



# ISISA

## Newsletter

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### EDITORIAL

ISISA Newsletter is here once again. This newsletter includes the new strategic plan for ISISA under the leadership of our new President – Prof Godfrey Baldacchino. It also includes the Penghu Declaration & photos from the last Islands of the World Conference, and various interesting articles on island related issues. This newsletter is what you make it, so please keep the contributions coming. Photos, articles, forthcoming publications, upcoming conferences, book reviews and news on ‘research in progress’ are more than welcome.

**Contributions for the July 2015 issue are to reach me at [abaldacchino59@gmail.com](mailto:abaldacchino59@gmail.com) by not later than June 15, 2015.**

Read and Enjoy. Suggestions for improvement and feedback are always appreciated.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Anna Baldacchino*  
Newsletter Editor

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of their respective authors and are not necessarily endorsed by ISISA.

## Where it all began: a look back at *Islands '86*

Stephen A. Royle  
Professor of Island Geography  
Queen's University Belfast

As somebody who had by then been interested in islands for several years, I recall being intrigued in 1985 to learn that there was to be a conference dedicated to islands the following year. I had never come across anything like that before. Only hindsight now allows the readers of the ISISA Newsletter to recognise that this conference, *Islands '86*, held in May 1986 at Victoria, Vancouver Island off the west coast of Canada, was to be the forerunner of the Islands of the World Series, now between its 13<sup>th</sup> (Penghu Islands 2014) and 14<sup>th</sup> (Lesvos 2016) iterations. It might be of interest to revisit this misty, near 30 year old, progenitor of our now regular, vibrant meetings. This can be done, for in a moment of tiredness in my office recently, I decided to engage in something which did not require cerebral activity and cleared out some files that had remained untouched for decades and I came across the literature relating to *Islands '86*. To investigate the conference required the

archive that is my filing cabinet, for 1986 was in the technological dark ages – there were conferences before there were websites, believe it or not. A search for *Islands '86* online produces nothing of relevance other than a reference to the former business address in Victoria of the *Islands '86* umbrella organisation. This was a non-profit society set up to ensure that there would be an economic, cultural and social legacy from the huge *Expo '86* exhibition then being held at Victoria. There was a world games event, a circumnavigation of Vancouver Island, a cultural festival from the First Peoples, a commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a local railway, a wood carving festival and what was billed as the ‘Conference of the Islands of the World (A World First)’. Amongst my papers there was a letter – this was pre-emails – from the editor of *Area* about a long-forgotten report on the conference I had had published in that journal (Royle, 1986). Armed with this material, I can look back to the conference. As a taster I report that rooms were available for delegates at Victoria’s famous Empress Hotel for Can\$100 per night for a twin room. Rooms are available today on the web for Can\$216, rather less than I had expected 28 years on.

A typed list of participants shows that 66 delegates attended *Islands '86* from 11 countries. Just two are members of ISISA now: Hiroshi Kakazu and myself. Another delegate long active in Island Studies if not a member of ISISA was David Lowenthal. Other geographers there with names I recognise went on to have notable careers including Terry McGee and my geomorphological colleague from Queen’s University Belfast, the late Bernie Smith. The geographers were joined by historians, anthropologists, planners, economists, agronomists, together with people from law and political science. Also present were business people and some political figures such as the Governor of American Samoa. I recall proceedings being well orchestrated by James Boutilier, then Head of the Department of History at Royal Roads Military College, now the governor of the Maritime Awards Society of Canada.

The format of *Islands '86* and its themes were not dissimilar to those that we study today. The mornings were devoted to three plenary sessions: islands past, appropriate technology and islands future, labelled as ‘nesotrends’. Afternoons saw workshops on cross-cultural impacts, resource use, economies and social issues. One good idea was the encouragement of ‘outstanding islanders from around the world’, including the politicians, to act as focalizers for the workshops. There was a good social programme including a play entitled *Islands* and an arts evening as well as a banquet. There were post-conference excursions focusing on island-relevant topics: small harbours and ‘the distance of isolation in learning, communications and information’.

My review of the conference (Royle, 1986) criticised the lack of papers on the environment and its tight focus on the Pacific. I also found fault with the general standard of presentations but exempted from this criticism the papers by Boutilier himself on Fiji, Richard Betts on the allure of islands, and especially – and this will surprise no reader of this newsletter – that by David Lowenthal. The social and cultural programme I enjoyed, especially a film on cricket as played

in the Trobriand Islands. The review ended, as had the conference itself, by looking forward to *Islands '88*.

A collection of essays prepared for the conference was published by the University of Victoria as *Islands of the world in perspective*, edited by Boutilier (1986). Chapters looked mainly into the Pacific region: its history, island development, two on islands as peripheries, tourism and the three 'island Chinas': Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan. Only a limited number of the soft bound volume was printed and its influence on scholarship has been slight. On the internet I found just one mention of it, a citation in a chapter by Russell King (1993).

However, the lack of influence of the book does not mean that *Islands '86* was not itself influential. In my file was an undated letter to me as a participant at *Islands '86* from Arthur Limbard and David Jones of the Small Islands Research Group at the University of Calgary. It states that during the conference 'a number of people expressed interest in creating a continuing organization, growing out of the initial impetus' and that an *ad hoc* steering committee had been established, whose members included Limbard, Jones, Boutilier, Lowenthal, Te'o Fairbairn and Richard Herr. A newsletter was promised and mailing addresses of potentially interested parties were sought. Anna Baldacchino, editor of this ISISA newsletter, will not be surprised to learn that the letter closed with an appeal for items for inclusion relating to islands research and 'other activities of interest to island buffs'. The letter also looked forward to *Islands '88* to be held in Tasmania. My file contained a series of fliers for *Islands '88*, which was subtitled the *Second Conference of Islands of the World*. Later conferences took on this *Islands of the World* brand and at the third in the Bahamas in 1992 ISISA itself was established, meeting officially for the first time at *Islands of the World IV* on Okinawa in 1994.

My review of *Islands '86, the 'Conference of the Islands of the World (A World First)*, ended with a peremptory demand that future island conference organisers should 'remember the word "world"'. I think I can report back to my younger, slimmer self from 28 years in the future, that that has happened.

- Boutilier, J.A. (ed.) (1986) *Islands of the world in perspective*, University of Victoria: Victoria.
- King, R. (1993) 'The geographical fascination of islands', in Lockhart, D.G., Drakakis-Smith, D. and Schembri, J. (eds) *The development process in small island states*, Routledge: London, pp. 13-37.
- Royle, S.A. (1986) 'Islands '86: Conference of the Islands of the World, a report', *Area*, 18.4, p. 331.

**14<sup>th</sup> ISISA ‘Islands of the World’ Conference:**

## **Niss(i)ology and Utopia: back to the roots of Island Studies**

**23 - 27 May 2016**

**Mytilini, Lesvos Island, Greece**

Islands are special geographic areas, endowed with lots of semantic, cultural and symbolic baggage. “Islomaniacs” and “islophobes” can be found for all types of islands, big or small, real or imagined, accessible or remote, populated or uninhabited. Living, working and producing on islands is also special, both easy and hard. Islands are territories combining specific characteristics: smallness, scarcity, vulnerability, remoteness, isolation, experiential identity, uniqueness. Our discussion about islands must therefore embrace and connect with various perspectives: from literature to the social sciences, from environmental studies to business, from politics to economics. And should we expect that, in order to analyze island topics, we need a specific “island theory”: **niss(i)ology**?

The characteristics mentioned above have very often taken a negative connotation, linking islands to backwardness, underdevelopment, handicaps, problems; the use of the term “insularity” reflects it. Is this inevitable? Is it a **Utopia** – a concept celebrating its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016 – to imagine islands as sites for an alternative but enviable quality of life and production, looking at island characteristics as competitive advantages in a new world?

The discussion about islands is not new. Ulysses was roaming from Troy in order to go back to his Ithaki; Atlantis remains a mystery. “Le voyage à Cythera” excites the imagination. So is the current discussion on island development, pioneered perhaps by the special issue of *World Development* 8(12), 1980, edited by Edward Dommen. Since then, scholars and scientists from different disciplines have been working to incorporate island specificities into their work. International Organisations – such as UNESCO, the European Union, UN-SIDS, AOSIS, INSULEUR, CPMR, GIN and ISISA itself – as well as many national and regional bodies have dedicated energies, resources and people to this purpose. Much scientific work is now available: case studies; comparative analysis; data collection and scrutiny, policy propositions, efforts for “theory production”. But, after various decades we need to go **back to the roots** in order to take stock: to see the problems that have been answered and review the pending questions, discard the problems that have become obsolete, and engage with new topics, and new challenges

In this Conference, we wish to attract different types of interests on topics concerning islands, but also to focus more specifically on some of the issues involved in living and producing on islands. We hope to do so by exchanging experiences and reflections, especially related to the real and

symbolic geography of islands, developing conceptual frameworks that can be used to build common approaches for our ‘world of islands’, facing global climate but also economic, ecological and demographic challenges on a local scale, and discussing ways forward for development without destroying fragile island societies, cultures and habitats. We hope to discuss **the attractiveness of islands as places for living and doing business**; an attractiveness that it is not the same as for megalopolis and mega-regions, but based on islands’ soft characteristics (such as their quality of life).

These goals will be pursued by means of keynote speakers within the plenary sessions; while the thematic sessions structured around workshops will focus on the following topics:

- **Integrated Management of islands**, since islands are by definition ideal laboratories for conceptualizing, planning and implementing integrated approaches. The use of simulation models will be explored.
- **Island Identity**, linked to many aspects of the experience of islands and on islands, with culture, production, nature, landscape and history; a base for economic diversification and **branding** in order to cope with island specificities and generate national, regional or international competitiveness.
- **Attractiveness and Accessibility of islands**., focusing on overcoming or facing isolation, while discussing what makes islands more or less attractive as places for living or working on. Discussion on how to create an “alternative” to core areas attractiveness based on the ‘quality of island life’.

*Publications:* All accepted papers will be available on-line on the conference website and will be up-loaded to **Archipelago**, the depository of the University of the Aegean, dedicated to the promotion of scientific literature on islandness and insularity. A restricted number of papers can be submitted for publication in selected journals, subject to peer review, such as **Island Studies Journal**, the official journal of ISISA. A discussion is open for publication of articles in a book series titled **Rethinking the Island**, co-ordinated by our colleagues E. Stratford, G. Baldacchino, and E. McMahon, who argue that “the time is ripe to propose a reconceptualization of islands”.

*Venue:* All the academic work of the conference (plenary and parallel sessions) will be held at the University of the Aegean, Lesvos Campus, just outside Mytilini City. Extra rooms for meetings or individual work will be available on demand. The campus wi-fi will be available to all participants. The cafeteria and the university restaurant will be available for refreshments and meals. The opening ceremony is planned to be held at the Municipal Theatre, in the centre of the town.

A list of suggested **excursions** will cover different aspects of the workshops and the major themes of the Conference. These excursions could include:

- Integrated Management and Tourism: Visit to the Museum of Natural History and the Petrified Forest Park, Sigri.
- Integrated Management and Biodiversity: bird-watching and nature trails on Lesvos.
- Identity and Landscape: the olives landscape as part of local culinary and cultural tradition with visit in the Olive Mill Museum, to an active olive mill, to edible olives facility and a walk through the olive forest.
- Identity, History and Culture: from Prehistoric, to the Classical, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and Industrial past.

Other possible excursions to be proposed to the participants:

- A 3-day trip to Chios Island. The trip will include visits to the medieval settlements of Mesta and Anavatos, stay in the Campos area, visit to the Mastic plantations and Volissos castle, meeting with the local authorities for a discussion on prospects for that island's
- A 2 or 3 days excursion to the opposite shore of Turkey (Asia Minor) to visit the main cultural and natural sites.

**Accommodation:** A range of options is available for conference participants. Mytilini has a variety of small and medium hotels within the town and the surrounding area, as well as rooms to let, to match different needs and prices, starting from 30€ / night. The conference website will include a list of options and prices for conference participants offered by the Hoteliers Association of Lesvos - [www.filoxenia.net/index.htm](http://www.filoxenia.net/index.htm) - as well as other travel information.

**Accessibility:** Lesvos island is accessible mainly through Athens (4 flights daily) and Thessaloniki (1 flight daily) but also domestically from Rhodes, Samos, Chios and Irakleion (Crete). It is also accessible directly from different airports of Central Europe by charter flights, open to single passengers. Lesvos is also accessible by ship from Piraeus (Athens).

### Early registration

For ISISA Members: 200 €

For young researchers (under 30 years) or Ph.D. students: 150 €

For the rest: 250 €

Posters: 150 €

Late registration / upon arrival

For ISISA Members: 300 €

For young researchers (under 30) or Ph.D. students: 200 €

For the rest: 350 €

Local students: 20€ (including coffee and paper materials only)

The fees will cover:

- Conference materials,
- Coffee & tea refreshments,
- Lunch and official dinners as incorporated within the program,
- Excursions and other visits incorporated within the program

For more information you can address your questions to the Local Organizing Committee ([isisa2016@aegean.gr](mailto:isisa2016@aegean.gr))

For the Local Organizing Committee

*Thanassis Kizos*

*Ioannis Spilanis*

*Sofia Karampela*



# My first ISISA conference

After a chance meeting with Prof. Grant McCall at a Sydney 'Pacific Island Monthly' luncheon during my Churchill Fellowship in Australia, I was prompted to learn more about ISISA. The website mentioned an upcoming conference in Jersey, which was nice and close to my base in the UK, so I submitted an abstract for a presentation on my work in the field of indigenous language education policy. Not long after, I was informed that the location of the conference had changed... to Taiwan! Not near my UK base at all, but somewhere I had never been so the opportunity to travel further afield was embraced.

I was delighted to accept Beate's invitation to chair the plenary session on 'migration' and its impact on island communities. Elaine Stratford, Dana Lewis-Ambrose and Jon Pugh were fabulous panelists - professional, cooperative and friendly, both by email before the conference and during our time together in Taiwan. The same can, and should, be said about all ISISA conference delegates - as a newbie to this group, I felt welcomed and included from the outset. Connections were immediately apparent - my work on language education in Hawaii and Scotland had parallels with social scientists, geographers, political scientists and environmental consultants, who had all come together in Penghu. This was the first time I had enjoyed such inter-disciplinary interest in my work and I certainly benefited from the ideas, suggestions and comments from those in related, but rather different, fields.

Aside from the academic elements of the conference, the local organisers treated us to many fascinating cultural and gastronomic events. The banquets in Penghu, the beach BBQ with a talent showcase (including belly dancers, cocktail shaking and multiple musical acts), the visit to Chi-Mei island with its purple dragon fruit and the unforgettable group photo at the twin heart weir. I found the Taiwanese hospitality incredibly generous and was particularly impressed by the local university students who acted as our tour guides, bus chaperones and chefs at the BBQ. What wonderful ambassadors for Penghu and for Taiwan.

Leaving the conference on the final day, I could hardly believe that I had met my ISISA colleagues only 5 days earlier - I felt as though we had known each other for years. This is clearly a result of the warm welcome given to new recruits and is testament to the cooperative and collaborative spirit of those attending ISISA conferences. The dates for Lesbos and Kangaroo Island are in my diary already...ISISA, I'm here to stay!

**Arlene Holmes-Henderson, Language education, University of Oxford**

## ISISA is now on Twitter!



Twitter is a fantastic way to discover interesting news about Island Studies around the world. You can now follow ISISA on the twitter handle @IntSISA. News and events relating to Island Studies (in the broadest sense) are tweeted on a regular basis. All updates for ISISA members are also shared on this social media platform. At present @IntSISA has followers in the Falkland Islands, Angelsey, Bermuda, Hawaii, Malta, Tasmania, Japan and many more! To keep up with all the news and updates, follow @IntSISA today!

## Penghu ISISA photos

Four Albums can be accessed at <[http://j.mp/ISISA\\_and\\_Taiwan](http://j.mp/ISISA_and_Taiwan)>

Snapshots from five past ISISA, *Islands of the World* conferences can be accessed at:

[http://j.mp/ISISA\\_2014\\_Penghu](http://j.mp/ISISA_2014_Penghu)

[http://j.mp/ISISA\\_2012\\_British\\_Virgin\\_Islands](http://j.mp/ISISA_2012_British_Virgin_Islands)

[http://j.mp/ISISA\\_2010\\_Bjornholm](http://j.mp/ISISA_2010_Bjornholm)

[http://j.mp/ISISA\\_2004\\_Kinmen](http://j.mp/ISISA_2004_Kinmen)

[http://j.mp/ISISA\\_2002\\_Prince\\_Edward\\_Island](http://j.mp/ISISA_2002_Prince_Edward_Island)

Any or all images can be downloaded from the FLICKR site -- these photos are reasonable resolution for screen use; if you want images that can be extensively cropped or produce high quality prints, we can provide high resolution images -- just provide the title of the print, so we can copy it for you. Images are copyrighted under a simple Creative Commons license: Any image can be used, just provide attribution and provide the same terms for your own use of the derivative image. Details on the FLICKR site.

If any of the addressees are NOT members of the ISISA e-mail group and WANT to be, just send a BLANK message (no title, nothing) to:

[ISISA-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:ISISA-subscribe@yahogroups.com)

(It seems that this works best when you're sending a message from your home base, rather than traveling to Penghu, for example.)

**Bruce Potter**

[bpotter@irf.org](mailto:bpotter@irf.org)

# Island Cities and Urban Archipelagos

Islands comprise cities and cities comprise islands--in some instances. Urban centres such as Stockholm, New York, Cairo, and Hong Kong all include many islands, making them perfect for examining aspects of island studies, urban studies, their intersections, and critiques thereof.

We did that at the [Island Dynamics](#) conference '[Island Cities and Urban Archipelagos 2014](#)', held from 21-25 October 2014 in the island city of Copenhagen. Around 80 delegates from 30 countries enjoyed the programme at the World Culture Centre on the island of Sjælland/Zealand, Denmark's largest island (apart from Greenland).

The variety of disciplines and of non-disciplinary ideas was inspiring! Photos from dozens of countries were used in the slides with themes ranging from city walls to island government administration. Architects and planners discussed visions and realities for island city locations. In one session, a political scientist analysed disaster data from tropical islands while an archaeologist presented Arctic excavations.

Walking tours and social events helped us to relish in Copenhagen, including a reading of Singaporean poetry. While no one would admit to partaking in the typical wares of the micronation of Freetown Christiania, we had a useful discussion--purely scholarly--on the history, merits, and concerns of this unique island within an island city. Tivoli Gardens yielded intense intellectual engagement amongst the ice cream, roller coasters, cotton candy, carnival games, and Hallowe'en décor. An island unto itself.

We were fortunate to meet inhabitants of residential islands of the city, providing local perspectives--especially through the enthusiastic, local tour guide Paul Hartvigson--on the meaning of islandness within an urban conurbation. Within the conference venue, a Chinese music performance, a talk on Taiwanese immigration to Denmark, and a presentation of Greenlandic culture complemented the field trips.

Island Dynamics always takes an innovative approach to conferences, integrating the location and on-site interests with the international, academic discussions. The conferences are friendly and intimate, with plenty of time left for questions and discussions--ideal for early careerists presenting for the first time along with seasoned keynotes. In Copenhagen, that provided the opportunity to create an agenda for island-urban interaction in research, policy, and practice. We will be taking this agenda forward in academic publications emerging from the conference and in further research, policy, and practice venues.

The foremost of the latter would be to join us in Hong Kong for the next [Island Cities and Urban Archipelagos](#) conference, from 7-11 March 2016 at the University of Hong Kong.

There will be fewer bicycles and less rain, but even more fun and work, than our week in Copenhagen.

**Ilan Kelman** <http://www.ilankelman.org>

University College London and Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.



Tivoli Gardens in the island city of Copenhagen. *Photos: Ilan Kelman*

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## Bellesounds

What? Imagine a very large musical instrument. Double it. Then double it again and again. Now picture a very large stage. Double it – again and again. Before you appears the largest instrument in the world, on the world’s largest stage. This is our goal. The stage – the island of Gotland, in the Baltic Sea. The musical instrument – all the church bells in the island!

The island of Gotland, in the Baltic Sea, probably has the world’s greatest density of churches, of which around one hundred are of medieval origin. Most churches have one or two bells, some have three or more.

A Very Large Concert will use all the church bells in the island, well over 200, as if they were one instrument, presumably the world’s largest. The musical tone of every bell have been meticulously measured and different ways of playing on them has been practiced.

## **More than 200 church bells**

On June 8th, 2013, all the bells will perform together as a single musical instrument, most likely the world's largest ever, in a concert specially written by prominent Swedish composers for this special occasion. More than 100 ringers will participate, together with approx. 150 volunteers, and a staff of technicians.

The sound will be recorded and transmitted by smart phones, using the 4G network, to a hub at Radio Sweden, where all the bells will be mixed and broadcast live over Sweden and Europe, and via Internet to the rest of the world.

## **Why?**

### **The Musical Goals are**

- to explore by means of church bells the sound of a very large space/place.
- investigate how large, prolonged and hitherto unheard musical sounds disseminate over a large area.
- explore social and cultural terms, conditions and limits for what can be perceived as “a musical piece”, “a musical instrument” and, by extension, the phenomenon that we call “music”.

The cultural-political aspiration evolves from the observation that the world's population is now rapidly converging to a few very large mega-cities, where more and more economical and political power is concentrated, while the rest of the world becomes increasingly impoverished and marginalized.

By means of church bells we wish for Sweden, Europe and the rest of the world hear and understand that “small” and marginalized places, like the island of Gotland, can also have a large and powerful voice.

### **Tuning people together**

The existential goals draw on the communicative purposes and power that church bells have provided since the first days of Christianity. Via church bells, A Very Large Concert aspires to communicate with a congregation of islanders, and visitors; to call them together and mark a phase in the flow of time and life; to create an atmosphere that will tune them together and turn their collective attention to common social and spiritual matters; and to encourage them, at least for a short while, to consider their present predicament and likely future in a social, economical and geographical fringe of the globalized world.

## **Developing broadcast technology**

The technical goal is to develop and test new technology for live broadcasts of large complex events. The idea is to bring together Radio Sweden, Ericsson and telecom operators like Telia and Tele2, to contribute to the production of technical systems for broadcasting via smart phones over the 4G-network that can be used by broadcasting companies for many different purposes.

## **Develop a regional identity**

The scientific aim is to provide empirical data for the research programme “Islands and islanders” at Gotland University, concerning an island society’s social and cultural resources, and under what conditions they can be localized and activated. An empirical observation is that islands like Gotland with a relatively small population tend to develop a strong regional identity and strong regional networks that provide them access to unusually rich social, cultural and technical resources.

A Very Large Concert is a project that attempts to test the scope, strength and complexity of these networks and resources, by recruiting the participation of a large number of islanders with high and specialized competence: musicians, composers, researchers, bell-ringers, radio producers, technical engineers, IT-specialists, organizers, film makers etc.



Prix Italia: Prix Italia is the “Oscar” or “Emmy” of radio companies. A prestigious prize given to among others Samuel Becket, Ewan McColl, Robert Graves, Ngozi Onwurah, Luciano Berio, Ingmar Bergman, Federico Fellini, Werner Herzog, Peter Greenaway, Ken Loach, Harold Pinter and Dylan Thomas. And now also a couple of hundred Gotlanders!

Klockrent -A Very Large Concert (SR, Sweden) Idea: Owe Ronström and Eva Sjöstrand.  
Executive producer Owe Ronström. Direction: Eva Sjöstrand - Producing Organisation: Sveriges Radio - Composers: Karin Rehnqvist, Claes Holmgren, Owe Ronström.

Motivation: More than 200 church bells in function! The largest island of Sweden has been transformed into a live concert hall, allowing the radio listeners to hear all the bells of Gotland performing together. A musical, technological and social experience, exploring many possibilities of contemporary interactivity. This piece combines the use of smartphones and apps to record and broadcast a pioneer initiative, a 3 movement concerto created by 3 composers. We highly appreciate the chosen instruments, because bells evoke traditions, memories and emotions shared throughout history. The structure of the work mirrors both the community and the individual human being through big “tutti” sounds and a poetic central movement played on a single carillon. An incredible project that puts a classical radio station in the center of a national

contemporary music experiment, increasing its image and popularity into the largest possible audience.

There is more to read at the web page: [BelleSounds.ompom.se](http://BelleSounds.ompom.se)

And some more pictures at <https://www.facebook.com/EnMycketStorKonsert?ref=bookmarks>

**Owe Ronström**



**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.

Manuscripts to be considered for publication welcome at:

[isj@upei.ca](mailto:isj@upei.ca)

Website: [www.islandstudies.ca/journal](http://www.islandstudies.ca/journal)

<http://projects.upei.ca/iis/naf-2015/about-naf/>

Click on the above link and entertain yourself with a short clip about the upcoming North Atlantic Forum in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Canada (16-19<sup>th</sup> September, 2015)

# Conference call for papers: Island Cities and Urban Archipelagos 2016



University of Hong Kong, 07-11 March 2016

Web: <http://www.islandcities.org/icua2016.html>

This island studies conference brings together researchers from across the globe to explore urban life on islands and archipelagos.

Keynote Speakers: Elaine Stratford (University of Tasmania), John Urry (Lancaster University), Arjun Appadurai (New York University), Stephen Graham (Newcastle University)

Islands are often associated with peripherality, yet they have long been important sites for the growth of cities. Physical separation from the mainland and spatial limitations can encourage the transport of products and ideas, improved defence infrastructure, construction of social capital, consolidation of political power, formation of vibrant cultures, and concentration of population. Some island cities were located on inland river islands and have since expanded far beyond their original borders while others are still strongly associated with their island cores.

Fostering dialogue between the fields of island studies and urban studies, this interdisciplinary conference will feature presentations that explore and critique the varied connections between the urban and the insular from a diversity of perspectives on culture, planning, politics, architecture, economy, and environment in island cities worldwide. We welcome papers and panels focusing on individual case studies as well comparative analyses and conceptual frames.

Presentations are invited to address questions such as:

- How does islandness sustain processes of urbanisation?
- How can urban planning and urban design address the challenges faced by island societies?
- Why are islands historically privileged sites for urban development?
- How does islandness influence urban cultures?
- What roles do island cities play in national, regional, and global frameworks and processes?
- How does urbanisation affect island society and environment?
- How does island city status affect distributions of political authority?
- How do urban archipelagos relate to their hinterlands and oceanic environments?
- How are island cultures reconstituted in (mainland) urban diasporas?
- What challenges do island environments pose to urban development and planning?
- How does the particular mobility of island populations shape the development of island cities?
- What other topics are critical to the future of island cities?

The deadline for abstracts is **16 August 2015**. However, to take advantage of early registration rates and ensure that you have time to seek funding from your institution or government, we recommend that you submit your abstract early: <http://www.islandcities.org/icua2016/cfp.html>. For more information on the conference, contact convenor Adam Grydehøj ([agrydehøj@islanddynamics.org](mailto:agrydehøj@islanddynamics.org)).

This Island Dynamics conference is organised in collaboration with the University of Hong Kong's School of English (Faculty of Arts), National Taiwan Normal University's Department of Geography, University of Copenhagen's Centre of Global South-Asian Studies, and University of the Philippines Manila's Department of Social Sciences.

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Temple Street Night Market, Hong Kong

# The Islander

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Attendees at the Islands of the World Conference included Dr Ying-Wei Wang, President of the National Penghu University, Professor Godfrey Baldacchino, President of the Conference Committee, Kristina Roberts, Mayor Jayne Bates, Daniel Hung Tung-Lin, Director Economic Affairs, Penghu County Government. (Daniel Hung Tung-Lin has been to KI with his family and is pleased to be returning in 2017.)

## Coup for our island

Kangaroo Island to host Islands of the World Conference 2017

by Barbara Sibley

Kangaroo Island will be in the world spotlight in 2017 after securing the right to host the Islands of the World Conference.

It will be the first time the conference has been held in Australia and is set to be a boost for the local economy, attracting at least 150 delegates.

Mayor Jayne Bates and Kristina Roberts of KI Futures Authority (KIFA) travelled to Penghu, China, an island off Taiwan, last week to present Kangaroo Island's bid for the conference.

The Conference brings together academics from around the world who study small islands, and many of them live on islands or have strong attachments to islands.

"This was a really amazing experience," Mayor Bates said, "we both feel very privileged to have attended such a wonderful event".

Sixty countries and islands were represented as well as many international university representatives.

The community of Penghu, numbering

some 95,000 residents, gave the group a warm welcome and their young people were outstanding ambassadors for their community.

The Kangaroo Island bid was supported by many groups including the Adelaide Convention Bureau, and the presenters went with many supporting letters including Kangaroo Island Council, Tourism KI, KI Futures Authority, Kangaroo Island Education and Uni SA.

The bid had to be presented in person to the committee, and KIFA agreed to fund the trip to enable Mayor Bates to represent Kangaroo Island.

With a lot of work needing to be done to

bring the Conference to KI, Ms Bates said "we hope to attract as many islands and universities from around the world as possible".

"Importantly, winning the bid for KI will allow our community, other Australian islands and our academics to share and participate with islands from across the world ..... and this will be the first time this conference has been held in Australia," Mayor Bates said.

"We met many delegates at the conference in Penghu and they are already very excited about coming to Kangaroo Island," she said.

Kristina Roberts said the interest and

support from the conference participants was overwhelming, with many people wishing to discuss Kangaroo Island's history, environmental assets and wildlife.

The conference would provide a boost for not only the local economy but also the community.

"All levels of the KI community will be involved in the event on Kangaroo Island, from school children, food and wine producers, tourism operators, businesses and services," Ms Roberts said.

The conference will also align with one of KIFA's key projects which is to secure a science centre on the island, which would be associated with training and education at all levels - primary, secondary and tertiary.

"We wish to work with the community in supporting this event," Ms Roberts said.

Previous venues for the conference have included the Bahamas, Mauritius, Isle of Skye, Prince Edward Island, Kinmen, Taiwan, Maui, Hawaii and Bornholm in Denmark, and while it has been biannual in the past, it is hoped to become an annual event from now on.



Islands of the World Conference 2017 - host Kangaroo Island



### Great social event closes Art Feast

Art Feast 2014 closed on Monday night with a great social gathering at Bay of Shoals Winery. The barrel room made a superb setting for Dean Wiles' photography display ... and Scott Ellson and Tim Frears provided the musical entertainment for the evening. The Tru Thal food van was on hand to feed the hungry and Greg Miller served delicious Bay of Shoals wines as well. Dean Wiles (photographer) is seen here on the right, explaining one of his works to (from left) Ivy Wootton, Bob Teasdale and Mikayla Reid, all members of the Art Feast committee. (Photograph Pete Fuller)

For more images of Art Feast, turn to pages 12, 13 and 14.

# PENGHU DECLARATAION

A declaration issued by the delegates present at the 13<sup>th</sup> *Islands of the World* Conference of the International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA) on the theme, “Small is Beautiful: Island Connections and Innovations,” meeting in the Penghu archipelago, Taiwan, September 22-27, 2014, herewith referred to as **The Penghu Declaration**.

*The delegates hereby:*

1. **Acknowledge** the United Nations (UN) designation of 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of ISISA.
2. **Express** their commitment to promoting research on, understanding of, and engagement with, the specific challenges facing small islands and their communities. These include the absence of economies of scale, resource limitations, environmental sensitivity and exposure to natural disasters; as well as identifying development opportunities and innovations based on the celebration and distinctiveness of island lives and spaces.
3. **Reaffirm** the particular challenges facing small islands in a globalized world that jeopardize the quality of island life. These require more recognition by international bodies, highlighting the role of policy makers at all levels, and demanding their commitment to the accelerated modalities of action as prescribed by the ‘Samoa Pathway’ document, agreed upon at the recently held third international UN conference of SIDS in Apia, Samoa.
4. **Support** grassroots and local island organizations and the collaboration and exchange of island networks, in order to inform national, regional and international policies of the particularities of island constituencies.
5. **Build** on the spirit and intent of past ISISA declarations, including the Kinmen Declaration of 2004, urging the adoption and expansion of appropriate initiatives that are based on the recognition of local island cultures, diversity and resilience, in recognition of the growing interconnectivity and partnership of islands worldwide.
6. **Encourage** island-focused study and action to inform, support and service the islands of the world and to promote culturally appropriate strategies that respond to the impact of global climate change and other hazards.
7. **Emphasize** the promotion of responsible tourism which is sensitive to local needs and which supports the uniqueness of natural and cultural island environments.
8. **Recognize** that, by being ‘geographies of hope’, islands can guide policy by showcasing various initiatives that offer viable examples of blue/green sustainability and community engagement, and which can be transferable to larger contexts. These include the promotion of small scale and locally owned enterprises, creating alternative island economies and socially just communities.

9. **Understand** that, despite having experienced a history of political and economic marginalization, small islands lead the globe in addressing urgent environmental issues which are quite central to both their island residents and the world at large.
10. **Encourage** collaboration among island based institution, including our hosts (National Penghu University, the County of Penghu), and institutions in Taiwan and beyond, to build local capacities, strengthen formal and informal educational opportunities, and partake in the comparative and interdisciplinary study of islands, through ISISA and other channels
11. **Thank** and offer their sincere appreciation to the local organizers and sponsors of the 13<sup>th</sup> ‘Islands of the World’ Conference for extensive community engagement, facilitation and participation, assuring a high degree of transferability of knowledge, friendship, expertise and experiences, providing generous opportunities and spaces for conversations, debates and future plans regarding the challenges facing islands worldwide. We particularly appreciate the considerable presence of youth in every aspect of this memorable event.
12. **Suggest** that this declaration be titled *The Penghu Declaration on the theme Small is Beautiful: Island Connections and Innovations* and recommend its adoption.

*On Behalf of the Delegates*

Professor Godfrey Baldacchino

President, ISISA

Chien-Fa Wang

Magistrate, Penghu County Government  
Taiwan

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## A STRATEGIC REVIEW of the International Small Islands Studies Association

An invitation to all ISISA Members

*Dear members of ISISA,*

The 1<sup>st</sup> official meeting of ISISA took place in Okinawa in June 1994; barely a few weeks before, the first UN Global Summit of *Small Island Developing States* (SIDS) had taken place in Barbados. The *Alliance of Small and Island States* (AOSIS) was still in its infancy. There were no ‘island studies’ journals, courses, programs or scholars then. ‘Nissology’ was yet to be invented. And ‘climate change’ was still a rather obscure term.

Looking back, we realize that much has changed. We no longer have to justify our interest in islands and island affairs. There are now at least four scholarly journals that publish ‘island studies’, various books dedicated to islands and island studies (many written or edited by ISISA

members); a host of special journal issues dedicated to things island; and various programmes in different universities that advance island studies teaching and research. More organisations now operate in the broad terrain of island studies and related policy and research, including: **GIN** (Global Islands Network, launched – during an ISISA Conference – in 2002); **SICRI** (the small island culture research initiative, set up in 2004); **GLISPA** (the global islands partnership supported by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, set up in 2005); and **RETI** (the network of island universities, set up at the University of Corsica in 2010). ISISA may have done its part to mainstream island studies and contribute to this expansion and consolidation of the field.

At the same time, however, our ‘business model’ has hardly budged. ISISA has continued to operate so far mainly on the basis of biennial conferences, but with a [Newsletter](#), a revamped [website](#) (that needs more work), a [list-serve](#), a [Facebook Page](#) and a [Twitter handle](#) also having been added, thus diversifying and promoting information sharing and encouraging further communication and collaboration with and between members and others. [Island Studies Journal](#) is now officially the Journal of ISISA.

The ISISA [Executive Committee](#) that was elected at the latest ISISA Conference, held in the Penghu Archipelago, Taiwan, includes many new faces (and including the organizers of three proposed ISISA Conferences, in 2016, 2017 and 2018). We have together set the ball rolling for an important and timely STRATEGIC REVIEW of ISISA. It is a **review** because it looks upon all the operations of the Association, what it is doing and not doing, and especially on what it should do and not do, in line with its mission statement as enshrined in our [Charter](#). It is also a **strategic** exercise because it must carefully not miss the wood for the trees, and the Association must rise above its routines and traditions in order to look gingerly and critically at itself. The context we now live in may require new mind-frames, new tools, new initiatives, and new energies.

**With this in mind, I encourage you to participate in helping shape the character of our Association, as the world’s oldest, global, island studies organisation heads into its third decade of operations. Let us decide what we wish for ISISA, together.**

**To make this easier for you, and the ensuing analysis easier for us, you are encouraged to respond to each of five bullet points below.**

The Executive Committee has already undertaken one round of consultations, triggered by an initial draft list of concerns and reflections. I provide a synthesis of these comments below, and invite ALL ISISA members to let us know what they think. (Complete anonymity will be maintained in the analysis of results.)

**Kindly return your responses to Anna Baldacchino, Newsletter Editor, by the end of December 2014 at: [abaldacchino59@gmail.com](mailto:abaldacchino59@gmail.com)**

1. **Frequency of conferences:** ISISA has operated with a conference every two years since 1998. Is it now time to move to a more regular, annual conference? **Benefits** include having the opportunity to be active as ISISA annually (rather than biennially); and thus being able to have a presence in different parts of the world on a more regular basis. This would give us an opportunity to have and support events in more island locations, and facilitate membership engagement, possibly with more specialized topics and perhaps

also in other languages apart from English. Threats include an inability of some members of the ISISA community to commit to the time and expenses involved in an annual event; diluting the special 'ISISA conference' brand by 'oversaturating' the market; and having less time to run a top quality conference. Perhaps one way out of the impasse is not to impose an annual conference cycle, but to allow the Executive Committee to consider this option seriously only when and if an attractive and rigorous proposal comes forward.

**1. What do you think?**

2. Financing: How to use ISISA's financial resources most effectively? On expenditure side, ISISA's main expense outlay in recent years has been the provision of scholarships to deserving students to assist their participation at ISISA conferences. ISISA has also, since 2012, been willing to back other island studies-related conferences by offering some financial support. Should ISISA consider offering some seed funding, subject to financial availability, in order to nudge research in deserving directions (as determined by the Executive from time to time? (E.g. commissioning the language translation of important publications.) On the income side, we should encourage corporate bodies to support ISISA as benefactors (and not as members) by, for example, offering scholarship funding. (We already have corporate support 'in kind' – as with the University of Hawai'i Maui College offering web hosting services, and the University of Tasmania prior to that.) At the same time, we should make it clear that membership in ISISA should be reserved strictly for individuals and thus prevent corporate influence: we started discussing this matter at the latest General Meeting. The general rules and basis for membership also need to be spruced up: being a member 'until the next conference' may not be an ideal benchmark.

**2. What do you think?**

3. Communicating with the rest of the world. It is time for ISISA to reach out to like-minded organisations and support initiatives that impact on island livelihoods. We should develop closer relationships with GIN, GLISPA, RETI and SICRI, for example by ISISA formally participating in their activities (where time and finances permit). Should ISISA also start voicing its opinion on matters that concern islands (via media releases, and statements on its website) moderated by our Communications Officer?

**3. What do you think?**

4. The ISISA Advisory Council (AC) was set up at the ISISA Conference in Bornholm in 2010. The body has not functioned, various AC members have not been very active, and the AC's own members have now been canvassed and have supported a proposal to disband the AC. With a 13-member Executive for a membership of 100 or so persons, a direct communication should be feasible, with no need for a second layer of bureaucracy. Meanwhile, existing AC members are encouraged to participate in other ways, and using the various other means that are now available.

**4. What do you think?**

5. "ISISA is one of those organisations that I have always admired. An organisation that is financially sound with no physical location, but is dedicated to a meaningful cause which drives its agenda and purpose. "

"From my perspective, we need to be clearly independent ... in order to sustain an academic mission which I think should be central to ISISA."

What do you think about ISISA? What do you see as its main, if not unique, set of merits? What value does it bring to the island studies table and community? Help us define what ISISA is, so that we understand better what it should strive to be or become. And is there anything else that you think we need to discuss, and which has not featured in the bullet points above?

**5. What do you think?**

**Thank You**, and please accept my sincere Christmas greetings, on behalf of all the Executive Committee members of ISISA.

*Godfrey Baldacchino*

*President, ISISA*

[gbaldacchino60@gmail.com](mailto:gbaldacchino60@gmail.com)

# 11th International Small Islands Conference (ISIC 11)

22-25 June 2015

Gozo Island, Malta



## Globalization, Identities and Island Cultures

Academics, scholars and researchers from any disciplinary field, as well as managers and practitioners who are interested in island issues, are invited to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> International Small Islands Conference and engage in these debates.

The conference will consist of keynote presentations, round tables and a variety of oral presentations held in thematic sessions. The core conference sub-themes are:

- Island Archaeology and Ancient History
- Contemporary Developments in Island Studies

Inquiries can be addressed to Dr Arianne Reis (Southern Cross University, Australia), Co-Chair of Papers and Panels at: [arianne.reis@scu.edu.au](mailto:arianne.reis@scu.edu.au)

## Call for Papers

The Small Islands Cultures Research Initiative (SICRI), in partnership with the University of Malta, is pleased to announce a call for papers for ISIC 11.

Two types of paper will be considered: *Papers delivered orally* should be of 20 minutes duration and will be programmed in panels; and *Poster papers*, which will be displayed together with scheduled discussion times at the main conference venue.

The organisers invite proposals addressing any of the Conference themes. Papers not aligning to these will also be considered if the schedule permits. Abstracts for papers should be submitted to

the conference organiser Dr Arianne Reis: [arianne.reis@scu.edu.au](mailto:arianne.reis@scu.edu.au) by **March 31st 2015**. Abstracts should be no more than 250 words and should include the author's name, institution and email address.

All accepted papers will have their abstracts published in the Conference handbook. Attendees will also be invited to submit full versions of their papers for consideration for inclusion in a special issue of *Shima: The International Journal of Research into island Cultures* <[www.shimajournal.org](http://www.shimajournal.org)>. All papers will go through an anonymous peer-review process, normally involving at least two reviewers. Submission guidelines and further information will be provided to interested authors.

### **Provisional Programme**

- June 22 – Morning/Afternoon: Pre-Conference Study Trip (additional cost); Evening: Conference Opening and Dinner
- June 23 – Conference Presentations and Round Table (Topic: TBD)
- June 24 – Conference Presentations and Round Table (Topic: TBD)
- June 25 – Conference Presentations and Closing Keynote (TBD)

### **Registration**

Registration fee yet to be confirmed. Students and local residents at discounted price. Registration costs should be paid in cash at the first day of the conference. Full registration includes morning and afternoon teas (23-25 June) and attendance to all keynotes, conference presentations and round tables. Tours are at an additional cost.



## **UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

- **9th International Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific (EIPC 2015)**  
21 to 26 June 2015. "Cultural and Environmental Dynamics" Berlin, Ethnological Museum Dahlem. For more information visit: <https://9th-eip-conference.org/>

- **The Caribbean Studies Association's 40th annual conference** will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, May 25-29, 2015, at the Hilton Hotel (New Orleans Riverside). More information at: <http://www.caribbeanstudiesassociation.org/>
- **9th International Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific (EIPC 2015).** Cultural and Environmental Dynamics. June 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2015. For more details visit: <http://9th-eip-conference.org/>
- **The next ESfO conference is scheduled for 24-27 June 2015 in Brussels.** Europe and the Pacific. You can get more information at : <http://esfo-org.eu/>

*For more island news and events visit the  
Global Islands Network  
<http://www.globalislands.net/>*

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