

ISISA NEWSLETTER

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Dear ISISA members,

We are delighted to bring you the July 2025 edition of our newsletter!

As we look ahead, we're excited to announce the upcoming **ISISA World Conference**, set to take place in **July 2026 in South Korea**. You can find more details about this major event in the current issue. This edition also features announcements of several other important events that may be of interest to everyone involved in island studies.

We warmly encourage you to continue submitting your contributions for future editions. Please, be mindful of submission deadlines so that we can promote all activities in a timely manner. Thank you for following the work of our association. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Warm regards,

Anica Čuka, Newsletter editor

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International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, July 2025



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I'm delighted to bring greetings on behalf of the ISISA Executive to you, our ever-expanding Island Studies family. With so many things going on in the world these days – all of which affect islands in one way or another – it's encouraging to know that a faithful cadre of island scholars, practitioners, and islanders from around the globe are doing their part to help address these challenges. In addition, they are willing to share their knowledge and insights through conferences, publications, collaborative research projects, and just by simply talking to one another. Indeed, this newsletter is another way of bringing some of these stories to light. A huge thanks go to all of you who contributed, and to Anica who pulled it all together!

As you'll read in these pages, Anica, Sarah, Adam, and I were invited to a pre-conference conference in South Korea in late May. It was such a privilege to visit the island where we'll be for the 20th iteration of Islands of the World next July, and to get a taste for what the organizers have planned for us.

Hats off to Sun-Kee Hong and Jae-Eun Kim from Mokpo National University for putting together a vibrant program for us, and for affording us the opportunity to present some of our research to such an appreciative audience.



Indeed, the panel of scholars from the Institution for Marine and Island Cultures at MNU, and representatives from our host Shinan County, our sponsor Korea Island Foundation, and the Korea Island Development Institute who responded to our work demonstrated the depth of engagement they have with what we do because they're in the throes of it themselves. We very much look forward to continuing the conversation with them next July. Our hosts' generosity of spirit was certainly evident in everything they did. And the location – on Jaeundo Island, a few hours' train ride south of Seoul – is the perfect example of "island as microcosm" for island scholars to visit, balancing as it does their traditional land- and sea-based economic enterprises with tourism and sustainable energy – along with dynamic island themes and preoccupations such as population change, land reclamation, climate change, "the bridge effect," culture, and others. I am so looking forward to seeing you there next year!

International Small Islands Studies Association

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

At last year's AGM we mentioned the issues we've had with being able to take your membership money. Thanks to Bobby and Adam, we are that close to resolving it.

To that end, we've delayed hosting our Annual General Meeting until we can have paid-up memberships. We are optimistic that you should be able to pay your \$20 US annual or \$200 US lifetime membership fee in time for our **AGM on September 23, at 8 am ADT**, when we invite you to join us online.

Reports will be available on our website prior to the meeting and registration details will follow via email to our newsletter mailing list and on the website.

I want to take this opportunity to once again thank your hardworking executive, Vice-president Sarah Nimführ, Secretary Anna Baldacchino, Treasurer Bobby MacAulay, Ordinary Members Adam Grydehøj, Rosemarie Azzopardi, Anica Čuka, and Ayano Genoza, and co-opted member Tomislav Oroz. We have a fantastic team and I look forward to another excellent year!

There's lots more to report on, but I'll save it for the fall. In the meantime, I wish you a glorious island summer wherever you are!

Kind regards,
Laurie Brinklow, BA, MA(IS), PhD, OPEI
President of ISISA

International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, July 2025



Bridging Islands: Reflections from the Pre-Conference Meeting to Commemorate ISISA 2026 on Jaeun Island, Shinan County, South Korea

Our journey began with a rush of speed on the KTX Train through the Korean countryside from the vibrant city of Seoul to dreamy Mokpo. It was the start of a visit that would carry us across spaces and moments, as we joined the Pre-Conference Meeting in preparation for the upcoming 20th World of Islands Conference ISISA 2026. We – Laurie Brinklow, Sarah Nimführ, Anica Čuka, and Adam Grydehøj – had been invited by Professor Sun-Kee Hong and the Institute for Marine and Island Cultures at Mokpo National University, future host of ISISA 2026.



Warm Welcomes and Early Impressions

As we arrived in Mokpo we were warmly welcomed by Professor Jae-Eun Kim and colleagues. Our first stop was Mokpo National University, where we met with Professors Sun-Kee Hong and Jae-Eun Kim. The meeting was also attended by University President Song Hacheol, Vice President for Academic Affairs Park Si-Hyung, Vice President for External Cooperation Lee Sang-Chan and Director of International Affairs Hong Seon-Gi, who discussed strategies for inter-university cooperation in island industries and maritime research. This meeting was followed by a delightful lunch, offering us a first taste of Korea's rich and diverse culinary culture.

That afternoon, our hosts presented us with the draft program for the upcoming conference. We are excited to officially announce theme and date:

ISISA 2026: Island Space and Time 7–11 July 2026

The theme invites us to explore not only the spatiality of islands, but also their shifting temporalities and connections – how islands shape and are shaped by the movement of people, ideas, non-human actors, and ecosystems.

International Small Islands Studies Association

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Bridging Islands: Reflections from the Pre-Conference Meeting to Commemorate ISISA 2026 on Jaeun Island, Shinan County, South Korea



A Thoughtful and Inclusive Program

We are deeply grateful for the organizers' dedication and the well-structured program they have put together. It includes not only a fully integrated excursion during the conference but also optional multi-day field trips before and after the event. An exciting aspect of the excursions planned around the conference includes a possible ride on the Mokpo Marine Cable Car, one of the longest over-water cable cars in Asia. Gliding above the coastline and islands, the ride will offer breathtaking panoramic views of the Mokpo archipelago and the Yellow Sea beyond.

One particularly commendable initiative is the offering of scholarships for students from developing countries, which will include free accommodation at the beautiful 1004 Islands Museum Park on Jaeun Island.

In the late afternoon, we continued our journey to Jaeun Island, the future site of ISISA 2026. The route itself is a reminder of South Korea's vast archipelagic landscape, crossing a series of bridges and linking the various islands and its inhabitants, past fishing villages and rice paddies.

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Bridging Islands: Reflections from the Pre-Conference Meeting to Commemorate ISISA 2026 on Jaeun Island, Shinan County, South Korea

On our second day's morning, we visited the beach cabins designated for scholarship recipients. Set in a stunning natural environment, these cabins offer a peaceful and inspiring place to stay for participating students.

Just next door, the Shinan Museum of Natural Plants provides an excellent introduction to the region's botanical richness.

A perfect place to ground oneself in the archipelago's rhythm.





Bridging Islands: Reflections from the Pre-Conference Meeting to Commemorate ISISA 2026 on Jaeun Island, Shinan County, South Korea

A Promising Conference Venue

Later that day, we joined a brief reception with local representatives from Shinan County at the C-One Beach Resort, the proposed site for the main conference. The pre-conference meeting officially began with an opening address by Sun-Kee Hong, Chair of the Local Conference Organizing Committee, followed by a series of six diverse and thought-provoking presentations, each offering unique perspectives on Island Studies:

- Laurie Brinklow, ISISA President, reflected on how bridges as a permanent link shape island identities, connections, and transformations in island communities using the Confederation Bridge as a case study, which has connected the Canadian mainland to Prince Edward Island (PEI) since its opening in 1997.
- Anica Čuka, ISISA Executive Committee Member, discussed the importance of integrating environmental, social, and economic dimensions and involving the local communities to achieve sustainable development goals on the Croatian islands, particularly in the Zadar region.
- Sungwook Park, representative of Shinan County, introduced a community-centered profit-sharing model in Shinan county, South Korea, aimed at enhancing local welfare through renewable energy initiatives and reversing population decline by attracting new residents to the island areas.
- Adam Grydehøj, ISISA Executive Committee Member, emphasized the need for Island Studies to be critically reflexive and socially relevant, advocating for research that generates meaningful insights both within academia and for the island communities it seeks to understand.
- Sarah Nimführ, ISISA Vice President, highlighted that island identities are socially constructed and diverse, drawing on collective identity theories to show that stereotypical and colonial narratives must be critically challenged to understand the complex, multivalent realities of island collectivities.
- Jae-Eun Kim, Professor at the Institute for Marine and Island Cultures/Mokpo National University, explored the rich biocultural diversity of the Shinan County region and underlined the need to continue to ensure a balanced relationship between humans and nature on the islands.

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Bridging Islands: Reflections from the Pre-Conference Meeting to Commemorate ISISA 2026 on Jaeun Island, Shinan County, South Korea

The presentations were followed by a lively and thoughtful roundtable discussion featuring Sunghyun Park (Mokpo National University) and Keetae Song (Mokpo National University), Jiho Choi (Korea Island Development Institute), Hyuk Ki (Shinan County), and Heeyoung Chae (Korea Island Foundation). The session was expertly chaired by Professor Seok-Jun Hong of Mokpo National University.

A first round of scholarly exchange featured six insightful presentations – four from us – and an insightful plenary discussion with local island scholars and experts, setting the stage for what promises to be a dynamic and interdisciplinary conference.

The venue offers the convenience of integrated accommodation and conference spaces, just steps from the beach.

The location's natural setting and hotel activity offerings like Karaoke or the pool promise a well-rounded and enriching experience for attendees.



Bridging Islands: Reflections from the Pre-Conference Meeting to Commemorate ISISA 2026 on Jaeun Island, Shinan County, South Korea



Looking Ahead with Gratitude

We sincerely appreciated the outstanding hospitality, the spirit of collaboration, and the engaging discussions throughout our stay. Our heartfelt thanks go to Sun-Kee Hong, Jae-Eun Kim, and the entire organizing team for their warm welcome and meticulous planning.

We look forward with great anticipation to ISISA 2026 on Jaeun Island – an event that will no doubt continue to build bridges between islanders, scholars, and practitioners from around the world.

Sarah Nimführ



Jersey welcomes “Islands and Island Studies”

The Small Islands Culture Research Initiative (SICRI) recently hosted its annual conference, “Islands and Island Studies,” in Jersey, Channel Islands, June 3-7, in cooperation with Shima and the Jersey International Centre of Advanced Studies (JICAS). The conference featured over 50 paper presentations and panels by close to 70 scholars and community members from around the globe. The conference was held in meeting rooms provided by the Société Jersiaise at the Jersey Museum in St. Helier.

Plenary and parallel sessions encompassed a wide range of themes of concern to islanders, including Jersey Perspectives; Jersey, the Channel Islands, and the Breton Gulf; Conceptualising islands and island studies; Changing communities, changing spaces; Migrants, mobility, gender; Islands and cultural representation; Island history and globalisation; An ocean between us?

Identifying, understanding and reconciling gaps between decision-makers and publics in island communities; Policy making and communities; Challenges and opportunities for islands; and Issues in island tourism and culture. New to the conference was a parallel stream entitled “Speaking of ‘Islandness’: Archaeological Perspectives from the Channel Islands,” which featured scholars and archaeologists working in the field of archaeology in Jersey and the Channel Islands.

Photo: Delegates at the “Islands and Island Studies” conference at the Shima/JICAS/SICRI conference in Jersey June 3-7, 2025.



Jersey welcomes “Islands and Island Studies”

A plenary panel and discussion entitled “Journals and Island Studies (a 20-year review),” chaired by Jon Pugh, featured retrospective talks by Ping Su and May Joseph, co-editors of Island Studies Journal; Philip Hayward, editor of Shima; and Jae-Eun Kim, Managing Editor of Journal of Marine & Island Cultures.

The newly established New Voices in Island Studies Network, co-convened by Kirsten Gow and Jens Westerkov Andersen online over the past year, hosted a session for emerging scholars to present their work. In recognition for her work, Thaïs Franken, a PhD candidate from University of Aruba, won the best New Voices in Island Studies Presentation for a paper entitled “Public Value Governance in Small Island States: An Integrative Literature Review.”

Hats off to Sean Dettman from JICAS Jersey and Phil Hayward from SICRI for putting together a terrific team and creating such a welcoming and invigorating conference for all of us who attended. Very much looking forward to the next conference in the Philippines in June 2026!

Report by Laurie Brinklow, Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island
President of ISISA



Photo: PhD candidate Thaïs Franken from Aruba received the award for the best New Voices in Island Studies Presentation with a paper entitled “Public Value Governance in Small Island States: An Integrative Literature Review.”

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – 20th ISISA ISLANDS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE, Shinan, South Korea - July 7 - 11, 2026

 2026 ISISA World Island Conference – Official Announcement

 Venue: Ramada Hotel, Jaeundo Island, Shinan County, South Korea

 Dates: July 7–11, 2026

Dear colleagues, island researchers, and friends of island studies,
We are delighted to announce that the 20th Islands of the World Conference will be held from **July 7 to 11, 2026**, at the **Ramada Hotel on Jaeundo Island**, located in the beautiful archipelago of **Shinan County, South Korea**.

This international conference, organized by **ISISA (International Small Islands Studies Association)**, will bring together leading scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and island community members to explore the evolving dynamics of island sustainability, biocultural diversity, marine and coastal governance, and glocal development strategies.

Conference Theme: “Island Space and Time”

This theme invites participants to explore islands as both physical and cultural spaces shaped by history, movement, memory, and imagination. It encourages critical reflection on the temporalities and spatialities of island life—past, present, and future—and how islands have been positioned, connected, and transformed across time and geographies.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – 20th ISISA ISLANDS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE, Shinan, South Korea - July 7 - 11, 2026

Why Jaeundo?

Jaeundo Island is part of Shinan County, an archipelago of over 1,000 islands. The region features tidal flats, mudflats, rocky shores, and diverse intertidal ecosystems, supporting rich biological diversity. Shinan is home to extraordinary ecological and scenic beauty, with areas designated as UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites and national parks. This setting offers a compelling case for exploring the interactions between human communities and fragile island environments.

Jaeundo itself reflects the region's dynamic balance between tradition and innovation. Known for its expansive tidal flats, salt farms, and coastal landscapes, the island offers a living laboratory for field-based learning and interdisciplinary dialogue.

Key Features:

- Governance, policies, and politics
- Economy, population, tourism, and mobilities
- Nature, environment, and biocultural systems
- Art, culture, heritage, myth, and tradition
- Infrastructure and technology
- Theory, epistemology, and methodology.



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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – 20th ISISA ISLANDS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE, Shinan, South Korea - July 7 - 11, 2026

Call for Abstracts and Early Registration

Detailed information on abstract submission, registration, and accommodation will be announced soon via the official conference website. We encourage all interested participants to stay tuned for the opening of the **Call for Papers soon**.

We warmly invite you to join us in Shinan County to exchange ideas, build new collaborations, and contribute to the global dialogue on island sustainability.

With warm regards,

Organizing Committee

2026 ISISA World Island Conference

For information **about the conference**, please visit or contact:

- <https://www.2026isisa.kr> (Website scheduled to open at the end of June)
- e-mail: info@2026isisa.kr



For information or questions **about ISISA**, please visit <https://isisa.org> or contact:

- ISISA president Laurie Brinklow (brinklow@upei.ca) or
- ISISA executive member Adam Grydehøj (agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org)





ISLANDS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE

"Island Space and Time"



2026 **Jul.** —
7^{TUE} - 11^{SAT}

Conference Venue

Jaeundo, Shinan County,
South Korea



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

SAVE THE DATE

TOPICS

- ☒ Governance, Policy Studies, and Politics
- ☒ Economy, Population, Tourism, and Mobilities
- ☒ Environment, Natural Sciences, and Biocultural Systems
- ☒ Art, Culture, Heritage, Myth, and Tradition
- ☒ Infrastructure and Technology
- ☒ Theory, Epistemology, and Methodology

FOR ABSTRACT GUIDELINES & ONLINE SUBMISSION VIEW: www.2026isisa.kr (to be launched in June 2025)

For inquires, please email to conference secretariat (info@2026isisa.kr)

Xiji Homecoming: Reclaiming an Island Through Memory and Reunion

(1) Xiji as a Relocated Island: Vanishing Under Policy and Circumstance

Located in the southeastern waters of the Penghu archipelago, Xiji Island was once home to more than 400 inhabitants at its peak in the mid-20th century. However, the island's destiny changed drastically due to limited natural resources, absence of electricity, and challenging living conditions. As Taiwan's economy modernized, educational and industrial policies increasingly drew younger generations away from the island. Consequently, Xiji's population dwindled until 1979, when the last remaining residents left, marking it as Penghu's only officially relocated village. Once vibrant homes, temples, and schools fell silent, leaving Xiji as an abandoned island in the nation's collective memory.

(2) The Homecoming Opportunity: From Forgotten Island to Reimagined Homeland

The establishment of the South Penghu Marine National Park in 2014 signaled a significant turning point. Enhanced environmental protection and improved transportation infrastructure, notably more reliable ferry services, made returning to Xiji logistically feasible. In 2017, former residents, many of whom had been away for over four decades, organized their first homecoming expedition. Nearly 50 islanders returned using fishing boats to perform beach landings, reconnecting emotionally with their ancestral homeland amidst poignant memories evoked by the island's familiar yet deteriorated landscapes. This powerful experience sparked a collective determination to continue returning annually.



01. Landing on Xiji Island

Participants disembark from a fishing boat and pass supplies hand-in-hand during a beach landing—an essential yet physically demanding part of the homecoming journey.



02. Stone Towers of Xiji Island

These coastal stone towers stand as landmarks of Xiji, reflecting the traditional wisdom of the settlement and its spiritual practices.

Xiji Homecoming: Reclaiming an Island Through Memory and Reunion

(3) Homecoming Is Not Easy: Struggles in Reclaiming the Past

Revisiting Xiji is far from simple. The island's lack of proper piers necessitates beach landings, a challenging maneuver known locally as "storming the beach." Nevertheless, islanders remain dedicated to the journey, which is as emotional as it is physical. Wandering through the ruins of schools, temples, and ancestral homes rekindles profound memories of youth—filled with laughter, community solidarity, and hardship. Today, Xiji islanders organize an annual three-day, two-night homecoming journey during major holidays such as the Dragon Boat Festival or Mid-Autumn Festival. Participants camp on the island and sleep in tents for two nights, embracing both the physical challenge and emotional significance of returning home. These visits also revive traditions lifestyle, including preparation of traditional seafoods, and the telling of local stories.



03. Visiting Ancestral Homes

Homecomers return to long-abandoned ancestral houses, revisiting memories of childhood and rediscovering family histories through weathered walls and doorways.

04. Nature's Landscape Art

Windswept grasses form sculptural patterns across the fields, creating a natural landscape artwork unique to Xiji's environment.

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05. Harvesting Wild Glossogyne tenuifolia

A participant gathers wild Glossogyne tenuifolia, a native medicinal herb traditionally brewed into tea to relieve heat and detoxify the body.

→ → →



Xiji Homecoming: Reclaiming an Island Through Memory and Reunion

(4) The New Xiji People: From Descendants to Cultural Stewards

Initially, homecoming events primarily drew elderly first-generation islanders. Gradually, participation expanded to include second- and third-generation descendants or their friends, many of whom had never visited the island before. Their motivations ranged from familial duty and curiosity to a desire for cultural engagement. Over time, these new participants formed lasting bonds with the island through environmental education, cultural tours, and community-building activities. Today, the homecomings have evolved beyond nostalgia into structured intergenerational cultural exchanges. The "new Xiji people" now play an essential role in preserving and promoting the island's cultural heritage.



06. The Crumbling Old Temple

A once-vibrant temple now lies in ruins—its fading structure a poignant reminder of Xiji's spiritual heritage and the urgency of cultural preservation.



07. Camping at the Homecoming Site

Participants set up tents near the ruins of the old village, turning the abandoned landscape into a temporary yet vibrant community during the annual return.

08. Spectacular Basalt Coastline on Xiji's Northern Shore

The island's northern cliffs showcase striking columnar basalt formations.

→ → →



Xiji Homecoming: Reclaiming an Island Through Memory and Reunion

(5) Conclusion: Islands Exist Through People

Although officially designated as a "relocated" island without permanent residents, Xiji endures vividly through the collective memories and ongoing actions of its returning community. Each beach landing and shared story ensures the island's survival beyond physical habitation. Annual homecomings by former islanders and their descendants have transformed Xiji into a dynamic cultural heritage site, exemplifying the intricate relationship between environment, memory, and identity. For the international island studies community, Xiji illustrates the profound potential for relocated island communities to reclaim their narratives, reestablish connections, and sustain cultural continuity across generations.

Through Xiji's story, we learn that even abandoned islands can become vibrant spaces of cultural revival and environmental stewardship. Its future lies not in physical repopulation, but in continuous emotional and cultural reengagement, preserving its legacy through those committed to returning year after year.

By WeiChieh Lin



09. Islanders Chatting in Their Hometown
Under a makeshift canopy, former residents gather and share stories, laughter, and memories—reviving social life in their ancestral homeland.



10. Group Photo of Xiji Islanders – 2025 Homecoming
A multigenerational gathering of Xiji islanders, their descendants and friends.



11. Giant Clam (Niau-tsô)
This giant clam, locally known in Taiwanese as niau-tsô (貓槽 Cat Bowl). (LEFT PHOTO)

12. Sea Slug (Tsò-hì pô-á)
Commonly called tsò-hì pô-á (做戲婆仔 Acting woman) in Taiwanese. (RIGHT PHOTO)



CALL FOR COOPERATION – ONLINE SURVEY

My name is **Andrew Halliday**, an adjunct faculty member with **Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada**. I'm working on a research study about the interdisciplinary future of the field of Island Studies.

As you likely know, Island Studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry, so constructing a better understanding of the academic researchers and practitioners of the field based upon educational and personal background, geography, academic employment and practice will enrich the field. This project is seeking participation from academic researchers/practitioners who self-identify as engaging in island studies.

Since many of your newsletter recipients are members of the community of practice that I am speaking about (i.e., researchers in Island Studies) and am interested in from a research perspective, I have received research ethics clearance to and would like to engage in data collection through a 15-minute anonymous online survey. I would be most grateful if you could circulate this invitation to your distribution list via your newsletter.

For participants, it is entirely your choice to take part or not. Participation is completely voluntary. Please only complete the survey once. There will be no negative impact on you if you decide not to participate. As participation is anonymous, withdrawal is not possible after submitting responses, but you can choose not to answer any or all questions.

To find out more, and to participate: <https://forms.office.com/r/vKNvGNxAN2>

If you have any questions, please contact the researcher Andrew Halliday (ahalliday@upei.ca).

Thank you!!!

Andrew Halliday

What is the interdisciplinary future
of Island Studies?





CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN PhD RESEARCH PROJECT

Disseminating Technocratic Narratives: Public Policies on Digital Infrastructure in Small Jurisdictions.

Digital identity systems have become popular additions to digital state governance, enabling digital access to public services. However, their implementation challenges small jurisdictions, particularly in deciding between private and public governance, technology selection, and socio-political impacts. While large jurisdictions are present in the global discourse, this study investigates the absence of small actors in the discourse regardless of their innovative approaches. By examining how these digital identity systems are selected, procured, deployed, and operated, the research addresses the gap of understanding the role of appropriately governing these solutions for fulfilling their stated objectives for society. Employing an embedded mixed-methods approach, the research combines document analysis, expert ethnography, and multivariate data analysis to develop a Digital Infrastructure Maturity Framework (DIMF).

As part of my doctoral research at the Institute for Island and Small State Studies, University of Malta, I calculate the DIMF for four jurisdictions specifically. Namely, the jurisdictions in focus of my study are Aruba, Dominica, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. I am looking to draw from quantitative secondary data, but also conduct interviews and focus groups with participants from academia, civil society, government, and the private sector in the jurisdictions.

For reaching relevant individuals and organisations, who might be interested in participating in my study, I am reaching out to you for help. As island studies scholars (and enthusiasts!), you may know of someone in the Pacific and the Caribbean, who is working on digital development strategies and could support my research. Perhaps you are involved in such a project yourself and are interested in speaking to me.

If you have any lead, please consider reaching out to me at ben.biedermann.20@um.edu.mt. I greatly appreciate any support and insight. Thank you for helping my research to succeed!

The study is supervised by **Professor Joshua Ellul and Doctor Alexander Apostolides** and was approved by the FEMA Faculty Research Ethics Committee at the University of Malta on March 13, 2025 (Number: FEMA-2025-00004).

Ben Biedermann



ONLINE WORKSHOP!!!

Academic journal publishing in and beyond island studies: A workshop for students and early career researchers

Online: 12:00-14:00 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), 29 September 2025

Organisers: Adam Grydehøj & Ping Su, South China University of Technology's School of Foreign Languages

Why and how do researchers publish journal articles? Publishing is a critical part of academic life. It can provide a sense of achievement and the ability to share knowledge. It is also an essential element of scholars' occupations as students, lecturers, and professors. Nevertheless, for many of us, the details and workings of academic publishing remain a mystery. Why do some articles get published while others are rejected? Why do journal editors react positively to some topics and approaches while shying away from others? Why is so much research hidden behind paywalls instead of being free to access? How can a researcher select to which journal they should submit their paper? And perhaps most importantly: What can you do to increase your own chances of getting published and making an impact with your research?

We believe the answers to these questions in part involve understanding how the academic publishing industry works as well as the roles (and at times competing interests) of different actors (authors, editors, reviewers, publishers, readers, university administrators) within the publishing system.

At this workshop, **Adam Grydehøj** (co-Editor-in-Chief, *Folk, Knowledge, Place*) and **Ping Su** (co-Editor-in-Chief, *Island Studies Journal*) will introduce the world of academic publishing both within the field of island studies and beyond it. Adam will talk about the mechanics of academic publishing, from publishers' business models to journals' editorial procedures, with an emphasis on how these affect the ways in which journals handle article submissions. Ping will talk about what *Island Studies Journal* (the official journal of the International Small Islands Studies Association) is looking for in articles, common pitfalls for authors to avoid, and advice authors can follow to make their articles more attractive to editors and reviewers. These presentations will be followed by a discussion session in which participants can share their thoughts and questions about the academic writing and publishing process.

This workshop is open to all but is aimed primarily at students, young scholars, and early career researchers. If you are interested in attending, please contact Adam Grydehøj at agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org by **15 September 2025**.

International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, July 2025



CALL FOR PAPERS

IDRiM2025 Conference

“Advancing disaster risk reduction in islands and remote areas”

Samos, Greece, September 28-October 1, 2025

We would like to announce the IDRiM2025 Conference, titled “Advancing disaster risk reduction in islands and remote areas”. IDRiM2025 is the 15th International Conference of the International Society for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM Society) (<https://idrim2025.com>).

The Conference will take place **on the island of Samos, Aegean Sea, Greece, on September 28-October 1, 2025**, and is organized by IDRiM Society, the Municipality of Eastern Samos and the University of the Aegean.

Concept note

The 15th International Conference of the Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM) Society (IDRiM2025), titled “Advancing disaster risk reduction in islands and remote areas”, highlights the distinct risk environments and multifaceted challenges faced by islands and remote areas. In this context, the conference places accessibility (physical, social, economic, institutional, etc.) at the center examining its impact on disaster prevention and mitigation, emergency response, and disaster recovery in the era of climate crisis and globalization. Remote areas, such as small islands, peninsulas, forest and rural communities, and mountainous regions, are often characterized by their geographic isolation, limited infrastructure, forced self-reliance, and fragile ecosystems. These regions face significant challenges in disaster risk reduction and management, including difficulties in accessing resources and services, and weak connection to emergency management systems.

Welcome to Samos Island, Greece

for the
**15th International Conference
of IDRiM Society**

Sept. 28th – Oct. 1st 2025

**ONLINE YOUNG SCIENTISTS SESSION
(YSS)**

ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2025.

>> CLICK HERE TO FIND MORE <<

**EXTENSION OF EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
DEADLINE.**

**LAST DAY FOR EARLY BIRD
REGISTRATION: JUNE 30, 2025**



CALL FOR PAPERS

Communication barriers and fragmented governance structures further hinder communication and coordination among stakeholders, and challenge access to critical information. Additionally, the impacts of climate change and globalization exacerbate vulnerabilities, making it essential to develop and implement adaptive, sustainable, and locally tailored solutions to reduce risks and enhance resilience.

Addressing disaster risks in complex and resource-constrained settings often reveals critical implementation gaps. To bridge these gaps, emphasis is placed on the pivotal role of **implementation science**, which integrates research, policy, and practice to develop adaptive, collaborative, and participatory solutions for disaster risk management.

Implementation science enables the systematic identification of barriers to effective action and the development of tailored strategies to overcome them, ensuring that interventions are context-specific and feasible. Additionally, it fosters continuous learning through iterative processes, allowing stakeholders to refine their approaches based on real-time feedback and evolving conditions. By focusing on the practicalities of implementing integrated disaster risk management, the conference invites the scientific community, decision-makers, and practitioners to explore strategies for disaster risk reduction and management in contexts where access to locations, infrastructure, services, resources, funding, information, and knowledge is limited, intermittent, or constrained. To this end, IDRiM2025 encompasses the following topics, preferably focusing on islands and remote areas although other contributions, for example concerning urban areas, will be also considered.

Understanding disaster risk

- (Disaster) Risk assessment at a local level considering global flows and trends
- Frameworks to bridge knowledge and practice, fostering collaborative approaches to risk assessment
- Coastal and mountain hazards and risks in the era of climate change
- All-of-society engagement and participation for better risk and disaster data
- Citizen science for disaster risk reduction
- Sharing risk knowledge amongst different geo-administrative levels, sectors, communities, and scientific fields
- Spatial and temporal dimensions of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and disaster risk
- Comparing disaster response and recovery capacities in remote vs. non-remote areas

Strengthening disaster risk governance towards reducing and managing disaster risk in islands and remote areas

- All-of-society disaster risk reduction and management
- Risk awareness, information and communication leaving no one behind
- Capacity-building for participatory and risk-informed decision-making
- Science-policy-practice-community collaboration in disaster reduction and management
- Developing capacities and knowledge towards a resilient future
- Policies for enhancing individual, community and institutional disaster resilience and climate change adaptation
- Risk governance structures that integrate implementation science to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination



CALL FOR PAPERS

Investing in disaster risk reduction and resilience in islands and remote areas

- Sustainable and resilient infrastructure, tools and systems to improve accessibility
- Incentivizing private sector investment and engagement in disaster risk reduction
- Innovative investments and financing mechanisms for islands and remote areas
- Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction towards local development
- Risk informed investment in islands and remote areas, focusing on health, transport and tourism
- Investing in Nature based Solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
- Comparing approaches to infrastructure resilience in remote and non-remote areas

Improving disaster preparedness and response – “Build Back Better”

- Multi-Hazard early warning systems considering local priorities and challenges
- Emergency evacuation and relocation through the lens of sustainable development
- Information and Communication Systems for crisis and disaster management
- Disaster recovery and reconstruction of historic / traditional settlements and areas
- Build Back Better from disaster
- Inclusive preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction
- Leveraging resilience to hazards and sustainability through disaster reconstruction
- Learning from disasters
- Embedding adaptive processes in disaster preparedness and emergency response efforts

Overall, we welcome contributions from around the world, related to disaster risk assessment, reduction and management; risk perception and communication; risk governance; crisis and emergency management; disaster preparedness and response; disaster recovery and reconstruction; climate change adaptation; resilience to hazards and disasters; sustainable development and disaster risk reduction.

All hazards, risks, and disaster types are of concern, including those relating with public health emergencies (e.g., epidemics, biological), technological accidents (e.g., chemical, radiological), environmental and climatometeorological hazards (e.g., earthquake, landslide, extreme temperature, storm, flood, drought/desertification),

climate change, while the emphasis remains on islands and remote areas. Contributions from young scientists from all over the world are highly encouraged and are considered both for the online Young Scientists (YSS) Day that will take place on **September 23, 2025**, and for the conference. All young scientist participants will automatically be entered into the YSS Award competition.

The Conference is organized by the **Municipality of East Samos** in collaboration with the **University of the Aegean** and will take place in Samos (Northern Aegean Sea, Greece) on **September 28 - October 1, 2025**. An island near international borders is a suitable place for hosting dialogues on challenges faced by islands and remote areas due to the local conditions and broader trends. The island has learnt from past crises and disasters and is currently taking steps to reduce disaster risk and to build emergency and crisis management capacity. In 2024, the Municipality of East Samos became the first Greek municipality, and the third in the Mediterranean, to receive UNESCO's "Tsunami Ready Community" recognition.

International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, July 2025



CALL FOR PAPERS

17th OTIE International Islands Conference – University of Corsica, October 23-25, 2025

The OTIE community is excited to announce the 17th International Islands Conference, to be held at the University of Corsica in Corte, France, from October 23 to 25, 2025. This flagship event brings together scholars, policymakers, and practitioners dedicated to the sustainable development of island territories worldwide.

Islands are more than picturesque landscapes, they are vital laboratories for innovation in environmental resilience, cultural preservation, and economic sustainability.

This year's conference theme, "Islands as dynamic agents of sustainable futures," invites participants to explore interdisciplinary approaches addressing island challenges and opportunities.

Whether you are interested in climate adaptation, alternative tourism, renewable energy, or cultural heritage, the conference offers a vibrant platform for sharing cutting-edge research, networking with global experts, and contributing to actionable strategies.

Abstract submission is open until June 15, 2025. For more details, visit www.otie.org/conferences.html.

Join us in Corsica and be part of a vital conversation shaping the future of island communities worldwide

OTIE International Islands Conference



Call For Abstracts



17th OTIE International Islands Conference

University of Corsica
Haute - Corse – France
23-25 October 2025





CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Collection in Discover Sustainability

Theme: Is There a Role for Environmental Social Governance (ESG) in Sustainable Development?

We're excited to share an open call for contributions to a forthcoming Special Collection in Discover Sustainability (Springer Nature), titled: "Is There a Role for Environmental Social Governance (ESG) in Sustainable Development?" The collection explores how ESG frameworks are shaping sustainable outcomes across governance, policy, education, and finance, particularly in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This is a timely opportunity for scholars engaged in island studies to highlight the unique challenges and innovations around ESG implementation in island contexts. We especially encourage submissions from researchers working in or with island communities and institutions.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- ESG transparency and reporting practices
- ESG and sustainability governance in small or remote economies
- Climate risk, resilience, and ESG in island territories
- ESG integration in education and community leadership
- Greenwashing, regulation, and compliance
- Private sector sustainability in tourism and marine-based economies
- Interdisciplinary perspectives on ESG and island development

Submission Deadline: December 15, 2025

Journal: Discover Sustainability, (Open Access, Impact Factor 2.4)

Guest Editors:

- Dr. Kalim Shah (University of Delaware)
- Dr. Stefano Moncada (University of Malta)

More details and submission portal:
<https://link.springer.com/collections/fgidbaehgh>

While Discover Sustainability is fully open access and subject to an article processing charge (APC), discounts or waivers are available, especially for authors from developing regions. Please see:
<https://www.springer.com/journal/43621/how-to-publish-with-us#Fees%20and%20Funding>

If you have questions or would like to submit an abstract for feedback, feel free to contact Dr. Kalim Shah at kalshah@udel.edu.

We hope island researchers and sustainability scholars in the ISISA community will consider contributing their unique perspectives to this important conversation.

See flyer on the next page...

CALL FOR PAPERS



CALL FOR PAPERS

IS THERE A ROLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL GOVERNANCE (ESG) IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

We are pleased to share an open call for contributions to a forthcoming Special Collection in **Discover Sustainability**, an open-access journal published by **Springer Nature** with an **Impact Factor of 2.4**. titled: **"Is There a Role for Environmental Social Governance (ESG) in Sustainable Development?"**

This Collection explores ESG's evolving role in promoting sustainable outcomes across corporate governance, policy, education, and investment, particularly in alignment with the SDGs. Researchers from emerging economies and the developing world are especially encouraged to submit.

TOPIC OF INTEREST INCLUDE (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

- ✓ ESG performance and transparency in reporting
- ✓ Greenwashing and its implications for investor trust
- ✓ ESG integration in urban sustainability and public policy
- ✓ Corporate governance and SDG alignment
- ✓ ESG implementation in emerging markets and developing economies
- ✓ The role of education and leadership in advancing ESG literacy
- ✓ Regulatory effectiveness and compliance behavior

Final Submission Deadline

December 15, 2025

EDITORS:

Dr. Kalim Shah, Associate Professor, University of Delaware

kalshah@udel.edu

Dr. Stefano Moncada, Associate Professor, University of Malta

stefano.moncada@um.edu.mt

If this aligns with your current research interests, we would be very pleased to consider your work for inclusion in this collection. Submissions may be made through the journal's online portal, where you can select the Special Collection during the submission process.

To read more about the Collection, please visit:

<https://link.springer.com/collections/fgidbaehgh>

For information or clarification, reach out. We very much hope you will consider joining this scholarly dialogue and contributing your insights to ESG and sustainable development.



International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, July 2025



CALL FOR PAPERS

13th ANATOMY OF ISLANDS

Fragile Islands and/or Islands of Fragility: Island Lives, Contemporary Transformations and Uncertain Futures

Jelsa, Island of Hvar, 25–27 September 2025

Last year, the symposium Anatomy of Islands took place in Jelsa on the island of Hvar. It was the 12th consecutive event. We began on the island of Vis a decade ago, continued on the island of Lastovo, and finally arrived at Hvar. For the coming years, the island of Hvar and the town of Jelsa will continue to host our gatherings. This year, we are organizing our 13th symposium to initiate a discussion on the fragility of island worlds and the relationships through which this fragility is shaped, manifested, and understood across diverse contexts.



13th ANATOMY OF ISLANDS

*Fragile Islands and/or Islands of Fragility: Island Lives,
Contemporary Transformations and Uncertain Futures*

Jelsa, Island of Hvar, Croatia, 25-27 September 2025





CALL FOR PAPERS

We do not approach fragility as an inherent feature of islands, nor do we wish to equate it with interpretatively close yet critically debated concepts such as sustainability, resilience, or vulnerability. Furthermore, in reflecting on fragility, we do not intend to perpetuate the existing representations of islands as isolated spaces, or island communities as passive, victimized microcosms determined by the mainland. On the contrary, we seek to understand fragility as a feature that forewarns of breakage, damage, or destruction.

Inspired by F. D. Rubio's interpretation of fragility, we approach it as a possibility and an emancipatory potential for new and different ways of thinking about/with islands. Fragility is not a weakness but an ontological quality – an invitation to care, maintenance, and recognition. In the context of the Anthropocene, where the logic of endless progress and the rhetoric of resource exploitation can no longer be maintained, fragility reminds us to reconsider what makes islands susceptible to harm. Should we “handle islands with care” if the processes that generate their fragility continue unhindered in the background?

Thinking about island fragility thus opens up a series of research-relevant questions pointing to a range of interconnected phenomena. Issues such as illegal construction, biodiversity loss, depopulation, overreliance on tourism, poor connectivity, administrative fragmentation, commodification of space, and global-local tensions are deeply entangled.

Rather than isolating “islands of fragility,” we seek to explore fragile islands in their entanglements, especially in times marked by climatic, ecological, and socio-economic uncertainties. By discussing fragile island lives—human and more-than-human—we aim to develop new vocabularies of care, ethics, and politics shaped with and through islands.

Presentation Topics

Presentations are welcome on themes such as:

- Spatial and infrastructural fragility, including marginality, development pressures, and unequal access to services
- Ecological fragility, with attention to biodiversity loss, ecosystem shifts, and water-related challenges
- Climate-related uncertainty and local responses to disasters, trauma, and change
- Practices of care, such as civic activism, education, and conservation
- Island production and sustainability, touching on agriculture, food and energy autonomy, and shifting economies
- Community dynamics, ageing, demographic voids, seasonal belonging, and fragmented identities
- Epistemic fragility in island studies, addressing disciplinary gaps and the need for transdisciplinary approaches
- Islands as models of global fragility, offering insights into climate crises, resilience, and resource limits

International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, July 2025



CALL FOR PAPERS

Place and Time

📍 Municipal Hall, Jelsa, Island of Hvar

📅 Thursday 25 – Saturday 27 September 2025

Participation Fee

Participation fee: €60 (students €40). The fee includes the excursion, book of abstracts, and final dinner. Members of the “Anatomy of Islands – Centre for Research and Development” receive a 20% discount. Admission is free for all residents of Hvar Island and neighboring islanders.

Application Submission

Please send your applications (in Croatian and English) to:

✉ info@anatomija-otoka.com, and to Ana Perinić Lewis (aperinic@gmail.com) and Tomislav Oroz (tomislav.oroza@gmail.com)

Social networks: [Anatomy of islands Facebook](#)

🕒 **Deadline: 15 July 2025**





Save the Date, ISLANDS Conference 2025

Dates: **2–3 November 2025**

Location: **University of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands**

We are excited to announce that the **annual ISLANDS Conference** will take place this year on **2-3 November 2025** at the University of Groningen!

ISLANDS is an international joint research Master programme of the University of Groningen, the University of the Aegean, the University of Iceland and the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. It focuses on the development of knowledge on island particularities and the development of tools, skills and technology in order to reduce the gap between theory and practice concerning sustainability.

In the past two years, students from the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in Islands and Sustainability (ISLANDS) have presented their work at the annual ISLANDS Conference. This year, there will be an open call for contributions. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details. We look forward to welcoming you in Groningen to engage in island and sustainability research together.

More information and the call for papers will soon be shared on our website and social media pages:



Website: <https://islandsmaster.eu>



Instagram: [@islands_msc](https://www.instagram.com/islands_msc)



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/islands.msc>



LinkedIn: <https://nl.linkedin.com/company/islandsmaster>



ISLANDS

ERASMUS MUNDUS RESEARCH MASTER

International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, July 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

IRC 2026 REGIONAL CONFERENCE (IGU)

Istanbul, Türkiye

17-21 August, 2026

The **IGU Islands Commission** is planning to organize several sessions focused on islands at the upcoming International Regional Conference of the **International Geographical Union (IGU)**. The IGU Islands Commission and ISISA have a long-standing history of collaboration, and we hope that our sessions will attract not only geographers but also other scholars engaged in island studies. More details about our sessions will be shared in upcoming issues of the Newsletter and more details about the conference can be accessed here: <https://www.irc2026.org/en/>

IMPORTANT DATES

31 July 2025	Deadline for the submission of the session proposals
1 August 2025	Early registration starts
9 January 2026	Deadline for submitting abstracts for papers and posters
27 February 2026	Notification of results of abstract reviews
13 March 2026	Deadline for early registration fee payment
17 April 2026	Deadline for regular fee payment
17-21 August 2026	IRC Regional Conference in İstanbul, Türkiye



IRC 2026

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

ISTANBUL - TÜRKİYE 17-21 AUGUST 2026

Exploring the Earth, Connecting Worlds





UPCOMING EVENTS

SICRI Island Studies International Conference 2026

“Navigating Island Futures: Intersections of Heritage, Transitions and Regenerative Practices”

Leyte Samar Heritage Center, UP Tacloban College, **Leyte Islands, Philippines**
Last week of June, 2026 (TBC)

For submissions and other updates check SICRI website:

<https://www.sicri.net/general-6>

Island communities stand at the intersection of deep-rooted heritage and accelerating global change. “Navigating Island Futures: Intersections of Heritage, Transitions, and Regenerative Practice” underscores the need to chart pathways that honor the cultural and ecological uniqueness of islands while responding to contemporary demands for development and resilience. This theme emphasizes the dynamic interplay between tradition and innovation, where heritage is not seen as static but as a vital resource for envisioning inclusive and sustainable futures.

The conference invites scholars, practitioners, and community leaders to engage in critical conversations about how island societies navigate the tensions and opportunities that arise from this intersection. It highlights how local knowledge systems, cultural practices, and historical experiences can inform and enrich efforts toward regenerative development and climate adaptation. In a world of rising seas and shifting economies, island futures must be shaped not by imposed models but by grounded, community-driven strategies that reflect both the past and the possibilities ahead.



SICRI NETWORK

Small Island Cultures Research Initiative



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sub-themes:

1. *Reclaiming and Reimagining Island Heritage*
 - The role of cultural identity, indigenous knowledge, and heritage sites in shaping future development.
2. *Regenerative Livelihoods and Blue Economies in Small Islands*
 - Innovations in fisheries, marine-based industries, eco-tourism, and community enterprise for long-term well-being.
3. *Climate Adaptation and Island Ecological Stewardship*
 - Community-led approaches to environmental conservation, disaster resilience, and living with climate change.
4. *Island Innovations and Green Technologies*
 - Grassroots solutions, renewable energy, and adaptive infrastructure suited to small island contexts.
5. *Education, Youth, and Intergenerational Island Futures*
 - Empowering the next generation of islanders through inclusive education and the transmission of cultural knowledge.
6. *Island Migration, Mobility, and Identity in Transition*
 - The impacts of outmigration, urbanization, and global connectivity on island cultures and communities.
7. *Governance, Justice, and Participatory Development on Small Islands*
 - Local autonomy, policy-making, and inclusive planning for equitable island futures



SICRI NETWORK

Small Island Cultures Research Initiative

UPCOMING EVENTS

The ISISA logo is a circular emblem featuring a stylized 'i' in the center, surrounded by a globe-like pattern. The text 'ISISA' is at the top, and 'International Small Islands Studies Association' is written around the bottom edge.

21ST ISISA ISLANDS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Island Studies Comes of Age

26-30 JUNE, 2028
ISLAND OF GOZO, MALTA

Register at:
ISISA2028.com

A square QR code located in the bottom right corner of the poster, used for registration information.

 L-Università ta' Malta
Islands & Small States Institute

 Queen Mary
University of London
Malta Campus

 GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR CLSD
AND PLANNING

 GOZO REGIONAL
development authority

PHOTO BY DANIEL C. LA

NEW BOOKS

Max Quanchi, Thomas McMahon's search for fame; Photographer, journalist, Patriot.

ISBN-13:9781922958945

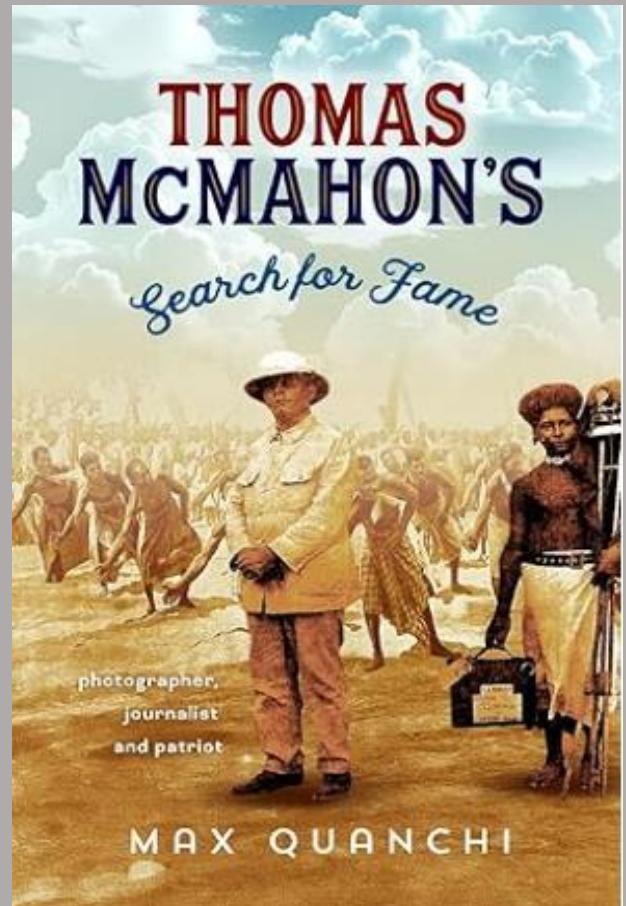
pp345, illust, notes, index

It is available from Sid Harta Publishers, Melbourne, and other places, including a Kindle version on Amazon

Thomas McMahon's photographs and reports from the southwest Pacific appeared in capital city and provincial newspapers in Australia and New Zealand, and globally in pictorial encyclopaedia, books, magazines and postcards and in his own lantern slide lectures. He visited Papua and German New Guinea, the Solomons, Vanuatu, Fiji, Nauru, Banaba, Norfolk, Lord Howe Island, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands but the thousand photographs of the Islands that he published between 1915 and 1925, after self-funded expeditions across the region, failed to attract the coveted Fellowship of the Royal Geographical Society that he wanted.

In 1922, he turned to another career, this time as a paid journalist with a Brisbane newspaper, as their travelling back-country reporter and photographer.

He was probably the most recognized photographer of his day for both his Pacific and Queensland, Torres Strait and Northern Territory photography and certainly one of the best-informed journalists of the day who could say "I was there" when boosting Australia's trade and commercial potential in the Islands, and in his later career, in Northern Australia.



After his death in Brisbane in 1934 he was forgotten and was rarely cited in studies of photography, journalism or Australia's Imperial posturing after WWI. His published photographs can now be found in the bound periodicals section of libraries, and digitally through Trove, and in the works of colleagues who borrowed his images for their own books and articles. Thanks Tom, as he was known, for a wonderful archive of Australia and the Pacific in the early twentieth century.

NEW PAPERS

Living on the edge? – Shetland and the HerInDep project: an initial survey

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2025.2484680>

Dr. Andrew Lind and Dr. Andrew Jennings from the University of the Highlands and Islands Institute for Northern Studies have unveiled their initial findings from the significant Heritage in Depopulated European Areas (HerInDep) project.

Their report, titled 'Living on the Edge? – Shetland and the HerInDep Project: An Initial Survey', opens up fascinating discussions about our heritage and the link to a strategy to help halt depopulation in Shetland.

The HerInDep research program focuses on how the decline of European peripheral areas is contributing to the loss of intangible culture, such as language and dialect, as well as the abandonment and degradation of buildings and landscapes. It also examines the impact of these changes on the people living in these depopulated regions by examining three case study areas: Broumov in a remote rural region of Czechia, Kaunas in Lithuania and Shetland.

According to Scotland's 2022 Census, Shetland's population has declined since 2011, unlike Orkney, which has seen growth. While Shetland's population decrease is not as pronounced as in some other regions, it has sparked renewed discussions about the long-term sustainability of the population in the UK's northernmost archipelago.

Recent research indicates that cultural heritage, rather than being a victim of



Foto: Jarlshof Iron Age Wheelhouse, Shetland. Source: Jennings 2024

depopulation, can actually create opportunities to sustain existing populations and attract new residents to islands. Their paper offers an overview of the current demographic and cultural heritage situation in Shetland. It poses the essential research question: can cultural heritage serve as a tool for local communities to combat depopulation?



NEW PAPERS

Dr Andrew Lind states,

"The issue of population decline and the resulting strategies which emerge to counteract it usually adopt a predominantly economic outlook ... While the creation of economic opportunities and suitable housing are key factors within this demographic equation, so too is the cultural heritage of the locality and its ability to foster integration, community identity and social cohesion. The Heritage in Depopulated European Areas project seeks to explore this topic in greater depth within 'peripheral' regions, and this initial report sets the background and marks the first stage of the research."

The research indicates that Shetland's rich cultural heritage is crucial in shaping the community's identity and sense of place. It also significantly impacts the region's economy and benefits from substantial financial support. Given these factors, Shetland is well-positioned to leverage its cultural heritage assets to address depopulation. Both islanders and visitors widely acknowledge the unique and appealing cultural heritage that Shetland offers ([Shetland Arts Citation 2009](#)). As demonstrated in similar studies, this heritage can be a powerful attraction for potential migrants and aligns well with the islands' reputation for providing a higher standard of living.

Dr Andrew Jennings finishes by saying,

"As part of the HerInDep project, further research will be conducted to better understand the attitudes and needs of both the existing community and incomers in relation to cultural heritage. This will also explore how Shetland's cultural heritage can be best supported, maintained and showcased to realise its greater demographic potential, by working closely with the local heritage community."

The **full article**, '[Living on the edge? – Shetland and the HerinDep project: an initial survey](#),' is available on open access.



NEW PAPERS/BOOKS

Nimführ, Sarah (2025). Archipelisches Erinnern. Insulare Postmemories. In: Cornelia Dlabaja, Sarah Nimführ & Nicolas Goez (Eds.). Raum - Theorie - Empirie. Ein Arbeitsbuch. Wiesbaden: Springer: pp. 19-41. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-44402-0_2

Brüske, Anne & Nimführ, Sarah (2025). Insulare Raumregime. Ein Gespräch zur geteilten Insel Kiskeya_Hispaniola. In: Cornelia Dlabaja, Sarah Nimführ & Nicolas Goez (Eds.). Raum - Theorie - Empirie. Ein Arbeitsbuch. Wiesbaden: Springer: pp. 263-273. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-44402-0_16

Linzmeier, Laura & Kruse, Thorsten (2025) (Eds.). Mediterranean Islands and Coastal Areas. Cultural and Linguistic Diversities through the Ages, Waxmann.

Normans on Sicily, Tuscan on Elba, prison and tourist islands and the phantasm of the pandemic-proof island: the MS ISLA research group has been researching all of this since 2020. The results of various workshops on Mediterranean islands have been included in the volume "Mediterranean Islands and Coastal Areas", which was published by Waxmann in April 2025 (ed. Laura Linzmeier and Thorsten Kruse).

The volume comprises contributions from a range of disciplines, including history, linguistics, literature, and cultural studies, by network members and researchers, with a particular focus on specific Mediterranean areas, their cultures, languages, and literatures.

The contributions adopt diverse approaches from various disciplines, including historical, comparative, and multidirectional analyses. The key focus of this study concerns the influence of island characteristics on the formation of island identities, cultural expressions, and linguistic characteristics, with these phenomena being examined within the context of historical migratory patterns and cultural exchange.

NEW PAPERS/BOOKS

A chapter by Sarah Nimführ and Jan-Christoph Marschelke can also be read here as an introductory contribution to Island Studies:

Nimführ, Sarah & Marschelke, Jan-Christoph (2025): (Un)Doing Island Identities. Islandness, islandscape and collective identities. In: Linzmeier, Laura & Kruse, Thorsten (Eds.). Mediterranean Islands and Coastal Areas. Cultural and Linguistic Diversities through the Ages, Waxmann: pp. 11–31.

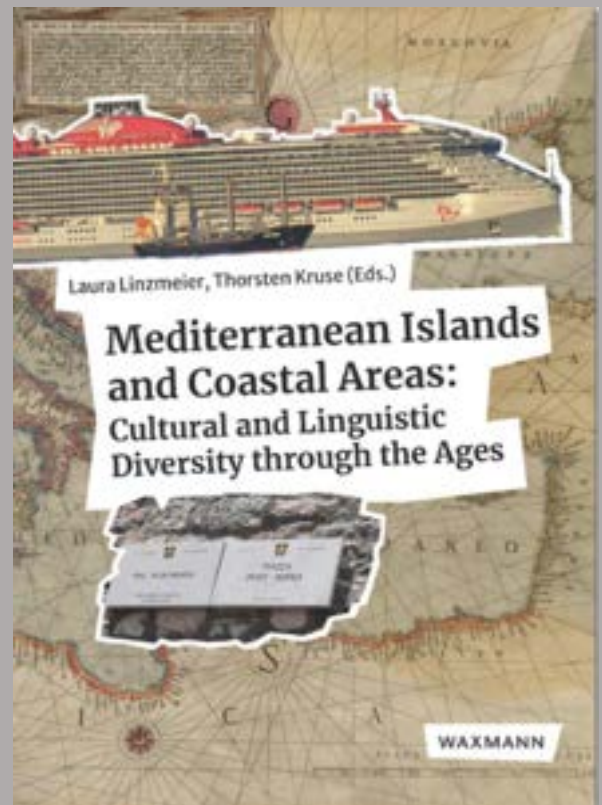
Abstract:

At first glance, islands could be defined as pieces of land surrounded by water. However, this understanding encompasses a wide variety of phenomena: rocks standing out of rivers, touristic islets, or island nation states. Moreover, the idea of surroundedness may convey stereotypical ideas of islands as bounded, disconnected, peripheral places inhabited by people with a corresponding 'island mentality'. Employing a differentiated epistemology, the article introduces a framework which avoids island essentialism and allows for a multi-perspective analysis.

Using the concept of islandscape, it argues that islands are the result of "doing space", of practices performed

by diverse actors which (re)produce 'islandness' as a multitude of multidimensional (dis)connections e. g., to the sea, to neighboring islands or to the mainland. These (dis)connections are also an integral part of the contested constructions of collective island identities. Hence, the article calls for a careful and differentiated consideration of the diverse (Mediterranean) islands.

Keywords: island identity, islandscape, collectivity, connectivity, Mediterranean, doing space





NEW PAPERS

Youth engagement in ecotourism and community-based development: experiences and lessons from Pahawang Island, Indonesia

The link:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/14724049.2025.2507876?needAccess=true>
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14724049.2025.2507876>

To cite this article: Isye Susana Nurhasanah & Pieter Van den Broeck (26 May 2025): Youth engagement in ecotourism and community-based development: experiences and lessons from Pahawang Island, Indonesia, Journal of Ecotourism, DOI: 10.1080/14724049.2025.2507876

Abstract:

This paper investigates the extent to which a small group of young islanders in Kalangan, Pahawang Island, Indonesia, have mobilised their socio-environmental concerns to protect environment. In studying it, the paper employs dynamised community capacity building and socially innovative bottom-linked governance combined with youth studies as the lenses. Young inhabitants initiated their own endeavours to preserve the coastal environment, establish their own means of subsistence and generate income while preserving the environment. They create their self-sustenance spaces while adhering to long-established principles of environmental conservation. In addition to these subsistence practices, this study scrutinises the role of local authorities on Pahawang. It queries existing governance by highlighting how youth's spatial practices help to differentiate without waiting for support from government. Qualitative case study research employs semi-structured interviews, and analysis of secondary data. The results demonstrate that the innovative initiatives of youth have proven to be a key factor in sustaining (community-based) ecotourism and have facilitated the emergence of new institutions able to empower communities to partake in conservation. They have expanded their networks which may support their activities. On an island, this initiative ultimately become a pathway to overcoming environmental degradation caused by tourism activities, while creating better governance arrangements.

NEW BOOKS

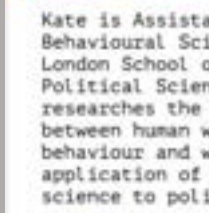
The book is co-edited by Prof. Marie Briguglio together with Natalia Czap from University of Michigan-Dearborn and Kate Laffan from the London School of Economics.

As wellbeing becomes an increasingly explicit policy goal in countries across the world, the demand for evidence upon which to base intervention is growing. Featuring 41 contributing authors from 18 countries, this book surveys and synthesizes recent developments in wellbeing science and policy to highlight key lessons learned and to offer actionable insights for policy-making. The book reviews the links between wellbeing and various domains, including income, work, health, family, altruism and empathy, ageing, gender, education, housing, environment, crime, democracy, migration, religion, digital technology, and art, culture, and creativity. It also examines the state of the art on wellbeing policy frameworks in diverse contexts across the world, including developed and developing countries, small and large states, documenting interventions by governmental, private, or non-governmental organizations. Case studies include Bhutan, New Zealand, Finland, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Malta. Concluding with cheat-sheets for policy makers, this book is essential reading for anyone interested in progressing towards a wellbeing economy including policy-makers, academics, and students in economics, public policy, public administration, and behavioural and political science.



Marie Briguglio

Marie is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Malta and lead researcher on several collaborative public sector research projects, including the Malta Wellbeing INDEX. She is also an award-winning multi-media writer.



Kate is Assistant Professor of Behavioural Science at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She researches the relationship between human wellbeing and behaviour and works on the application of behavioural science to policy challenges.



Kate Laffan



Natalia V. Czap

Natalia is Professor of Economics and the Chair of the Department of Social Sciences at University of Michigan-Dearborn. Her research interests include behavioural and experimental economics, behavioural public policy, and wellbeing policy.

WEALL TALK

2 JULY
3 PM UTC
ZOOM

WELLBEING & POLICY BOOK LAUNCH

Find out about
the new open access
book featuring 41
authors from 18
countries sharing
the latest
in wellbeing
science and policy.



NEW BOOKS

1st Edition by Routledge

Wellbeing and Policy Evidence for Action

Edited by Marie Briguglio,
Natalia Czap, Kate Laffan

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ISBN 9781032465913

280 Pages 14 B/W Illustrations



OPEN ACCESS
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DESCRIPTION

As wellbeing becomes an increasingly explicit policy goal in countries across the world, the demand for evidence upon which to base intervention is growing. Featuring 41 contributing authors from 18 countries, this book surveys and synthesises recent developments in wellbeing science and policy to highlight key lessons learned and to offer actionable insights for policy-making.

Opening with a foreword by Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, and an introductory chapter surveying the fundamentals of wellbeing policy, the book reviews the links between wellbeing and various domains, including income, work, health, family, altruism and empathy, ageing, gender, education, housing, environment, crime, democracy, migration, religion, digital technology, and art, culture, and creativity. The book also examines the state of the art on wellbeing policy frameworks in diverse contexts, including developed and developing countries, small and large states, across the world, documenting interventions by governmental, private, or non-governmental organisations. Case studies include Bhutan, New Zealand, Finland, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Malta.

This book is essential reading for anyone interested in progressing towards a wellbeing economy including policy-makers, academics, and students in economics, public policy, public administration, and behavioural and political science.

International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, July 2025



A BOOK IN THE MAKING

Jennie Teasdale AM
Kangaroo Island Australia

We are moving steadily towards a spectacular book entitled:
Isolation and Imagination

The pleasures and perils of island gardening

This publication is about gardens, gardeners and gardening on small islands across the globe. I am privileged to be the coordinating editor.

The book opens with a stimulating foreword written by **Professor Godfrey Baldacchino and Dr Anna Baldacchino (Malta)**, both of whom provided the impetus for this book to be written. For this I thank them.

What follows is a total of forty-two delightfully illustrated garden stories written either collaboratively or by individual authors from small islands across the globe. Writers include both expert and home gardeners, academics, lay people and ordinary citizens, all of whom have an empathy with and a passion about small island gardening. Each garden story is presented in a unique and visually convincing way. The photographs and the graphic design of the publication are stunning!

Experts in Island Studies, **Professor Beate Ratter (Hamburg)** and **Professor Gerard Persoon (The Netherlands)** have composed a significant, analytical commentary on the stories drawing some conclusions that will engage not only scholars, but all who are genuinely interested in small island gardening.

An afterword, thoughtfully written by current president of ISISA, **Dr Laurie Brinklow (Prince Edward Island, Canada)**, provides a fitting conclusion to the publication.

We are hoping to officially launch
Isolation and Imagination
The pleasures and perils of island gardening
at the 2026 ISISA Conference in Korea.

It would be exciting if chapter writers could attend!



Mapping Caribbean science: help us strengthen the research ties within the Kingdom

Who are the scientists working in and on the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands? What disciplines are represented, how do they collaborate, and what support do they need?

Steffen van Heijningen and Renske Pin, Curaçao researchers, have launched the **Caribbean Science Map**: an initiative that aims to visualize and strengthen the scientific landscape of the six Caribbean islands within the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius, and Saba, and their global research diaspora.

The project supports the goals of Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK), where the knowledge function for Kingdom relations (“Kennisfunctie Koninkrijksrelaties”) aims to promote knowledge exchange, informed policy, and stronger ties between the European and Caribbean parts of the Kingdom. Better insight into the Caribbean research network is key to these goals.

Have you worked as a researcher, educator, or student on one of these islands, or are you connected through the diaspora?

Then we warmly invite you to contribute by filling out this short survey:

<https://tinyurl.com/MappingCaribResearchers12>

Please feel free to share it with others in your network. The more contributors, the more valuable and inclusive this map becomes.

Thanks in advance for contributing to greater visibility, collaboration, and data-driven insights into Caribbean science.

Renske Pin



International Small Islands Studies Association

NEWSLETTER, July 2025



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 **December 20th, 2025**. We greatly appreciate your participation and look forward to receiving your submissions to acuka@unizd.hr.

