



ISISA

Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

This issue starts off with a touching account from Jennie Teasdale, a participant at the 16th *Islands of the World* ISISA conference, just concluded in Leeuwarden & Terschelling, The Netherlands. The conference attracted some 150 participants.

Mark your diaries for the next ISISA Conferences: St John's, island of Newfoundland, Canada: June 22-26, 2020; and Zadar, Croatia, June 13-19, 2022.

You can read about other conferences and experiences of other ISISA members as they attend conferences or visit/work on islands around the world.

Remember that the Newsletter is only what you make it. We encourage anyone who has something to say, or share about Islands, Island Studies or Book Reviews about Islands, to send their text over to me for the next issue (December 2018).

Enjoy ☺

In Praise of Terschelling: Some Random Thoughts

This year's ISISA Conference did not start on an island, but in the beautiful Frisian city of Leeuwarden, the home of its host institution, the Waddenacademie. Participants arrived, reunions were heartfelt, and conversations animated as we gathered in an old prison for the welcome reception.

On Monday morning, when dignitaries had gathered, and the Mayors of Malta and Leeuwarden had spoken, ISISA's President Professor Godfrey Baldacchino launched the 2018 Conference in his usual inimitable style. And so the 16th ISISA Conference took flight; the audience settled eagerly anticipating the opening keynote address.

Ask Beate Ratter how to present a keynote address

And what an illuminating opening keynote address Professor Dr Beate Ratter offered. Beate is a distinguished scholar from the University of Hamburg where she is Professor of Geography. She is also head of the Department of Human Dimensions at the Institute of Coastal Research, Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthach, and the current Vice-President of ISISA.

Because I am not a geographer, it is not my intention to comment on the content of Beate's address, *Identity in 'Liminality: The Wadden Sea Islands in a constant state of flux'*. Suffice to say that it was appropriate to the Conference theme, impeccably researched, theoretically rich, and of great interest to the gathered nissologists. In fact, Beate's keynote address, presented before we arrived on the Island of Terschelling, gave us insights into the unique context of the Island and helped provide a focus for the rest of the Conference. Such an introductory keynote, directing our gaze toward the host island, could well be adopted as a model by future conference organisers.

As an educator, I would like to reflect on the process of the presentation. Using the briefest video clip as an introduction, and without a word of explanation, we were immersed virtually in the dramatically compressed tidal ebb and flow that daily impacts on the Wadden Sea Islands. Thence followed a carefully choreographed series of spectacular visual images of these islands illustrating their constant state of flux. Not too many images, just enough to illustrate the informed and concise academic narrative delivered with clarity and intent by Beate. Woven intricately through the presentation was a golden thread called 'identity in liminality'.



The professionalism of this keynote is an exemplar for all paper presenters at ISISA conferences. In summary Beate's presentation contained:

- a small number of carefully prepared moving and still images
- readable print on images
- a few well-chosen words on each image
- a spoken narrative that complemented the images
- a central theme weaving the presentation together.

Thank-you Beate.

Conference surprises

The Conference program did not always provide full details of daily activities. An element of surprise often had us guessing what might come next. For instance, on Day 1, we wondered what this instruction might really mean.

Those who like any sort of food, climb aboard the first bus. Vegetarians and slow walkers use the second bus. And fish eaters, the third bus is yours.

This enigmatic instruction left us puzzled, but we obeyed. We went exploring in those buses across flat, fertile, Frisian farmland. At dusk we pulled into the docks at Harlingen. I'd expected a ferry, but no, we found ourselves juggling luggage as we clambered aboard an intriguing, much-weathered charter boat. This we learnt was the fish eaters' vessel. Down in its bowels, in a cosy, wood-panelled saloon, a well-stocked bar and a gourmet fish smorgasbord awaited us.

Later in the week we were advised to: *wear casual clothes and walking shoes* (and a hat and sunscreen, my Australian psyche added).

It was a field excursion, so we readied ourselves and hurried to the assembly point to catch the buses. But where were the buses? Not a bus in sight! It was then that we heard the delightful rhythmic sound of hooves on cobbles. A flotilla of open carriages arrived pulled by strong, beautifully groomed, Frisian horses.

The day was perfect – spring danced around us as we clip-clopped down quiet lanes, reaching out to touch the emerald green foliage of deciduous forests. We climbed down to explore the revegetated dunes with local rangers, ambled on to see a remarkable art installation depicting the impact of climate change on the Island's lowlands, and later stopped to taste fresh cheese at an eco-dairy farm. It was a day that I wished could go on forever.



On the final day of the Conference, we were supposed to walk into the township for a festival event and drinks in a local bar. But it was raining hard and the wind was biting – really just a typical island day. Change of plan. Well rugged up, we hurried to hastily summoned local buses. In a matter of minutes, we found ourselves at the edge of the town and out in the rain again. Sheltering as best we could we blindly followed those in front of us and miraculously found our damp selves gathered together in the pews of a church.

From nowhere a story-teller appeared and succeeded in keeping us spell bound as he spun a gossamer-like cloak of words around us. It was a poignant story, a true story, a funny story... a refugee story that so affected us that sometimes we laughed uproariously and at other times we wept.

Unexpected consequences: A question from the floor and what it led to

We had just concluded our own paper presentation, *ISISA conferences come and go, but what do they leave behind?* Listeners were engaging with each other and soon questions and comments were forthcoming. The discussion was animated as participants speculated about what an ISISA conference legacy might look like. My timekeeper reminded me it was time to complete the session, so I rose to do that.



It was then that I noted a steady hand raised at the back of the room. A person I did not know unfolded his tallness from a chair and identified himself as a resident of Terschelling. His words were simple but loaded with meaning. In fact, it was more of a request than a question. Could I talk with him about the legacy that the 2018 ISISA Conference might leave on his Island?

Not until after the Conference did we find time to meet. Bob and I climbed into his little red Renault and were taken on a comprehensive exploration of Terschelling. We met and talked to tourists and farmers, his neighbours and friends. His extensive knowledge of every aspect of island life delighted us and resonated with our own experience of Kangaroo Island. We found ourselves sharing a coffee, local bread and cheese and homemade cake with his family in their living room. It was then that we talked.

Our host indicated that his wife had found a small reference to the Conference on the web. He had wanted to be involved. Conference places had been filled, so he had decided to try his luck by turning up. After all, it was his Island. Our new friend commented that, as far as he knew, very few locals had been involved in the academic program or the long-term Conference planning. We talked positively about the Conference, about the contributions of tour operators, local dignitaries, caterers, accommodation providers and the use of facilities and staff at the Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz and the Hotel Schylge.

He posed these two important questions:

1 Are there ways that the Waddenacadamie and ISISA could share the outcomes of the Conference with the Islanders?

2 Just how could a Conference legacy be left on Terschelling?

Nothing more was said on these issues, so we continued to enjoy our day, catching a rich, inside glimpse of islandness from a Terschelling perspective. Unexpectedly, we had had a memorable Terschelling day with a new friend. Our host was very upbeat about the Conference and its organisers. He simply hoped that a tangible Conference legacy could be woven into the fabric of the Island. He has asked us to convey this request to Waddenacadamie and ISISA. We will.

And so, to conclude

The three wise Frisian ladies and other staff of the Waddenacadamie, especially Jouke van Dijk, Klaas Deen and Gerard Persoon, must be congratulated on creating such a memorable, sometimes moving, and certainly well-organized event. **Thank you.**

Jennie Teasdale, Kangaroo Island, July 2018

Documentary: “An insight into the lives of the islanders”

The documentary is available both in Dutch and in an English subtitled version. This documentary is now available online and I would like to invite you and other Wadden Sea partners to watch it. You can find the documentary here: [English subtitled version](#)

Explanation documentary

The five Dutch Wadden Island municipalities have been working together for a long time. One important emerging pillar of this island cooperation is livability on the islands. *Why?* Demographic developments affect livability. However, the manifestations of decline are different on the Wadden Islands than on the mainland. For example, there is housing shortage on the islands instead of empty houses, there is no unemployment, but rather shortage of personnel. There is unilateral employment (recreation and tourism). In the search for solutions we cannot always look at other regions because things on the islands are often just a little different.

Target As islanders we all know what it's like to live and work on an island and what it means to maintain a society with a relatively small group of people. For the outside world, however, it is far less known which opportunities and challenges this entails. That is why the Board of the Dutch Wadden Sea Islands has decided to have a documentary made that zooms in on topics that affect the quality of life on the islands. We would like to show you how the Wadden Islands deviate from the mainland and to receive better understanding in the making of policy and legislation. For this purpose, the focus is on where island residents are confronted with things from everyday practice, such as arranging childcare, buying / renting a house, providing a demented partner, and how to deal with this.

Storyline In the documentary, the subject of quality of life is highlighted by letting different people speak at different stages of life; a life course from young to old. These stories show how the islanders, in their own way, and by searching for new methods, solutions and the use of modern means, try to maintain the quality of life on their islands. This is done on the basis of the themes of parenting, education, housing, entrepreneurship / broadening of employment, care and accessibility. *How to use the documentary?* The documentary is a **conversation starter**. Intended to give people an idea of how life is on the islands, and to show that sometimes existing laws and regulations do not match the island situation.

This documentary is commissioned by the Dutch Wadden Sea Islands and made possible with a contribution from the Province of Fryslân.

Klaas Deen

Reflections from Jonathan Pugh

At the recent *Islands of the World* conference organised by the International Small Island Studies Association (ISISA), June 10-14, 2018, the most interesting outcome for me was the call from participants for a new email list group to be setup for those interested in island theory and philosophy. There is a long history of philosophical and conceptually-orientated approaches to engaging islands, in a broad range of ways. The call from the ISISA conference, from new and not-so-new ISISA participants alike, was therefore to establish this new email list group concerned with these philosophically-orientated approaches and debates, and how these could now be developed further in new ways.

I was asked to setup this group and gladly accepted. I do feel that the list will be useful, as debate is particularly fast-moving at the moment. It will be good to have a list to keep us in touch with both historical and now developing debates, publications and events. I look forward to setting up this list and should anyone wish to be involved please email jonathan.pugh@ncl.ac.uk

A related outcome was the call for a new Deputy Editor (covering Island Theory and Philosophy) for *Island Studies Journal*. I have now taken up this position. If you want to submit your manuscript to be considered for publication to this open access journal, send a .docx file to: isj@upei.ca. Further details at: https://www.islandstudies.ca/guidelines_acceptance.html

Announcing the 17th *Islands of the World* ISISA Conference: June 22-26, 2020
Connecting Islands and Sharing Knowledge
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, June 22-26, 2020.



The Island of Newfoundland can be an unforgiving place. The weather is peculiar in its harshness, the wind takes your breath away, and the North Atlantic is a force not to be trifled with. There are days when all of those who live here feel like puffins: huddled together because there is strength in numbers. There is also strength and power in knowledge: learning how to adapt, survive, thrive when the odds are not always in your favour; being comfortable with who you are so you can open yourself up to the knowledge others may bring to your shores. That's what the next ISISA *Islands of the World* conference will focus on.

We want to learn about other islands. But, more importantly, we want to build lasting connections between and for islands so that we can all continually learn from each other. And there is a lot to learn. What does climate change adaptation look like in the North Atlantic and what can we learn from our friends in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean? How do we ensure food and water security in places that often struggle with access to both? What lessons can we learn from each other that will help us develop tourism that celebrates our cultural singularities instead of eroding our identities and our islands?

We hope to build a program that is a series of conversations, and not presentations. When you leave this place, we want you to feel inspired and energized. More than anything, we want you to share whatever you learned with your colleagues and fellow islanders.

See you in St. John's in 2020.

Bojan Fürst

Harris Centre, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada (Host Organizing Committee)

Policy by other means? Some comments on insularization

Plans are well under way for constructing a canal that would transform Qatar into a new man-made island, as several news agencies have reported. 25 of June was the deadline for construction companies to bid for the “Salwa Canal” project; the winner will be announced in about 3 months. The 200-metre-wide, up to 15-20 metres deep canal is planned to run some 60 km between Salwa and Khor Al-Udeed along Qatar’s only land border to Saudi Arabia, closed since last June. The canal project raised Qatar’s boycott (since 2016) by its Gulf neighbours Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain to a new level. Qatar has re-acted remarkably well against these efforts toward isolation. A new harbour, new air connections and stronger forms of cooperation with other countries (e.g. Turkey) support the maintenance of all infrastructural prerequisites. This seems to have triggered off the canal plan. Qatar is a peninsula extending from the East Arabian mainland into the Persian/Arab Gulf. The canal would cut the terrestrial link, turning the peninsula into an island. Enforcing an increase in political isolation is thus attempted by a transformation of geographical isolation into physical insularization.

Clearly, this canal construction plan is part of a unilateral programme by which Saudi Arabia is implementing technical and infrastructural means in order to transform a peninsula, and a neighbouring country, into an island; or, at least, to use isolation through insularization as a political threat. According to some media coverage, the project includes a military zone and a nuclear waste dump; others suggest five-star hotels, resorts and a free trade zone. Reports agree at any rate about US\$750 million of Saudi and UAE funding for the Salwa Canal, planned to be built on Saudi territory and thus under Saudi sovereignty. Riad’s canal project is still lacking official confirmation by the Saudi government, and some analysts currently regard it as mere psychological warfare. Regardless of open questions about the actual implementation of the Salwa Canal project, the usage of an island vision as a political weapon is nevertheless remarkable for island studies scholarship.

During our 16th *Islands of the World* ISISA conference on the island of Terschelling, the suitability and usability of clearly defined island space for political use became particularly clear, as Godfrey Baldacchino reminded us, by the Trump-Kim summit taking place at the same time on Sentosa Island in Singapore. Trump and Kim, however, most probably met on Indonesian soil (or sand, to be more precise) as highlighted by Gerard Persoon: the sand used to transform the island Pulau Blakang Mati through massive reclamation into the partially artificial island of Sentosa was imported.

Is the feasibility of creating artificial islands heralding a new era in international relations? Technological innovation and (over)ambitious visions – often paired with large-scale exploitation of foreign workforce and massive environmental degradation – have brought forth vast island reclamation and construction projects such as the Palm Islands in UAE or Pearl-Qatar in Doha. In these times of island formability, plasticity, feasibility and artificiality, the island – here in form of an insularization vision – seems to inhabit a new dubious place in international relations and foreign policies. What is it that makes a liquid barrier appear as being more effective and more desirable than a seemingly old-fashioned wall construction?

Insularization policy might open up a broad field of application. Imagine a situation when, for whatever reasons, Russia and China would decide to construct a canal on their sides of the border in order to transform the Korean peninsula into an island. Or, for that matter, Italy would decide the unilateral imposition of a canal construction around Vatican state territory. The side effects and probable consequences predictably are quite drastic, in the real case as well as in our imaginary examples. As an alternative scenario, one may also imagine cases of self-insularization: a majority of the Welsh population, weary of Brexit as many of them have been in fact, might “opt out” Wales of the UK with a canal along the border with England. Yet in this hypothetical case this would then demarcate and emphasize legal separation and political secession rather than isolation and humiliation.

After this tour d’ horizon of fictional and theoretical implications in different contexts, let us return to our departure point along Qatar’s border with Saudi-Arabia. A perspective from social and cultural anthropology might throw some light on the entanglements of local, regional, national, international and global influences and the various factors at work in the invention and creation of this specific new island in the making.

Although both countries are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), tensions between the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia had been rising in recent years. Together with Egypt and the UAE, Saudi authorities already had implemented that far-reaching boycott upon Qatar. This is based on claims that Qatar is supporting the Muslim Brotherhood and related groups outlawed in these three other countries. Moreover, Qatar is criticized for not being confrontational enough in its relations with Iran. Some observers have pointed out that media politics and freedom of journalism-issues also play a decisive role in this regional constellation, in view of the wide dissemination in the Arab world and around the globe of the influential services of the Qatar-based news channels of al-Jazeera. While the state of Qatar is far from representing a pluralist democracy, the diversity of reports and opinions as shown through al-Jazeera represent a constant challenge to autocratic regimes in Cairo, Riad and elsewhere.

The Muslim Brothers had been behind Egypt’s previous government under Muhammad Mursi, ousted in 2014 with substantial popular support by the military under the present head of state Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The Muslim Brothers are one of the oldest established movements in Sunni political Islam, and also to an extent inspired the Palestinian Hamas movement. By contrast, the rulers of Saudi Arabia and a majority of their population observe a different and fairly strict orientation in Sunni Islam known in the West as Wahhabism, while Shiite minorities in the Saudi kingdom are considered to be marginalized. Qatar’s small population, however, is composed of major segments of expatriate and migrant labor forces, a strong indigenous Shiite segment among its Arab population and dominant Sunni elites that are openly sympathetic to Hamas and associated elements of the Muslim brotherhood. The Trump and Netanyahu administrations’ efforts for wider sanctions against Iran, together with Iranian and Saudi roles in military operations in Syria as well as in the Yemen, provide some of the wider contexts for the rise of Saudi-Qatari tensions.

Kuwait and Oman as two other GCC member countries are seeking to reconcile the Qatari-Saudi-conflict, but so far in vain. On the contrary, on-going planning for the unilateral

installation of a Saudi canal and nuclear waste deposition site indicate a new round of escalation by means of Qatar's "insularization", as the unilateral transformation of a territory or country into an island may be termed. In today's Qatari contexts at least, one is tempted to paraphrase the Prussian military strategist (Carl von) Clausewitz (1780-1831) by characterizing insularization as the "continuation of policy by other means".

Eva-Maria Knoll and André Gingrich

Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria

<https://menatidningen.se/isolating-qatar/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNYXXBNpN1k>

Legalizing islandness

Astronomers are lucky. They dive deep into Space, surprise us every once in a while, with a new, fascinating theory but, quite understandably, never even think of changing or redirecting anything up there. Paleontologists are also lucky. The worlds they find in the deep Past cannot be changed anymore and they calmly add their paleo findings to the fascinating story of life on the planet.

What about sociologists? Their subject clearly shows that quite a few things should be changed and that there are agents within the subject that attempt so all the time. The doors of involvement are ajar here; scientists face the possibility of taking a stand and start influencing the very subject of their study. Economists, too. Their subject has always been directed and manipulated by many and it is quite hard to remain indifferent. It is hard to find economists who do not have an opinion about how the economy should look and operate. And quite a few do take a stand, criticise, confront, advise and the like.

Ecologists have opened the door wide. To study the ecosystem is to watch its decay and no one remains indifferent. Ecologists, as a rule, take a very active stand although those responsible for the deterioration of the planet, as a rule, do not listen.

What about nissologists? The subject is the island but what is really being studied are specificities that can be found in every aspect of island existence, *differentia specifica insularis*, to put it pompously. The island is studied in its own terms which has proven efficient and sufficient on islands far from the mainland and mainland influences. There, in the middle of the sea, island specificities resist various nets and networks that have challenged even the most remote islands: specialisation versus versatility, the so-called global village, imports versus self-sufficiency, and so on. Near islands, those that stretch along the coast of the continents resist harder. Nets and networks that they get caught in are often thrown as mainland policy measures which are to be implemented in the same way they are implemented on mainland. In the eyes of most of the policy makers near islands are mere extensions of the mainland and hardly anyone

sees the need for a particular island policy. A need for particular island research is not seen either, let alone nissology.

A nissologist facing near islands cannot remain indifferent to the mainland in close proximity. Studying near islands means watching how insularity rapidly and evidently gets overcome by means of better connections and faster communication. It should not pass unnoticed however, that this happens at the expense of islandness which less evidently, slowly fades away. Nissologist is here to state that solving for insularity is a trend that should not be opposed but that islands will remain islands only if the islandness is preserved.

Trivial, perhaps even circular, this statement nevertheless accords with the proposal that has been recently put forward by emerging policy makers in the EU. After decades of leaving islands at the national policy level the EU is apparently moving to formulate and begin implementing an island development policy that will cover specificities of all islands from Finland to Greece. The basic policy concept is one of the SMART¹ island which gives islands, particularly the small ones, the role of places of innovations and technological improvements. Surprised a bit, perhaps, by the direction from which the proposal originates, nissologists are presented with a concept that significantly widens the view of islands as natural laboratories in which social groups, communities, economic processes, entire history etc., are seen better and clearer than on mainland. The same conditions of insularity and islandness that attracted scientists and triggered the development of entire disciplines are now seen as a suitable environment for development and testing of environmentally sound technologies and studying what islanders have always been good at: sustainable use of scarce resources. The promoters of SMART islands claim that the new solutions will be ready for upscaling and implementing on the mainland only if they are developed and tested on the island.

All of the sudden islandness appears worth preserving. Nissologist will easily notice that it is islandness and not the process of overcoming insularity that has brought the comparative advantage to small islands and that most of the islands that worked hard on bridges, tunnels, and fast connections are not candidates for the flattering SMART label. Nissologists also face a responsible task: pose questions that were long ago posed and answered by islanders and find modern but equally efficient answers.

The momentum has been gained and it is not too much to expect that islandness as a SMART prerequisite will find its place in EU development documents as well as in development legislation. In fact, the first step has been already made in one of the member countries. The Croatian Island Act, which was enacted in 1999, is being significantly amended and will be adopted by the Parliament by the end of this year. The working group formed to prepare the draft consists of administrators from various ministries with direct input from nissologists. This has resulted in a draft that does not particularly define insularity which has to be overcome but does define **islandness** as needing to be preserved. One of the introductory articles defines it as "...a

¹ In search of a nice acronym, the policy makers made a good use of the words Sustainable, Manageable, Achievable, Result oriented and Trackable. It was soon accepted that islands moving along the path of sustainable development must be SMART. The term soon spread: SMART cities, SMART rivers, etc. (<http://www.smartislandsinitiative.eu/en/index.php>)

set of geographic, ecological, economic, social, and historical specificities resulting from being completely surrounded by the sea.” This definition is used to justify provisions listed in the chapter on development measures. Introductory statements such as: “Due to islandness...”, “In order to preserve islandness ...”, “...pronounced islandness calls for ...” etc. could be found in a couple of articles.

It remains to be seen how these provisions will be implemented in a transition country burdened with enforcement problems, inefficient administration and lack of political will for implementation of policy documents. The first step appears encouraging. It can already be observed that island policy makers and island consultants are co-operating. And, it all started with nissologists asking a question: should I (we) get involved?

Nenad Starc

.Research and Teaching at the University of The Bahamas

An Act of Parliament chartered the University of The Bahamas (UB) in 2016. UB has currently over 6,000 students at its Oakes Field Campus, 3 km away from the centre of Nassau on the island of New Providence. It covers some 60 acres with administrative and teaching facilities.



View towards the campus of the University of the Bahamas

Associated with UB are the Grace Research Centre on the island of San Salvador and centres on the islands of Abaco and Exuma. (Exuma is also worth visiting to have a swim with the famous pigs).



There are excellent opportunities for research, training and workshops as well as special seminars during national and international conferences. I am a new member of ISISA, and I was teaching oceanography and doing research as a US Fulbright Scholar during 2017 and 2018 at UB. I conducted a study with UB colleagues on changes to the coastal environment due to the impact of Hurricane Irma that hit the Bahamas in 2017. A joint publication on this topic with UB faculty is under consideration and will be made widely available.

Karl H. Szekiolda



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. It is published on line every May and November; articles approved for publication appear ‘ahead of issue’ on its website.

ISJ is institutionally housed at the Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada:
www.islandstudies.com

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

PROTECTING THE PACIFIC: 8th Polynesian Leaders Meeting

Polynesia Leaders of the Pacific met last week in Tuvalu and held a two-day Sautalaga (discussion) about climate change and oceans. Out of this meeting they signed on to a declaration. I was there assisting the Prime Minister of Tuvalu.

The meeting was also attended by the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Patricia Espinosa. In the photo you can see Patricia with the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, on the right of Patricia, and surrounded by school children.



Dr Ian Fry

Ambassador for Climate Change and Environment, Tuvalu

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Visit: <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/polynesian-leaders-issue-declaration-on-climate-change-and-oceans/> to read the Declaration.

Island Innovation is a newsletter aimed at making **Island Studies** accessible to the general public. We invite you to submit articles (academic or media) that demonstrate positive stories and solutions coming from island communities. Due to my background, there is a particular focus on energy and sustainability; but any articles that are publicly available and communicate the importance of island studies would be welcomed.

Read more here: www.bit.ly/islandinnovation

James Ellsmoor

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Who is this who is coming?

(In which the *qivitoq* reflects upon its status as an infinitely malleable metaphor in postcolonial Kalaallit Nunaat)

by Adam Grydehøj

If you find an artefact
discarded
among the stones on the shore,
then just whistle,
and I'll come to you.

Shall I be your Caliban,
upon whom you presume
to impress the relicts
of another people's poetry,
filling my mouth with spite,
shooting glints of subalterity
from unknowable black eyes?

Or shall I be your little lamb,
a holy thing,
a wordless thanksgiving,
transcending the babble
of its obscure tongue,
ignorant of its sacrifice,
yet so soft and warm at night?

Gud bevar Danmark!
and all the rest of it,
ringing hollow about the fjords,
over the ridges,
beneath the earth,
everywhere I perforce must wander,
put on ice,
if I am to be truly,
authentically,
genuinely
me.

Else in the beer den drowning,
caught with my pants down,
toothless and obscene –
an awkward chuckle,
a little shrug,
meets the failure of my race

(and yours)
that helps you sleep at night.

The isle is full of noises,
I guess,
but pay them no heed,
lest they trouble
your dreaming
of a simpler time
when all were grateful,
when children kissed
the mother's cheek,
polished the father's boots,
submitted,
soul and body,
myth and livelihood,
belly and womb,
to another people's poetry.

You whistled,
and I came,
slumping listless and broken,
an eternal metaphor
for what you had lost
and what you might save,
a person of nature,
a creature of your design,
who will not speak
the words required of him.

Who is this who is coming?
You may well ask.
I have not answered
and will not
for you.
The future is for myself alone,
my own metaphors,
my own poetry,
owning my own spirit,
whistling its own song.

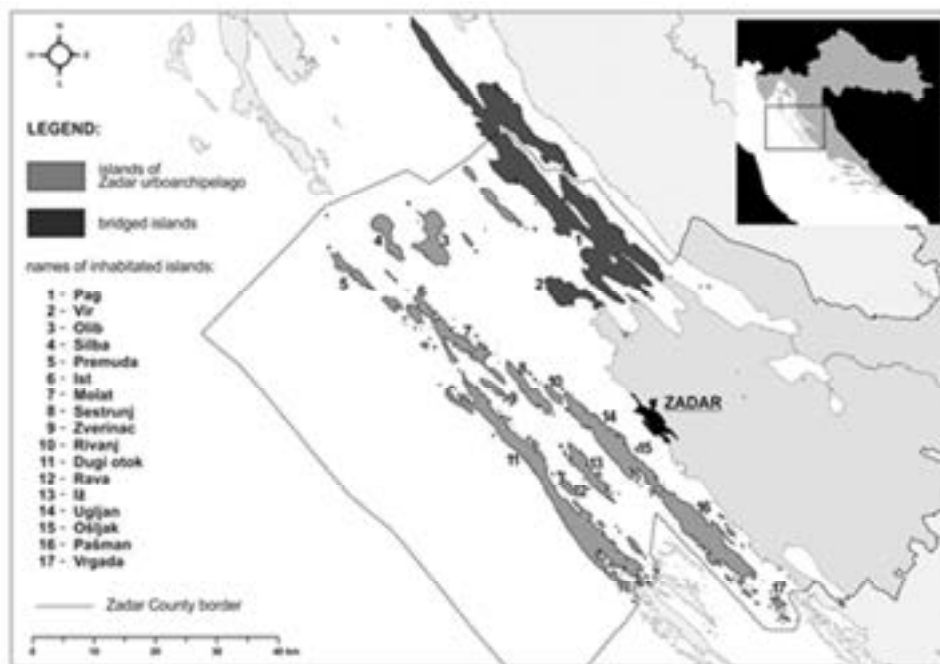


Adam Grydehøj is Director of Island Dynamics, Executive Editor of *Island Studies Journal*, and Research Associate at the University of Prince Edward Island's Institute of Island Studies. He researches politics and society in Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland) and is author of the novel *I Have Not Answered* (<https://www.forewordreviews.com/reviews/i-have-not-answered/>).

ISISA Conference 2022: 18th *Islands of the World* to meet in Croatia

In four short years, ISISA will hold its XVIII Conference in Croatia, a country with over 1,200 islands. The Islands of the World will meet in **June 13-19, 2022** in the city of Zadar the centre of an urban archipelago in the mid-Adriatic. Being an island that was dyked to become a peninsula, Zadar has established close socio-economic relations with its 17 near islands forming an unique system of mainland-island interactions. Its turbulent, thousands of years long history resulted in rich cultural heritage and complex relations with both islands and the hinterland. Today Zadar is the second largest Dalmatian town and the county center with 75,000 inhabitants and a quite developed tourist infrastructure including a range of hotels and an international airport. It offers an array of themes and questions concerning near islands and their relations with the mainland: a perfect location to deliver a powerful interdisciplinary island studies experience to the ISISA members and the local community.

The city of Zadar



Map: Zadar urban archipelago

The Croatian Islands have been inhabited more or less continuously from pre-historic times. Many layers of cultural heritage accumulated since then forming a specific symbiosis with the island ecosystem. The islands have always been influenced by nearby mainland. Today the influence is stronger than ever and rich natural and traditional cultural landscapes are affected by depopulation, ageing and tourism triggered economic monoculture. Even though these processes are common to all Croatian islands each island is specific and can be taken in consideration as an isolated case and a scientific subject.

Hosting scientists specialised in island studies will help the Croatian scientific community understand how islands and archipelagos of the world are coping with challenges similar to those on the Croatian islands. It will also be an unique opportunity for scientists from other islands and countries to get familiar with processes taking place on the Croatian archipelago which is still underrepresented in wider academic circles. The town of Zadar and its archipelago will provide a perfect ambient for overcoming this unmerited gap.

The host is the University of Zadar the oldest institution of higher learning in Croatia and one of the oldest in Europe. It was founded by the Dominicans in 1396 as *Universitas Studiorum Iadertina* and existed as such till 1807 when it ceased to act as an independent institution. The new University of Zadar was re-founded in 2003. It has 25 university departments with 6,000 students. Its departments are engaged in collaborative research agreements and student exchange programmes with a number of other European universities. It has agreements with universities in South America and the United States.

The XVIIIth ISISA conference will be named *Islands of the World: Nature and Culture at Stake*. The title refers to the inseparability of island natural and cultural heritage which is to be managed and developed in a way that allows for preservation of islandness.

Besides the main theme a number of subthemes will be offered. It is too early to specify them as islands will change till 2022. On the other hand, there are island topics that are almost standard. The list might look like this:

- Near islands: so close, yet marginal. Is nearness constraining islandness? Should sustainability, smallness, insularity and marginality be reconsidered?
- Island cultural heritage: a source of new professions and a resource for keeping the population on the island
- Island natural heritage and tourism: are we cutting the branch on which the most profitable island economic activity is sitting?
- National and nature parks on islands: are islanders able to manage natural heritage?
- Mainland made island development policies: innapropriate, yet effective?
- Islanders on the move: permanent and temporary mobility of island population
- Tourist and seasonal workers' migrations: from summer to winter to next summer...
- Immigration of young urbanites to small island communities: can locals and settlers get along?
- Islands, innovations and new, specifically island professions: can we, and should we, outgrow traditions?
- Island education: could it reach the island (school boat), could it stay remote (e-school)?

- Social entrepreneurship on islands, civil society and international initiatives: can we interconnect them?
- Common property on islands and its management: we used to be good at it, how do we stand today?

Four years may really come short. Let's start thinking about the topics and elaborate a good programme in time. The University of Zadar is open to proposals and suggestions.

See you first in Newfoundland in 2020; and then, in Zadar in 2022.

Nenad Starc



Conference call for papers

REMOTE: Rethinking Remoteness, Isolation, and Peripherality

10-18 September 2019, Svaneti & Tbilisi, Georgia

<http://www.islanddynamics.org/remote2019.html>

This multidisciplinary Island Dynamics conference critically examines the purported drawbacks and potential benefits to remoteness, isolation, and peripherality.

Remoteness, isolation, and peripherality have become lenses through which certain territories and communities are valued and assessed. These concepts have come to be regarded as markers of vulnerability, marginality, and lack of modernity. Yet all three concepts are fundamentally relational, presume centre-periphery relationships that may not be relevant to all parties involved. Territories such as Greenland and New Caledonia may seem remote and isolated from the perspective of their distant metropolitan powers, Denmark and France, but for those living in these territories, the periphery is itself the centre. The city of Manchester in Northern England is often regarded as remote from and peripheral to the economic powerhouse of Southeast England, yet the population of Manchester's urban area exceeds that of many European countries. Places that were once deemed remote, such as Australia, can come to be taken on their own terms, while important power centres, such as Ancient Carthage, can dwindle and ultimately be buried beneath the earth. Longyearbyen, Svalbard (site of the first REMOTE conference in 2017) appears on the map to epitomise remoteness, yet this tiny arctic town is a hub of international activity.



The mountain villages of Ushguli are among the most remote places in Europe.

What do remoteness, isolation and peripherality mean in practice? Who decides whether a place or a people is remote, isolated, or peripheral, and how do these determinations affect life in places that have acquired the label? Being labelled in this manner can sometimes give a community access to aid and support, but it can also pigeonhole a community into acting out its remoteness, can hinder efforts at embracing one's own centrality. For Indigenous communities and minority nationalities located on or beyond the edge of a majority culture, an uncomfortable tension can develop between preserving local cultures and lifestyles on the one hand and performing in accordance with metropolitan and neocolonial expectations on the other. From China's Great Western Development Strategy to Australian development efforts in Melanesia to attempts within Western liberal democracies to decentralise public administration by relocating government bodies out to 'the provinces', initiatives to address the disadvantages and inequalities resulting from peripherality and remoteness often mean increased political and economic dependence on a distant centre of power.

About the conference: Delegates should arrive in Tbilisi on 10 September to participate in a tour of Tbilisi and Mtskheta on 11 September. On 12 September, the group will travel to Mestia in Svaneti, a day-long trip including stops along the way in the historic cities of Kutaisi and Zugdidi. On 13 and 16 September, we will explore Mestia and its surroundings, including Chalaadi Glacier and the village of Ushguli. Conference presentations will be held in Mestia on 14-15 September. On 17 September, we will return to Tbilisi, with stops around the ancient city of Gori. Delegates can depart Tbilisi from 18 September.

How to make a presentation: Presentations are welcome on all aspects of remoteness, isolation, and peripherality worldwide.

The deadline for abstracts is 30th September. Submit your abstract at <http://www.islanddynamics.org/remote2019/cfp.html>. Deadline for early registration is 30th November.

If you have any questions, contact convenor Shawn M. Clankie (shawn@res.otaru-uc.ac.jp).

Conference call for papers:

Culture in Urban Space: Urban Form, Cultural Landscapes, Life in the City
8-12 April 2019, Macau, Special Administrative Region of China

<http://www.islanddynamics.org/cultureurbanspace.html>

This international, interdisciplinary Island Dynamics conference explores the mutual influence of urban culture and urban form.

The city cannot be understood in terms of its buildings, infrastructure, and physical geography alone. Urban materiality is inextricably linked with city life: Urban spaces are influenced by the cultures that inhabit them, and urban form shapes these cultures in turn. This conference brings together researchers, planners, designers, and architects from around the globe to explore the mutual influence of urban culture and urban form.

Impacts of past urban planning reverberate long after original rationales have become obsolete: Fortifications (walls, moats, fortresses), coastlines and land reclamation, transport infrastructure (roads, bridges, city gates), and other elements of the built environment structure future development. Aspects of urban form contribute to dividing the city into neighbourhoods, determining which areas flourish while others decay, encouraging shifts from industrial to tourism to leisure uses. The city's architectures affect the cultures of the people who use them: Different kinds of housing foster different forms of sociality or isolation, and different networked infrastructures promote different pathways to the internal cohesion and/or citywide integration of urban cultures. Whether urban cultural landscapes evolve gradually over time or result from decisive, top-down planning, they reflect and influence the city's multitude of identities, industries, cultural politics, ethnic relations, and expressive cultures.

About Macau: In 1557, Portugal established a colony on Macau, then a sparsely populated archipelago in the Pearl River Delta. Macau developed into a major trading centre and regional leader in the gambling industry. Macau became a self-governing Special Administrative Region of China in 1999. Macau's islands were expanded through land reclamation over time. The spatial limitations arising from the territory's enclave geography led to extreme yet phased urban densification. Macau is today the most densely populated territory in the world, with 650,000 residents concentrated in just 30.5 km², primarily on the 8.5 km² Macau Peninsula.



Macau is an archipelago of cultural diversity and urban innovation.

About the conference: ‘Culture in Urban Space’ allows delegates to contextualise knowledge and engage with the local community. On 8-10 April, delegates will explore the morphological and cultural distinctions of Macau Peninsula, visiting diverse neighbourhoods across the city, with an emphasis on the ways in which the urban environment has transformed over the centuries. Delegates will experience Macau’s urban environment through three days of walking-based field trips, including visits to tourist gateways, religious sites, heritage tourism zones, and residential neighbourhoods, and casino zones, and commercial areas. Conference presentations will take place on 11-12 April. Special emphasis is placed on how meaning is negotiated within the urban environment, particularly in the aftermath of colonialism and other forms of cultural encounter.

How to make a presentation: This interdisciplinary conference welcomes presentations addressing any region of the world as well as innovative perspectives that highlight the complex intersections of multiple peoples, places, and polities. The deadline for abstracts is 31 August 2018. You can submit your abstract [here](#). The deadline for early registration is 31 October, and the final deadline registration 30 December.

If you have any questions, e-mail convenor Adam Grydehøj (agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org).



Social and Economic Studies Journal

Check out the forthcoming special issue from University of the West Indies journal, ***Social and Economic Studies: Small Nations, Dislocations, Transformations.***

Social and Economic Studies (ISSN 0037-7651) is a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal that has been published continuously since 1953. Produced by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), it features articles reflecting current academic research of a developmental nature on a wide range of issues in the Caribbean, Latin America and the rest of the Global South. SES is multi-disciplinary in orientation and publishes articles and research on agricultural, anthropological, demographic, economic, educational, monetary, political and sociological questions with a view to analysing and discussing problems of less developed countries, particularly those in the Caribbean. The Journal is indexed by Scopus, PAIS Bulletin, Sociological Abstracts, Journal of Economic Literature, Abstracts in Anthropology, Current Contents/ Social & Behavioural Sciences. It is available in JSTOR, ProQuest and EBSCO databases.

SES is looking for qualified and willing reviewers to add to our database. Recent issues and their contents can be examined online at <https://www.mona.uwi.edu/ses/>

Please contact ses@uwimon.edu.jm or annie.paul@uwimona.edu.jm if you are willing to review something for us. Reviewers will receive a free one-year subscription to the online portal.

The Islands Of

The islands of our dreams
Begin to feel the tide
Which turns now with the wind
Defeating all we tried.

The islands of our hopes
Have drifted and are weak
They're shadowed by the glimpse
Of more than they should seek.

The islands of our world
Can never re-appear
Enraptured with the spells
Which we must only fear.

The islands guard our corpse
We note all that is new
We're weary and we're lost
There's nothing left to do.

Ilan Kelman

islandvulnerability@yahoo.com

And, finally, a word from the President ...

Dear ISISA members,

Many of us are suitably refreshed and inspired by the presentations and conversations that have taken place in Leeuwarden and Terschelling last June.

You have also approved a [new ISISA Executive](#) who will continue working to encourage scholarship on, but also by and with, islands and islanders.

This ISISA conference has seen a record number of student scholarships offered (10): the impact on conference proceedings and the conviviality outside the presentation rooms has been simply terrific. Thank you students, for your [remarks during the ISISA General Meeting](#): urging us to continue to support a wide representation of island voices at our conferences; and as broad a range of disciplinary papers as possible. We are listening ☺

Godfrey Baldacchino



You can also reach ISISA through:

Website: www.isisa.org (includes blog)

List-serve: isisa@yahoogroups.com

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

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

