



ISISA

Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

This newsletter gives you a taste as to what to expect in the 18th *Islands of the World* Conference happening in June 2022 in Zadar. We are all hoping that this conference will be a face-to-face one so that we can enjoy the beauty of these islands and get to meet physically. Apart from this, you will find a number of articles from our ISISA members around the globe.

Anyone who has something to say or share about islands and Island Studies, or can submit a review about a suitable book, is welcome to send them over to me, to be considered for the next issue of the ISISA Newsletter.

Kindly send over material for the January 2022 Newsletter by not later than December 15, 2021.

Thank you for your continued support and contributions.

Anna Baldacchino
ISISA Newsletter Editor
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ISISA

18th *Islands of the World* Conference in Zadar, Croatia:

13 – 17 June, 2022

Please join us at the University of Zadar for the 18th “Islands of the World” Conference from 13th to 17th June 2022, in Zadar, Croatia. The conference is entitled **Islands of the World: Nature and Culture**. Subthemes will cover a wide range of topics, including island development policies, population mobility, mainland-island relations, tourist development, island heritage, and tourism, SMART islands, etc. Discourse on the influence and consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on island communities, and their socio-economic development, will be especially welcome.

The conference will take place in an urban archipelago setting: the coastal city of Zadar, a former island dredged to become a peninsula, and neighbouring islands tied to its centre. In the past, Zadar, like other Croatian coastal cities, built relations with islands along with leisure and trade, creating a connection between the

urban centre and rural surroundings that was once strong and inseparable. It has been replaced with islands being completely dependent on the mainland. In the case of connections that became bridges, a circulation of islanders toward the city and back is now a crucial part of everyday island life. We will simulate these connections throughout the conference, with the University of Zadar as our central location for sessions and three separate field trips to three islands where participants will follow selected plenary sessions.

This conference holds excellent promise for national and visiting scholars and students, Croatian scientists, and the local community. Hosting scientists specializing in island studies will provide the Croatian scientific community with insights into how islands and archipelagos worldwide are dealing with similar challenges. However, it will also be a unique opportunity for non-Croatian scientists to become familiar with the current processes in the Croatian archipelago, a topic that is still relatively unknown in scientific literature. The exchange of knowledge, ideas, and experience from some of the most remote areas would meet in the pleasant ambience of the coastal town of Zadar, the hub of the Zadar urban archipelago, an ideal location for delivering a robust international interdisciplinary island studies experience to ISISA members and the local community.

Note on Zadar university tradition.

Zadar has the longest university tradition in Croatia, dating back to the 10th century. Today, the University of Zadar is the largest integrated university in the Republic of Croatia, with 25 university departments. It is unique in its strong focus and orientation to the sea. Scholars across all fields of inquiry are encouraged to conduct coastal and island research.

Note on the Croatian Islands.

Croatia has over 1200 islands, approximately 50 of which are permanently inhabited. The Croatian archipelago is noteworthy for its karstic coasts, rich biodiversity, and Mediterranean climate. Additionally, being near continuously inhabited since prehistoric times has given way to a rich cultural heritage and diverse archaeological sites throughout the islands. Each of these factors has shaped socio-demographic development and contemporary coastal tourism development, which is greatly influenced by the mainland. Unfortunately, lately, they are also affected by negative processes such as deinsularization, depopulation, aging, and economic transformation that have endangered many important traditional cultural landscapes and architectural elements.

Even though Croatian islands share many elements in common, each island has its specificity and can be considered an isolated case in any scientific research.

All information about the conference will be available soon here:

<https://conference.unizd.hr/isisaislands/>



Dugi Otok Island



Pag Island



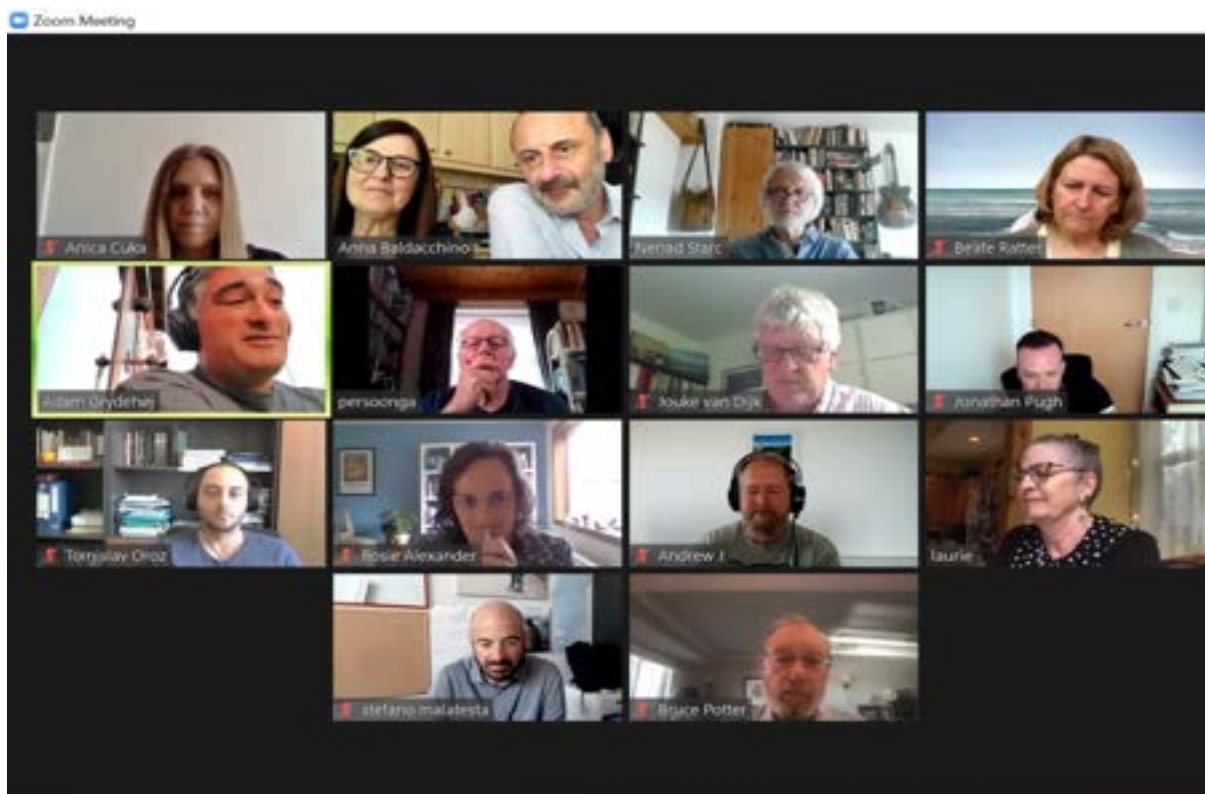
University of Zadar

A Few snapshots from the ISISA Virtual Conference in June 2021

Our thanks go out to the Harris Centre at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada and the team behind the scenes who made the 17th ISISA Conference possible virtually, with just over 100 presenters taking part.



Opening of the 17th ISISA Conference with Dr Robert Greenwood; Dr Bojan Furst; Dr Godfrey Baldacchino and the first keynote speaker Michael Crummey.



The ISISA Executive committee meeting during the ISISA Conference.



Some of the participants in session at the ISISA Conference

ISISA CONFERENCE – REFLECTIONS

Priya Parrotta - Founder/Director, Music & the Earth International

Last month's ISISA conference was by far the most rewarding event I have attended since the beginning of this surreal pandemic. In theory, the expansion of online conference opportunities in the past year and a half has made it easier to connect across borders and join new academic and creative collectives. In practice, however, most of the events I have attended have not succeeded in creating a sense of camaraderie among participants. The ISISA conference, however, was a notable exception.

I am a brand-new member of ISISA, and I joined this conference with one question ever-present in my mind: what is “island solidarity” (or, to express it musically, “island harmony”), and how might it be achieved? The phrase “island solidarity” can be defined in a wide variety of ways. Broadly, it might refer to sustained intellectual, artistic, and activist collaboration among people from the world's island nations. It might signify the cultivation of points of dialogue around geopolitical, ecological, social, and spiritual issues that islands face. It might involve the harnessing of resonances and counterpoints within the cultural ecosystems of islands, in the service of positive change. And crucially, this phrase might suggest the building of relationships which engage with the profound spectrum of experience within and among island societies, all the while cantering the very particular commonality we all share: to be attached to these small places, and to be committed to their well-being.

For the past few years, I have been engaged in inquiries into the subject of environmental solidarity across islands through music, writing, and activism in Washington, DC and my home island of Borikén (Puerto Rico). I have been quite immersed in this topic, but nevertheless, the ISISA conference opened up horizons for truly international island dialogue which I had never experienced directly. Participants from across the globe shared their research along multiple axes. Sessions on climate change, indigenous knowledge, feminism, arts, immigration (my

personal favourite!) and beyond demonstrated how meaningful and multi-faceted island dialogue can be. The conference hit a “sweet spot” which hardly ever occurs in conferences: the feeling that island scholars, artists and activists are both highly diverse and also deeply, intimately connected.

I look forward to seeing how the conversations which took place last month might develop in the lead-up to next year’s conference. Sustaining bonds which germinate at conferences is always a challenge, but perhaps we can continue to utilize the online capabilities which made a virtual meeting possible in the first place. Some possibilities might include: online bulletin boards in which members can share their latest work; discussion forums which meet every few months via Zoom on specific topics; and small-scale collaborations which culminate in presentations at next year’s conference. I hope that such follow-up activities may take place. In the meantime, I am very grateful to have been a part of this year’s virtual conference, and to have encountered this most excellent community.

Note of Appreciation

The conference was a great way to learn more about the work being done in the field and introduced me to some important literature that I will incorporate into my own PhD research. It was also a great opportunity to share my work and receive feedback.

Thank you so much for all of the terrific presenters.

Kearney Coupland

Scholarship recipient

Easter Island Conference 2022, Save the Date!

Gerard Persoon

The 10th International Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific will be held in Leiden, The Netherlands, from 19 to 24 June 2022. More information will follow. This message is intended to announce the title of the conference (*‘Rapa Nui: change and resilience’*), the time and the place in advance. Keep an eye on the website that is currently under construction (<https://paaseiland.org>). Please note that this Easter Island conference is planned in such a way that it occurs immediately after the ISISA conference in Croatia.



paaseiland.org

“Whether an island such as Easter Island can be considered remote is simply a matter of perspective. Those who live there, the Rapa Nui, call their homeland Te Pito Te Henua, 'the navel of the world'. Any point on the infinite globe of the Earth can become a centre.” (Judith Schalansky)



Island Studies Journal (ISSN: 1715-2593) was set up in 2006 as a freely downloadable, peer reviewed, scholarly and interdisciplinary journal dedicated to the study of islands and island life.

ISJ is now institutionally housed at the University of the Faeroe Islands.

ISJ is, since June 2012, the official journal of ISISA and, since 2013, the official journal of RETI (the Network of Island Universities).

Manuscripts to be considered for publication are welcome at: isj@upei.ca Website: www.islandstudies.ca/journal

Curacao the world's 1st 'island doughnut'

By Sharnon Isenia

Member of the strategic core group of the Curacao Doughnut Economy (CDE) taskforce. The CDE taskforce is a social movement. The aim of the taskforce is to create the first island doughnut model of the world. <https://www.facebook.com/curacaodoughnut>

'Curaçao is a pioneer in showing how a Caribbean island can start putting 21st century economics into practice in order to create a regenerative future.'

Kate Raworth, March 2021

The first steps to change

Curacao has a good basis of becoming the world's first 'island doughnut'. There are plenty of existing companies and initiatives that focus on making the island sustainable. That is one of the main conclusions of the report 'Curacao Doughnut Economy - A New Compass for Economic Prosperity'¹. On March 24th of this year a report was approved by the Council of Ministers as policy plan for the integral development of Curacao towards 2030.

The doughnut model is of the British economist Kate Raworth. It connects environmental, economic and social principles for a sustainable transition from a linear to a circular economy. The report is a first step in the formulation of policy, the promotion and the creation of a circular economy in 2030 for Curacao. The doughnut economy functions as a compass with the aim: to develop the economy such that a better balance is created over time between the fulfillment of social needs of the inhabitants versus the ecological limits of the earth and Curacao in particular.

Focus on value

The doughnut model is a compass that makes the direction of Curacao value driven. The model creates this by asking the key question: How can Curaçao be a place for human development and where people flourish with respect for the wellbeing of the planet and all inhabitants?

To make this question manageable, it is divided into four groups: local-social, local-ecological, global-social and global ecological. The questions help the island think about the local and global dimensions, as well as the social and environmental dimensions of the island related to its economy.

An inventory identifies the four groups of sustainable companies with their underlying business models and other initiatives. A total of ninety-five (95) sustainable companies are identified and twenty-three (23) new ideas coming from private initiatives are put forward and proposed for further future development.

How does the doughnut model work?

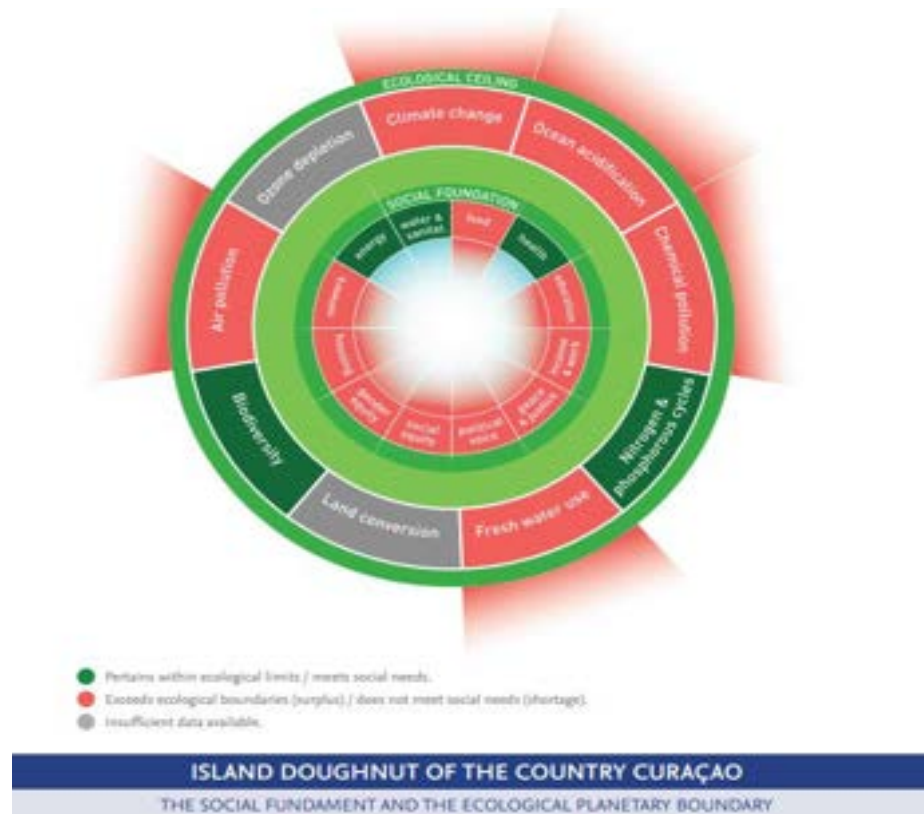
The doughnut model consists of two concentric rings: an inner ring and an outer ring. The inner ring represents twelve (12) social foundations, derived from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), that are needed for a society to develop successfully. The outer ring represents the earth's nine (9) ecological boundaries, developed by Rockström and his colleagues in 2009. These go far beyond the ecological aspects of the SDGs. Raworth's seven principles support economic prosperity from this inner and outer ring of the doughnut model.

Curacao Island Snapshot

In addition to the data collection, ten (10) workshops were organized in smaller community groups in different neighborhoods across the island. The 'Curacao Island Snapshot' shows that

¹ The report 'Curacao Doughnut Economy - A New Compass for Economic Prosperity' is a product of Project bureau Circular Economy of the Ministry of Economic Development and was established in close cooperation with Curaçao Doughnut Economy Taskforce. The government of Curaçao shows gratitude to all parties involved for their valuable discussions and insights that have contributed to the creation of this first doughnut economy model for islands.

there is still much work to be done, if the island wants to be a part of the doughnut economy. There is poverty, lack of knowledge, unemployment, inequality, and the environment is neglected. The red discs pertaining to the social fabric show which essential social are lacking. The red discs outside the ecological ceiling show the current excess of ecological boundaries.



Conclusion

The Curacao Island Snapshot shows an alarming picture of the economy, both socio-economic and ecological. Curaçao does not meet the limits imposed by the model on several fronts. Five of the nine ecological indicators and nine of the twelve socio-economic indicators provide worrying insights. Curaçao lacks a social foundation, and this has its impact on the climate. More research is needed to find out exactly how this social foundation can be built on a sustainable basis.

Mission & vision

With the right priorities, work programs and projects, the Government of Curacao can help create a path towards prosperity by 2030 that will make the island a leader for sustainability in the Caribbean. Meanwhile, private initiatives, will induce the needed transformation based upon best practices. These should be part of an integral public-partnership approach. In 2030 Curaçao will be able to reduce its carbon footprint and increase respect for the wellbeing of people, develop more resilient communities and handle regulations in an innovative way by implementing the next nine recommendations. This will automatically attract investors who drive sustainability and guarantee the economic prosperity of the island.

Nine recommendations

1. Inter-ministerial cooperation; the complexity of a transition to a circular economy requires more integration between ministries and the cultivation of intrinsic motivation.
2. Knowledge, knowledge-sharing and advice; more open government and more contact with communities. Feel free to re-use the model for doughnut workshops.
3. Information and monitoring; regularly examine all indicators within the doughnut model.
4. Open collaboration platforms and a proper digital infrastructure; the doughnut economy taskforce will set up a digital platform to strengthen the path to economic prosperity.
5. Jobs and skills; generate new jobs in the circular economy through challenges formulated by partners in the field.
6. Investment fund; pro-activity develops financing instruments for the circular economy.
7. Circular area development & tenders; areal development and tenders should become circular by design (regenerative, distributive and inclusive).
8. International partnerships; various organizations from Aruba, St. Maarten, Costa Rica, Grand Bahama, Suriname, Malta and the European Union have shown interest in the Doughnut model that Curacao has developed.
9. Narrative building; develop a strong narrative of change that offers points of reference for sustainable initiatives and gives meaning to the major changes underway.

DFG Network on Island Studies Set Up

Laura Dierksmeier and Frerich Schön, from the University of Tübingen in Germany, were recently granted funding for the DFG Network entitled 'Island Studies Network: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Island Exchanges, Environments, and Perceptions'. The network involves 15 researchers and 8 guest speakers, from ten different countries. The network corresponds with the DFG funding goal to promote early career researchers and sponsor innovative research fields that are distinguished by their interdisciplinary and international approach.

Within the network are researchers from the disciplines of history, archaeology, anthropology, digital humanities, geography, literary studies, and philology. Through the integration of leading experts in the field, such as Godfrey Baldacchino from the University of Malta and Beate Ratter from the University of Hamburg, the members of the network wish to learn from established island studies departments whilst connecting to current international debates. To implement their goal to serve as a multiplication platform for island research, the network plans to hold three meetings in Tübingen, Hamburg, and Malta and to organize a panel for the ISISA 2022

conference. The network also aims to publish results on three thematic clusters: exchanges, environments, and perceptions.

Dr. Laura Dierksmeier

Early Modern History - Universität Tübingen
Germany

Congratulations!

Congratulations to University of Tasmania Professor of Geography Elaine Stratford, who has been recognised on the national stage for her exceptional contributions to the field of geography 🌐



Professor Stratford was presented with the Institute of Australian Geographers' (IAG) highest award, the Griffith Taylor Medal, at the Institute's virtual annual conference broadcast from Sydney on 6 July, 2021.

The award honours an exemplary career spanning 35 years, during which her work has been motivated by trying to understand the conditions in which people flourish in place, in their movements, in daily life, and over the life-course.

Island Studies leader Jim Randall retires



After nine years as Coordinator of the Master of Arts in Island Studies (MAIS) program and Chair of the Institute of Island Studies (IIS) Executive Committee, Jim Randall is retiring.

Trained as an economic and urban geographer, Jim moved with his family to Prince Edward Island in 2010 to take up the post of VP Academic at UPEI. In 2012 he became Coordinator of the MAIS program, teaching in the MAIS and Island Studies Minor programs and undertaking a supervisory role for several

master's students. When he arrived, the MAIS program had 28 thesis students and 21 graduates. Since 2018 when he introduced the work/study program, enrolment has more than doubled and MAIS alumni now total 50. More than half the incoming students are now international students. Students and staff agree that the current success of the program is due to Jim's vision, persistence, and hard work.

As Chair of the Institute's Executive Committee, Jim built on the Institute's reputation as an "honest broker" that is recognized for doing research that contributes to evidence-based policymaking. This led to a collaboration with the Community Foundation of Prince Edward Island to research and produce the *2019 Vital Signs* report that went into households across the Island, as well as various research contracts with the Government of PEI. The most recent, to undertake a four-year "Indicators of Well-being" study with the Government of PEI, is now under way with a province-wide survey set to launch in the fall.

Jim was named UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability co-chair (with Dr. Godfrey Baldacchino from the University of Malta) from 2016 to 2020 and became sole Chair in 2020. Throughout that time, he secured several research funding from the Government of PEI, ACOA, the Foreign Affairs Office of Hainan Province, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRCC), among others. His most recent project is curating a series of 24 COVID-19 Island Insights papers from islands around the globe in collaboration with the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance and Island Innovation. The papers form the basis of a policy initiative that will be presented at COP-26 in Glasgow in November.

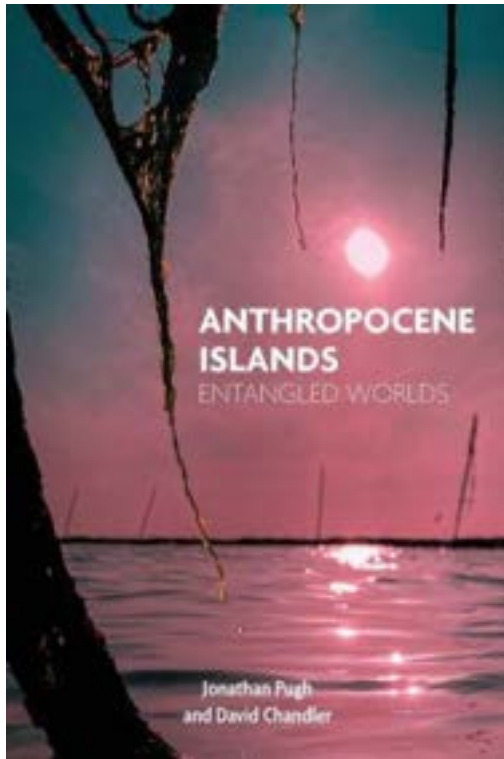
Author of dozens of peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, Jim is Executive Editor of and contributor to the *Global Islands Report 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020*, published in affiliation with the Foreign Affairs Office of Hainan Province, China. His groundbreaking textbook, *An Introduction to Island Studies*, was published in 2021 with Island Studies Press and Rowman & Littlefield.

If you want to reach out to Jim to wish him well in his retirement, or let him know what his involvement in Island Studies has meant to you, feel free to contact him at his UPEI email address (jarandall@upei.ca). I'm sure he would be happy to hear from you

Congratulations, Jim, on a well-earned retirement!



New Book by Jonathan Pugh



Anthropocene Islands: Entangled Worlds explores the significant and widespread shift to working with islands for the generation of new or alternative approaches to knowledge, critique and policy practices. It explains how contemporary Anthropocene thinking takes a particular interest in islands as ‘entangled worlds’, which break down the human/nature divide of modernity and enable the generation of new or alternative approaches to ways of being (ontology) and knowing (epistemology). The book draws out core analytics which have risen to prominence (Resilience, Patchworks, Correlation and Storiatio) as contemporary policy makers, scholars, critical theorists, artists, poets and activists work with islands to move beyond the constraints of modern approaches. In doing so, it argues that engaging with islands has become increasingly important for the generation of some of the core frameworks of contemporary thinking and concludes with a new critical agenda for the Anthropocene.

If you would like more information about this book click on the link below:

<https://www.uwestminsterpress.co.uk/site/books/m/10.16997/book52/>

We would also like to mention that this book sets out the agenda for the broader ‘Anthropocene Islands’ network. Follow the link below for more information about this network:

<https://www.anthropoceneislands.online/>

Symposium invitation

9th Anatomy of Islands

ISLANDS AND CRISES: Resilience and sustainability of island communities
The Croatian island of Lastovo, 27 – 29 September 2021.

We invite you to the 9th Anatomy of Islands symposium. Due to the reasons we know too well, we had to cancel it last year. This year we will not.

We do hope we will gather again on the farthest inhabited Croatian island of Lastovo, by the end of September. The topic that we propose is undoubtedly relevant: Islands and Crises. This topic was designed to bear in mind, particularly, deinsularisation and islandness in jeopardy. However mindful of the current global state, this topic is also proposed with discourse towards island crises caused by the mainland and island pandemic and anti-pandemic measures. These measures have insularised many and led many to ask how to live our “new” everyday lives. Here, islands may again lead us from dialogue to answer.

We regret that we announced the Symposium rather late. However, the deadline for applications has been extended to **30 July, 2021**. We do hope that those interested in taking part in the symposium will have enough time to apply. Further information at:

<https://anatomija-otoka.com/en/news/9th-anatomy-of-islands-lastovo-27-29-september-2021-113?g=5>

Nenand Starc



Recovery and Regrowth

What's Happening with the Kangaroo Island Children's Bushfire Fund June 2021

We are delighted to be contacting you all again. We want to share with you some of the exciting ways that your generous ISISA donation is being used to support the children and families who lost so much in the catastrophic bushfires of 2019/2020. It is an enormous tribute to your generosity that your funds are still being drawn upon. To our amazement we are still receiving contributions from time to time.

As you will see below, teachers and students have come up with some very creative ideas and projects that can become a reality because of your fund. It may be 18 months since the fires, but the scars are deep and we are still grappling with mental health and well-being issues in the wider community. There is a level of general fatigue across much of the Island.

The Parndana campus of the local school is the focus of our funding support and we are constantly surprised and delighted with the consistent efforts being made by the whole school community to provide a secure safe space for every child. Please read on and tell us what you think of these initiatives.

Initiative I: Film Festival

In recent years, Heidi, a creative, committed teacher, has been working with students to produce short films. Each year a Film Festival – called *The Parndana Parmies* - is organized to show

student films to the community. Just after sunset on a chilly March evening this year, the delayed 2020 Festival was held. A COVID safe, open-air film event was held on the school oval. It was fun, thought-provoking and showed that students were refining their film-making skills. Many students had created very poignant and reflective films about the bushfire impact. Heidi is working toward entering Parndana students' short films in mainland competitions. A generous donation will assist with the purchase of film-making and editing equipment.



Initiative 2:

Painted Poles

Following the fires, the school collected some partially burnt blue gum trunks. As part of the school's wellbeing program, every child participated, within their class, to transform those trunks into painted poles. The poles were carefully prepared, painted and decorated as a sign of hope for the future. These colourful poles have been erected as an art installation at the school entrance. They are a wonderful representation of post-fire resilience. Funding enabled this project to take flight by providing appropriate long-lasting paints.

Initiative 3: Books and More Books

Many of you have mentioned books as an important aspect of wellbeing. You will be pleased to hear that we have worked with the school librarian, the teachers and the Head of Campus to identify a large number of books as additional resources in the classroom. A significant purchase will be a class set of 30 copies of a beautiful book entitled *Bindi* by Indigenous author Kirli Saunders. This is a story written in verse that explores climate change, bushfires and healing. (These books will be purchased through a local bookseller, thus benefitting a fire affected local business.)

Initiative 4: Wellbeing Space

At the very centre of the Parndana school campus, a large recently cleared site is ready to be transformed into a school wellbeing space. Last year students came up with the idea of having a pleasant place outside where they could gather, relax, chat and simply 'be'. Plans are well advanced to transform this cleared site. Students, staff and parents will assist with this exciting project. There will be grassed areas, seating, gardens, a water feature, winding paths, student

murals and creative activity spaces. Funds will be drawn upon to ensure that this space is both beautiful and enduring and meets the objective of enhancing wellbeing.

Initiative 5: Talking Tables

Talking Tables is a well-researched teaching/learning tool that enhances children's language, listening, reading and writing skills. Teachers at Parndana are discovering how useful a talking table can be to involve children who have language and learning challenges that have been complicated by the impact of the fires. Funds will be used to purchase the talking posters, literature discussion cards and three-dimensional objects that are needed for this tool to work optimally.



Junior Primary Parndana students creating colourful designs on tall poles salvaged from the bushfires.

**Your long-term post bushfire support is like a bright star in our
Bushfire Recovery Process
Thank you for caring and sharing.**

Dr Bob Teasdale Deputy Mayor of Kangaroo Island
Jennie Teasdale

Ka Pili Kai – Free Biannual Magazine

Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program produces a free biannual magazine, Ka Pili Kai, celebrating the people and places across the Pacific region and our deep connection to "all things related to the sea" through vivid photographs and inspiring stories. Our most recent issue, just out for Kau (summer) 2021, is called "Climate Resilience: Adapting to our warming world," exploring various aspects of climate change, from its challenges to the inspiration of those working collectively on solutions and adaptations.

For a digital version visit: <https://seagrantsoest.hawaii.edu/ka-pili-kai-kau-2021/>

Previous issues on other topical themes that might be of interest are here: <https://seagrantsoest.hawaii.edu/resources/ka-pili-kai/>

Rachel Lentz

Expression of Interest – ISISA Newsletter Editor

The ISISA Executive Committee is inviting expressions of interest for a new ISISA Newsletter Editor. My term comes to an end in June 2022. It has been a great journey. However, now it's time for someone else with new ideas to take my place. If you have any suggestions, or are interested in becoming the next ISISA Newsletter editor, kindly contact me on: abaldacchino59@gmail.com

You can reach ISISA through:

Listserv: ISISA@groups.io

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

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

Details of the Individual Executive Committee members are at: <https://www.isisa.org/index.php?c=executive-committee>

