern islands of the archipelago: after Hvar, we will accept one.

Scrolling through the calls for papers that we have sent in these 12 years, we find relevant island topics. Reviewing the collected abstracts we publish every year, we see that the response was great and that one and the same problem arose: how to group the announced lectures and secure the good timing during the three days that the symposium lasts. We have managed to solve the problem so far and we hope it will be the same in the future. Another one emerges: there are so many relevant topics that it is not easy to single out the one that would best depict the reality of the island next year and highlight the problems of island research. Last year the title was Island at the table and we dealt with the Mediterranean diet, and the year before last with the Perspective of islands in climate change. Three years ago we dealt with Islands and crises and so on: the list is long.

This year, the islands' demographic processes were in focus. The topic was Living on islands, geographically specific areas with all infrastructural, social, and cultural challenges.

The topic is particularly relevant as migrations significantly and permanently alter the demographic landscape of Croatian islands and impact the quality of life surrounded by the sea. The Call for Papers summarized that quite well.

Here are some excerpts:

The history of island-sea-mainland relationships reflects migrations embodying the dynamics of interdependence or self-sufficiency, centre and periphery, and above all, the sense of isolation experienced by islanders. Migration is inherently linked to islanders and island life. In the past century, the prevailing demographic trend has been depopulation due to emigration. Contrary to the common perception of Croatian islands as regions of emigration where people leave for the mainland for better opportunities, they have also been places of immigration throughout their history. Islands have often served as safe space (refugium) for groups fleeing conflicts on the mainland. Islands have also taken on this role in contemporary threats and crises (wars, pandemics, earthquakes).

The dominant direction of migration only changed towards the end of the 19th century when islands mostly became emigration areas, defining further demographics and socio-economic development.

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Recent trends indicate specific changes in migration, and administrative immigration (inhabitants that move only on paper) on some islands have wholly distorted the accurate migration picture.

The size of the islands, their distance from the mainland, and the manner and frequency of connections with the mainland and among themselves influence all aspects of island daily life: the development of different economic sectors, the opportunities for education and employment, the potential for islanders to commute to work and schools on the mainland, the availability of various forms of healthcare, trade, and other services not found on the island. Among them, one may emphasize the cultural hot spots, urban buzz and entertainment on the mainland as aspects they cannot enjoy as they wish.

Thanks to modern technologies, island populations, despite spatial constraints and insularity, have been exposed to various off-island influences for decades, changing how they live. Island communities have become interconnected communities of different cultures that evolve with migration patterns, tourists, and new islanders.

At the same time, modernization brings about specific negative changes in the identities and daily life of island communities.

Solidarity among members diminishes, willingness for collective action and work for the common good weakens, and a materialistic view of the world becomes more pronounced. However, specific characteristics of island life, especially the sense of belonging to the community and the closeness among members, remain strongly present in Croatian island communities.



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12th Anatomy of Islands Symposium, Jelsa, Hvar island, Croatia, 26 – 28 September 2024 - REFLECTIONS

The presentations and discussion were divided into 5 subtopics:

Island Migrations as a Way of Life (emigration from islands, daily commuting, seasonal demographic changes, demographic statistics, returnees, new islanders - immigrants who stay, seasonal workers - possibilities of integration and staying on islands, lifestyle migrants, digital nomads on islands, intra-island migrations, innovative development projects for returning emigrants)

Island Communities (differences in development visions of various island communities, virtual communities of emigrated islanders and the reproduction of belonging, island heritage as a space of belonging and gathering for islanders on islands and in the diaspora, the impact of modern technologies on island life)
Children and Youth on Islands (infrastructural challenges of preschool and school education on islands, extracurricular activities of children and youth on islands, leisure activities for children and youth, civil society and care for specific issues of children and youth on islands, desire to stay on the island)

Ageing Population on Islands (quality of life for older islanders, the influence of returning retirees on the community's quality of life, healthcare for the old persons on islands, formal care for the old persons on islands)



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Island Spaces and Island Population (vulnerable island spaces, housing policies, public spaces, public agricultural and forest areas, municipal land , private vs. public ownership, tourism on islands, planning on islands - spatial plans, plans for sustainable island development, plans of coastal-island counties, destination plans, plans of public companies), climate change and local responses)

The presentations and discussions, which lasted much longer than the symposium agenda proposed, contributed to the inter and transdisciplinary perspectives that make up the development of Island Studies and, in particular, illustrated well the island demography. They also paved the way for the next gathering.

Next year our symposium will be 13 years old. It goes without saying that the teenager invites you. Hope to see you in Jelsa on the Croatian island of Hvar in 2025.

Marina Blagaić Bergman,
Sanja Klempić Bogadi,
Iva Niemčić,
Tomislav Oroz,
Sonja Podgorelec,
Nenad Starc



International Small Islands Studies Association

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International Workshop on Small Island Research and Development - REFLECTIONS

National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and Institute of Technology Indonesia (ITI) jointly hosted the International Workshop on Small Island Research and Development (SIRaD) with sub-theme on 'Improving Knowledge of Water Security and Sustainable Living for Local Communities.' Taking place in a hybrid format, the workshop was organized as part of the implementation of the program IOC UNESCO Western Pacific Region.

Around 160 representatives from government agencies, industries, communities, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and universities from around the world attended the workshop in order to discuss issues relating to water security, environmental challenges and others on small islands.

The conference report has recently been published in Marine Policy. For more details, please refer to the publication by Zainal Arifin, Joelianingsih Joelianingsih, Yuncheng Deng, and Noor Cahyo Dwi Aryanto. 2024. "Small Island Futures: A Conference Report on the Pathways to Resilience and Development" Marine Policy 167 (2024) 106266, available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2024.106266> or:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/381419953_Small_island_futures_A_conference_report_on_the_pathways_to_resilience_and_development.

Yuncheng Deng



Opening Sign from Mr. Laksana Tri Handoko, Head of National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)



Presentation from Mr. Wenxi Zhu, Regional Secretariat for WESTPAC UNESCO



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NEW BOOK

Van Rheenen, D., Naria, O., Melo, R., & Sobry, C. (Eds.) (2024). *Sport Tourism, Island Territories and Sustainable Development. A Comparative Perspective*. Springer. Link: <https://link.springer.com/book/9783031517044>

Sports Economics, Management and Policy
Series Editor: Dennis Coates

Derek Van Rheenen · Olivier Naria · Ricardo Melo · Claude Sobry Editors

Sport Tourism, Island Territories and Sustainable Development
A Comparative Perspective

This edited volume discusses the role of sport tourism in local sustainable development in small island territories. Using an international, comparative study, this volume explores the contributions of sport tourism to sustainable development in island settings. Written by 25 research teams across ten seas, oceans, and island archipelagos, chapters present comparative findings with the view of assisting stakeholders and decision-makers in collaboratively and responsibly developing island territories in accordance with specific sustainable development goals. Presenting a refined comparative methodology at the intersection of sport tourism and sustainable development, this book is geared towards academic researchers and students interested in sport tourism, sports economics, management and sustainable development, as well as professionals.

Van Rheenen · Naria · Melo ·
Sobry eds.



Sport Tourism, Island Territories and
Sustainable Development

Sports Economics, Management and Policy
Series Editor: Dennis Coates

Derek Van Rheenen
Olivier Naria
Ricardo Melo
Claude Sobry *Editors*

Sport Tourism, Island Territories and Sustainable Development

A Comparative Perspective

ISSN 2791-296X



 Springer



OUR MEMBERS' NEW PAPERS:

Jia Ning, Shufen Pang, Zainal Arifin, Yining Zhang, U. P. K. Epa, Miaomiao Qu, Jufen Zhao, Feiyang Zhen, Abhiroop Chowdhury, Ran Guo, Yuncheng Deng and Haiwen Zhang (2024): ***The Diversity of Artificial Intelligence Applications in Marine Pollution: A Systematic Literature Review***. *Journal of Marine Science and Engineering*, 12(7), 1181; <https://doi.org/10.3390/jmse12071181>

An Open Access:

<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1312/12/7/1181>

Abstract:

Marine pollution, a major disturbance to the sustainable use of oceans, is becoming more prevalent around the world. Multidimensional and sustainable ocean governance have become increasingly focused on managing, reducing, and eliminating marine pollution. Artificial intelligence has been used more and more in recent years to monitor and control marine pollution. This systematic literature review, encompassing studies from the Web of Science and Scopus databases, delineates the extensive role of artificial intelligence in marine pollution management, revealing a significant surge in research and application. This review aims to provide information and a better understanding of the application of artificial intelligence in marine pollution. In marine pollution, 57% of AI applications are used for monitoring, 24% for management, and 19% for prediction. Three areas are emphasized: (1) detecting and responding to oil pollution, (2) monitoring water quality and its practical application, and (3) monitoring and identifying plastic pollution. Each area benefits from the unique capabilities of artificial intelligence. If the scientific community continues to explore and refine these technologies, the convergence of artificial intelligence and marine pollution may yield more sophisticated solutions for environmental conservation. Although artificial intelligence offers powerful tools for the treatment of marine pollution, it does have some limitations. Future research recommendations include (1) transferring experimental outcomes to industrial applications in a broader sense; (2) highlighting the cost-effective advantages of AI in marine pollution control; and (3) promoting the use of AI in the legislation and policy-making about controlling marine pollution.

OUR MEMBERS' NEW PAPERS:

Yuncheng Deng, Haiwen Zhang, Arti Pratap, Bradlee Failou, Ahmed Hussain and Hertria Maharani Putri (2024): *Integrating Climate Change into Global Ocean Governance: The ITLOS Advisory Opinion on the Specific Obligations of State Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*. *Journal of Island and Marine Studies*, 1(1): 110011; <https://doi.10.59711/jims.11.110011>

An Open Access:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/381925649 Integrating Climate Change into Global Ocean Governance The ITLOS Advisory Opinion on the Specific Obligations of State Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/381925649_Integrating_Climate_Change_into_Global_Ocean_Governance_The_ITLOS_Advisory_Opinion_on_the_Specific_Obligations_of_State_Parties_to_the_United_Nations_Convention_on_the_Law_of_the_Sea)

Abstract:

Climate change is having a significant impact on small island states and the adaptation to climate change is likely to become increasingly critical as the phenomenon intensifies. Despite growing attention to the effects of climate change on small island states, substantive progress remains limited. In order to obtain more multi-dimensional solutions for the climate crisis, the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law submitted a request for an Advisory Opinion from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on 12 December 2022. After going through written proceedings, oral proceedings, etc., the tribunal delivered a unanimous Advisory Opinion in this Case on 21 May 2024. The replies to two questions may mark the beginning of a new era for incorporating climate change into global ocean governance.

Journal of island and Marine Studies (JIMS) have a new issue online

<http://islandandmarinestudies.press/volume-1/>



JOURNAL OF ISLAND AND
MARINE STUDIES

International Small Islands Studies Association

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Announcements:

It is a pleasure to announce that **Prof. Anica Čuka** from the Department of Geography at the University of Zadar has been appointed Chair of the International Geographic Society (IGU) Islands Commission for the 2024–2026 term.

Dr. Annette Breckwoldt, also a valued member of ISISA, will serve as Vice Chair.

Founded in Brussels in 1922, the IGU stands as the world's foremost international geographic association. The Islands Commission, however, extends beyond geography, fostering collaboration with scientists from diverse disciplines who have worked closely with geographers over the years. ISISA remains one of the Commission's most significant partners, and we are confident that this productive partnership will thrive in the years ahead.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all past members of the Commission, with special thanks to the former Chair, Prof. Huei-Min Tsai, a distinguished and long-serving member of ISISA.



Photo from ISISA 2024 World conference held on Lombok, Indonesia with Prof. Laurie Brinklow (President of ISISA), prof. Huei-Min Tsai (former Chair of IGU Island Commission) and prof. Anica Čuka (present Chair of IGU Island Commission)

For further details or to explore opportunities for collaboration with the Commission, please feel free to reach out to the Chair or Vice Chair. We are excited about the opportunities for continued collaboration and look forward to working together!

Chair, Professor Anica Čuka,
Email: acuka@unizd.hr

Vice Chair, Dr. Annette Breckwoldt
Email: annette.breckwoldt@leibniz-zmt.de



International Small Islands Studies Association

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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 X:

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

You are warmly invited to submit your **contributions** for the upcoming ISISA Newsletter by **June 15th, 2025**. We greatly appreciate your participation and look forward to receiving your submissions to acuka@unizd.hr.



HAPPY NEW
YEAR !!!

