



ISISA

Newsletter

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A note from the editor

I would like to open this latest edition of the ISISA newsletter with sincere thanks to Dr Mark Hampton who, among many other contributions to ISISA, has edited this newsletter for numerous years. The editorship was handed from Mark to Ms. Denbeigh Armstrong, from the University of Tasmania at the Islands VIII conference, Kinmen Island, Taiwan, November 2004. Mark remains in his role as treasurer of ISISA.

I am hoping the newsletter can and will evolve over time and I welcome suggestions as to content and style. I am particularly concerned to ensure those people in places where download times are slow and/or expensive can easily access the newsletter and welcome feedback in this regard.

General News

ISISA Website to go live 1st August 2005

From the 1st of August 2005 ISISA will have an official website. The website will be maintained by Ms. Denbeigh Armstrong and hosted by the School of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania. The development of the site will be an ongoing process and suggestions from members as to content and useful links are most welcome.

Visit the site in August at <http://www.geol.utas.edu.au/isisa/>

Mauritius Declaration and Mauritius Strategy adopted at UN meeting, January 2005

The international meeting to review the implementation of the programme of action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States was held in Port Louis, Mauritius 10-14 January 2005. The UN organised conference *Small Island's Big Stakes*, was attended by 18 Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Prime Ministers, some 60 ministers and nearly 2000 delegates, civil society representatives and journalists from 114 countries, and by 15 UN or multilateral agencies. The conference concluded with the unanimous adoption of the Mauritius Strategy and the Mauritius Declaration. The validity of Barbados Programme of Action and the Principles of the Rio Declaration were reaffirmed in the Mauritius declaration. For an overview of the meeting and other links, go to: <http://www.un.org/smallislands2005/>

Mauritius Strategy: http://www.un.org/smallislands2005/pdf/sids_strategy.pdf

Mauritius Declaration: <http://www.un.org/smallislands2005/pdf/mauritiusdeclaration.pdf>

Inaugural Biennial Small Islands Micro Economies Conference

The inaugural biennial Small Islands Micro Economies Conference was hosted by the Turks and Caicos Islands, on the Island of Providenciales during February 15-18, 2005. The aim of the conference was to provide a dedicated forum where OCTA member countries and other small economies can meet to discuss and develop action plans to address issues critical to their development. The conference focused on current challenges and opportunities in the education, health, transport, tourism, e-governance and environment sectors, with an emphasis on presenting options and solutions and sharing best practices and country experiences. Leading island scholars Dr Godfrey Baldachhino, Dr Mark Hampton, Dr Peter Meincke, and Dr Stephen Royle were among the 25 guest speakers. Further information can be viewed at <http://www.turksandcaicosislands.gov.tc/OtherPages/DEPS%20Files/SIME%20Main.html>

Dr Irene Novaczek appointed Director of the Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, P.E.I. Canada

In December 2004, Dr Irene Novaczek was appointed the new Director of the Institute of Island Studies (IIS). Irene's appointment coincides with a decision by the IIS Advisory Council that the Institute focus on marine issues for the next five years. Irene is trained in marine biology and has been researching in the areas of community development, gender and fisheries on South Pacific Islands. In her new role Irene plans to pursue research and programming in the areas of coastal resources management, coastal community development, gender issues in small scale fisheries, climate change impacts on islands and aspects of local governance pertaining to the above. There will also, of course, always be a place at the IIS for research and policy analysis that builds on the Institute's historical strengths in land use policy, community economic development, local governance, and island culture.

According to Irene, "in the past few months, the tremendous potential of even a small institute such as ours has become very clear to me. I have intervened in government deliberations on public forest policy, guided research into the implications of the proposed declaration of GMO-free status for PEI, and tracked public debates on immigration and climate change. I am happy to say that each of these public debates, currently led by legislative committees, can be traced back to public policy research and interventions of the previous directors over the 20-year life of this small but mighty institute".

Dr Irene Novaczek can be contacted at inovaczek@avcn1.novell.upei.ca
Or visit the extensive website at <http://www.upei.ca/~iis/>

Call for papers

Special issue of the International Journal of Environmental Technology and Management

Having completed Guest Editorship for a Special Issue on “Challenges for Changing Islands in a Changing World” for the journal, *Sustainable Development*, Calbert Douglas develops the island theme further with another special issue, this time looking at technology in small islands.

The aim of this special issue of the *International Journal of Environmental Technology and Management* (IJETM) is to discuss different perspectives on the application of technologies, the management of environmental issues and technological problems they encounter and their resolutions in small island contexts.

This special issue will have the purpose of disseminating research that concerns technology in SIDS and island territories of larger countries, in their development, usages and impacts in various areas of their environments.

The Call for Papers is on the Inderscience website, both on the general Calls for Papers page (<https://www.inderscience.com/callPapers.php>) and on the IJETM home page (<http://www.inderscience.com/ijetm>). You can also contact Cal Douglas email: c.h.douglas@salford.ac.uk to discuss your ideas for a submission.

Cal is also in the process of applying for funds to set up an **international network for island research into tourism**. Anyone interested should contact Cal Douglas email: c.h.douglas@salford.ac.uk.

Conferences

Big Lessons from Small Places

A Forum on Governance in Rural North America and the North Atlantic Rim

October 13-15, 2005

Twillingate, Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada

Rural areas, small islands and other peripheral jurisdictions face unique challenges and new opportunities in an increasingly global economy. In these changing social, economic and political environments, governance tools are critical for local and jurisdictional development. On October 13-15, 2005, practitioners, policy makers, researchers and other interested community members are gathering in scenic Twillingate, Newfoundland and Labrador, to provoke discussion and debate on innovative approaches to local governance in the new economy.

For more information:

Big Lessons from Small Places at www.crrf.ca

c/o [The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development](#)

Memorial University, St. John's, NL, A1C 5S7

Phone: (709) 737-6186, Fax: (709) 737-2041

Islands of the World IX: Sustainable Islands - Sustainable Strategies

International Small Islands Studies Association

July 29 - August 3, 2006

Kahului, Maui, Hawai`i

Hosted by University of Hawai`i & Maui Community College

Background

In 1986, the International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA), made up of scholars, researchers, and island enthusiasts from around the world, organized an international conference on Vancouver Island, Canada, to discuss issues related to small islands. This inaugural "Islands of the World" conference was so successful that it was followed by others in Tasmania (1988), the Bahamas (1992), Okinawa (1994), Mauritius (1998), Isle of Skye (2000), Prince Edward Island (2002), and Taiwan (2004).

Islands of the World VIII 2004 Conference

The Islands of the World VIII 2004 Conference was held on Kinmen Island, where over 250 scholars from diverse small islands, representing more than 30 countries throughout the world, convened to share ideas. Conference presentations included cultural and natural resource conservation, globalization, and biodiversity. Conference participants included scholars from Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Denmark, Fiji, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jamaica, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Palau, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia, Seychelles, Sweden, Switzerland, South Korea, Trinidad and Tobago-West Indies, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and the USA.

Islands of the World IX 2006 Conference

At the Kinmen Island conference, Maui Community College Chancellor, Clyde Sakamoto; Acting Dean of Instruction, Suzette Robinson; and Academic Senate Chair, Dan Kruse, represented the island of Maui. As a result of the college's active participation in the organization and Chancellor Sakamoto's presentation to the ISISA Executive Committee, Maui was selected as the site for the Islands of the World IX Conference to be held in the summer of 2006. MCC will host the event.

The three interconnected themes planned for the 2006 conference tie in with sustainability efforts currently underway on Maui: economy (*po`okela*), ecology (*malama `aina*), and social equity (*ho`ohanohano*). Scholars and experts from around the world will make presentations, lead discussions, and interact with international colleagues on the issues of co-responsibility and strategies for sustainable island development.

In addition to bringing this international group together and giving them an opportunity to study and discuss these important issues, the Islands of the World IX Conference will showcase Maui's rich cultural heritage, strong economic factors, and diverse environment.

For additional information, e-mail isisa9@hawaii.edu or phone (1 808).984.3670.

Nissologising

In this section we hope to contribute to communication among island scholars, by keeping ISISA members informed of current research projects. The success of this section will rely on you providing the editor with short summaries of your most current research projects.

Nissographica

Prof Grant McCall

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Grant is writing a book chapter about "Nissographica", or the imagery of islands. In particular, he is contributing to a collection to be published in Vienna about "paradise islands". Grant is writing about Rapanui and how it has been seen as both a paradise and a nightmare island. Grant is also still working on the genealogy monograph about Rapanui.

Birth registration in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati

Chris McMurray

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Chris has just completed a study of birth registration in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati. In recent years high levels of under-registration in many LDCs have attracted the attention of UNICEF and other donors concerned with child protection and child rights issues. Chris's study was used as the main source document for a Pacific regional meeting on birth registration, and is shortly to be published by UNICEF. The meeting, held in Suva, was attended by delegates from Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, along with representatives from several donor organizations. Some of the issues identified in Chris's report and discussed at the meeting included:

- ✚ low awareness of the importance, value and uses of birth registration, among both the community and officials;
- ✚ low prioritisation and under-resourcing of registration systems;
- ✚ outdated legislation;
- ✚ lack of communication between health ministries and civil registration offices, although health personnel assist at most deliveries and issue birth notifications;
- ✚ deterrent effect of fees for registration and/or documentation; and
- ✚ lack of computerisation and safe storage contributing to inefficient registration systems and time consuming record searching.

The Suva meeting brought together health officials and registrars to discuss strategies for improving coverage, and their enthusiasm and interest suggests there could be more support for birth registration and more inter-ministry cooperation in future.

Tasmania Together, Webbing the Islands, Islands and Sustainability

Dr Elaine Stratford

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Elaine has been working on a number of projects that maintain her position in the borderlands among cultural geography, political ecology and critical theory. A paper on Tasmania's 2020 vision – Tasmania Together – and the constitution of island identities in place, will appear in

Geoforum in the near future, and draws on insights from her Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery project on islands, globalization and the rhetorics of sustainability. Elaine has recently completed a random sample telephone survey of Tasmanians, inquiring into their perceptions of economic, environmental and social change over the last and next five years. Also part of the ARC project, the survey will provide the foundations of extended investigations on community understandings of the interrelationships among islands, sustainable development and change.

Graduate students in Elaine's care have also been contributing to a growing program in **island studies at the University of Tasmania** (see graduate news below). **Elaine** will be travelling to Tuvalu with Carol Fabotko early August to commence fieldwork. **Denbeigh Armstrong** will also sojourn to Newfoundland in October at the invitation of The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development, and will participate in a multi-jurisdictional forum on governance, work that draws on her cross-cultural doctoral work involving Prince Edward Island and Tasmania. **Andrew Harwood's** work on the constitution of islandness through the Tasmanian Ten Days on the Island festival has also been a catalyst for the development, over the period from October 2004 to the last festival in April 2005, of a new interactive educational website, **Webbing the Islands**, through which island school children from all over the world have engaged and shared work around eight themes pertinent to these geographical entities and those who reside on them. Elaine hopes to travel to Melbourne in September to present a paper at one of the Australian preparatory meetings for [UNESCO's World Conference on Arts Education in Lisbon 2006](#). [Backing Our Creativity](#) is a national symposium exploring the role of arts and creativity in education for children and young people. Elaine's paper will focus on the linkages among education, the arts and sustainable development, drawing on Webbing the Islands in that work. She also plans to contribute to a discussion on sub-national islands in Malta in November.

Island Identity in the Literature of Atlantic Canada

Laurie Brinklow

Master of Arts in Island Studies Program
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As a book publisher located in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, I am often faced with a dilemma: who can justifiably be called an "island writer." Through my research I will explore elements of North Atlantic island writing and island identity, by asking the overarching question: is an island writer's literary creation affected by the strength of his/her island identity? I will look at common themes about which islanders write (boundedness, insularity, isolation, survival, relationship with the mainland, migration, the shoreline, traditional vs. modern); distinctive island voices (choice of idiom, indigenous language); island imagery (water, shorelines, bridges); character types; and literary form (memoir, certain types of poetry, the oral tradition). I will look at the writers' relationships with their islands: can a writer write about his/her island if he/she has never left, or ONLY after he/she has left?

I will discuss whether this research matters, and to whom. What implication does telling our own stories have for cultural policy? Is it important that island writers are interpreters for their people, the voice of their island? What is the role of publishing? And, finally, how does an island's cultural policy affect the power relationships between the islands and their mainland governments? How does it affect the ebbs and flows of political and artistic consciousness that come from being on the periphery?

Island Hopping

Stephen Royle

Human Geography
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Since the appearance of his 2001 book, *A Geography of Islands*, Stephen has been investigating how the inhabitants of the islands off Ireland celebrate or exploit their heritage. He was awarded a Shackleton Scholarship in 2004 for a study of tourism in the Falkland Islands to appear in Godfrey Baldacchino's book on cold-water island tourism. Stephen is presently the J.B. Harley Fellow in the History of Cartography, which funds him to carry out a study of early maps of St Helena held in the record repositories of the London area.

On sabbatical in 2004 Steve carried out research into colonies ruled by commercial companies. He has four case studies, all islands:

- ✚ *St Helena* (East India Company 17th to 19th centuries),
- ✚ *Bermuda* (Somers Island Company/Bermuda Company 17th century),
- ✚ *Vancouver Island* (Hudson's Bay Company for a few years in the 19th century), and
- ✚ *Ascension Island* (Eastern Telegraph Company/Cable & Wireless for 20 years in the interwar period of the 20th century).

Steve visited all these islands in 2004 to collect data as well as spending much time in the British Library and other repositories in England. He also reportedly takes the opportunity to go 'islanding' whenever possible and key islands bagged in 2004 were Robben Island and, a lifetime's ambition, Easter Island.

Steve was invited to give the keynote address to the European Union's Overseas Countries and Territories Association Conference in February 2005 held on Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos Islands. He also led a field trip with students to Cyprus in April and gave a series of lectures on islands in Comenius University, Bratislava, in land-locked Slovakia in May. Steve's hosts took him to Kepelny Ostrov, a river island in the Danube.

Island Studies Journal

Godfrey Baldacchino

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Godfrey has been working on the development of the *Island Studies Journal*, a scholarly journal for the inter-disciplinary study of our 'world of islands'. The first issue of the journal, "ISJ 1(1)", should be available in May 2006.

The journal will be an electronic-based, refereed journal that publishes papers dealing with:

- ✚ advancing and critiquing the study of issues affecting or involving islands;
- ✚ reviewing, surveying, or providing a fresh perspective on existing 'island studies' literature;
- ✚ promoting and supporting the comparative study of islands, or of issues, policies and developments thereof;
- ✚ seeing islands as part of complex systems of regional or global interaction and therefore also focusing on 'island-mainland' relations;
- ✚ disseminating island-based and island-tested >best practices= that may be proposed, adopted or adapted by island communities, entrepreneurs, governments or civil society associations;

- ✚ encouraging the development of >island studies=, this being the inter-disciplinary and pluri-disciplinary study of islands on their own terms;
- ✚ reviewing books, monographs and other educational initiatives which purport to contribute to island knowledge;
- ✚ developing an audience for island studies scholarship and a reputable platform for the growing scholarly community interested in island studies B including teachers, researchers, community representatives, students and public policy officials who are interested in, hail from, live on, or work on, islands... as well as islanders generally.

The Institute of Island Studies (IIS) at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) will be the institutional home of this journal. The IIS is a research, education and public policy institute, set up in 1985. With an emphasis on Prince Edward Island, the work of the Institute focuses on the culture, environment and economy of small islands: www.upei.ca/iis/. UPEI has a solid track record in island scholarship. Apart from supporting the Institute of Island Studies, UPEI has facilitated a North Atlantic Islands Programme (since 1992), hosted the 7th ISISA International Conference in 2002; nests the Canada Research Chair in Island Studies (since 2003); and runs academic programmes in Island Studies at UPEI, including an undergraduate minor (since 1999) and a Master of Arts Degree in Island Studies (since 2003): www.upei.ca.

Postgraduate News

In this section we hope to show case research being undertaken by new island scholars. If you are a new island scholar or are supervising a new island scholar and would like your work to be included in this section, please send your name contact details and a brief summary of your research to the editor.

Exploring the spatial and the social in environmental debate: Tuvalu and climate change

Carol Farbotko, PhD Candidate

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The aim of my research is to examine the idea of 'vulnerability' and its role in the construction of Tuvalu's place-based identity. Using discourse analytic methods to analyse representations of Tuvalu in research, governance and media discourses, I am exploring different ways that appeals to 'vulnerability' are made in the context of islands generally, and climate change in particular. My research draws on the literature of island studies and social science research concerning the spatiality of social life. The linkages between and among climate change, island places, and identity within a critical framework warrant attention at a time when Tuvaluans are negotiating the challenges that climate change presents to the future habitability of their islands. My research objectives are as follows:

- ✚ To critically examine the idea of 'vulnerability' and its development in Western conceptions of island places categorised as Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- ✚ To identify appeals to 'vulnerability' in representations of Tuvalu and climate change and reflect on their ideological positioning; and
- ✚ To consider convergences and divergences between internal and external conceptions of Tuvalu's vulnerabilities in the context of climate change, and to explore the possible implications for place identity.

Managing offshore islands in Australia and New Zealand: sustainability challenges and opportunities

Rebecca Jackson, PhD Candidate

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The focus within island studies tends to be on oceanic nation states. However, there is a clear need for research on sub-national offshore islands. Such islands are attractive for residential development and tourism. However, such developments may have a significant impact on island environments, which tend to be particularly vulnerable due to their limited size and resources, and they may contain endemic and/or threatened species.

Using case studies of offshore islands in Australia and New Zealand, sustainability challenges and opportunities will be explored, focusing on the key themes of development, environment and island communities. The primary research method will be interviews with key island stakeholders in government, community organisations and the tourism sector. It is hoped that the study will highlight common management issues on islands in different jurisdictions and facilitate best-practice management for future island sustainability.

The quarantine protection of IUCN Category 1a strict nature reserves: theoretical and practical perspectives

Sandra Potter, PhD Candidate

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The distinct physical delineation of islands makes them potentially ideal subjects for studies of quarantine processes focussed on the identification of vectors or pathways for introductions, and the application of pre-border and border interventions. However while islands present as precise spatial categories, bounded-ness is not synonymous with system closure.

This research examines questions of biotic mobility, quarantine policy and conservation management with respect to islands and island-like settings designated IUCN Category 1a protected areas (1APA) – nature reserves secured for scientific studies, environmental monitoring and education, and for which a management objective is the preservation of habitats, ecosystems and species in an undisturbed state.

Analysis of the constitution of an ‘indigenous’ sense of place and community in a small island state: the case of Norfolk Island and the Pitcairn-descendant population

Michael Ritzau, BA(Hons) Candidate

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In conjunction with Dr. Elaine Stratford I am looking at the question of indigeneity among the Pitcairn Island descendant sector of the population of Norfolk Island. This qualitative research

project is to examine the way in which a number of Pitcairn-descendant, Norfolk Islanders constituted, developed and sustain a culture which they describe as indigenous.

Indigenous peoples can be generalised as a 'community of place', in that the population is established from antiquity as the resident population of that place. The particular culture group being studied originated in 1790 as a 'community of interest', the *Bounty* mutineers and their Tahitian 'wives', in a bounded space (Pitcairn Island), transformed through isolation and time, into a 'community of place'. In 1856 this entire culture group moved to Norfolk Island, effectively extending the 'place' of the community. Since that time they continue as a particular cultural group but once again more a 'community of interest' due to the arrival of individuals from outside.

Research questions to be examined include:

- ✚ How have the Pitcairn-descendant Norfolk Islanders constituted this position?
- ✚ Why they view themselves as indigenous?
- ✚ Is the situation within an island (or two islands) location a significant factor(s)?
- ✚ What are the cultural practices, which lead to this 'distinctly different and unique culture'?

Michael is a recipient of the islandstate® Credit Union Scholarship in Island Studies at the University of Tasmania. The scholarship is designed to help Tasmanian's understand the place where they live, to understand the challenges facing Tasmania and to add to the body of knowledge that will help keep Tasmania uniquely Tasmanian.

Publications

Longitude and Empire: How Capitan Cook's Voyage Changed the World

Brian Richardson

Longitude and Empire: How Capitan Cook's Voyages Changed the World was published in June in hardcover and will be available next January in paper. To read the publishers comments or to order a copy visit the UBC Press website at

http://www.ubcpres.ca/search/title_book.asp?BookID=4442

Contributions to ISISA Newsletter

Contributions would be welcome such as short articles, book reviews or news items. Articles can be e-mailed or sent on a floppy disk or CD Rom. Our preferred format is MS Word. Please send all contributions to:

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Membership

Membership is open to any individual or institution that subscribes to the objectives of the Association.

Present subscription rates are:
Ordinary Individual Member: £15
Student/unwaged Member: £8

Enquiries about membership, subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer: Dr. Mark Hampton (see below).

Cheques or international money orders should be made payable in British Pounds to the International Small Islands Studies Association.

ISISA objectives

ISISA is a voluntary, non-profit and independent organisation. Our objectives are to study islands on their own terms, and to encourage free scholarly discussion on small island related matters such as islandness, smallness, insularity, dependency, resource management and environment, and the nature of island life.

ISISA pursues its objectives by encouraging the networking of small island communities through international communication systems, such as newsletters and journals and the holding of periodic, multi-disciplinary conferences, employing appropriate technologies to achieve these ends.

For further information about ISISA and for details of past conferences visit the ISISA website at: <http://www.geol.utas.edu.au/isisa/>

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