



ISISA

Newsletter

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Islands of the World X Globalizing Islands; Sustainable Culture and Peace Jeju Island, South Korea, 25 - 31 August 2008

Discussions are underway for the organization of the tenth Islands of the World Conference to be hosted by the Cheju National University and the International Small Island Studies Association. Please put the dates in your diaries. Watch this space for more information.

General News & Events

Webbing the Islands website launched

MA (Island Studies) UPEI

UPEI accepts calls from prospective graduate students into the MA (Island Studies) Program: September 2007 entry. Program highlights for this forthcoming academic year include a course on *Islands in History & the Western Imaginary* to be taught by Senior US Fulbright Scholar Recipient Dr John R Gillis (Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA); and a new course offering on Islands and Post-Colonialism by UPEI's own Dr Udo Krautwurst. The regular core courses will be offered by Dr Godfrey Baldacchino and Dr Barry Bartmann. There are 25 students currently enrolled in the program, which started in 2003.

For more information about the course and how to apply, visit the website

<http://www.upei.ca/islandstudies/mais.htm>

Disappearing Islands

Graeme Robertson has been compiling various articles and other material about which islands are most severely threatened by rising sea levels attributed to the effects of global warming. His results appear under the special reports section of the GIN NEWS DESK module

<http://www.globalislands.net/>.

Call for papers and Conferences

Island Geographies

International Geographical Union Commission on Islands

Inaugural meeting

National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan

October 29 - November 3 2007

The *Commission on Islands* is a newly established commission within the International Geographic Union (IGU), approved by the IGU Executive Committee at the IGU Brisbane Conference in July 2006.

In recognizing the contribution of islands to an understanding of connectivities and global-local processes over time-space, the first meeting—under the broad theme of ***Island Geographies***—welcomes scholars who are interested in a broad spectrum of island studies, geographical regions and disciplines to attend the meeting, present papers, and organize panels. Some parts of the inaugural meeting of the IGU Commission on Islands will be held in conjunction with the **Indigenous People's Knowledge and Rights Commission Meeting**

Papers are sought on the following themes and related topics:

- ❖ Global Change and Islands
- ❖ Insularity and Island Geography
- ❖ Island Cultural Geography
- ❖ Island Historical Geography
- ❖ Island Social Economic Geography
- ❖ Geography of Island Children
- ❖ Island Biogeography
- ❖ Island Vulnerability
- ❖ Island Sustainability
- ❖ Island Tourism
- ❖ Island traditions in a globalizing world
- ❖ Isolation and Connections
- ❖ Ocean and Islands
- ❖ International Island Development Comparison Studies

Deadline for submission of abstracts is May 31, 2007.

The full paper is expected to be submitted by August 31, 2007. For more information, or to submit abstracts and papers, please contact Huei-Min Tsai at hmtsai@ntnu.edu.tw

For more information about the conference: http://igu-islands.giee.ntnu.edu.tw/conf_index.htm

For more information about the IGU Commission on Islands: <http://igu-islands.giee.ntnu.edu.tw/>

For more information about the Indigenous People's Knowledge and Rights Commission meeting <http://www.unl.edu/geography/IPKRC/meetings.htm>

Culture and the Construction of Islandness

The 3rd International Conference on Small Island Cultures

University of Prince Edward Island

Canada in late June 29 - July 2 2007

The Third International Conference on Small Island Cultures (ICSIC 3) invites papers that dwell on the construction of islandness as produced, reproduced, celebrated, mediated, and scripted in and by island cultures. Papers on other aspects of island cultures will also be considered for inclusion. Abstracts of up to 300 words each will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary academic panel.

Presenters will be from a variety of academic backgrounds, including linguistics, literature, tourism, cultural studies, anthropology, human and cultural geography, sociology, music, and history. The

conference will be co-hosted by the Small Island Culture Research Initiative (SICRI) and the Institute of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island.

All paper presenters are required to be members of SICRI. Membership is free and can be obtained by completing the online application form on the SICRI membership page: www.sicri.org

The deadline for submission of papers is now closed.

For more information about the conference

<http://www.islandstudies.ca/Members/gbaldacchino/International%20Conference%20on%20Small%20Islands%20and%20Cultures>

Postcolonial Islands: Geographic, Theoretical and Human

Queen's Postcolonial Research Forum
1st International Conference
Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland
21-23 September 2007

The conference seeks to bring critical focus to three areas: the current realities of formerly colonized island nations; the existence of theoretical perspectives that are critical of or run counter to prevailing theories of the postcolonial; and the phenomenon of "foreign" communities living within a dominant host community, whether of migrants, refugees or others who have left their countries of origin.

For more information:

- ❖ visit the website www.qub.ac.uk/qprf
- ❖ download the preliminary call for papers
- ❖ contact Dr Anthony Soares a.soares@qub.ac.uk

Abstracts of 250 words due 16 March 2007.

Please send your abstracts as a Word attachment by email to Dr Anthony Soares:
a.soares@qub.ac.uk

Small Island Cultures

Prof Shensuke Nagashima, Center for the Pacific Islands, Kagoshima University is planning an international conference on small island cultures for 1-3 July 2009, Sado Island, Japan.

Watch this space for more information.

Energy from the Edge: Opportunities for Cooperation Around the North Atlantic Rim

Shetland Islands Council in partnership with the North Atlantic Islands Forum, North Atlantic Cooperation, and the International Society for the Study of Marginal Regions
Shetland Islands, Sept 12-15 2007

This event will bring together "energetic" representatives from "remote" communities around the Nordic and North Atlantic Rim. The purpose of doing so is to discuss some of the key issues faced by our geographically challenged regions and outline solutions from and for communities at the edge of the periphery. The key themes of this conference will be 1) Large Scale Resource Development in Remote Communities 2) Labour Market Mobility 3) Prosperity through Identity and 4) Governance The potential for more use of Sustainable Energy will also be a predominant theme as the findings of a Nordic Council Task Force Symposium (held in Shetland between the 10th-12th of September) will be fed back to all participants.

More information on this Energy from the Edge Conference will be uploaded on the official website soon - www.EnergyFromTheEdge.com . Please bookmark this website address and if you sign up, you'll be informed once the site is updated.

Island Commentaries

Climate Change and Islands: The Media Serving Society?

By Ilan Kelman, Shannon McNeeley, and Heather Lazrus

<http://www.ilankelman.org>

In the last newsletter, Ilan wrote about "Climate Change and Islands: Scientists Serving Society?" which addressed possible island evacuation due to climate change. The media also has influenced this topic.

In July 2004, the international media publicised the world's first climate change refugees from the island village of Shishmaref, Alaska, although the erosion and storm threats are exacerbated rather than created by climate change. Then, in December 2005, the international media again reported the world's first climate change refugees, but this time from the Lateu settlement in Vanuatu, an island chain in the South Pacific. The islanders moved inland due to sea-level rise plus more frequent flooding.

Back to Shishmaref, the residents have not moved, nor do many desire the move, but a new site has been reluctantly chosen by the community and initial planning for the new site has started. A form of "creeping refugee" has evolved, where a slow migration occurs. Following a community referendum which voted in favor of moving to a new site, Shishmaref is working through some of the issues through a relocation coalition. But real progress is slow, hence the term "creeping". For example, moving the entire village would have a huge cost. The American government, one of the main obstacles to addressing climate change, has not yet committed to pay, suggesting instead a more cost-efficient approach of re-settling in Nome, Alaska. To Shishmaref's inhabitants, Nome is a big city which lacks the cultural and spiritual ties to Shishmaref and the way of life there.

Has the sensation-driven need to find and promote "climate change refugees" obscured the deep and broad philosophical and logistical questions of island vulnerability and evacuation, such as those facing Shishmaref? Tuvalu is another island case study often touted as a poster child for climate change impacts and imminent island evacuation with many of the wider issues lost in the media shuffle. The future of Tuvalu has been emotively predicted to be that of an entire nation of environmental refugees, a forecast with significant implications for the political and place-based identities of Tuvaluans. Let us again heed the long-standing warnings of "The medium is the message" and "Manufacturing Consent".

Response to "Climate Change and Islands: The Media Serving Society?"

By Carol Farbotko

PhD Candidate

University of Tasmania

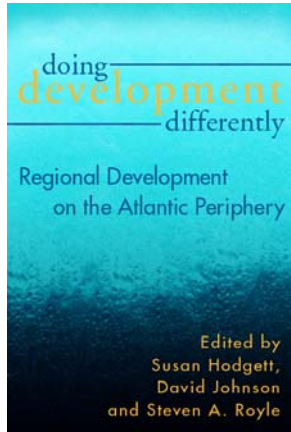
carol.farbotko@gmail.com

I agree with Ilan Kelman, Shannon McNeeley and Heather Lazrus that more critical attention needs to be paid to discourse of islands and climate change. In thinking about this discourse in the media or elsewhere, a useful question to ponder is whether climate change refugees are being represented simply and uncritically as islanders without islands. In other words, is there effectively a denial of island communities the cultural richness and complexity they possess in visions of powerless victims left with little in the wake of rising sea-levels, increasing droughts and more intense cyclones? Does an urge to find evidence of climate change help to essentialise island identities as deeply territorial? Although from a humanitarian perspective the label 'refugee' - climate or otherwise - is crucially important for protecting and advancing human safety and dignity, it may also at times function to subjugate the agency of its subjects if they have not been legally categorised as such or have not given their consent to such an identity. Imposing the 'climate change refugee' label on a distant and different 'other' may be useful for climate campaigns pitched at a global level, but what damaging impacts might such a label have for already marginalised people for whom it is, sometimes sensationally and sometimes genuinely, evoked as a signifier of humanitarian concern?

Publications

NEW BOOKS

Doing Development Differently: Regional Development on the Atlantic Periphery
Susan Hodgett, David Johnson and Stephen A. Royle (eds.)
Cape Breton University Press 2007



There is longstanding public, academic and governmental recognition that regionalism is important in defining a nation and there is an awareness that socio-economically healthy regions are vital to the national well-being of the broader state. Yet all countries possess regional socio-economic disparities of greater or lesser degrees.

This collection of 13 articles by scholars and practitioners from Ireland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, documents interventions that address regional disparity by challenging established patterns and seeking to build community capacity.

Participatory democracy, the values of localism, small group dynamics, co-operativism, grass-roots activism and decision-making that flows “bottom-up,” are slowly informing public policy initiatives on both sides of the Atlantic.

To order copies visit the UCCN Pres website

<http://www.uccbpress.ca/CEDtitles.html#DDD>

JOURNAL NOTIFICATION

(INCLUDING SPECIAL ISSUES ON ISLANDS)

Island Studies Journal

Volume 1 No. 2 is now available online from IslandStudies.ca

http://www.islandstudies.ca/journal/ISJ-1-2-2006-Contents/document_view

Island Sustainability in a Global Context

The Journal of Developing Societies, Volume 22, Number 3, 2006

<http://jds.sagepub.com/content/vol22/issue3/>

Articles

- ❖ Editor's preface: When is an Island not an Island?
Roy Smith
- ❖ A critical Political Economy of the Small Island Developing States Concept: South-South Cooperation for Island Citizens?
Liam Campling
- ❖ Collapse of Easter Island: Lessons for Sustainability of Small Islands
Palanisamy Nagarajan
- ❖ Defending Island Ecologies: Environmental Campaigns in Tasmania and Taiwan
Henry C.L. Chen and Pete Hay
- ❖ Culture, Catholics and Condoms: Population Planning the Pacific
Christine McMurray

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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