



ISISA

Newsletter

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Dear ISISA members,

Please accept my humble apologies that this is the first and last newsletter for 2008. Thank you to all of you who have contributed to the newsletter. The usual two newsletters will be forthcoming in 2009 and I look forward to your contribution to these. Enjoy the Christmas break.

Warm regards
Denbeigh Armstrong (Editor, ISISA newsletter)

General News & Events

An Association for Small Islands... or just Islands? **Hot Discussion Topic during ISISA General Meeting in Jeju**

At the last ISISA AGM held in Jeju, South Korea, the Association launched a strategic consultation exercise with a view to determine the future direction of the Association. This exercise is one that should actively involve the general membership of the Association, and so it is fitting to publicize this matter prominently in the ISISA Newsletter.

This review exercise was triggered by my initial motion to the AGM, which sought to remove the word "small" from the title of the Association. I still believe that an **International Island Studies Association** is a tighter, broader, more inclusive name for our Association. It would place and identify the Association clearly as one that is mandated to promote the study of islands, whether small or not so small. Defining small is moreover subjective, fraught with difficulties, contentious. While we need to be sensitive to the needs and concerns of smaller islands and their inhabitants, we need not, and should not, exclude larger islands and their citizens from our deliberations.... (which in fact we haven't - so the 'small' in the title is already an anomaly anyway).

While this 'name debate' rages on - as I hope it will! - I sense that ISISA can broaden its mandate and activities in such a way as to develop a better and stronger active and regular presence. So far, and thanks to our Denbeigh Armstrong, it is (frankly) only the Newsletter which maintains ISISA's visible face in between the biennial conferences. Other than that, the Association makes a brief show once a week every two years - much like a flowering cactus. With so much expertise, goodwill and international credibility, ISISA could and should go further: it could plug into other initiatives, be they advocacy, policy, research, teaching or practitioner driven. Does ISISA have anything to add to the debate about sea level rise? About environmental sustainability? About island studies generally? Should ISISA commission, or be commissioned to undertake, studies on certain aspects of island life? These, to me, are pertinent questions. There may very well be others.

Note that the above are my personal opinions only.
Comments are welcome
Godfrey Baldacchino
gbaldacchino@upei.ca

Institute of Island Studies receives Heritage Award Citation from Museums & Heritage PEI
18 February 2008 (in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the preservation of Heritage of Prince Edward Island)

Story provided by Irene Novaczek

"The possible move of the provincial museum's storage facility - the "Artifactory" - to a new location in Murray River sparked a debate on the role and function of heritage in our province."

"Though the rhetoric and passion displayed were interesting - and even entertaining - to witness, there was the danger that it might amount to just that - rhetoric and passion. But the **Institute of Island Studies** was able to give the debate some form and shape. By organizing a series of public forums, the Institute was able to focus debate and create an environment where the question became more than the simple one of where the Provincial Museum should have its storage facility. The debate goes on, and we don't yet know where it will lead us, but there is now more public interest in the future of heritage than there has been for many years in our province. An interest that would not be so great - or focused - as it might have been without the Institute's participation. In recognition of this, we are pleased to present a Heritage Award to the Institute of Island Studies."

Ten Days on the Island continues to grow

Tasmania

Friday 27 March to Sunday 5 April 2009

<http://www.tendaysontheisland.org>

The Premier David Bartlett launched the 2009 Ten Days on the Island Program on Tuesday 25 November 2008.

Ten Days on the Island 2009 will include more performances in many locations around Tasmania and will include 5 world premieres and 17 Australian premieres.

In 2009 Ten Days will:

- be in 54 locations state-wide from Adventure Bay to Zeehan
- showcase work from 30 islands of 20 countries
- present 238 events across Tasmania
- involve 739 artists: 150 from overseas, 179 from Australia and 414 from Tasmania

Call for papers and Conferences

Islands, Art and Cultural Heritage (see note below)

Fifth International Conference on Small Island Cultures (SICRI),
Sado (Japan)

June 24-30 2009

<http://www.sicri.org/ISIC5/index.html>

Call for Papers

Proposals — send a 300-400 word abstract and personal details in the following format to
phrsicri@gmail.com

Title of paper

Name of paper giver, institution and email address

Abstract

Deadline March 1st 2009

NB - it is SICRI's policy not to have parallel strands at ISIC conferences. Since there is expected to be a high number of submissions for this event - and since eight papers have already been scheduled as part of the early acceptance program - intending paper givers are advised to submit proposals promptly or else risk being unable to be accepted.

'Cultural Heritage' is interpreted in the expanded senses indicated by UNESCO ('Types of Cultural Heritage') in 2002:

"The term "cultural heritage" has not always designated the same things and, in recent decades, the notion has changed considerably in order to express more aptly a more global and holistic approach which alone can testify to the universal nature of the human spirit in all its creations... After first referring to the most monumental remnants of cultures, the notion of heritage was gradually extended to new categories drawn from non-artistic sectors of activity such as the industrial heritage or from specific contexts such as the underwater heritage. Today, the notion of heritage is an open one which can develop new objects and put forward new meanings as it reflects living culture rather than an ossified image of the past. We have become aware over the last thirty years that nature and culture cannot be separated in our approach to heritage if we are to render a true account of the diversity of cultural manifestations and particularly those in which a close link is expressed between human beings and their natural environment. The notion of a cultural landscape, put forward over the last ten years, is one of the achievements of this elaboration of a more coherent vision of cultural heritage."

Island Time: The Fate of Place in a Wired, Warming World **Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)**

June 3-6 2009

University of Victoria

British Columbia, Canada

<http://asle.uvic.ca/>

Submissions by 15 November (this is more a reminder that the conference is being held)

The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) invites proposals for its Eighth Biennial Conference, to be held **June 3-6, 2009, at the University of Victoria, in British Columbia, Canada**, on the theme of **Island Time: The Fate of Place in a Wired, Warming World**. We seek proposals for papers, panels, roundtables, workshops, and other public presentations connecting language, nature, and culture. As always, we welcome interdisciplinary approaches; readings of environmentally inflected fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction; and proposals from outside the academic humanities, including submissions from artists, writers, practitioners, activists, and colleagues in the social and natural sciences.

This year's theme uses the conference's temporal and spatial location on Vancouver Island as a metaphor for the past and future of place generally. In particular, it reflects the fact that ASLE's first conference outside the U.S. is a fitting location to consider how the Internet and globalization now connect us all (linking our different identities, nations, and communities), as well as how the threat of climate change is affecting our interpretation of texts and cultures, not to mention the material world itself.

Building on the colloquial expression "you're now on island time," the theme suggests our interest in exploring intersecting questions of time and place, and of isolation and community, in a global era in which there are no longer any "islands" of nature outside of history and technology. Indeed, time appears to be running out as we seek ways to address ecological disasters that risk turning the planet as a whole into another "Easter Island." For this reason, we also urgently wish to consider the interconnected subjects of indigeneity, race, and social justice, in the Americas and globally, the engagement of which is crucial to achieving a sustainable society.

We are also interested in receiving proposals on the following related topics:

- **island literature and life**, including writing on metaphoric islands, such as protected areas, "sky islands," islands of urban and suburban nature, and environmental restorations
- **place-based writing in any genre or field**, including ecopoetics, ecotheater, environmental film, environmental history, landscape architecture, and cultural geography
- **environmental literature as world literature**, including comparative literature, cross-cultural approaches, borderlands writing, and travel writing
- **literature from rooted modes of life**, including forestry, fisheries, agriculture, viticulture, and apiculture
- **ecocriticism, literary theory, and ecophilosophy**, including post-structuralist approaches

- scientific research and writing, including the history of science
- ideas of the human, including meditations on animals and animality, the body, and disability studies
- narratives of "greening the campus," including initiatives related to recycling, transportation, and energy
- environmental rhetoric and ecocomposition
- ecopedagogy and the scholarship of teaching and learning
- undergraduate research and creative work the literature of environmental hope and joy.

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.

Island voices for tackling climate change

By the Many Strong Voices team

Story provided to ISISA by Ilan Kelman

For more information, see <http://www.manystrongvoices.org> or contact Ilan through <http://www.ilankelman.org>



One of Fiji's outer atolls, highly vulnerable to sea level rise (photo by Ilan Kelman).



A beach along the south coast of Viti Levu, Fiji (photo by Ilan Kelman).

As climate change continues to take a toll on communities, new and creative efforts are also continuing to determine how to deal with this long-term disaster and its spin-off effects. One project, Many Strong Voices <http://www.manystrongvoices.org>, joins coastal communities from around the arctic and from the 51 Small Island Developing States (SIDS; <http://www.sidsnet.org>) in recognition of the similar vulnerabilities to climate change which both regions experience.

Many Strong Voices, launched in December 2005 by the United Nations Environment Programme, brings together arctic and SIDS participants to share and enhance knowledge and expertise about, and to collaboratively devise strategic solutions to, climate change challenges. Those involved include international organisations, government agencies, non-governmental organisations, indigenous peoples' organisations, research institutes, communities, and individuals whose livelihoods are strongly tied to sustainable management of natural resources.

The aims are to:

- Develop capacity to strengthen the role of these vulnerable regions in negotiations on greenhouse gas mitigation and on climate change adaptation.



Sunset near Nadi, Fiji (photo by Ilan Kelman).



Akureyri in northern Iceland (photo by Ilan Kelman).



A House on Upolu, Samoa which was damaged by Cyclone Heta in January 2004 (photo by Ilan Kelman).



Building a sea wall on western Tongatapu, Tonga: An appropriate or inappropriate adaptation strategy? (photo by Ilan Kelman)

- Raise awareness about the effects of climate change on vulnerable regions.
- Increase understanding of needs and solutions.
- Motivate action on addressing and preventing climate change's adverse impacts.

The focus is catalysing local action across the arctic, including arctic island communities, and the SIDS, recognising the important and complementary contributions of sound research, outreach, and lobbying. While external and top-down interventions and exchanges are useful for supporting local action, the most effective manner of reducing vulnerability and living with climate change is through community-based initiatives. Many Strong Voices provides the inspiration, impetus, and opportunity to build and maintain community-based processes related to climate change which are solidly based on sustainability principles, policies, and practices.

Throughout, one important theme has been recognising that climate change is just one challenge and opportunity amongst many others facing all islands. Other ongoing concerns include rapid rural-to-urban migration, the potential loss of languages and cultures through emigration, population growth, gender and minority inequities, erosion of local knowledge and experiences, manipulation by and dependence on rich governments and corporations, and unsustainable natural resource extraction.

These multiple stressors must be considered simultaneously to ensure that tackling one problem, such as climate change, does not create or exacerbate other problems emerging from the myriad of social and environmental challenges with which islanders have dealt with over past millennia. Dealing with climate change should contribute to addressing these other issues and vice versa.

With such comprehensiveness, cooperation, and exchange, Many Strong Voices--involving many strong islander voices--will be heard, leading to positive action for positive change.

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.

News from the Masters of Arts in Island Studies program

Institute of Island Studies,
UPEI, Prince Edward Island, Canada
<http://www.upei.ca/mais/home>

The Master of Arts in Island Studies (MAIS) at the University of Prince Edward Island is a unique, interdisciplinary, and policy-driven graduate course that critiques islands on their own terms. The program is open to students from around the world. They come out of undergraduate programs from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and diverse degrees, or with professional workplace experience in the public, private, or resource sectors.

The program offers a challenging opportunity for students

- with a special interest in researching islands: their societies, economies, histories, cultures, and governments
- a primary interest in public policy and administration
- career aspirations within local, regional, national, and international governmental and non-governmental organizations
- career aspirations in the private and resource sectors
- a desire for the challenge of graduate education

Past and present students from the program have provided an overview of their research.

Is it whom you know?: an investigation into the relationship between small island politics and infrastructure in PEI

Margaret Mizzi (MA)

Supervisor: Dr Andrew Trivett

Margaret graduated from the MAIS in May 2008. The topic of her thesis was directed at the roles played by the multi-level government and social groups in Prince Edward Island with regards to Infrastructure. The main findings of this thesis reflect a scenario whereby public policy-making lies within the discretion of the federal and provincial governments. This minimizes the involvement of the municipal government and the social forces to that of implementing the policy/project/program. The second point is that the function of the politician overrides the lobbying utility of social groups. The social forces in PEI utilize the networks and the information which the politician has in order to accomplish their initiatives. It has also been observed that women were practically invisible during the fieldwork. I have taken this observation as my key research interest in my doctoral studies.

Margaret has been accepted in the PhD program in Geography at Carleton University (Ottawa) together with a generous scholarship from this institution. The focus of her PhD research is gender and governance within a small island context.

An Environmental History of PEI

Colin Allen MacIntyre (BA)
Masters Candidate
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Colin is a Masters of Island Studies student at UPEI. His thesis topic is An Environmental History of PEI, which traces changing attitudes toward the environment. The scope of the thesis will be limited to the years from 1720 - 1965, examined through the lens of the three main industries: agriculture, forestry, and fishing. The aim of the thesis will be to understand Islander's attitudes toward conservation or preservation of natural resources.

The historical migration of Irish to British North America between 1800 and 1850

Grant Curtis
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Grant is looking at the historical migration of Irish to British North America between 1800 and 1850; specifically Irish from Southeastern Ireland including Counties Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary, Kilkenny and Cork. They migrated to the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland Island, Prince Edward Island and the Miramichi River area of mainland New Brunswick.

He will look at patterns of settlement and compare these three areas. The two islands resisted becoming provinces in the Canadian Confederation. When they did join they became individual provincial jurisdictions. The Miramichi area became part of a larger jurisdiction the province of New Brunswick and this mainland area will be considered a "control" compared to the two islands.

After John Mannion's work in Irish migration to eastern British North America and by examining a group of people from the same area who crossed the Atlantic Ocean in approximately the same time period he hopes to determine that differences in the societies they created were different, or similar, in part because they were on islands versus the mainland.

Publications

NEW BOOKS

The Impact of Electricity: Development, Desires and Dilemmas

By Tanja Winther

<http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=WintherImpact>

A book in Swahili on the same subject can be obtained (free of charge) by writing to publications@sum.uio.no

288 pages, 16 ill., bibliog., index

ISBN 978-1-84545-495-1 Hb \$85.00/£42.50 Published (Summer 2008)

How does everyday life change when electricity becomes available to a group of people for the first time? Why do some groups tend to embrace this icon of development while other groups actively fight against it?

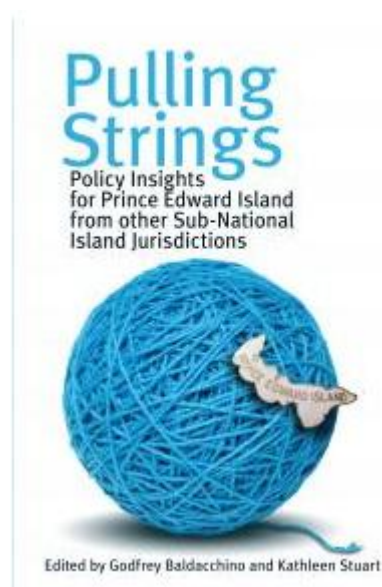
This book examines the effects of electricity's arrival in an African, rural community. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in Zanzibar at different points in time, the author provides a compelling account of the social implications in question. The rhythm of life changes and life is speeding up. Sexuality and marriage patterns are affected. And a range of social relations, e.g. between generations and genders, as well as relations between human beings and spirits, become modified.

Despite men and women's general appreciation of the new services electricity provides, new dilemmas emerge. By using electricity as a guide through the social landscape, the particularities of social and cultural life in this region emerge. Simultaneously, the book invites readers to understand the ways that electricity affects and becomes implicated in our everyday life.

Tanja Winther has a Masters in Power Engineering and a Doctorate in Social Anthropology. She is at the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) at the University of Oslo.

Pulling Strings: Policy Insights for Prince Edward Island from other Sub-National Island Jurisdictions

Edited by Godfrey Baldacchino and Kathleen Stuart



What policy lessons can Prince Edward Island consider from a global review of over 100 similar islands ranging from Bermuda to Tasmania, or from the Cook Islands to the Faroes? Based on a three-year SSHRC-funded research project on sub-national (non-sovereign) island jurisdictions, *Pulling Strings* is an edited collection of papers in five policy areas located within the Prince Edward Island context but that emerge as particularly salient in the development strategies of most non-sovereign island jurisdictions today. The outcome is a thoroughly referenced, 198-page manual for policy-makers, academics, students and politicians on how Prince Edward Island can make the best of its autonomy for political and economic advantage.

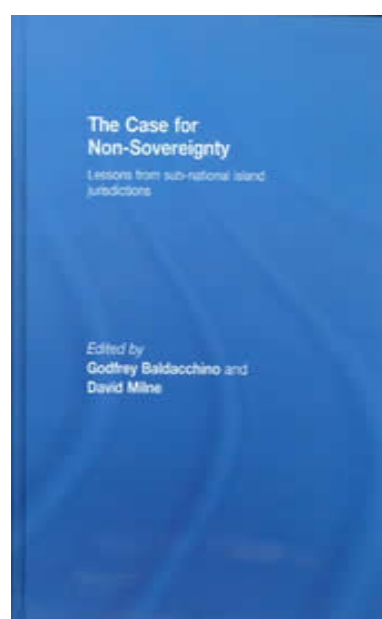
ISBN 978-0-919013-54-4 / pb / 198 pp / \$24.95 CAD
Island Studies Press

Released by Island Studies Press at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, A list of titles available from Island Studies Press, including *Pulling Strings*, can be found at <http://www.upei.ca/iis/isp> along with ordering information.

The Case for Non-Sovereignty: Lessons from Sub-National Island Jurisdictions,

Edited by Godfrey Baldacchino and David Milne

London, Routledge, 2008, hardback, 192pp, ISBN-13: 9780415455503.



"This is an original and fascinating contribution to international relations and political geography. The paradigm of sub-national jurisdiction, in this case framed around islands, fills an important gap in our understanding of state sovereignty. The wide array of island studies helps debunk the myth of independence as the holy grail of international politics." - William F. S. Miles, Professor of Political Science, Northeastern University and Brown University, USA

"Numerous small, mainly island, jurisdictions proliferate around the world in such familiar places as Anguilla, Bermuda, Aruba, Cook Islands or Corsica. These jurisdictions, bearing neither sovereign nor colonial status, point to a rich variety of accommodations and arrangements that simultaneously occupy the spaces of autonomy and dependence. This is an astounding volume that reveals an array of ingenious island-mainland, centre-periphery relationships, underscoring experiments in governance that will fertilise the field of political innovation in a shrinking, globalised world." - Ralph R. Premdas, Professor of Public Policy, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago.

JOURNAL NOTIFICATION (Including special issues on islands)

Island Studies Journal

Volume 3 No. 1 is now available online from IslandStudies.ca
<http://www.islandstudies.ca/journal/ISJ-2-2-2007-CONTENTS>

Shima: International Journal into research in island cultures

Volume 2 No. 2 is now online at:
<http://www.shimajournal.org/current.html>

FYI - The 2008 print compilation issue of 'Shima' v2n1 and v2n2 will include a DVD version of the video essay

ISISA Email List

ISISA has established a group email list to facilitate communication among ISISA members and other nissologists. To start sending messages to members of this group, simply send email to ISISA@yahoogroups.com

If you do not wish to belong to ISISA, you may unsubscribe by sending an email to ISISA-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

A word of warning and a request: If you reply to an email from ISISA@yahoogroups.com, your reply will go to the whole list. If you only wish to reply to the sender please use their personal email address rather than just hitting the reply button.

If you have problems using the list or unsubscribing from the lists please contact the moderators of the list

Denbeigh Armstrong Denbeigh.Armstrong@utas.edu.au
Bruce Potter bpotter@irf.org

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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