



# ISISA

## Newsletter

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### EDITORIAL

This issue starts off with a teaser about the 17<sup>th</sup> *Islands of the World* ISISA conference in St. John's Newfoundland, Canada in 2020.

There are couple of interesting photo essays for your to enjoy. Lots of other island news and articles to read.

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 them over to me for the next issue.

*Kindly send over material for the July 2019 Newsletter by not later than June 15, 2019.*

Thank you for your continued support and contributions.

Anna Baldacchino  
Newsletter Editor  
[abaldacchino59@gmail.com](mailto:abaldacchino59@gmail.com)



We might be almost two years away from ISISA 2020, but we are already forging full steam ahead with plans. We have ordered icebergs for June 22-26, 2020 and extended an invitation to the whales and capelin. Now we are asking you to save those dates too and join us in St. John's, Newfoundland for the 17th Islands of the World Conference.

Newfoundland, like many islands, is a place of storytellers, so it seemed natural that the ISISA 2020 conference should be built around the notions of storytelling and sharing of knowledge. At a time when islands are at the forefront of challenges facing the planet, from human migrations to climate change, we are determined to bring together islanders and island scholars to share lessons, solutions, and stories from their islands.

In the coming weeks, we will launch a call for abstracts for the conference, and a call for participation in the various organizing committees. In the meantime, plan to be in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada between June 22-26, 2020. The icebergs should be here to welcome you.

We have a hold-the-date page up for the ISISA 2020 conference in St.

John's: <https://www.mun.ca/wearehere/isisa.php>

*BOJAN FÜRST*

## A cry for help from Brazil to ISISA Members



A new political scenario in Brazil is about to unfold. Our country has reached a risky new era in a developmental paradigm. Even though islands are not among our most discussed topics when it comes to sustainability, compared to other regions around the globe our biomes and remaining First Nations territories are truly precious for humanity. The controversial authoritarian stance adopted by our recently elected president along with a huge group of legislative chairs could lead to the devastation of

large ecosystems. A scenario like this can cause an even higher social impact in an underdeveloped country like Brazil. Even though the Federal Environmental Department has led a precarious existence over the years, it is now to be subordinated to the Agriculture Department.

Many scientists, educators, lawyers, public servers, activists, and citizens are calling for international networks' sensibilities and transversal fronts of action – science, diplomacy, policy and trade – to generate any kind of resistance and confrontation against potential threats posed by the agenda of the new President of Brazil. Minorities (First Nations, *quilombolas*, traditional fisheries) and also Nature Resources are in danger as from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. By now, in our Universities, censorship is gaining ground. All kinds of support and attention are needed. Watch out for us.

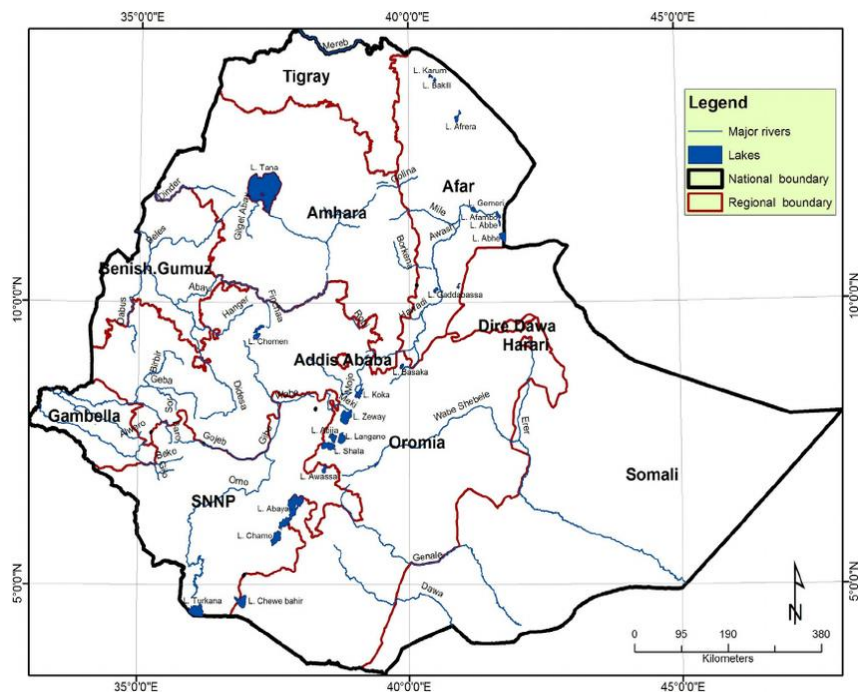
*DANIEL TALLAS*

# Gidicho Island

**Editor's Note:** We don't hear much about lake islands or African islands, so this short article is quite a treat.

Gidicho is the name of the largest island on Lake Abaya<sup>1</sup> Sava (2011), situated in Mirab Abaya *woreda* (district), Gamo Gofa *zone*, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) of Ethiopia. According to Hirut (2004), there are twenty-one other islands on the lake. Gidicho is home to two ethnic groups: The Bayso and Haro. The Bayso are dominant and have marginalized the Haro because the latter consume hippo meat. Economically, the Haro earn their living by hunting hippo and fishing. There are three villages on Gidicho: Shigma in the north, Bayso in the south and Haro on the eastern shore. The former two villages belong to the Bayso community, while the latter to the Haro (Epple and Braukmann, 2014).

## Plate I: Major Lakes and Rivers of Ethiopia



<sup>1</sup>This lake was named Lake Margherita by the Italian explorer Vittorio Bottego, the first European to visit the lake, to honor the wife of King Umberto I of Italy, Queen Margherita. This name appears in older publications, but it is no longer in use. Lake Abaya is 60 km long and 20 km wide, with a surface area of 1160 km<sup>2</sup>. It has a maximum depth of 13 meters and is at an elevation of 1,268 meters and this make it the largest rift valley lake in Africa. Details at: [www.rippleethiopia.org](http://www.rippleethiopia.org)

Source: Google Dec. 2018

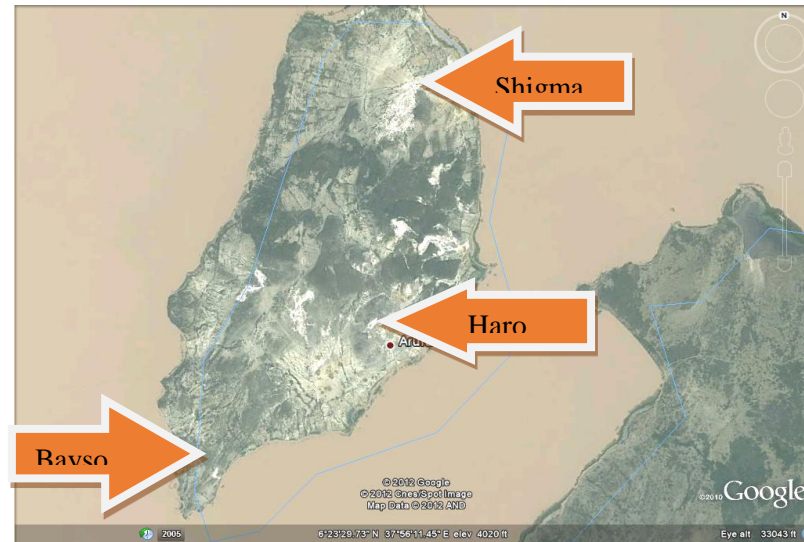
Plate II: Lake Abaya and Gidicho Island



Source: Google Earth, 2018



Plate III: The three villages on Gidicho Island



Source: Google Earth 2018

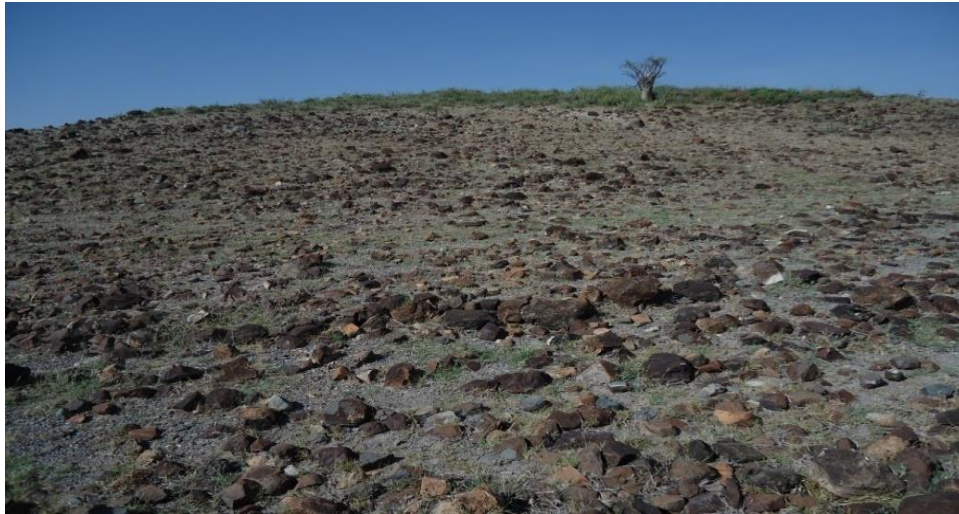
The 'Bayso' language belongs to the Cushitic sub family (Hirut, 2004). However, most Bayso are multilingual: they speak 'Bayso' as their mother tongue; Amharic, which is the working language of the country; Oromifa and Welaytigna. The Bayso population has been estimated to be 5,490, of which 2,760 (50.3%) are female and 2,730 (49.7%) are male (Population Census Commission, 2007). They are one of the five ethnic groups in Gamo Gofa Zone. Consequently, they have representation at both regional and federal levels (Gamo Gofa Zone Culture and Tourism, 2004).

Descriptions of the islands of Lake Abaya and their inhabitants began with the travel accounts of Lamberto Vannutelli and Carlo Citerni, members of the Bottego's expedition into this territory in 1896 (Corbett and Hayward, 1986). In 1902, Oscar Neumann also reported the presence of a people called Gidicho on an island in the northeastern quadrant of Lake Abaya in the Rift Valley of southern Ethiopia. Neumann mentioned that the Gidicho looked like the Somali and spoke a language much of whose vocabulary was intelligible to the Somali (Neumann, 1902). Researchers and practitioners of different disciplines began to conduct research on the people of Gidicho Island only since the 1960s.

The physical environment of Gidicho consists of dry and rocky land with a hot climate, where the hills are covered by thorny bushes, pinch and cactus trees. Amazingly, there are no wild

animals on the island. Dwellers sustain their life by herding and producing maize, sorghum, pumpkin and cotton, on the coast of the lake, as well as apiculture. Lake Abaya is known for its fish varieties, including the Nile perch; however, the Bayso made fish part of their diet only recently, because, eating fish was taboo in their culture (Epple, 2016).

Plate IV: Barren and rocky land of the Bayso village (Gidicho Island)



Source: Photograph taken during fieldwork, December 2011.

The Bayso are proud of their cultural traditions, norms and values, such as their indigenous administrative and belief system (*wono*), rituals of purification, marriage, and their material culture (for instance, the construction of indigenous boats). However, nowadays, the Bayso are forced to give up much of their cultural traditions, as rituals and religious ceremonies demand the slaughtering of animals (mainly oxen and goats), which were more abundant in the past, but not anymore because of environmental degradation and the resultant shortage of grazing land. Now, their animal stock has dwindled tremendously. What is more, the Bayso – particularly those living on the island – are heavily disadvantaged in terms of infrastructural development: there is just one elementary school, built during the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie in the 1970s. They have nothing else (Eshetu, 2012).

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## Fogo Island, Canada

*Maggie Henry* was born on Fogo Island (NL) and grew up in Petite Riviere (NS) and Canberra (ACT, Australia). She now resides in Charlottetown (PE) and is a student in the MAIS Island Tourism program at UPEI. Maggie wanted to share with us some photos taken during her last trip to her home island in August 2018.

Maggie has opted to share with us some less-common images from around the island - no inn, studios, bright red stages - because she's very passionate about the fact that there is so much more to see than the typical images that are used in the current marketing. She is currently working on an online portfolio, but for the time being you can find more of Maggie's photographs at [www.instagram.com/maggiejane](http://www.instagram.com/maggiejane).

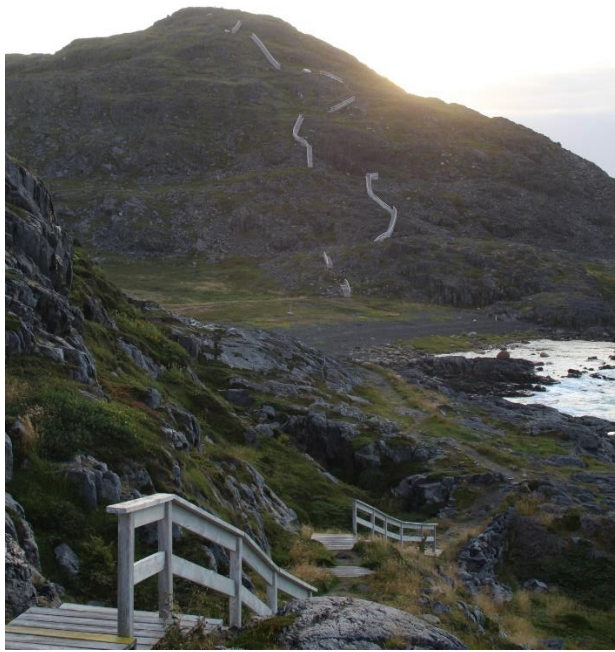


Allan Keefe's stage, Tilting

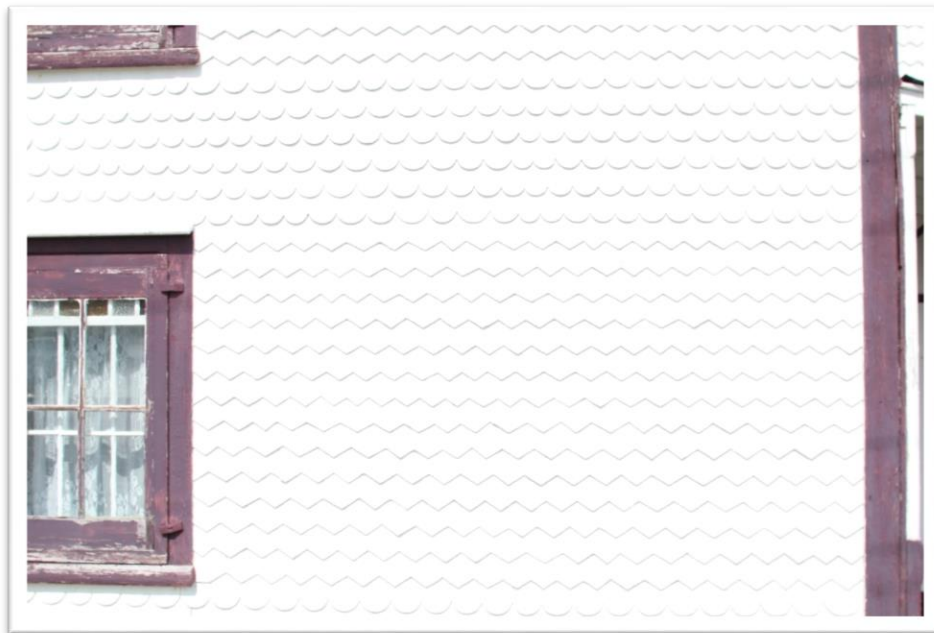


Golden hour at Reardon House, Sandy Cove





Golden hour on the Fogo Head Trail, Town of Fogo



Hand carved scalloped shingles of Brett House, Joe Batt's Arm

# *Castello a Mare: The Venetian Sea Fortress of Heraklion*

*This photo essay is by Evangelia Papoutsaki, a native of Crete and former inhabitant of Heraklion. This was her first visit to the interior of the fortress since she departed Crete over 30 years ago. The experience brought her a new level of appreciation for the island's past and its strong Venetian history. [papoutsaki@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:papoutsaki@yahoo.co.uk)*

You will often find Irakliotes strolling by their city's harbour or sipping their coffee at the café by the Yacht Marina watching over Koules, the old Venetian Fortress that has been part of the city's sea front landscape for centuries. Whilst most of the city's inhabitants are aware of the city's Venetian past, they just see it as one of the many layers of the island's occupied history, preceded by the Iberian Arabs and the Byzantines and taken over by the Ottomans before it became part of independent Greece in 1913.



Photo by Evangelia Papoutsaki

The Venetian influence is still visible on this Mediterranean island that was an administrative (*signoria*) district, known as Regno di Candia, of the Venetian Republic (La Serenissima) for nearly half a millennium (1211-1669). The current structure of Heraklion's Castelo a Mare (sea fortress) or Rocca a Mare (Sea-Rock) dates back to the 15th century. Under the Venetian rule, the city of Candia was reputed to be the best fortified city of the Eastern Mediterranean, the seat of the Duke of Candia, and the emporium and transit port for the Venetian merchant galleys sailing to the Levant (known at the time as became 'the other "Venice of the East)'). Its main exports were wine, olive oil, raisins, cheese, honey, beeswax, silk, cotton and salt, which was a Venetian monopoly.



Photo: Evangelia Papoutsaki

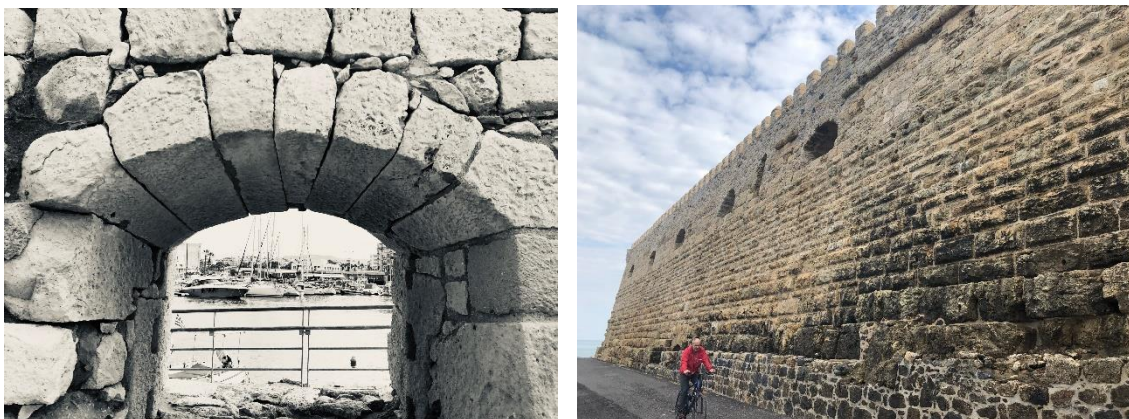
The numerous emblems of Venice, the coats of arms and inscriptions were embedded on the fortress' walls during their construction. Above you can see the north-west facing entry to the Fortress with its St Mark Lion relief, the symbol of the Venetian Republic and present-day city of Venice. Over the years, Koules has become a symbol or rather a trademark for the capital city of



Heraklion. The winged lion of St Mark, defying the passage of time and sea erosion, stands formidably over the three gates of the fortress on marble relief plaques, a reminder of the passage of a once commanding maritime Mediterranean power.



Photos: Evangelia Papoutsaki



Top: the main entrance to the Fortress. Middle/Bottom: views from around the fortress. Today, the fortress is known as Koules (from the Turkish ‘Su Koulesi’/ by the sea).



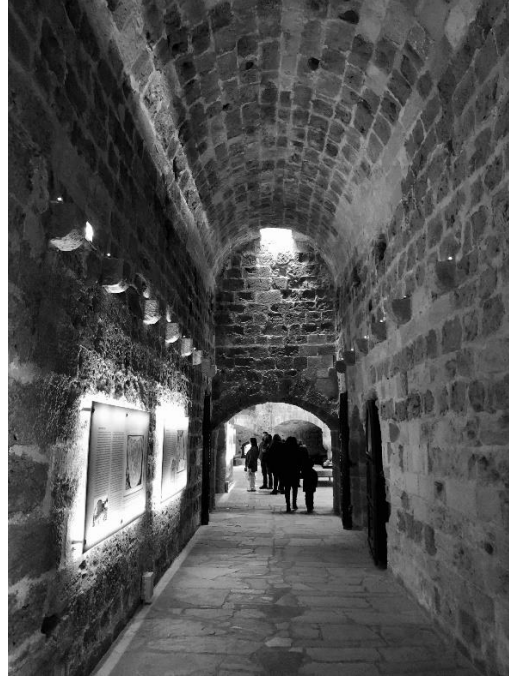


Photos: Evangelia Papoutsaki – the fortress from the north mole with one of its three main entrances marked by Venice’s symbol of St Mark’s Lion. The Venetian harbour also contains the Venetian Arsenals or shipyards, where ships were repaired.



Photo: Evangelia Papoutsaki – The view from the top of the fortress. The old Venetian mole extends right at the end of the old port and into the new city port, a popular promenade for the city’s inhabitants who are seen here strolling over the weekend (known as the “bypass promenade” for those who exercise after having a heart operation). At the back you can see the uninhabited island of Dia used mostly by fishers these days (“Rabbit island” as it was known in Venetian times and from where the defeated fleet with Venetian aristocracy on board, fled to Venice after Candia fell to the Ottomans in 1669). The island of Dia also provided much of the limestone needed for the construction of the Fortress.









Photos: Evangelia Papoutsaki – visuals from the interior of the fortress. The fortress is in the shape of a square and has two levels. Ground level walls are 8.7m thick. The roof of the ground floor is vaulted with large air vents.







Photos: Evangelia Papoutsaki – Today the port hosts the city’s marina and provides anchor for small fishing boats. The Marina café, a popular summer destination for Irakliotes and visitors alike, provides views of the Venetian castle. This is where the cross is thrown into the sea for the blessing of the waters during the celebration of the Epiphany and where fishers still bring their day’s catch to port.



Photo: Evangelia Papoutsaki – Wintery Koules from the city’s north coast road.

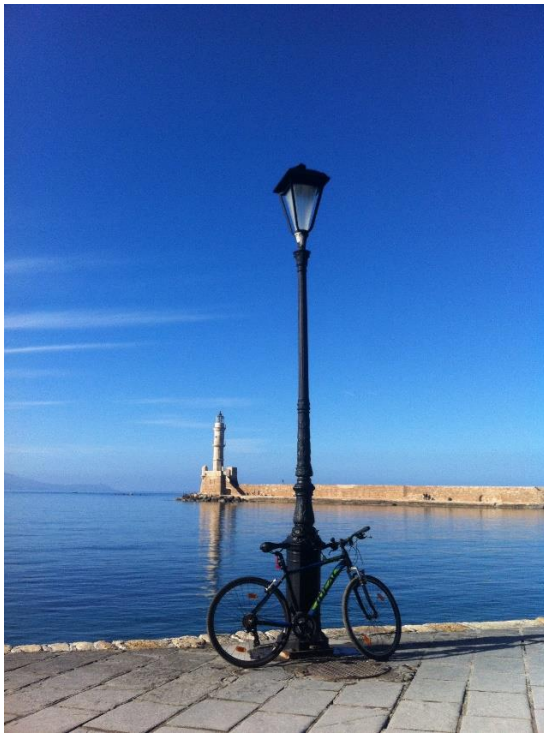




Photo: Evangelia Papoutsaki – A night view of the Fortress.



Photo: Evangelia Papoutsaki - Post-war modernization and unruly urbanization brought their destructive intervention to this part of the city. Having survived for centuries, the opening of the coastal road in Heraklion meant demolishing much of the Venetian harbour, including the Little Koules and the Byzantine Harbour Gate. Unlike the Venetian port of Chania, the Neoria, the old harbour's storage and arsenal buildings (seen here at the centre of the photo), are now cut off from Koules by the road that serves the needs of the city's inhabitants, but has compromised the historic and aesthetic integrity of the old harbour.



*Photos: Evangelia Papoutsaki. The light houses of the other Venetian Ports of Crete (Chania on the Left and Rethymnon on the right Right)*

### **Sources**

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Photo: Evangelia Papoutsaki



# Upcoming Session

Small islands' tourism: Socio-environmental Challenges and Conflicts  
EUGEO Congress May 15th-18th Galway, Ireland.

You can find more information at:

<https://www.eugeo2019.eu/list-of-proposed-themed-sessions>

STEFANO MALATESTA

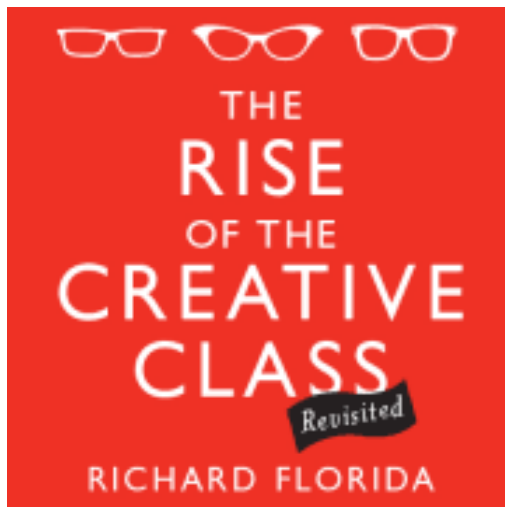


***Island Studies Journal*** (ISSN: 1715-2593) was set up in 2006 as a freely downloadable, peer reviewed, scholarly and inter-disciplinary journal dedicated to the study of islands and island life.

***ISJ*** is institutionally housed at the Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada: [www.islandstudies.com](http://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).

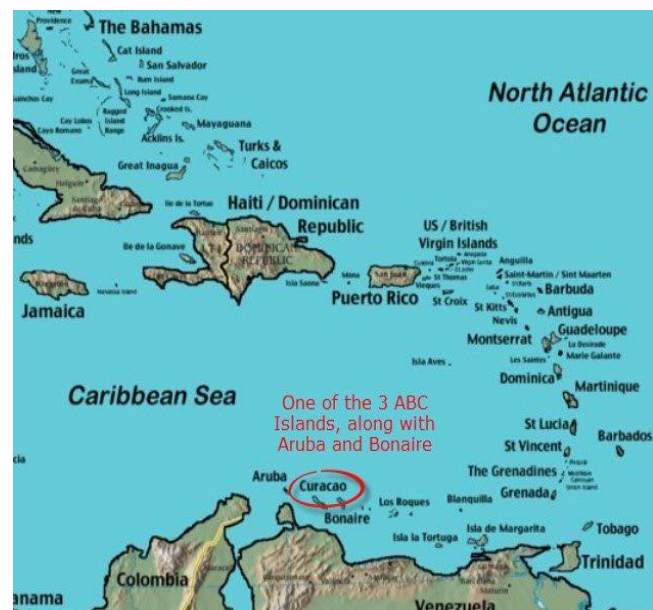
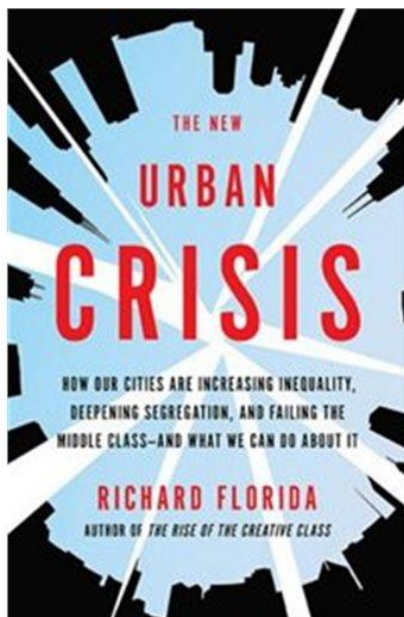
Manuscripts to be considered for publication are welcome at: [isj@upei.ca](mailto:isj@upei.ca) Website: [www.islandstudies.ca/journal](http://www.islandstudies.ca/journal)



## Building Blocks for the Rise of a New Creative Class in Curacao

The local government promotes possibilities for creation of smart nation Curacao and its potential to become an attractive destination for digital nomads. This group travels the world seeking nice destinations. Most digital nomads have some kind of place that they call home, which is usually where their family or childhood friends are located, but they wouldn't spend more than a few

months a year there. Curacao can now become part of their wish list. An impulse in cities caused by 'The New Urban Crisis' (Richard Florida) leads to tourists and city dwellers seeking comfort in the outskirts, sometimes in remote locations. Curacao is becoming a preferred destination in the Caribbean for the tourist, but it is not discovered yet by a big portion of city-dwellers. These try to avoid the structural problems of cities, like traffic congestion, increasing inequality, class wars, deepening segregation, failing middle class and turmoil. São Paulo, Brazil has now become the 19<sup>th</sup> city with a nonstop flight to Curacao. This strengthens the efforts of Curacao becoming a hub between America and Europe. Through these 19 cities, passengers can make connections to other cities, islands and metropolises.



What is the difference between now and past endeavours? Thanks to its airline connections, Curacao is now linked to the urban fabric of big cities. But how can the potential of these relationships be put to better use for the economic development of the island? Change always begins with people. Blessed by technological developments based upon the knowledge economy, Curacao can become a virtual hot spot in the Caribbean, inducing innovations of the digital

revolution. Incoming city-dwellers moving into the island can create a new creative class (Richard Florida). At the same time, these city-dwellers will enjoy the benefits of a tranquil environment, but with acceptable living standards. To mention a few amenities: the availability of continuous sunshine all year long, white sand beaches, relatively warm seawaters for swimming, good food and living a healthy life. The challenge remains, how this creative class will blend in with already existing classes in Curacao. The creative class is made up of workers in occupations spanning computer science and mathematics; architecture and engineering; the life, physical, and social sciences; the arts, design, music, entertainment, sports, and media; management, business; and finance; and law, health care, education, and training. The signs of such are already visible. The infrastructure and procurement of the existing old economy, should be drastically adjusted to the requirements and standards of the new economy to make effective trade and interconnections possible.

*Sharnon Isenia, Willemstad Curacao*

## The Accidental Island Studies Student



I remember the moment clearly. I was driving to work, just minding my own business, when this man from the University of Prince Edward Island began talking on the radio about a new program related to the Master of Arts in Island Studies. As it ends up, the man was none other than Jim Randall, PhD, program coordinator. Being an Islander, I was aware of the Institute of Island Studies, of course, but just barely. As I drove, though, I began to listen closer. What exactly was this about? Tourism? On islands? As a freelance wordsmith, I had done a fair bit of tourism-related writing about our fair isle over the years so that caught my attention. Indeed, Dr. Randall was being interviewed about the Island Tourism specialization being introduced in Fall 2018. Interesting interview - but not for me, obviously.

My university career didn't start until I was in my 30s. When I graduated with a Bachelor of Public Relations degree in 1996, I scored a good job and figured that was as much schooling as I would ever need. And it was! I had a very good career as a communications advisor, consultation officer, researcher and, ultimately, writer. In fact, at the time I heard that radio interview, I was within months of retirement from that very good career. I was queueing up for more free time, ramping up my writing business and generally enjoying life as a retiree.

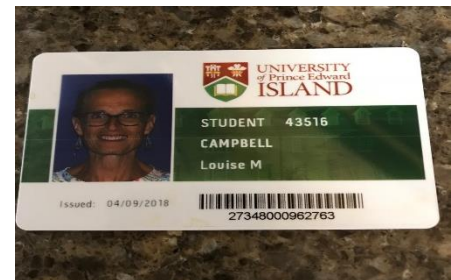
Nevertheless, I listened to the interview until the very end - and found out there would be an information session about this new program the very next day. By the time I got out of my car, I was thinking about it. By the time I got to my desk, I had decided to attend the info session. It wouldn't hurt, I reasoned, though I had no intention of ever returning to university. At the session.

Jim spoke about the Island Tourism stream and how it would fit with the existing Masters program, touched on the requirements, and explained the benefits. It all sounded intriguing - but not for me, obviously. At dinner, when my husband and 14-year-old daughter asked about my day, I told them about the information session and how fascinating the program would be for anyone interested in getting a Masters degree. Immediately, they both turned to me and said: "So, are you going to do it?" "No," I replied emphatically, "I'm not going to university!" At which point, they both insisted that I should at least think about it. Think about it I did. And the rest, as they say, is history.

I emailed Jim the very next day to find out how I would apply. I had two former employers write letters of recommendation. I wrote about why I thought I was suited to the program. And, before I could fully comprehend what I was doing, I was registered. Just like that. How exciting!

An unexpected opportunity for this least-likely student to kick off my retirement years. I have to be honest, as time resolutely marched through spring and summer and approached fall, the excitement faded to terror and an ominous sense of: "OMG, what have I done? I can't go to university. With more than a 20-year break, I have no idea how to study anymore. Yada, yada, yada!" Fortunately, I ignored that inner doubter and here I am today.

Only one term in, I know this has been a brilliant decision! I am intrigued, I am challenged, I am motivated, and I am rewarded. I have made great friends and have amazing professors. And I'm absolutely amazed at how much there is to learn about islands in general - and tourism on islands in particular. One day this fall, as my 56-year-old body strutted across campus with my Converse, Levi's, and backpack - and with my cell hanging out of my back pocket - it really struck me that UPEI is where I belong. I'm sure real retirement is a great opportunity — but not for me, obviously: I'm an Island Studies student - and loving it.



*LOUISE CAMPBELL*



# ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AROUND NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND DUE TO HURRICANE IRMA

The Bahamas are frequently exposed to hurricanes that have catastrophic impact on the inhabitants, the ecosystem and on the economy that is mainly based on tourism. I conducted an experimental survey in the near-shore region of Providence Island (Bahamas) and observed shortly after hurricane Irma in 2017 significant changes in the environment that were indicated by salinity changes in the near-shore regions. Prior to Irma, the observations revealed that the northern salinity values were slightly lower compared to the southern part of New Providence, the near-shore water indicating the presence of a slight stratification whereas in the southern shore, salinity was very much regulated by precipitation.

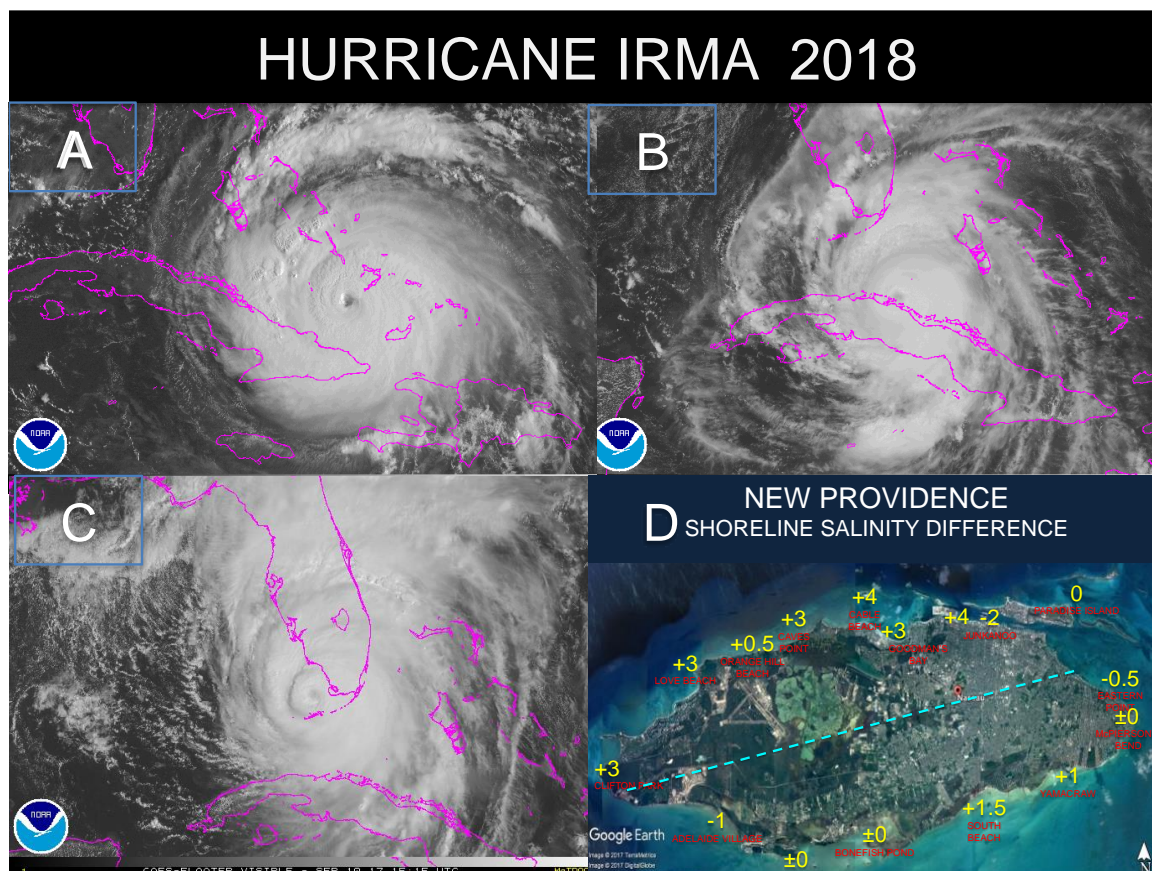



Figure: Hurricane Irma on September 2017 showing the position of Irma along the Cuban coast with extended impact on the Bahamas as recorded by NOAA-satellite from 9 -10 September (A, B, C) and salinity differences due to hurricane Irma. (D): The numbers represent gram of salt changes per kilogram of seawater.

As shown in the Figure, Irma did not pass directly with its centre over New Providence but was strong enough to lead to low atmospheric pressure and resulting change in sea level. Furthermore, fluctuations in salinity due to the hurricane impact were noticed all around the island. I also estimated that tidal action seems to be another mechanism for the changes of salinity water along the coast of the island. For instance, observations showed that the southern marsh may have occasionally elevated salinity but this may change sporadically in response to precipitation that freshens the marsh region. A detailed distribution of all observations will be published in a Caribbean journal in due course.

*KARL H. SZEKIELDA*



## **Launch of a new specialization in the University of Prince Edward Island's course & work-study-based MA Island Studies program**

Last year, the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, launched an innovative version of their Master of Arts in Island Studies program. Complementing the thesis program, this version consisted of ten courses, two of which would have students working directly with public or private sector employers in work-study arrangements. The first cohort specialized in Island Tourism. We are pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for a second cohort in Island Tourism starting in September, 2019. In addition, we will be starting a new Sustainable Island Communities specialization. This focus area is designed for students who are interested in the interdependence of physical, ecological, economic, political, cultural and social issues and who want to strengthen their abilities to become effective agents of community change. Students learn to take concepts, skills, solutions and strategies learnt in the classroom and test them against real-world situations on islands throughout the world.

All organizations do well to incorporate some aspect of sustainability –including climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies - into their practices. Employment opportunities include community economic development, natural resources management, sustainable agriculture, rural and land-use planning, renewable and alternative energy management, environmental consulting, sustainability director positions, and posts with international organizations such as the United

Nations, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, World Watch, Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund. Local, regional and federal government departments of sustainability and environmental management on islands would be natural employers for graduates from this focus area.

Courses leading to a post-graduate degree in either of these specializations may be taken face-to-face on beautiful Prince Edward Island, or can be taken at a distance using video and online technology. Entrance scholarships to subsidize costs for highly qualified students are also available. For more information on these degree opportunities, or to enquire about the thesis version of the MA Island Studies program, please contact the Coordinator (Jim Randall) at [mais@upei.ca](mailto:mais@upei.ca) or visit the Department website at <http://www.upei.ca/programsandcourses/island-studies> . Video testimonials from current students and graduates can be viewed at <https://www.upei.ca/arts/current-students> and <https://www.upei.ca/arts/what-our-graduates-say> Applications received by March 31, 2019 will receive first consideration for funding.

JAMES RANDALL

## ***NORFOLK ISLAND: THE GOVERNANCE DRAMA CONTINUES***

Roger Wettenhall  
Institute of Governance and Policy Analysis  
University of Canberra, Australia

### Norfolk Island as “mutiny island”

Norfolk Island is a speck in the South Pacific Ocean roughly about 1200 km east of the Australian state capitals of Sydney and Brisbane and 700 km south of Noumea, capital of the French territory of New Caledonia, with which it shares a time zone. In the 1800s it was a British colony, and it acquired an international reputation when, in 1856, the entire population of the smaller Pacific island of Pitcairn was settled on it. That population had consisted of the surviving members and descendants of the British sailors who had mutinied against the brutal naval regime of Capt. William Bligh on HMS Bounty and the Tahitian wives and other followers who had settled with them on Pitcairn. The Pitcairn influence has since then always been strong on Norfolk, and it remains so today as the Island’s governance status is under serious threat: as more than a century of history has indicated, the island does not react calmly when that status is challenged. Based on this Pitcairn experience, “mutiny” is another part of the island’s overseas reputation, and it is often highlighted as present events in the island’s history reflect past events.



Norfolk has a puzzling pedigree. For a time, it had statutory recognition as an autonomous territory with a substantial degree of self-government, but it has now been deprived of that status. It has been a colony, but of what? It is now a local government unit (some see it as county or region) in one of the Australian states – but it is not wanted there! And, notwithstanding all these uncertainties about its status, it still prides itself on its Britishness. Governance on Norfolk suffers because of conflicting drives flowing from these uncertainties.

I have a personal interest in how Norfolk is governed, and it is best that I declare that at the outset. With journalist friend and associate Philip Grundy I published a review of Norfolk Island governance history up to the time of the Nimmo Report (on which see more below), and later we traced its transition to the status of self-governing Australian territory (Grundy & Wettenhall 1977; Grundy 1992). Grundy was at the time deputy director of the Australian Institute of Urban Affairs, and we were also reporting on the self-government movement in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT: Grundy *et al* 1996). Reviewing the circumstances of the two territories gave us a good opportunity to assess similarities and differences. We had conducted a consultancy investigation for the then Norfolk Island government on the electorally contentious issue of “community of interest” between the two territories: against strong resistance on Norfolk, the Australian Commonwealth government wanted to force Norfolk into the electorate of Canberra. We concluded, however, that there was very little such community of interest (Grundy & Wettenhall 1992). But the issue would not lie down, and the Commonwealth government has continued to push it as a means of weakening Norfolk’s autonomy.<sup>1</sup>

### Establishing a governance system

European discovery took place in 1774 during Capt. Cook’s second voyage around the world; there is some evidence of earlier visitations by Polynesian seafarers. From 1788 Norfolk served as a penal colony secondary to the main Australian settlement in Sydney, and with use of convict labour some significant infrastructure works were constructed: these facilitated the move of the Pitcairners in 1856, when the last convicts were removed. In this convict period Norfolk was attached administratively to the colony of Van Diemen’s Land, now Tasmania: it also served for a time as a whaling station.

Through the later 1800s Norfolk had the status of a separate British crown colony; it shared a governor with New South Wales (NSW), whose government provided minimal administrative services augmented by significant self-help activities of the Pitcairner settlers. This arrangement endured when the Commonwealth of Australia was established in 1901 as a federation of the Australian states, and was not interrupted until 1913 when, without any Norfolk participation, the Commonwealth Parliament enacted the Norfolk Island Act 1913. Norfolk then became an external territory under the Commonwealth government, and an Administrator was appointed serving as chairman of an elected but advisory-only island council. Under this regime, for matters like tax, welfare and immigration Norfolk remained apart: it was not brought under mainstream Australian law.

A popular destination for holiday-makers who for most of the time more-than-doubled its resident population of 2000-or-so inhabitants, Norfolk began to be exploited as a tax haven in the 1960s. An Australian High Court judgment in the 1970s stopped this practice, but Norfolk practices were also violating Australia’s observance of international human rights protocols.

Eventually the Commonwealth government appointed Mr Justice Nimmo as a royal commissioner with a broad brief to inquire into Norfolk affairs, and his 1976 report ushered in significant changes to its governance system.

### Royal Commission Report

This inquiry and reporting process generated much opposition on Norfolk itself, matched by mainland accusations about renewed mutinous activity by the Bounty descendants. Responding to the Nimmo Report, debates in the Australian parliament – across a change of government -- produced a new Norfolk Island Act 1979, replacing that of 1913. Surprisingly, this action moved in two directions.

On the one hand, for some purposes it sought closer integration of Norfolk with mainstream Australia, seeking to include Norfolk in the electorate of Canberra for purposes of representation in the national parliament, and to have many areas of Australian law extended to Norfolk. On the other hand, it sought to grant Norfolk much stronger autonomous power, with its own legislature, ministry, civil service, judiciary and so on. By a tortured process, the parliament established a new system which gave Norfolk its own elected assembly with legislative and executive power over a wide range of functions, just a few reserved for federal government attention. In this guise Norfolk was able to participate in its own right in various international activities, notably the (British) Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Olympic Games.

What was particularly important to Norfolk Islanders was a preamble to this 1979 legislation recognising the Pitcairner tradition. With the implementation of this scheme, Norfolk came to exercise a degree of self-government that gave it semi-state status within the Australian federation.

### Contentious issues

But issues of representation in the federal parliament and extension of all federal legislation to Norfolk remained contentious. The existing Norfolk Council appealed (unsuccessfully) to the United Nations Decolonization Committee for its assistance in ensuring that the island was not politically integrated with Australia without the consent of its people,<sup>2</sup> and local referenda on Norfolk, none recognised in Australia, continued to oppose Australia's efforts to integrate them into mainland systems. For many in Australia, the mutineers were at it again!

However, the Norfolk Assembly had made some unwise and costly decisions (such as establishing an island airline), requiring Australian “bail-out” funding. More generally, the island's economic self-sufficiency, especially its ability to maintain the rich tourist trade, suffered badly during the global financial crisis of the early 2000s, and negotiations with the Commonwealth produced a “road map” providing for the island to become part of the Australian tax system and social security net, with its self-government status being protected in other ways. The Commonwealth Parliament's Joint Committee on the National Capital and External Territories then inquired into Norfolk's economic development, the leading and dramatic recommendation in its resulting 2014 report being to abolish the self-government which committee members thought stunted the island's growth (Joint Committee 2014).



Led by several junior ministers, the Commonwealth's Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development now planned for this outcome, and produced a veritable maze of statutory instruments none of them deserving recognition as informative acts of parliament. Mention of the Pitcairner tradition was altogether removed, and most significantly Norfolk's own administrative machinery was relegated to the status of a regional or county council within the New South Wales local government system. In implementing their plan Commonwealth authorities claimed they were following the "county council model" in the NSW local government system, but careful research failed to identify the existence of any such "model" (Wettenhall 2016, 2018b).

There was strong resistance on Norfolk, its business leaders forming "Norfolk Island People for Democracy" as a pressure group to counter the Commonwealth's activities. Often bitter exchanges between Norfolk protesters generally and the Commonwealth-appointed Administrator led to the replacement of that official, and the well-known international arbitrator Geoffrey Robertson QC represented Norfolk's self-declared democratic interest before the United Nations. The UN Human Rights Committee now registered the complaint from Norfolk that its rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Human Rights were abused when self-government was abolished (Robertson 2019: 395-396).

The world's press, and parliamentarians from Britain and elsewhere, took note (reported e.g. Glenday 2016; Dag Øistein Endsjø 2016): often with an element of humour, many noted that this small Pacific island peopled largely by the descendants of one famous group of mutineers was mutinying again, against the colonial power now holding jurisdiction over it.<sup>2</sup>

### Norfolk versus the Australian Commonwealth

Norfolk's main adversary was now, of, course, the Australian Commonwealth government. While that government was based in Canberra, recent federal elections showed that it did not have a great deal of support in the national capital. But whether this indicated any strong desire of the Canberra population to support the Norfolk Islanders in their quest for a restoration of their own self-government was doubtful. The most that could be said was that Norfolk leaders gained good publicity for their national press reports critical of the Commonwealth's efforts to deprive them of their governmental autonomy (Magri 2016, 2018), and that several national opinion leaders who had connections on Norfolk were forthcoming in expressing their support for the cause of Norfolk's democratic rights (Stanhope & Wettenhall 2015; Maywald 2018). They included Canberrans who were strong supporters of the Australian Capital Territory's own democratic rights against federal attempts to weaken them: the interesting question emerges whether they saw the issues of protecting democracy on Norfolk and protecting democracy in the ACT as compatible?

The drama of Norfolk governance had more twists and twirls to come. Around the time of this writing, late 2018, all those interested in this on-going saga learned that New South Wales was not happy with the arrangements instituted when the Commonwealth government, by unilateral action and in the face of strong protest on Norfolk itself, destroyed the self-government system previously operating on the island and transferred its administration to New South Wales (Whyte 2018a). The NSW government made it clear that it wanted to relinquish the responsibilities it had acquired under these arrangements, and the Commonwealth was now seeking an alternative arrangement: it had approached the ACT government

about the prospect of shifting responsibility for the delivery of various public services on Norfolk Island to the ACT.

Current ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr does not seem keen, and indicates he is aware of the opposition on Norfolk Island to all related moves by the Commonwealth government (Whyte 2018b). And Norfolk supporters in Canberra such as former ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope (a former Administrator of Norfolk) urge respect for the democratic rights of Norfolkers (Stanhope 2018). They assert that bringing them against their will into the administrative apparatus of the ACT – or any other new master – does not indicate an appreciation of, or support for, those democratic rights, any more than did forcing them into the NSW apparatus.

### Where to now?

The reports, protests and suggestions continue into 2019 as an Australian audit inquiry is undertaken, and this may shed new light on Norfolk's financial position. Those supporting the Norfolk position urge that the island should be returned to the sort of autonomy it enjoyed in its self-government period; it could not, they assert, be in a worse governmental state than it is now (Nobbs 2018b). Not unreasonably, they ask further that those designing a reform system for Norfolk should take time to consider governance arrangements for other small islands in relation to associated "metropolitan" powers, and explore what "model" features contained in those arrangements might usefully be applied to the Norfolk situation. A big question now is: who among those now firing the big shots that affect Norfolk Island is likely to listen? <sup>3</sup>

### Notes:

1. For a fuller account of my interest in the governance of small and island states, see Wettenhall 2018. Norfolk's government history, along with that of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Australian territories in the Indian Ocean, is surveyed also in Wettenhall 2016. See also Stanhope *et al* 2016.
2. Here Norfolk was influenced by the experience of the Indian Ocean Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, visited in 1974 and 1980 by the UN Decolonization Committee, the so-called Committee of Twenty-Four. Those visits, described collectively as "the smallest act of self-determination ever conducted" (Tahmindjis 1985: 192), led to a referendum on Cocos in which its inhabitants opted for free association with Australia, effectively on the model established to link New Zealand and the Cook Islands.
3. The Commonwealth department involved— now named the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities – is not well respected by Norfolk critics. As one report puts it, expecting it to carry out reviewing and monitoring of the Norfolk situation "is akin to putting the fox in charge of the chicken coop" (Nobbs 2018a).

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**Hiroshi KAKAZU** is Professor Emeritus at the University of the Ryukyus (Okinawa), Japan. He is one of the founders of nissology as well as a long-time member and supporter of ISISA. He has written extensively about island studies. His new book on the study of islands – 島嶼学 (Nissology) – is being published soon in Tokyo by Kokon Shoin, the most prestigious geography publisher in Japan. It will be the first, single-authored book on nissology in Japan and will be translated into English, Chinese and Korean.



The book's contents are organised in eight chapters with the following headings:

*Chapter 1 Definitions of Islands, Methodology and Taxonomy*

*Chapter 2 Characteristics of Islands and their Potentials*

*Chapter 3 Towards Sustainable Island Development A*

*Chapter 4 Island Green Technology*

*Chapter 5 Island Networking*

*Chapter 6 Island Culture and Tourism: The Case of Bali and Taketomi*



## *Chapter 7 Territorial Island Disputes and Solutions with a particular focus on Senkaku/Diaoyu and Spratly Islands*

### *Chapter 8 Political Economy of Islands: Challenge for Sustainable Development*

Professor Kakazu has graciously made a 17-page synopsis of his forthcoming book available (as a pdf file) to the readers of the *ISISA Newsletter*. Kindly send an email to the [Newsletter Editor](#) should you be interested in this summary.

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(The International Symposium on 'Island Sustainability,' commemorating Korea's 'A Day of Island' on 8th of August 2018 in Mokpo, Republic of Korea with Prof. Gloria Pungetti of Cambridge University, Prof. Bong-Yong Kang of Mokpo National University, Vice Minister of the Korean Safety Ministry of Public Security and Vice Governor of the Jeollanamdo Government)



## **Pingtang Islands and International Tourism**

Many people view Pingtan as the fifth largest island in China, although which is not an exact description. The Main island of Pingtan Comprehensive Pilot Zone (Pingtan Islands) is commonly known as Haitan Island (Lan for short name). Pingtan Islands consists of 126 islands and more than 700 reef rocks, with a land area of 392 square kilometers and a sea area of 6,064 square kilometers. In fact, Haitan island is the fifth largest island in China and the largest island in Fujian Province, China. Rich in tourism resources (sand beach, sea erosion landform, ancient city of Pingtan, etc.) and unique regional advantages (the closest place to Taiwan in mainland China with a distance of 68 nm to Xinzhu, etc.) are the main features of Pingtan islands.

The central government of China wishes Pingtan to be the future International Tourism Island. In August 2018, Pingtan Comprehensive Pilot Zone Administrative Committee, Fujian Province, Fujian Provincial Commission of Tourism Development, Fujian Media Group together held an island tourism forum-Pingtan International Tourism Island Forum. The scholars, practitioner, and government staffs from China, Japan, etc. attended the conferences. They shared the related tourism experiences from various standpoints.

Full video of the Forum: <http://mudu.tv/watch/2261599>

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Stone Cuo (houses)



International Tourism Island Forum

## Island Studies news from the University of Prince Edward Island

*Laurie Brinklow*

### David Earl the newly elected member of the States of Alderney

Freshly armed with ideas for building a sustainable future on his tiny island of Alderney in the Channel Islands, Island Studies guest lecturer and ISISA conference attendee David Earl returned to Alderney and decided to run in the upcoming States election. On December 1, he was voted in, along with four other candidates, as a Member of the States of Alderney for a four-year term.

"Thanks to a grant from a philanthropic foundation I was able to visit other islands and take advantage of research done by the Islands & Small States Institute at the University of Malta and the Institute of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island," writes David in his campaign manifesto. "What quickly became clear from talking to



Islanders from other jurisdictions is that we are not alone, particularly when it comes to the key issues of demographics and creating a sustainable future for our Island. I have learned a great deal from these trips."

David also visited Fogo Island, where he met Zita Cobb of the Shorefast Foundation. He then attended the (ISISA) conference in Terschelling, Netherlands, which provided an excellent opportunity to hear presentations and network with representatives from other islands.

As we learned in David's [lecture](#) in June, Alderney is an island of just under 2,000 people, and is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Alderney is faced with an aging demographic: the median age in Alderney is 55 (compared with 44 in Guernsey and 38 in Jersey). With no prospects, young people are leaving the Island, many for good. Other challenges include good governance and sustainability.

"Despite these challenges," says David, "Alderney has many opportunities. We already have the Alderney Gambling Control Commission (AGCC), which contributes around £2 million to the Island's economy. Likewise, the waters around Alderney could generate (please excuse the pun) substantial revenue from tidal energy. Added to this, the Island is in an ideal position to exploit niche tourism. Based on these, I believe that we can build a sustainable future for our Island."

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## **UPEI signs MOUs with two universities**

In December, UPEI and the University of the West Indies signed their first ever Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to pursue collaboration in teaching and research to inform social and economic development in developing countries. And in November, UPEI signed an MOU with the University of the Ryukyus (UR), an island university based in Okinawa, Japan.

The collaboration with UWI is to be implemented through the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at The UWI and the Institute of Island Studies (IIS) at UPEI. It may involve activities such as joint research, collaborative development of academic programmes, joint teaching and supervision of students, student and faculty exchange, joint publications, and staging of joint seminars and conferences.



Remarking on the collaboration, Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee, University Director of SALISES, said, "We at SALISES are pleased to collaborate with colleagues at the Institute of Island Studies. We share similar research and teaching interests. This collaboration will enhance our publication, research and teaching on sustainable development for small and vulnerable economies."

The MOU with the University of the Ryukyus is to facilitate academic exchange of students and of faculty. Said UR President



Hajime Oshiro, "The University of Prince Edward Island and the University of the Ryukyus have been engaging in academic exchange led mainly by faculty members, especially in the field of island studies. I myself am specialized in island economics and was collaborating with the Institute of Island Studies of your university. The Research Institute for Islands and Sustainability of our university has also been collaborating with the Institute of Island Studies."



Faculty from the two universities have visited back and forth since 2014, when Prof. Yoko Fujita, Director of their Research Institute for Islands and Sustainability, University of the Ryukyus and Vice President Tomiko Hokama, visited UPEI to attend the Excellence Network of Island Territories (RETI) annual conference. In 2017, the University of the Ryukyus hosted RETI; both co-holders of the UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability, Drs. Jim Randall and Godfrey Baldacchino, attended.

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## **REGISTRATION OPEN**

### **Island States/Island Territories Conference**

#### ***Sharing Stories of Island Life, Governance and Global Engagement***

#### ***The 1st International Conference on***

#### ***Small Island States (SIS) and Subnational Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs)***

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**Venue: [University of Aruba](#)**

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### **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

You can now register for the Conference by clicking [HERE](#).

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[the Aruba Centre of Excellence \(COE\)](#)

[for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States](#)

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## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **Sustainable Communities**

**2019 North Atlantic Forum & CRRF Conference, October 1-4, 2019, St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada**

**Deadline for submissions: March 31, 2019**

Memorial University and the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) and its North Atlantic partners are planning the [2019 North Atlantic Forum and CRRF Conference](#) in St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada in October 2019.

Save the date and plan your participation in the Sustainable Communities Forum. Join rural practitioners, researchers, government, business and non-profit representatives for inspiring presentations, breakout sessions, and interactive discussions on the stresses and solutions of sustainable communities.

### [CALL FOR PROPOSALS](#)

The 2019 North Atlantic Forum and the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference will bring together practitioners, policy makers, community leaders, and researchers interested in rural sustainability issues. This conference is a unique opportunity to share your own successes, learn from other, and to hear the latest on issues that matter to communities and people who live and work in rural regions.

The conference organizing committee will accept abstracts for oral presentations, panels, capacity building sessions, and posters for 2019 conference until *March 31, 2019*. The conference theme is Sustainable Communities, with a focus on:

- Labour Market and Labour Mobility, The Future of Rural Work
- Food Security (Agriculture, Fisheries, Aquaculture)
- Drinking Water in Rural and Remote Communities
- Cultural and Heritage Industries – Rural Identity, Tourism, Social Enterprise
- Rural Engagement

Submit your proposed session here through our online process:

<https://publicengagementmemorial.fluidreview.com/>

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### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

ISIC 15: Island Festivals and Music Tourism

July 9-13 2019, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica

Deadline for submissions: February 15, 2019

The Institute of Caribbean Studies (University of the West Indies, Mona Campus), the Small Island Cultures Research Initiative (SICRI) and the Sydney Institute of Music and Sound Research welcome proposals for paper and/or panel presentations from any disciplinary field, as well as from managers and practitioners who are interested in island issues, to the 15th International Small Island Cultures (ISIC) Conference – on the theme of Island Festivals and Music Tourism.

Those interested to present papers on any aspect of the conference theme should submit a 200-word abstract to the conference organizing committee by email by FEBRUARY 15, 2019 at: [sydneyimsr@gmail.com](mailto:sydneyimsr@gmail.com).

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**RETI:** Excellence Network of Island Universities Canary Islands, Spain: April 29 – June 3, 2019. Hosted by University of Gran Canaria and University of La Laguna.

# **Early Childhood Education in Small Island States: A Very British Story**

**(A synopsis of a PhD thesis just completed at the University of Sheffield, UK)**

How postcolonialism has impacted primary, secondary and tertiary education in small island states (defined as those each with a resident population of up to one million) is well documented. This research study is inspired by postcolonial theory, island studies and small state studies, extending this analysis to the practice and pedagogy of early childhood education (2 - 5 years) in such countries. The study explores the origins and character of colonial lingering in the pedagogy and practice of early childhood education in small island states, with special reference to Malta and Grenada, both former British colonies. Interviews, observations and focus groups have been conducted in both countries. An online questionnaire was completed by 64 individuals residing in the world's 27 small island states, (and of which 20 secured independence from Britain).

The research findings suggest a colonial lingering in early childhood education in small island states. Manifestations of this include: the preference for school uniforms; the widespread use of standard English as the language of instruction; a top-down, exam-driven pedagogy that obliges an early start to schooling; and a strong focus on literacy and numeracy in the early years. There are also restrictions in play-based learning; and story books, weather and alphabet charts that are not necessarily relevant to the country's culture and traditions: they are written in the English language, even though Malta and Grenada have their own vernacular.

Being a small island state has its challenges. Findings from this research suggest that role multiplicity, as well as a relative lack of expertise, funding and resources, are impacting on the pedagogy and practices of early childhood education in such countries.

Recommendations from this study include: a stronger acknowledgment of the vernacular, teaching aids that are more contextually and culturally sensitive, the provision of adequate funding and training, together with continuous support and mentoring when implementing new early years policies.



The findings encourage a sober and critical reflection of the policies and practices governing early childhood education in small island states.

*Anna Baldacchino*

## Entrance Scholarships Available

The Master of Arts, Island Studies program at the University of Prince Edward Island has acquired funding to support students who wish to apply to our thesis program starting in September 2019. Successful applicants would receive up to \$12,500 Cdn to support their studies in the first year, renewable for a second year based on continued strong performance. In order to be eligible for this funding opportunity, students must be willing to choose a thesis research topic from among the following options:

- Enhancing Rural Labour Markets in an Era of Rural Population Challenges
- The Development of Prince Edward Island as an All-Seasons Tourism Destination: Lessons from other Cold Water Small Islands
- An Analysis of Entrepreneurship on Prince Edward Island: A Case Study of [*insert a sector here*]
- PEI as a Living Lab for Renewable Energy: The Preconditions for a Sustainable Future
- A Longitudinal Analysis of Newcomer Entrepreneurs on Prince Edward Island
- Stories of Island Repatriation: A Qualitative Analysis of Islanders Who “Lived Away”

We encourage potential applicants to find out more about the program by going to our website at <http://www.upei.ca/programsandcourses/island-studies> and by contacting us at [mais@upei.ca](mailto:mais@upei.ca). Statements of Research Interest must speak to one or more of the specific thesis research topics listed above. Complete applications received by March 31, 2019 would receive first consideration for funding. Final decisions are dependent on budget availability.

*James Randall*

## **You can also reach ISISA through:**

Listserv: [isisa@yahoogroups.com](mailto:isisa@yahoogroups.com)

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

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

ISISA website: [www.isisa.org](http://www.isisa.org) (includes blog)

