



ISISA

Newsletter

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General News

Sub-National Island Jurisdictions and Sustainable Development

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Malta, Nov 2005

By Godfrey Baldacchino

We propose a new perspective to the Commonwealth which can harbour very interesting and innovative approaches to sustainable development.

The overall theme for this year's CHOGM is 'Networking the Commonwealth for Development'. Within the framework of this theme, three key sub-themes - the Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development and Economic Justice - have been chosen to reflect the diverse challenges confronting commonwealth countries. Moreover, pre-CPF presentations by CSOs under the four broad themes of Africa, Small Island Development States, Millennium Development Goals and Information and Communication Technology have been well received.

We realise that the Commonwealth has a long standing interest in the study of *small states*; it has also supported the UN-driven initiative to look at *small island developing states* (SIDS) as a conceptual and analytic category, with its own clutch of challenges, and thus worthy of specific focus. We wish to take this discussion forward to the next level, by proposing a new category of territories which deserve recognition and whose policy engagements suggest creative departures from conventional governance practices. We are referring to **sub-national** (that is non-sovereign) **island jurisdictions** (SNIJs). Their dealings within the fuzzy ground between sovereignty and dependency is worth looking at more closely - more so at a time when the world must increasingly coming to grips, and to terms, with multi-level governance.

Our workshop - at the Chamber of Commerce, Valletta, Malta and spread out over Tuesday & Wednesday, (22nd & 23rd November) - will look critically at such SNIJs and the lessons that they offer towards sustainable development. It is also very apt to hold this event in Malta - not only because Malta is itself a successful small sovereign state; but also because Gozo - its sister island, where CHOGM itself will convene on Friday - has characteristics of a sub-national island jurisdiction.

Attending this workshop in Malta is a clutch of academics - mainly geographers, economists and political scientists - of international repute: We can confirm Dr Harvey Armstrong (University of Sheffield, UK); Ms RoseMarie Azzopardi; Dr David Milne & Dr Edward Warrington (University of Malta, Malta); Dr Barry Bartmann (University of Prince Edward Island, Canada); Dr Agneta Karlsson & Dr Bjarne Lindstrom (Aland Statistical Office, Aland Islands); Dr Robert Read (University of Lancaster, UK); Dr Timothy Shaw (Institute for Commonwealth Studies, University of London, UK); and Dr Elaine Stratford (University of Tasmania, Tasmania, Australia).

The workshop is kindly supported by the Nordic Council for Regional Research (NordRegio); the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC); the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICS) and the respective universities of the participants.

Our main objective - as far as the CPF is concerned - is to invite the Commonwealth to recognise SNIJs as a new category of candidates that deserves being recognised as such, and from whose recognition many vital lessons in *shared rule* could be gleaned. The benefits of such an analysis can extend far and wide to many other jurisdictions. Just as the Commonwealth has taken a crucial leadership role in advancing the category, and study, of small states; and lent its support in advancing that of SIDS, the same could - one hopes - be done with SNIJs.

How Do We Empower Island Communities?

by Sarah Howell

Over the next four years the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Department of Education plan to invite involvement from local and global communities to participate in a program called Webbing the Islands.

Webbing the Islands will be an international Internet-based educational program of projects that use collaborations in areas of visual and performing arts, literature and science to explore the questions facing islands and island peoples.

The program will be facilitated through its namesake website, Webbingtheislands.com. The website will function as a "how to" resource, document storage/gallery area, and moderated communication space.

How did Webbing the Islands come about? Originally Webbing the Islands was presented as part of Tasmania's International Arts Festival, Ten Days on the Island in May 2005. During the 2005 program a total of 64 registered users from 15 islands and 4 non-island regions signed up: 39 Tasmanian, 5 from other Australian states and 20 International.

In July 2005 the Tasmanian Department of Education and the University of Tasmania adopted the project and it is currently being redeveloped.

What do we aim to do? To empower Island Communities to create projects that:

- express a sense of identity and sense of place through the use of visual and performing arts, literature and science.
- use of a number of disciplines to understand environmental and social changes that are taking place on islands, and design plans for the future.
- build and maintain global friendships between island people,
- help bridge the "Digital Divide" by building skills in, and access to, Information and Communication Technologies.
- support innovation in education and island studies.

What do people have say about the program to date?

"I've learnt lots! Your concept is great and I hope you get lots of work uploaded in the near future."

Lyn Normington of Invermay Primary, Tasmania.

"Thank you so much, you both have given our 6th grade students (11 - 12 year olds) a wonderful gift."

Valerie Becker of West Tisbury School, Martha's Vineyard, in correspondence with Ms Zayas of the Center for International Studies, Philippines and Charles Kemp, of St Michael's Collegiate, Tasmania.

"the whole concept opens up the possibility of developing many ongoing relationships between people from around the globe."

Charles Kemp, St Michael's Collegiate, Tasmania.

Interested in being involved? We are keen to receive Expressions of Interest from island schools; universities; arts, science and civil society organisations; and businesses that pride themselves in being involved in innovation and social responsibility.

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To view an old version of the website:

<http://www.webbingtheislands.com>

Call for papers

Islands of the World IX: Sustainable Islands - Sustainable Strategies

International Small Islands Studies Association
July 29 - August 3, 2006
Kahului, Maui, Hawai`i
Hosted by University of Hawai`i & Maui Community College

Delegates intending to present a paper or poster are requested to submit an abstract (maximum 300 words) to the ISISA IX Conference Coordinator as early as possible and not later than **1 February 2006**. Panels appointed by the ISISA Executive Committee will review abstracts, and notification of acceptance will be e-mailed to the primary author by **1 March 2006**. Full text of the paper (about 6000 words) must be submitted electronically in Word or pdf format by **1 June 2006** to isisa9@hawaii.edu

For more information about the conference see the conferences section of the newsletter below and visit the website <http://maui.hawaii.edu/isisa2006/>

Micronesian Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences

The Micronesian Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences is a semi-annual peer reviewed academic electronic journal dedicated to the study of human thought, behaviour, and culture in Micronesia. Research notes, book reviews, annotated bibliographies, translations of key documents, and thesis summaries are not refereed.

The editors welcome submissions of original non-published articles in the fields of archaeology, communications, cultural education, cultural anthropology, ethnobiology, ethnography, historic architecture, historic preservation, history, library studies, linguistics, literature, politics, social anthropology, tourism, and allied humanities subjects. Papers are accepted on the basis of their originality and their relevance to Micronesia and the adjacent Pacific region.

Please visit <http://marshall.csu.edu.au/MJHSS> for submission guidelines and other information about the journal.

Special issue of the International Journal of Environmental Technology and Management

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

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

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

The Call for Papers is on the Inderscience website (<http://www.inderscience.com/ijetm>). You can also contact Cal Douglas email: c.h.douglas@salford.ac.uk to discuss your ideas for a submission. Completed papers must be submitted by 17 February 2006

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

Conferences

The Pacific in Australia - Australia in the Pacific conference

Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies
24 to 27 January 2006
Brisbane, Australia

The Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies is hold its inaugural conference in Brisbane from 24 to 27 January 2006. The four day Conference will showcase Australian excellence in disciplinary and interdisciplinary humanities research, scholarship and tertiary teaching about the Pacific Islands and will include the launch of AAAPS, (the Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies), an initiative to promote the teaching and study of the Pacific Islands in Australian Universities. The website with full details is: <http://www.socialchange.qut.edu.au/conferences/aaaps/>

Membership is open to all. Apart from the usual conference panels and discussions, there will be elections for office bearers of the new organisation and other organisational business.

The 2nd International Conference on Small Island Cultures

Small Island Cultures Research Initiative (SICRI) in collaboration with the Norfolk Island Museum
February 9-14th 2006
Norfolk Island, Australia

Information on the conference (and on SICRI) and SICRI membership applications are available at <http://sicri.org/> or contact the SICRI network convenor - Philip Hayward at phsicri@yahoo.com.au for specific inquiries. Refereed papers from the first Small Island Cultures conference, held at Kagoshima University Centre for the Pacific Islands in February 2005, will be available as a free download from the SICRI website in early December.

Sustainable Tourism with Special Reference to Islands and Small States

The Islands and Small States Institute
25-27 May 2006
Malta

The conference theme is 'Culture and the Environment'. For information (including special flight discount) visit http://home.um.edu.mt/islands/activities_forthcoming.html

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Background

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

Islands of the World VIII 2004 Conference

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

Islands of the World IX 2006 Conference

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

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

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

For additional information:

Website <http://maui.hawaii.edu/isisa2006/>
e-mail isisa9@hawaii.edu
Phone (1 808) 984 3670

Nissologising

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

The Change of Ecological Footprint and Its Effect on Sustainable Development in Beijing, China¹

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Speeding up the environmental protection and construction is one of the major issues in “Greener Olympic Games” held in Beijing in 2008. Making a thorough study to find out the reliable measures to ecological resumption in Beijing has an important scientific and practical significance. It can provide scientific basis for making a better decision for “Greener Olympic Games” held in capital Beijing and development in harmony for society and economy, as well as management for ecological environment. By studying of change of ecological footprint from 1990 to 2003 in Beijing, this paper shows that ecological footprint per capita has a strong relativity with population and GDP, and both of the correlation coefficient between them are about 0.92, as well as the fossil energy land has a position in the lead in ecological footprint items. The study also shows that the ecological capacity per capita in Beijing occupied about 1.25% in global ecological capacity per capita. Began 1990, the ecological deficit in Beijing was about 0.72 hm², it is at strong unsustainable development at present. Finally, the paper suggests social and economic structure should be adjusted as soon as possible, resources should be strengthen sustainable used and population increasing should be controlled strictly, as well as arable land also should be under control used for built-up areas. Simultaneity, the utilizing ratio of energy sources should be increased, and the consumption of energy sources and ecological deficit in Beijing should be reduced in order to speed up the society and economy development in harmony and sustainment

¹ Supported by Urban China Research Network, University at Albany, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.

The Honourable Company, Our Master

Stephen Royle
Human Geography
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Stephen Royle is working on a new book to be published by I.B. Tauris on company colonies. Stephen will focus on islands that were ruled by commercial companies. There are several cases, Ascension Island, Papua New Guinea, Bermuda, Vancouver Island, but the focus will be on St Helena in the early decades of its rule by the East India Company from 1659. The working title is ‘The Honourable Company, Our Master’, such being the way in which the East India Company was referred to in the contemporary records on St Helena.

Postgraduate News

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

E. Kathy Stuart

Candidate for Master of Arts in Island Studies

University of Prince Edward Island

kstuart@canada.com

Despite global approaches to energy systems and energy reform pressures, there are few island-specific studies in energy literature and even fewer that deal with energy on islands in the social sciences. My M.A. thesis will document human factors that can affect innovation towards sustainability and energy diversity in islands as measured on a range of sustainability indices. Interviews of knowledgeable élites will identify areas of cooperation and conflict between electrical utilities, governments and regulatory authorities using purposeful sampling of small island states and territories in the Caribbean. The relative importance of other facilitators or inhibitors which influence island energy institutions will also be explored. This may include the presence or absence of public policy institutes, educational institutions, local lobby groups, international NGO's, multinational corporations, competing suppliers and charismatic individuals or consumer groups. Understanding these complex relationships may lead to the development of more effective energy institutions on islands with respect to sustainability.

Earlier in 2005, it was my privilege to present research papers on island energy themes at the International Sustainable Development Research Conference in Helsinki, Finland, and at the SATIS 2005 Conference (Sustainable Applications for Tropical Island States) in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. My article, "Energizing the Island Community: a review of policy standpoints for energy in small island states and territories" will appear in the February 2006 special Islands edition of the peer-reviewed journal *Sustainable Development*, a Wiley Inter-Science publication.

Publications

The Last Tomato

Jane Ledwell

Marrying the sensuous and the sensual, Last Tomato is the lush first collection of poetry by Prince Edward Island writer Jane Ledwell, published by Prince Edward Island's Acorn Press.

Describing "language moving through the earth where we were born, many of the poems in Last Tomato reflect questions of home and belonging, as connected to the particularity of place. Like Island writers before her, from L. M. Montgomery to Milton Acorn, Ledwell's poems trace the boundaries of her island home to take the measure of both its fullness and its limitations. Last Tomato traces the ongoing effects of phase changes in the natural world and in human experience — from moons, menses, and seasons, to broad patterns of birth and death, travel and arrival, love and loss.

With unabashed poetic language and arresting image, Last Tomato explores the meaning of lives lived deep into their roots — in landscape, in community, in family, in love.

Jane Ledwell grew up in Prince Edward Island and returned to the Island after studying language and literature at Mount Allison University, in New Brunswick, and the University of Waikato, in New Zealand. She has been awarded local and regional prizes and grants for her prose and poetry, notably first prize for both prose and poetry in the Atlantic Writing Awards 2001 (sponsored by the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia). Her work has been broadcast on CBC Radio, most recently as part of the CBC Poetry Face-Off 2005, and has been published in journals such as blueSHIFT and anthologies such as Landmarks and A Bountiful Harvest. She writes regular feature articles for The Buzz arts and entertainment monthly and is

a frequent literary editor for The Acorn Press. An occasional sessional lecturer in UPEI's English Department, she works as a researcher/policy analyst for the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women. She lives in Charlottetown with her husband, visual artist Stephen B. MacInnis.

Last Tomato is available for \$15.95 CAD (plus \$1.12 GST and postage) through bookstores or by e-mailing brinklow@upei.ca. Check out other Acorn Press titles at www.acornpresscanada.com.

Why I Stay

By Jane Ledwell

because dunes move in stubborn rusting away from rock,
their isthmus kiss closing the mouth of a brackish bay

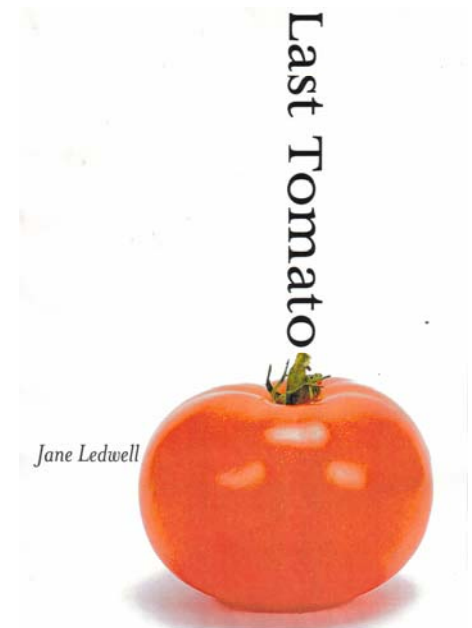
because at the island's slender throat, strait and gulf can almost
see each other, and desire will someday disintegrate to touch

because the pond's shadow darners weave evening out of trees
and mend the dark path to where northern lights burn rare and
possible

because the herons build the marsh from twigs and brine
and sandpipers all together fear the sea's slenderest footfall

because my lungs are calloused with the work of this air,
my hands bruised with the work of this water

because I have already crushed too much stone to red dust
under my feet and I wear all this sand on my tongue



Island Studies Journal

Edited by Godfrey Baldacchino

A new, scholarly journal dedicated to **island studies** will appear as from May 2006. **Island Studies Journal** (ISSN: 1715 - 2593) is a peer-reviewed web-based journal that is fully & freely downloadable. Access is open to all. The Island Studies Journal will be based at the Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, and supported by a global and pluri-disciplinary editorial board. **Manuscripts, and proposals for review essays or book reviews, are now welcome.** For all details, including guidelines to authors, visit: <http://www.islandstudies.ca/journal>. For all inquiries: isj@upei.ca

Sovereignty Matters: Locations of Contestation and Possibility in Indigenous Struggles for Self-Determination

Edited by Joanne Barker

The University of Nebraska Press is pleased to announce that *Sovereignty Matters: Locations of Contestation and Possibility in Indigenous Struggles for Self-Determination* edited by Joanne Barker is now available. To read an overview of the book view the table of contents and/or purchase the book go to the following link: <http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/bookinfo/4883.html>

Silently on the Tide

Dr Pete Hay

Islands scholar, Pete Hay, wearing his creative hat, has just published a long-awaited book of poetry, his third. *Silently On The Tide* is informed, as we would expect, with an islander's sensibility, one that seeks the dark secrets within his island's turbulent 200 years of European history - the near extinction of the native people, the bruised legacy within the collective psyche of brutal, totalitarian convict society, the fearful ongoing exploitation of the island's skein of life.

Knowing The Mountain Moorland

By Pete Hay

Wind, cold as a rasp.

It is enough to breathe.

I make a stumbling progress -
but the man of science is sure, at home.

He strides for the '47 fireline,
tracking a floral succession.

*Cushion plant recovers well. It grows,
in 40 years, about 40 by 40...*

His science rolls through the moorland;
the clues decoded
are tricked out for the poet.

*Pineapple grass, kerosene bush
come strong after fire*

*- aromatic, yes - but see how
old it is now, and brittle...*

There is a solitary snow daisy,
exquisite endemic, cradle of apricot.

The scientist becomes poet.

There is poetry, indeed - its impetuous passion -
at the quick of his science.

Snow skink is here, and the froglet.

Marvellous *anaspid*s, the great survivor,
nails remote time to The Mountain.

String bogs key the plateau.

The bogs are in decline, I think.

*The weight of water builds, the dam goes,
the peat dries. And we don't help.*

*Fire doesn't help. The peat comes back
a centimetre a century. Such a long reformation...*

I am thinking of a public meeting.

I am to introduce the scientist.

He knows more, I say, of this island, its ticking pulse,
than any living soul.

He is - I thingify him now -
our rarest human asset.

Mosses colonise first. They hold the ground.

On bare earth little needles of ice push up.

They eject the new young plants...

Little needles of knowing push up
to probe the opacity of policy.

Science is a story among stories, oh yes,
but it is a tale with weight.

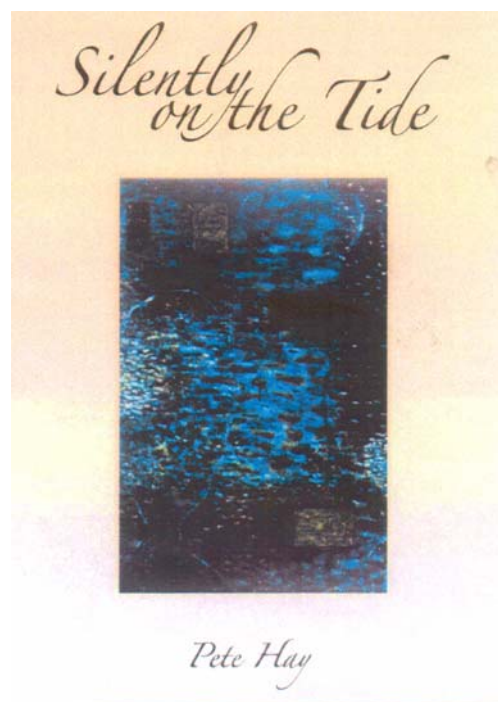
Below The Mountain the scurriers after policy
are busy and urgent settling fates.

They nurture their unknowing with care
against the consequences.

The scientist pushes his needles

At bare opaque ground.

He works on.



Silently On the Tide can be purchased for \$20
Aust from Walleah Press at:
admin@walleahpress.com.au.

Contributions to ISISA Newsletter

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

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Membership

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

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

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

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

ISISA objectives

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

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

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

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