Island States/Island Territories:
Sharing Stories of Island Life, Governance and Global Engagement

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

1A ISLAND-TO-ISLAND CONNECTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Regional and extraregional hyperlinks of Caribbean capital cities: A mosaic of fragmented cores and peripheral linkages
Stanley D. Brunn, University of Kentucky

The Caribbean islands are often identified as belonging to a single region in spite of variations in cultural and historical heritage. This diversity is further captured in an analysis of the hyperlinks among and between large and small islands and territories. This study uses the volume of Google hyperlinks to measure the importance of each capital city in the regional and linkages with all others and with major cities outside the region. There are sharp and distinct variations in the 31 capital cities and with other major cities in the region and beyond. Based on hyperlink intraregional volumes there are five major core cities: San Juan, Road Town, Port of Spain, Havana, and St. Johns: 4 in a semiperiphery, 5 in a periphery and 17 in a deep periphery location. The connections or networks of these capital cities to major cities outside the regional also exhibits sharp variations. New York is the clear external capital with Mexico City in second place and Paris and London in third and four places. The results show there is need for additional research on Caribbean capitals and their hyperlink connections to the regional and extraregional centres in North, Central, and northern South America as well as western Europe. Similar studies might be conducted in the Pacific Basin and elsewhere.

Keywords: Caribbean, urban primacy, networks, Google hyperlinks

The current migration crisis in Latin America and its effects on the migration trajectories in Small Island Development States (SIDS): The case of transnational migration of Venezuelans to Aruba
Tiarra Simon, Universiteit van Amsterdam

The relationship and tensions between immigration policies on Aruba and Venezuelan transnational migrants are at the core of my thesis for the master course, Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Free University of Amsterdam. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports in October 2018, Aruba, an island of approximately 105,264 inhabitants, has, next to Trinidad and Tobago, a high estimated number of Venezuelans in the Southern Caribbean reaching up to 20,000 migrants. Nonetheless, despite efforts of a growing number of academics in the field of transnational migration and spatial mobility, little has been written on the current migration crisis in Latin America and its effects on the migration trajectories in the SIDS. In contrary to some receiving countries, SIDS have limited space to receive mass migrants and are often economically and politically dependent on (past) colonizing countries. Due to the current economic collapse in Venezuela, political, social, and humanitarian tensions have arisen. In reaction to the crisis, many Arubans are conflicted on how to assist these migrants in need. Based on a three-month case study consisting of ethnographic research on Aruba, this paper argues that a better understanding of a migrant's choice about migration and migration journeys is fundamentally important to bettering policymaking.

Keywords: Latin American crisis, Venezuela, migration trajactories, migrant agency, transnational migration, immigration policies

1A ISLAND-TO-ISLAND CONNECTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Cohesion within the Kingdom: 'Disunited we stand'
Luc Alofs, University of Aruba

Since 10 October 2010, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has included three Subnational Island Jurisdictions: Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint-Maarten. At the same time, Bonaire, Saba, and Sint Eustatius became special municipalities of the Netherlands. The Kingdom is difficult to understand. There is no Kingdom parliament, nor a representative Kingdom government. Although the monarchy seems to connect with its citizens, there is no such thing as a shared civil society. From a SNIJ perspective, the Kingdom is an uneven political playing field. This paper reflects upon the complexity of identification of the citizens with their Kingdom. Based on focus group sessions held in 2014, it also discusses opportunities to build a civil Kingdom relevant in education, science, journalism, culture, economics, and ecological sustainability. This exploration will contribute to a comparative analysis of Small Island States (SISs) and Subnational Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs), models of decolonization, postcolonial sovereignty, and sustainability within the Caribbean.

Keywords: Kingdom, civil society, cohesion, identification, non-independent Caribbean, postcolonial inequalities, sovereignty

Adding industry associations into the SDG equation for Caribbean islands: A new institutionalism perspective
Kalim Shah, University of Delaware

As Small Island Developing States (SIDS) chart development trajectories guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), business and industry associations, coalitions and alliances play a growing role in representing their respective members in national discourse. This role has not been empirically analyzed in Caribbean SIDS yet. This study is one of the first that characterizes the forms and functions of such associations across the Caribbean SIDS and uses statistical data analysis to understand the drivers that underlie their roles in SDG goal achievement. Findings indicate that foreign-originated associations appear to show less alignment with local SDG goals but greater power relations with national influencers; while almost the opposite relationship occurs with respect to local-originated associations. Enhanced institutional pressures from respective associations, access and exposure to best practices, networking opportunities, and service bundling may explain these differences. These findings are central to private-sector engagement for island sustainability.

Keywords: industry associations, public-private partnerships, institutional theory

1B POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

Small island politics, power, and the will of the people: Exploring perceptions on participatory governance in St. Maarten
Solange Ludmila Duncan,
University of Birmingham

Politics and governance in Subnational Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs) like St. Maarten highlight the dichotomy between the potential for deliberative democracy and the realities of pervasive patronage and tokenism. The perceptions of key stakeholders – politicians, government officials, NGOs, and citizens – on the power relations between government and civil society appear to hold the key to identifying the main challenges and opportunities for increasing the levels and quality of civic participation on the island.

Utilizing qualitative methods including in-depth face-to-face interviews and a survey, this paper identifies the cultural and political factors that influence participatory governance on St. Maarten, by presenting valuable perspectives from various stakeholders throughout the community, while recognizing the institutional frameworks and mechanisms inherited via the constituent state's relationship to its metropole: the Netherlands. Findings indicate that decreasing social fragmentation and increasing civic education may be crucial to transforming St. Maarten's residents into more active and concerned citizens. But are the politicians willing to give up decision-making power? By examining participatory governance in SNIJs like St. Maarten, and the further development of politics, governance, and civic participation, in particular, requires improvement of the synergistic relationship between the state and its citizens.

Keywords: governance, civic participation, island politics, social capital, political culture

Parliamentary democracy in Tuvalu: Scale, tradition, and non-party government
Elliot Bulmer, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

This presentation examines the Tuvaluan constitution from independence to the present, ongoing reform process. It is a first-person account of constitution-making: the presenter was constitutional advisor and international constitutional drafter in support of the UNDP-funded Constitution of Tuvalu Review Project.

It tells the story of emerging constitutional pressures shaping evolution of parliamentary democracy in Tuvalu, which ultimately led the Tuvaluan political leadership to abandon standard parliamentary institutions in favour of a hybrid system of government with a directly elected Prime Minister. Three particular challenges are highlighted: those posed by small scale; those posed by tradition and, in particular, by the class between traditional governance structures and the liberal-democratic state; and those posed by the absence of political parties. The presentation reflects comparatively on the question of whether the Westminster Export model is still a viable system of government for SIDS with a Commonwealth constitutional background.

Keywords: Westminster model, Commonwealth, parliamentary democracy, non-partisan

1B POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

The fight for LGBT rights in the British Overseas Territories: Bermuda and the Cayman islands
Derek O'Brien and Rhian Minty,
Truman Bodden Law School, Cayman Islands

The recent controversy surrounding same-sex marriage in Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, which has been widely reported, highlights the multi-layered and complex interrelationship between the network of constitutional actors responsible for the governance of Britain's Overseas Territories (BOTs). This network includes the executive and legislature of each BOT; the Governor, appointed by the Crown; the British Parliament; and the courts, which include for these purposes the European Court of Human Rights, in addition to the local courts and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London.

This paper explores this complex interrelationship at a time when the Government of the Cayman Islands is seeking to redefine the nature of their relationship with Britain. In particular, the paper focuses on the tensions inherent in the partnership between Britain and its BOTs; a partnership which is rooted in colonialism, but which endeavours to respect the right of internal self-government of each BOT whilst maintaining Britain's responsibility under international law for the protection of human rights in its BOTs.

Keywords: same-sex marriage, self-government, international law

Personalistic politics in subnational island jurisdictions: The case of Prince Edward Island
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The effect of size on democracy and politics has long been a subject of interest, and increasingly so in recent years with respect to small (often island) states. However, much of this work has focused on states with relatively little attention given to subnational (island) jurisdictions (SNIJs). This paper addresses this paucity of research by adopting Corbett & Veenendaal's recent (2018) theorizing on the centrality of personalistic politics in small states, and applies it in a SNIJ context, specifically Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada. The paper evaluates the applicability of the concept of personalism in PEI by reviewing the literature on politics in the province and by analyzing selected recent and historical political discourses in the Legislative Assembly and local news media. Discussions explore the distinctive operation of personalism in SNIJs, and potential implications of personalism for PEI and other SNIJs.

Keywords: personalism, subnational Island Jurisdiction (SNIJ), politics, Prince Edward Island

1C CONSTRUCTING ISLAND IDENTITIES: SOCIAL CAPITAL

Making ends (of-the-earth) meet: 'Getting by' in Saint Helena
Owen Jennings, University of Hawai'i

Saint Helena's 'problem', as far as the UK government is concerned, is that the ends do not meet. Saint Helena is one of the last British Overseas Territories to require regular budgetary aid, and in an effort to ameliorate the situation, they built an airport at extraordinary cost that opened for commercial service in 2017. In 2016, Saint Helenians (Saints) had to make their own ends meet as the airport's opening was delayed. In day-to-day life, the rhythm of existence on one of the world's most remote islands carried on, but with expectations of new opportunities put on hold. Based on research carried out for my Master's thesis, this paper compares the everyday experiences of Saints dealing with slow and expensive internet, an infrequent ship, and making their own ends meet, with the projections of the British government of a tourist-driven future of relative prosperity on a newly connected island. The paper also touches on what this may mean for future territory-metropole relationships.

Keywords: SNIJ, Overseas Territory, tourism, development

The inertia of islandness: When nationalism eclipses islandness, and 'island-made' isn't an option
Margaret Paterson,
University of Prince Edward Island

Islanders know in their bones that they're different; 'islandness' and 'the island effect' are part and parcel of everyday life on an island, as demonstrated through islanders' resourcefulness, ingenuity, practicality. But too often, because of geographic isolation, size, a poor economic situation, and/or historic circumstances, the myth of the island as a "psychological sink through which the mainland pours its ills" (Hay, 2006) prevails, manifesting in convervatism, insularity, and what has been termed 'cultural cringe', where nothing is ever as good as it is on the mainland. The story is repeated at many levels and in many forms, especially when the island government is at the subnational level and is subjected to a power imbalance from that of the governing centrality. What happens when the goals of the metropole eclipse the goals of the island? How does this manifest in government policy and programs, and in everyday life? This paper focuses on Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland (two of the subnational island jurisdictions in the research project, 'Towards Sustainable Island Futures') as case studies. Using a mixed-methods approach, we explore social capital conflicts between these two subnational island jurisdictions and their metropoles – historically and culturally – and the friction that can result.

Keywords: islandness, jurisdiction, social capital, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland

1C CONSTRUCTING ISLAND IDENTITIES: SOCIAL CAPITAL

From cultural cringe to cultural confidence: The role of island identity and social capital in creating strong island jurisdictions
Laurie Brinklow,
University of Prince Edward Island

Attachment to one's island plays a role in islanders' sense of identity, built on social capital such as sense of belonging, stubborn independence, community and kinship webs, strong bonds with the past, and a common mythology. While a small-island state may display cultural confidence as a result of its independent status, a subnational island jurisdiction may exhibit inferiority, superiority – and sometimes both at the same time. Often the common mythology in subnational island jurisdictions is one of the underdog, or the "psychological sink into which the fears, self-loathings and insecurities of the larger nation are displaced" (Hay, 2006). But transformation is possible, inspired in large part by a determination to assert, in opposition to nationalist tropes propagated by the relevant centralities, a distinctive island place and identity, taking control of its cultural, and in some cases, economic and political futures – resulting in cultural confidence. The paper looks at social capital indicators on Iceland and Newfoundland, and documents how historical, geographical, and cultural factors have led to similarities and differences in these islands' sense of autonomy. And it explores their sense of islandness and island identity: their mythologies showing how the geographies of art encompass and express place and landscape, experience and emotions, identity and belonging.

Keywords: cultural cringe, cultural confidence, islandness, identity, social capital, Newfoundland, Iceland

1D GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Cooperation in the management of coral ecosystems
Stephen Snider, Harvard University

Reefs are vital to communities living near the ocean in terms of their livelihoods, as well as protection from storm surge and beach erosion. Through involvement in the decision-making process and management of these common-pool resources, local communities can be given agency over the health and protection of the reefs on which they depend. Similarly, a more vibrant and healthier reef system encourages tourism and provides jobs. There needs to be more involvement and awareness at all levels if there is hope to combat the problems associated with overfishing, reef damage, and pollution. In the example of Jamaica, partnerships between researchers, protected areas, private operators, and community members have created models of success. Through case studies of Jamaica's situation, we have learned lessons that can be applied and expanded on in other communities.

Keywords: coral reef ecosystems, conservation, community management, cooperation

Developing national environmental policy in a nation of semi-autonomous states: A case study of the Federated States of Micronesia
Iain Hall, Sophia University

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) comprising four semi-autonomous states. The FSM faces a number of environmental challenges, not least of which is the loss of biodiversity upon which it relies for subsistence and economic development. Each state has primary responsibility for the management of its natural resources, with each supporting unique biodiversity facing unique challenges within different systems of land tenure and traditional stewardship. As a signatory to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the FSM must deliver a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that also responds to the Sustainable Development Goals. How, therefore, does a country like the FSM develop and implement a unified national strategy within a system of diverse sub-national island jurisdictions? This presentation explores the development of the 2018 revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, examining state and national priorities and responsibilities and how these are reconciled to promote biodiversity conservation at national and state levels.

Keywords: biodiversity, conservation, Convention on Biological Diversity, Federated States of Micronesia, policy, Small Island Developing State, subnational island jurisdictions, Sustainable Development Goals

1D GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Environmental governance of forests in Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean
Kimberly Wishart Chu-Foon,
University of Prince Edward Island

Caribbean island forests are of great importance as they provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as flood regulation but are also home to many forest-based communities who depend on the resources forests provide for their livelihoods. Issues such as deforestation, conflict with other land uses, and a changing climate are having an adverse effect on these island forests. With these challenges, effective forest governance is of critical importance. Based on a review of the peer-reviewed and grey literature, this research assesses the different institutions that are involved in managing forests in Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean. The primary governance structures used in the region were found to be state led governance, co-management and community-based governance with involvement from a wide range of actors and institutions. Since island forests and communities are comparatively understudied compared to their coastal counterparts, this study provides valuable insight into the challenges and successes of the different approaches. It also provides a framework for future related studies in the region by revealing gaps in the research.

Keywords: environmental governance, SIDS, Caribbean, forests, forest-based livelihoods

2A ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT I

Leveraging diaspora networks: A strategy for non-tourism services transformation
Barney Pacheco,
University of the West Indies

A significant challenge that has emerged as Caribbean economies attempt to transition toward more knowledge-intensive development is the shortage of skilled human capital. This paper examines how Caribbean island states can leverage the expertise and knowledge of their diasporas via Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) to transform the non-tourism services sector within the region. ICT is identified as a critical component of a developmental model that allows service firms, located in the home countries, to tap into diaspora networks and access the human resources required to unlock the sector's potential. ICT therefore provides a novel way to reverse the effects of 'brain drain' and convert it into a 'brain gain' without requiring members of the diaspora to physically return to the home country. Linking diaspora networks with an evolving service sector thus represents an urgent policy agenda as regional governments strive to achieve their sustainable development goals.

Keywords: diaspora networks, non-tourism services, brain drain, development strategy

Legal transplants to help smaller states protect their population and identity
Danny Pieters, Leuven University

The Institute of Comparative Law of the Law School of the KU Leuven is undertaking a vast research project on how small states use legal transplants to fulfill their duty to protect population and identity. The resources of small states to operate a complete legal system are limited. Still also the small states are to fulfill tasks similar to those of larger and more resourceful states. This goes in particular for the need to create and enforce law providing:
• Social protection
• Protection of the environment
• Protection of cultural heritage/national language
• Protection of internal security (safety)

In these four areas legislation is usually the most important source of law, case law only supplementing what statutes and regulations establish. Yet the question is how do parliaments, governments (or possibly other legislators) of these small states legislate in a state-of-the-art way in all these areas, where highly technical and rapidly changing realities require prompt and adequate legislation? Very often legislators will look for solutions to other countries and take over pieces of legislation of these other countries, possibly 'customizing' them to the national realities. The research project about which we are presenting is in its initial stage; active participation will allow us to discuss methodology and establish cooperation with experts coming from the concerned small jurisdictions and academic research centres specializing in small states.

Keywords: Legal transplants, statutory law; social, environmental, heritage, and security protection

2A ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT I

Creating social impact in small island communities through social entrepreneurship
Edward Erasmus, University of Aruba

The rapid rise in the number of social enterprises worldwide has led to a new business sector which is increasingly making an impact in its pursuit of social objectives. Social entrepreneurship is becoming more and more popular and people in Aruba are becoming curious about this business concept. Contrary to purely 'profit-seeking' businesses, social enterprises offer an alternative business model that focuses on helping community, being financially feasible, while also maintaining organizations' clearly stated social or environmental missions.

But what does the concept of social entrepreneurship have to offer small islands like Aruba and how can we assess and measure their social impact? This paper/presentation aims to shed some light on the variety of innovative ways that social enterprises can generate significant impact in small island communities.

Keywords: social entrepreneurship, social impact, entrepreneurship, social change

2B GOOD GOVERNANCE AND GOVERNMENTALITY

Narratives of Bahamian civil society: Stories of resilience and challenge
Kim Williams-Pulfer, Indiana University

Many scholars and multilateral organizations cite problems related to governance in the Global South such as a lack of full democratic participation, inclusion, peace and security, equality, and environmental sustainability. Furthermore, they urge that the development of a strong and robust civil society is a relevant space for the enhancement of the democratic futures of the Global South. However, there are criticisms that such calls for civil society enhancements are vague and fail to account for local and cultural specificity.

This paper focuses on the significance on Caribbean civil society as a critical site for improving levels of inclusive social advancement. Through acknowledging the cultural traditions in the Caribbean that have shaped civil society, along with a renewed focus on increasing the material capacity of civil society, this paper highlights the challenges, restraints, and opportunities faced by civil society via in-depth interviews and document analysis of twenty-seven civil society leaders in the Bahamas using narrative methodology. Finally, this paper also focuses on the significant role of black and middle-class identities within Caribbean civil society.

Keywords: civil society, leadership, Bahamas, Caribbean, cultural identity, postcolonial

The governance arena of supreme audit institutions of subnational island jurisdictions within the Dutch Kingdom in the 21st century
Lay Hing de Kort-Yee, Court of Audit of Aruba

Governance in sustainable development is an important precondition to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16. Supreme Audit Institutions, as an independent institution in the public sector, is an important player in the promotion of sustainability and good governance in Small Island States. It can be argued that good governance is subject to the critical condition and system within which such institutions operate. This research involves the exploration of the governance conditions of Supreme Audit Institutions in Aruba, Curaçao, and Saint Martin, as Subnational Island Jurisdictions within the Dutch Kingdom. It is carried out through an examination of Worldwide Good Governance principles (indicators) and critical condition factors of the government arena, such as civil society, political society, government, bureaucracy, economic society, and the judiciary, with specific emphasis on 21st-century developments. The results highlight the differences and similarities of three islands under the same Sovereignty, based on relevant stakeholder views and input-output models of the system.

Keywords: governance, audit, public sector

2B GOOD GOVERNANCE AND GOVERNMENTALITY

Australia's Pacific Solution: Its evolution and maintenance from a governmentality perspective
Catherine Gallant,
University of Prince Edward Island

With an increasing number of asylum-seekers arriving at Australia by boat or being intercepted at sea, Prime Minister John Howard's Coalition Government instituted the Pacific Solution in 2001. The Pacific Solution policy included an agreement with Nauru and Papua New Guinea's Manus Island which would see all asylum-seekers arriving at or near Australia by boat being transported to one of these Islands where they would be held in detention centres until their refugee claims were processed. In 2013, the Rudd Labor Government introduced a new version of the Pacific Solution known as the Regional Settlement Agreement (RSA), which significantly increased the repercussions for Nauru and Papua New Guinea, as it stipulated that all asylum-seekers who were found to be refugees would be settled in either Nauru or Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea and Nauru have become impoverished states since independence and are currently dependent upon Australia for aid. This paper explores the evolution and maintenance of the Pacific Solution using the governmentality approach first introduced by Michel Foucault. This approach allows for insights into the tactics, strategies, and techniques utilized by Australia regarding the refugee issue and explores the power relations between and among these three Islands which has allowed the Australian Government to accomplish its goals.

Keywords: asylum, detention, governmentality, offshore processing

Deconstructing the good governance agenda
Geneve Phillip-Durham,
University of the West Indies

This paper deconstructs the notion of good governance as an institutionalized policy agenda. Using the World Bank and by extension the Worldwide Governance Indicators as a frame of reference, we argue that the quantitative exercise of ranking states annually based on their ability to uphold institutionalized governance principles and norms may be considered to be insufficient for explaining trends and patterns in the general governance environment of any jurisdiction. We therefore deconstruct the espousal of the World Bank's good governance agenda because we consider the ranking of states to be a subjective exercise, which involves the reinforcement of dominant ideas and beliefs about governance practices in the embodiment of the WGI. Due to the role the WGI plays in shaping global public opinion on appropriate governance standards, we believe it may offer insightful structural explanations about the diffusion of universal ideas and norms in relation to small-island territories. We explore the latter assumption using the Caribbean Small Island Developing State Trinidad and Tobago and the subnational island jurisdictions Curaçao and Sint Maarten as our case studies. The study is anchored by a constructivist theoretical approach which is meant to facilitate the probing of how ideas about what constitutes good governance play out when guiding policy-making in different contexts.

Keywords: Caribbean, good governance, ideas, norms, SIDS, SNIJs

2C CONSTRUCTING ISLAND IDENTITIES: CULTURAL CAPITAL

The audio-visual industries as national development strategy in Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean
Emiel Martens, Erasmus University Rotterdam

The purpose of this paper is to consider the promotion of the audio-visual industries as a means of development in Caribbean Small Island Development States. Particularly since the 2000s, the importance of the audio-visual industries as a national development strategy by which SIDS can grow and diversify their economies has been emphasized in global politics, national policies, and the local public sphere. However, this strategy largely seems to dismiss the erratic movements of the international film industry, the structural inequalities of the creative industries, and the specific vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States. Although many governments of such states have identified the audio-visual industries as a priority policy concern, the perceived impacts remain uncertain, and even doubtful, in the light of uneven development and global competitiveness. This gives rise to the research question of this paper: which opportunities and challenges can be identified in the state promotion of the audio-visual industries in Caribbean Small Island Development States? In order to answer this question, this paper evaluates the policy discourse and practice of the audio-visual industries in five Caribbean SIDS (Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, Puerto Rico, and the Cayman Islands) through policy document analysis, archival newspaper research, and industry expert interviews.

Keywords: audio-visual industries, national development, film commissions, Caribbean SIDS

Exploring multi-institutional collaboration to strengthen small island mediascapes
Birgit Kreykenbohm and Renske Pin, University of Aruba

In the autonomous countries in the Dutch Caribbean, media and academic institutions are part and parcel of the postcolonial and developing democratic social 'architecture'. Research on the Curaçaoan and Aruban media landscapes shows that media and journalism cannot fulfill their traditional 'watchdog' role. This paper explores a dynamic fusion between academic research and journalistic storytelling to further develop resilient small-island mediascapes. Previous experiences with small islands' media research, journalistic capacity building, and media development led to a creative qualitative assessment called the Media Pressure Cooker Marathon, an intensive three-day event, which included multiple media and academic institutions, disciplines, professionals, and work forms. The project resulted in tangible products like a digital knowledge platform, successful dialogues, and increased expertise and understanding among and between participants, while simultaneously advancing the media literacy of Aruban citizens, government, politics, and commercial parties, and highlighting media's contribution to the functioning of democracy.

Keywords: multi-institutional collaboration, resilient media landscapes, strengthening democracy

2C CONSTRUCTING ISLAND IDENTITIES: CULTURAL CAPITAL

An archipelago of cultural creativity:
The Belep Islands of New Caledonia
Lara Giordana, Università di Torino

Forgotten in tourist routes (and maps), the Belep Islands are situated in the extreme northwest of New Caledonia and suffer a persistent marginality with regard to the main island of Grande Terre. This is the effect of a process of colonization started more than 150 years ago. Reducing social, ritual, political, and economic relations among the Belep Islands and with the rest of New Caledonia, the process of colonization produced a progressive marginalization of Belep islanders and transformed them into island peripheries, or "islands of islands." Recently, the term "Désenclavement" (or "opening up") has been used in many political speeches expressed in Belep or concerning Belep, and has quickly entered everyday language. As such, the Belep islanders long for an end to their isolation and stronger relationships with the other islands of New Caledonia and other Pacific Islands. The term also refers to an opening up of the interior of the small archipelago and an attempt to revive the ancient connections with "ancestral lands," reformulating them through community projects to develop new permanent settlements. The focus of this paper is to analyse the processes and practices of cultural creativity that contribute to (re)shape and expand the life-space of people in the Belep Islands.

Keywords: cultural creativity, multi-residence, mobility, life-space

3A INDEPENDENCE/DECOLONIZATION

Imagining an archipelagic, decolonial future for Puerto Rico
Beatriz Llenín-Figueroa,
Universidad de Puerto Rico

Today, non-sovereign Puerto Rico faces a brutal humanitarian, social, economic, political, and cultural 'crisis'. Puerto Rico's status as a colony ('territory') of the United States has allowed the implementation of the PROMESA law, which has made the US-appointed Fiscal Oversight and Management Board (FOMB) the de facto government, working alongside the local pro-statehood party, which is 'in power'. To the burden of neoliberal capitalism and its undemocratic policies pushed by the FOMB, one must add the recent, ineffable devastation wrought throughout the archipelago by Hurricane María. All of these factors have enabled an unprecedented acceleration of social inequality, economic exploitation, indirectly forced migration, and political turmoil. My paper, which is part of a larger book project considering several other angles of the Puerto Rican situation, seeks to respond to this dire scenario by imagining what a 21st-century decolonial and archipelagic future might look like for Puerto Rico. Specifically, the paper examines the extent to which full sovereignty could be achieved for Puerto Rico through an archipelagic association by comparatively examining the strengths and limitations of CARICOM in the Caribbean and the Archipelagic State of Indonesia.

Keywords: Puerto Rico, archipelagic associations, decolonization, sovereignty

Challenges to self-determination in the Western Caribbean: The case of the Raizal people of the archipelago of San Andres, Providence, and Santa Catalina
Lodesca Livingston, Dependency Study Project

The native Raizal people of the Archipelago of San Andres, Providence, and Santa Catalina in the Western Caribbean have long engaged in a process to achieve full political equality and democratic governance in their prevailing political relationship with the State of Colombia. This engagement with the state has taken a number of forms over the decades, including various consultative mechanisms aimed at redefining the current political and constitutional arrangements. A recent proposed statute was designed to ensure the recognition by the state of the political, economic, and social rights of the Raizal people.

This paper analyzes the key elements of the proposed Raizal statute, including issues of political representation, areas of envisaged devolution of power and control of natural resources; and outlines some of the key challenges to the realization of the statute.

Keywords: self-determination, political equality, political equality, democratic governance

3A INDEPENDENCE/DECOLONIZATION

Managing the island territory: An historical perspective on Corsica and Sardinia
Marcel August Farinelli,
Università di Corsica Pasquale Paoli

Corsica and Sardinia are two Mediterranean islands separated by a strait that, at its narrowest point, is 13 km wide. Both islands share many features, including a problematic relationship with their continental states from which they obtained the status of SNIJ (Sardinia in 1948; Corsica in 1982).

The association with the actual continental state produced centripetal tensions from the outset. Such tensions led to the formation, during the 20th century, of nationalist movements, claiming autonomy or independence. But Corsican and Sardinian nationalism have different characteristics: while the former is more ethnic and was engaged until recently in an armed struggle against France, the latter avoided the use of political violence. While Corsica is governed by a coalition of Nationalists, Sardinia's government is controlled by a centre-right coalition, in which Sardinian Nationalists are allied with Italian forces. Corsican Nationalist parties avoid alliances with French parties; Sardinians do not.

The reasons for such differences lay in how France and Italy managed the integration of these territories in the Nation-State, in how they dealt with the island territories and the autonomy granted to them. This paper discusses how these approaches to governance produced such differences, comparing the evolution of the political and administrative relationship of Italy and France with the island territories, from an historical/political/cultural perspective.

Keywords: islandness, subnational island jusrisdiction, nationalism, nation-building, Mediterranean

'Nationals', but not nationalists? The fevelopment of nationalist femands in American Samoa and Puerto Rico
Valérie Vézina, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

In order to study the specificity of "nations without states" (Guibernau, 2007, 2013) in island settings, a framework of island nationalism has recently been developed (Fazi, 2012; Hepburn 2012, 2010; Vézina, 2016, 2018) where four interrelated factors (territorial, political, economic, and cultural) intersect in order to frame nationalist demands. In previous works (Vézina, 2014, 2016, 2018; Lecours & Vézina, 2018), I have analyzed the specific case of Puerto Rico, an unincorporated territory of the United States. For this presentation, I am interested in looking at the various paths taken by two American island territories: American Samoa and Puerto Rico. American Samoans are not citizens of the United States, they are 'nationals', a status that can only be changed through a naturalization process by residing in the US for at least three months, by passing a test in English and civics, and by taking an oath of allegiance to the United States. Puerto Ricans, on the contrary, are US citizens and have the same rights as any American once they move on the 'mainland'. Nevertheless, despite this initial difference, there have been very few attempts by American Samoans to change or alter their status and nationalist demands are not overly expressed, whereas in Puerto Rico, four plebiscites on the status question took place. Which factors contributed to the expression of nationalist demands in Puerto Rico that are missing in American Samoa? Why has American Samoa not seek a change in political status? This presentation tries to provide answers to those questions.

Keywords: nationalism, islandness, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, American territories

3B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT II

The circular economy in the Caribbean: Implications for the banking sector
Winston Dookeran and Preeya Mohan, University of the West Indies

The industrial revolution led to technological advances within a linear 'take, make and dispose' model of production, where the majority of feedstock ends in waste, and creates unsustainable side effects. Moreover, the planet currently faces challenges of increasingly constrained resources adding to price volatility of raw materials, and increasingly demanding markets. This requires a movement away from survivability to sustainability and a new economic paradigm of 'reduce, reuse and recycle'. The concept of the circular economy is new thinking on development strategy and aims to present solutions by combining economic growth with social and environmental impact. It enables industry to grow and prosper while keeping the environment and society intact, ensuring growth for current and future generations. The concept can be applied to operating systems in different sectors and is acknowledged as an area on the frontiers of economic analysis to provide prescriptions. The objective of this paper is to identify implications of the circular economy for Caribbean development, to identify processes that may be pursued for implementation of the circular economy in the Caribbean, and to investigate challenges and opportunities the circular economy presents on the banking sector in the Caribbean.

Keywords: circular economy, banking

Arthur Lewis and the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Caribbean SIDS: An assessment
Rendell de Kort, Cornerstone Economics

Nobel laureate Sir. Arthur Lewis from St. Lucia became the first person of African descent to win the Nobel Prize in Economics. He proposed the two-sector economy theory in which he showed that by moving labour from the agricultural sector to the industrial sector and using the resulting profits to expand industrial production, a country can be transitioned from a developing to a developed economy.

In the Fourth Industrial Revolution, machines and artificial intelligence play a significant role in enhancing productivity and wealth creation. We apply Lewis's theory and define the limits in this current context for Caribbean Small Island Development States. The economy is divided into two parts; the fourth industrial revolution sector and the traditional dominating industries (services and agriculture). This paper reviews this landscape and asks what theoretical or policy relevance the Lewis model retains for today's SIDS in the context of the fourth industrial revolution.

Keywords: Fourth industrial revolution, Arthur Lewis, development economics

3B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT II

Circular business and waste management in Aruba
Bauke Feenstra, University of Aruba

This presentation focuses on possibilities and obstacles for Circular Economy in the waste management sector in Aruba. As an introduction, we describe the Aruban (tourist) economy and the consequences of its SI(D)S and SNIJs characteristics for the local waste management and recycling sector, including the legal framework for waste management and the present situation of legal and illegal dumping.

We define some central concepts within the field of Circular Economy, such as the Value Hill and the Ladder of Lansink (the Waste Hierarchy) and present a conceptual model for research on Circular Economy and its applications within the Aruban waste management and recycling sector and its context, in particular financial institutions.

Finally, based on a multiple case study, three questions are answered:
1) What are effective business models and circular strategies for local companies in waste management in Aruba as a SI(D)S/SNIJ?
2) Governance, chain collaboration, and external financing as options for effective CE waste management in Aruba as a SI(D)S/SNIJ?
3) What are perspectives and limitations for Circular economy in Aruba concerning scale, finance, public governance, expertise, and awareness?

Keywords: circular economy, waste management, recycling, external financing

3C CONSTRUCTING ISLAND IDENTITIES: 'CARIBBEANNESS'

Aruban traditional churches and their shifting role in public service provision
Helmut Vink, University of Aruba

As Aruba became a Spanish colony at the end of the 15th century, Spanish clergy introduced Roman Catholicism. About 1780, almost 145 years after the Dutch West India Company took power, Protestantism followed when immigrants from the nearby island of Curaçao settled on Aruba. In the course of history, both the Roman Catholic and the Protestant churches have become influential actors in Aruba's society, including taking significant responsibility for the provision of care, welfare, and education during the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries. During the latter half of the 20th century, their place in providing societal services has been largely taken over by the government and different NGOs. The researcher describes in headlines the history of both churches on Aruba. Using an extensive literature review and interviews, this paper explains the decline in the contribution of the church system to the provision of public services on Aruba.

Keywords: Aruban churches, role of the church in civil society

Between regional invisibility and daily vulnerability: The construction of a Raizal heritage on San Andres Island (Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence & Saint Kathleen, Colombia)
Morgane Le Guyader, Université des Antilles

Although San Andres island has been part of Colombia since the beginning of the 19th century, this island society is historically linked to the Great Caribbean and is characterized by its political and socio-cultural proximity with Jamaica, the Miskito coast, and the Cayman Islands. The Raizal identity discourse emerged in the second half of the 20th century in the context of massive increases in tourism and an emigration stream from the Colombian mainland. Both factors have contributed to an increase in the marginalization of the Raizal people. This paper analyses the Raizal heritage dynamics and obstacles, focusing on the gaps between the realities of the daily life of the insular people and a heritage which might be described as transnational or even 'transcaribbean'.

Keywords: San Andres Island, Raizal heritage, vulnerability, transnationalism

3C CONSTRUCTING ISLAND IDENTITIES: 'CARIBBEANNESS'

**The narratives of institutions in small islands
with an emphasis on Aruba**
Artwell Cain, University of Aruba

This paper presents the incentive, the approach, and some findings of a study conducted in late 2018 and early 2019 relating to museums, monuments, and their stories on Aruba. The study is actually one aspect of a larger Caribbean cultural heritage project that encompasses research work on three Caribbean islands: Bonaire, Curaçao, and Aruba plus the Netherlands. A larger Traveling Caribbean Heritage (TCH) team of scholars is assigned and responsible for setting up and carrying out research in their respective chosen spaces. My particular study is based on engaging the voices within the museums and monuments and getting to grips with the story they employed during the start-up stages of their respective institutions, the stories they are using at present, plus the narratives they have constructed for the future of their institutions. In addition, the intention is to engage a number of (potential) visitors to these institutions and have a conversation concerning their relationship with said institutions and what this has meant to their own sense of Caribbeanness.

Keywords: museums, monuments, education, stories, cultural heritage

3D SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) AND SIDS

Sustainable development policies and strategies in Guadeloupe and Martinique: A focus on the social and human dimension
Loïza Rauzduel, Université des Antilles

The French departments of Guadeloupe and Martinique have long been on a path towards sustainable development. However, they both still face serious challenges, among which a high dependency vis-à-vis a few economic sectors, high levels of unemployment, and other social inequalities.

Several UN SDGs target various aspects of the social and human components of sustainable development. While protecting the environment is of the utmost importance, human well-being, decent work, and access to clean air and water are equally critical.

In the mid-1940s, the lack of social justice in Guadeloupe and Martinique was at the root of the quest for a new status, directed towards mainland France. Decades later, the Human Development Index or unemployment rates, among other available data, show that they still lag behind, at a nationwide scale.

Therefore, have certain aspects of sustainable development been prioritized, to the detriment of its social dimension? Before addressing this, we may need to consider whether the two French SNIJs have been actors and/or merely spectators of their own development, and the extent to which their latitude regarding the design of their own development strategies has impacted their development to date.

Keywords: Guadeloupe, Martinique, sustainable development, social and human development

Can the Caribbean live within the Doughnut? Assessing the social and environmental performance of 5 island nations
Simron Singh, University of Waterloo

This paper adopts the Planetary Boundary (PB) and Safe and Just Space (SJS) frameworks to assess social and environmental performance of five Caribbean nations: Trinidad & Tobago, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti, and Cuba. Johan Rockstrom and colleagues first proposed the Planetary Boundaries (PB) framework in 2009, where they identified the urgency to remain within 9 biophysical planetary boundaries if humanity must continue to thrive. On the other hand, the authors claim, crossing these boundaries would significantly risk our own survival and cause large-scale abrupt or irreversible environmental changes. In 2012, Kate Raworth included a social dimension to this framework and called it the Safe and Just Space (SJS) where humanity must not only remain within biophysical thresholds, but, as part of the sustainability mandate, also aspire to achieve quality of life where no one is left behind. In other words, how can humanity achieve an acceptable quality of life at the lowest environmental costs, or "can we live within the Doughnut?" Since then, these frameworks have generated significant interest within science and policy. This paper – the first such study to do so – presents the planetary boundary framework and the results using the SJS framework for 5 Caribbean nations. We calculate 11 social and 7 environmental indicators and assess the performances of these cases for sustainability by interpreting their contextualized interactions, and highlight what it takes for these countries to live within the doughnut.

Keywords: social and environmental performance, island sustainability, planetary boundaries, safe and just space for humanity

3D SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) AND SIDS

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: A case for good governance for SIDS
Jocelyne Croes, SDG National Commission, Government of Aruba

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face intrinsic socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities. Adapting to these vulnerabilities and a rapidly changing world led by technological advancements and innovation require the creation of the necessary conditions and concerted action at the national and international level that can guarantee inclusive and sustainable development. This will require the creation of strong democratic institutions and the capacity of the political systems to develop strong coherent policies that are in the interest of the majority, which can be a challenge in young postcolonial democracies of many SIDS, where these intrinsic vulnerabilities and smallness of scale pose extra challenges.

The United Nations Development Agenda and Sustainable Development (SDGs) adopted in 2015 as a whole provide a framework that offers a new way of looking at policy. Is there an added value for SIDS in adopting the SDG framework as a means of fostering stronger institutions and good governance for a more inclusive and sustainable development?

Keywords: SDGs, UN Development Agenda, SIDS, governance, sustainable development

Nature2SDGs: A practical toolkit to mainstream ecosystem services in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in SIDS: An application in Aruba
Francielle Laclé and Elena Palacios Nieto, Yabi and Wolfs Company

Aruba is a Dutch Caribbean island highly dependent on its coastal and marine ecosystems for its economic and social well-being. As in many other island contexts where this dependency is crucial, the linkages between the benefits provided by nature (or ecosystem services) and sustainable development are still poorly recognized and integrated in policy-making. To address this, the government of Aruba has developed a participatory approach to analyze the importance of nature for the achievement of SDGs and communicates the results through a data index and dashboard. The dashboard aims to inform investment or policy decisions on Aruba 2030 roadmap – selected 'SDG accelerators' – i.e., catalytic measures whose implementation can directly address multiple development priorities and have a multiplier effect across the SDGs. This paper discusses this approach and shows how the outcomes may be adapted to assist other Small Island Developing States and Subnational Island Jurisdictions.

Keywords: SIDS, Aruba, ecosystem services, SDGs, decision-making toolkit

4A IRMA AND MARIA: REFLECTIONS ON RECOVERY ANDRECONSTRUCTION

IRMA AND MARIA: REFLECTIONS ON RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION
Roundtable hosted by **Peter Clegg**

with Senator Allison DeGazon (US Virgin Islands), Beatriz Llenin-Figueroa (Puerto Rico), Arjen Alberts (Sint Maarten), Arno Boersma (Centre of Excellence for the Sustainable Development of SIDS) and others

This roundtable offers the opportunity for delegates to come together to talk about the impact of the two hurricanes and what has happened since. The roundtable opens with a few short presentations identifying some key issues that might help shape subsequent discussion. The aim of the session is to provide a cross-island and interdisciplinary assessment of recovery and reconstruction, drawing on both personal testimony and academic research. Hopefully the session will roam far and wide to consider issues relating to climate change, international aid policy, NGO engagement, regional cooperation, relations with the metropole, health care, corruption, and sustainability.

4B INDEPENDENCE/DECOLONIZATION: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Prospering beyond dependency
Azell Francis, Viveka Jackson,
and Nadia Mohammed,
Georgia Institute of Technology

Historically, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have shared a metropole and periphery relationship with developed nations thereby creating specific institutional structures. North defines institutions as the rules of the game in a society and highlighted that these humanly devised constraints can be both formal (constitution, law, property rights) and informal (sanctions, customs, taboos). Building upon North's conceptualization of institutions, Acemoglu and Robinson identified two types of institutions, extractive and inclusive. This research focuses primarily on extractive institutions, as these are more commonly found in SIDS. Utilizing a comparative case study methodology within the Caribbean region, this oral presentation examineS the role of extractive institutions within the context of energy and sustainability, being mindful to distinguish between institutions (the 'rules of the game') and organizations (the 'players'). We attempt to map the development trajectory of these islands, while offering innovative policy recommendations to prosper beyond dependency.

Keywords: dependency, development, energy, sustainability, globalization, institutions, SIDS

Theorizing external action of French overseas territories : Between paradiplomacy and multi-level diplomacy
Joris Sylvie, Université des Antilles

Two theories stand in opposition concerning the external action of sub-state entities. The paradiplomacy of Duchacek and Soldatos, which implies a differentiation and autonomy vis-à-vis the foreign policy of the State, and the multi-level diplomacy of Hocking, which believes that the international capabilities of sub-state entities are part of state diplomatic apparatus and respond, according to the situation, to the needs of the State.

In our view, these two models constitute two extremes to which certain entities can be assimilated, but not others that turn out to be in between. Among these are the French overseas territories whose external action is conditioned by the unitary and decentralized character of the French Republic.

French overseas territories can be ordered according to the degree of autonomy they possess in the conduct of their external activities. As close as possible to paradiplomacy, we find New Caledonia, whose possibilities are exceptional within the French Republic; and getting closer to the other extreme, territories like Martinique and Guadeloupe (and others). The purpose of this work and this presentation is to determine a model of the external action for each territory or group of territories that best describes the situation of these latter and names each of them so that they accurately reflect each situation.

Keywords: French Overseas Territories, autonomy, external relations

4B INDEPENDENCE/DECOLONIZATION: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Democratic deficiencies in dependency governance of small island territories
Carlyle Corbin, Dependency Studies Project

As the Third United Nations (UN) International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism approaches at the end of 2020, prospects are unfavourable for the completion of a genuine self-determination process and consequent decolonization for the seven remaining Non Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs) and other Peripheral Dependencies (PDs) in the Caribbean administered by extra-regional States. In the absence of progress, the resultant political vacuum has encouraged contemporary colonial powers to advocate for international legitimization of existent dependency arrangements consistent with their own geo-strategic and geo-economic interests, notwithstanding the political inequality inherent in these dependency governance models. The paper reviews the historical international decolonization mandate through an analysis of 1) the pre-decolonization period following the 1945 adoption of the United Nations (UN) Charter, 2) the decolonization acceleration period following the 1960 UN adoption of the landmark Decolonization Declaration, and 3) the decolonization deceleration period which emerged after the thawing of the Cold War at the beginning of the 1990s through present day.

Accordingly, the paper examines the political stalemate which has stalled the decolonization process in the Caribbean, reviews the UN's role in this impasse, and explores key self-governance deficiencies in Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) through the application of recognized Self-Governance Indicators (SGIs) used in independent governance assessments of the remaining dependency arrangements.

Keywords: governance, decolonization, self-determination, United Nations, globalization, sovereignty

It's the demography, stupid. Twenty years on from *The Last Colonies.*
John Connell, University of Sydney

In this century, 'decolonization' of what are no longer referred to as colonies has failed to occur – the New Caledonian referendum providing a recent example. Since our overview (Aldrich and Connell, *The Last Colonies*, Cambridge, 1998), the ties that bind have been restructured and loosened. Overseas territories have (usually) gained greater autonomy, while benefiting from colonial and increasingly regional connections: part of a more global destiny. One of the least discussed elements of this transition has been the changing social demography of overseas territories, where there have significant changes associated with migration, remittances, urbanization and identity, all linked to economic development. Such changes have played a significant role in political stability.

Keywords: decolonization, New Caledonia, overseas territories, *The Last Colonies*

4C EDUCATION: THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS IN CREATING SUSTAINABLE ISLANDS

Building bridges between islands of sustainable development knowledge
Arno Boersma,
UNDP's Centre of Excellence for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Islands are facing outsized, existential challenges with undersized resources and capacity. Across the globe, their common challenges – regarding renewable energy, food security, brain drains, economic diversification, waste management, to name a few – make knowledge-sharing between them a must. If there was ever a group of countries that could benefit from knowledge flows, it is the group of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). They can help each other, as well as be living labs for other countries: if islands can address these challenges despite their restricted context, their solutions can inspire others.
This presentation addresses opportunities and challenges of knowledge flows between islands based on various island-related knowledge initiatives, including the UNDP's Centre of Excellence for SIDS. It explores how we can build better bridges of knowledge between islands to support their sustainable development.

Keywords: knowledge management, Small Island Developing States, sustainable development

Think Different. DO Change.
Bonnie Benesh and Michael Willem,
Think To DO Institute

By definition, resilient societies design, redesign organizations, institutions, and systems to better absorb disruption; operate under a wide variety of conditions; and shift more fluently from one circumstance to the next. The Think To DO Institute uses resiliency research as the point of departure for its work (i.e., how resilience is created by attention to people), organization (social and economic systems), place (infrastructure and ecosystems), and knowledge (evidence-based decision-making). Empirical evidence across the literature about Resilient Societies suggests that societies that exhibit particular qualities or characteristics are more likely to be resilient. By engaging with the research and translating it into practice, the intended outcome is the desire of most nations: to influence decision-makers to create the best society for all of its citizens to live, work, and play.

The institute is researching the impact of 'island mindset' on the ability to create the conditions of resilience. Two specific research projects are related to 1. Governance: As small island nations develop their identity and shift toward self-governance, what governance structures and governance practices best empower small island nations to develop, and how does 'island mindset' impact the development? 2. Education, Formation/Mindset: With the global lynchpin on resilient communities, what are the most effective approaches to education and formation that lead to the development of resilient global citizens, coming from a society that is divided along ethnic, religious, and linguistic lines?

Keywords: resilient societies, 4th Industrial Revolution

4C EDUCATION: THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS IN CREATING SUSTAINABLE ISLANDS

Small island jurisdictions and Observer status in the Arctic Council?
Zhannah Voukitchevitch, University of Ottawa

Small Island Developing States/Subnational Island Jurisdictions and the Arctic region share the hospitality ethos rooted in their maritime identities, as well as historical experiences of colonization and exploitation. They also share an emphasis on some of the same sustainable development goals as well as some characteristics which make them particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Their destinies are tied; for example, southern island shores are affected whenever an iceberg melts in the Arctic. While France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom all have Observer status in the Arctic Council, their respective subnational island jurisdictions are, potentially, better positioned to benefit from the institutional association with the Arctic than the metropole states and other sovereign island states. This paper argues for a more coherent and an enhanced engagement of SIDS and SNIJs with the Arctic region by exploring the international legal aspects of their hypothetical application for the Observer status in the Arctic Council.

Keywords: Small Island Developing States, climate change, Arctic Council, international law

Research and higher education programs for sustainable development in small island states
Eric Mijts, University of Aruba

Small island states are subject to numerous threats due to their environmental, social, and economic vulnerability. The focus of attempts to build resilience to these threats is mostly externally oriented, based upon international technical and logistical support and consultancy. However, capacity building for internal resilience of these small island states is of great importance as well, if not even more important, as the creation of a critical mass of local higher educated experts that can create contextually relevant and locally accepted solutions will highly contribute to the resilience of these states.

In 2019, the University of Aruba starts new programs with the title Sustainable Island Solutions through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (SISSTEM). The programs will start off as a BA program, an MA program, and 12 PhD projects. The program stimulates the development of a critical mass of experts in a wide variety of fields that can critically address the vulnerabilities and developmental needs of small island states from an internal perspective, as well as contextualize solutions and create new industries. In doing so, the SISSTEM project contributes to the diversification of the Aruban economy.

In this contribution, the authors present the rationale behind the project and the program outlines, as well as the way in which the programs will contribute to sustainable development in small island states.

Keywords: STEM sustainable development education research

5A DISASTER CAPITALISM

Islands and disaster capitalism: Is the focus on island vulnerabilities enough?
Rachel Dodds, Kelly-Ann Wright, and Ilan Kelman, Ryerson University

Around the world, disasters continue to cause significant disruption to lives and livelihoods, with islands often being stated as being more vulnerable to disasters. While many island characteristics are seen as augmenting root causes of vulnerabilities, many of the same characteristics also provide ways of reducing vulnerability and dealing with disasters. Similarly, around the world, disasters are also frequently used as opportunities for exploitation and land grabs for non locals' economic gain (Cohen, 2011; Klein, 2005; Timms, 2011) while too much emphasis is typically placed on climate change rather than the true cause of disasters being vulnerabilities (Kelman, 2015 & 2017). This paper explores a number of different island disasters and outlines how disaster capitalism is in play. It examines whether there is more at risk than just vulnerability of islands from a sustainable livelihoods point of view and how separating climate change adaptation from other activities supports disaster capitalism. Particular focus is on the recent disaster and land grabs in Barbuda.

Keywords: island vulnerability, disaster capitalism, climate change, adaptation, Barbuda

A material vulnerability account of building services in Grenada from a spatial perspective
Kristen de Kroon, University of Waterloo

Small island nations are some of the most climate-vulnerable nations exposed to the intensity and frequency of natural disasters, which cause disproportionately high economic, social and environmental impacts. The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season alone is estimated to have cost over US $200 billion in damages, as storms Harvey, Irma, and Maria rendered buildings and critical infrastructure stocks unusable in parts of the Caribbean. Damages to buildings and infrastructure (or material stocks) result in immediate loss of critical services and the accumulation of a large volume of debris. Accounting for current building and infrastructure can assist planners and policy makers to promote sustainable city cycles, where damaged home materials become recycled into new infrastructure instead of using mass amounts of virgin materials. This paper provides a framework for a material stock account for Grenada using a GIS approach, to gain insights into opportunities for reducing vulnerabilities in existing infrastructure. A GIS method was employed to estimate the building stocks and their associated services (educational, residential, etc) based on building footprint area, height data, building typologies, and material composition during a 2014 'snapshot' in time. Examining building stocks from a spatial perspective is important for applications in planning and decoupling resource flows. There is potential to apply the methodological approach described in this paper to other small island countries, especially those vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change.

Keywords: material stock, GIS, sustainable city cycles, resource decoupling

5A DISASTER CAPITALISM

The Weight of the islands: "You can't manage what you can't measure."
Johnella Bradshaw, University of Waterloo

In the midst of growing climate threats, Small Island States (SIS) such as Antigua & Barbuda (A&B), have proven to be highly vulnerable to extreme weather events. As a result, it has evoked an urgency of resiliency amongst these island states, with special focus directed towards the built environment. During the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season, A&B experienced approximately US $222 million dollars' worth of damages and losses, with 95% of the houses destroyed in Barbuda. Undoubtedly, there is a need for policy-relevant insights to support a transition to resilient infrastructure, and the sustainable consumption and production of resources. The research focuses on material stocks and flows related to the tourism sector, which is the main economic driver for Antigua and Barbuda. Through adopting a GIS (geographic information system) methodology for mapping material stocks and a top-down account of material flow analysis from 2006 to 2017 for critical building materials, this research will assist in material recoverability post extreme weather events, influence disaster management planning, and provide insight to policy officials on resource use dynamics, through spatial planning.

Keywords: SIDS, tourism, Antigua & Barbuda, MFA, GIS

5B THE ARCHIPELAGO AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

France's island territories in the Southwest Indian Ocean: Success and challenges of this France of the Indian Ocean
Christian Bouchard, Laurentian University

France has three small subnational island territories in the Indian Ocean. La Réunion and Mayotte are overseas departments and regions of the French Republic, as well as European Union outermost regions, while the Scattered Islands (îles Éparses) constitute one of the five districts of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF). In these three SNIJs we find an interesting and complex mix of political processes such as national and European integration, local autonomy, regional integration, and France and EU pursuance of self-interests in the Southwest Indian Ocean. For La Réunion and Mayotte, being fully integrated to the French Republic and the European Union provides and secures a higher level of socioeconomic development that could be otherwise difficult to achieve. On the other hand, it also brings some challenges in terms of regional integration and regional cooperation, especially in the context of unresolved territorial disputes between France and island states neighbours, namely Comoros (about Mayotte), Mauritius and Madagascar (about the Scattered Islands). The case of the Scattered Islands is exceptional as they have no permanent population, are extremely tiny in terms of land area but have an EEZ area of some 640,000 km^2. Overall, it is argued that La Réunion and Mayotte have and are still largely beneficiating from their strong integration to the French Republic and the European Union, while their political status and the unresolved territorial disputes bring challenges for their better regional integration.

Keywords: France, Reunion, Mayotte, Scattered Islands, Southwest Indian Ocean

Insularity and regional autonomy in Europe
Carlos Amaral, University of the Azores

The presentation is anchored on the identification of the roles played by insularity in Europe at the political level. It explores the ways in which, within the context of the process of European integration – both in the Council of Europe and, afterwards, in that of the European Union – European islands have been able to materialize an outright revolution through the adoption of the principle of regional autonomy. Regional autonomy, it is argued, has allowed islands to overcome the condition of heteronomy to which they were historically relegated and to emerge as political entities in their own right – without prejudice of their integration in the respective mainland States and, correlatively, of their participation in the process of building Europe.

In this context, regional autonomy has been proving to be an instrument of political and economic emancipation through integration, translating into an effective alternative to both heteronomy and independence. Following the chartering and assessment of this process, and its exportation to the mainland regions of the continent in a process that threatens to culminate in the universalization of the phenomenon, the presentation concludes with a provisory overview of the contemporary renewed vigour of the ideas of sovereignty, independence, and statehood, particularly among the richer and more robust European regions. And, as presented during a recent initiative of the Council of Europe, the ideal of insular, and regional, self-government, threatens to degenerate into a reality of insular, and regional, selfish government.

Keywords: insularity, regionalism, autonomy, Europe

5B THE ARCHIPELAGO AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Centrifugal forces in four pairs of Pacific island jurisdictions: Wallis-Futuna, Rarotonga-Manihiki, Tahiti-Mangareva, Chuuk-Pohnpei
Gerard Prinsen, Massey University

This conference's call for papers speaks of "centrifugal tensions, especially in archipelagic jurisdictions". Such concerns about the fragility of the territorial integrity in archipelagos have occupied politicians and scholars since the early years of decolonization. In the Pacific, metropolitan powers sometimes succeeded in convincing islanders 'to stay together' as a newly independent state despite cultural, linguistic, or historical difference (e.g., Vanuatu). Elsewhere, colonial territory broke up into independent states (e.g., the Ellice Islands split off the colonial Gilbert and Ellice Islands and became independent Tuvalu). Of late, some of the peoples of archipelagos who remained one jurisdiction seem to have second thoughts (e.g., in 2015, Chuuk came close to a referendum on breaking away from the Federated States of Micronesia). In places where decolonization was not completed, metropoles were often left with overseas territories that seem desirous to break up in ever-smaller subnational jurisdictions (e.g., as with Futuna's Customary Council in 2015).

In 2017, Prinsen and Mawyer identified pairs of Pacific islands within a single jurisdiction – overseas territory or sovereign island state – that seemed to have a rivalrous relationship. In 2017 and 2018, local research associates interviewed purposively sampled people in four pairs of islands about their views and experiences regarding "the other island". These interviewees were opinion-leaders in their communities: customary leaders, elected politicians, religious leaders, business people, and teachers. This presentation highlights some patterns in the 73 interviews conducted in the pairs of islands listed in the title.

Keywords: archipelagos, inter-island rivalry

5C SUSTAINABLE ISLAND TOURISM

Examining the potential for sustainable tourism development in Savusavu, Fiij
Sonya Graci and Logan Van Vliet,
Ryerson University

Sustainability is imperative in island destinations as islands are especially vulnerable to the negative impacts of tourism. The very resources on which island tourism depends are the ones that tourism can deplete. This research is intended to build on the knowledge of sustainable tourism development specifically in small islands. The purpose of this study was to explore the potential for sustainable tourism development in Savusavu, Fiji.

Savusavu is a coastal town in Vanua Levu, the second largest island in Fiji and a popular tourism destination. It is known for its diving, tropical rainforests, Indigenous peoples, and climate. The success of the tourism industry and viability of the destination rely on the management of natural resources. This study explores the issues, barriers, and benefits to sustainable tourism development in Savusavu. A qualitative study was conducted in 2014 and 2016 and consisted of interviews with 51 stakeholders exploring the potential for sustainable tourism development. It determined that the issues facing Savusavu are related to waste and wastewater management and marine conservation. Barriers such as the lack of infrastructure, government support, and lack of education were discussed as impeding sustainable development. This study recommends an increase in stakeholder education and participation in tourism-related decisions in Savusavu. Implementing initiatives such as developing a sustainable tourism policy, eco-tax, and appointing an environmental coordinator can be a means to increase sustainable development.

Keywords: sustainable tourism, eco-tax, environmental instruments, islands

Tourism and anthropogenic climate Change in the Marquesas Islands, French Polynesia
Hilary Symes, Temple University

As Marquesans in French Polynesia face a warming Pacific Ocean, coral decline, and an increased likelihood of cyclones, discourses related to anthropogenic climate change have rapidly become a part of contemporary social life, challenging and remolding their senses of identity. Moreover, the islands have become an increasingly popular tourist destination, particularly for the metropolitan French. The significance of tourism combined with the ecological changes have rapidly shifted Marquesans' sense of self, particularly as demonstrated through indigenous material culture. While Marquesan "material culture" (Lévi-Strauss 1963) has been reclaimed and revalued by Marquesans and tourists alike, material production processes have contributed to the destruction of the ecological environment and depletion of local resources. Simultaneously, anthropogenic climate change has resulted in reduced yields for locally sourced raw materials integral to the continuation of these industries.

This research draws on ethnographic observations, semi-structured interviews, and PhotoVoice interviews on the islands of Nuku Hiva, Fatu Hiva, Hiva Oa, and Tahuata with individuals involved in two industries integral to the tourist art market: barkcloth production and wood-carving. These products thus "index" (Gell 2002) the changing ecologies and economies of the Marquesas Islands as well as how islanders are negotiating the rapid transformation of their environment, their livelihoods, and their sense of place. I argue that art-making in the Marquesas is inherently a political act; it renders the self, both communal and individual, in a socio-political environment that otherwise seeks to unmake it.

Keywords: climate, tourism, French Polynesia, art

5C SUSTAINABLE ISLAND TOURISM

Aruba and Sint Maarten: SNIJs that became Small Island Tourism Economies, by accident or by plan?
Arjen Alberts, Ministry of Health, Social Development and Labor, Sint Maarten

Over the course of more than five decades, Aruba as well as Sint Maarten have moved along a 'Small Island Tourism Economy' (SITE) development path with an intensity like few other Subnational Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs) or Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the world, including the other four islands in the Caribbean that are part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Based on some 40 interviews with decision-makers and important stakeholders, past and present, on both islands, as well as a review of grey literature such as government plans and policy documents, publications by NGOs and a sparse collection of academic publications, this paper addresses three questions. The first is whether the SITE development path was the result of planning on the island level between public and private actors, at the level of either the former Netherlands Antilles, or at the Kingdom level. The paper finds elements of planning as well as 'laissez-faire' that set the two islands apart from other jurisdictions in the region, and often conflicting roles between the different levels within the Kingdom. The second is what role the constitutional status of both islands played or still plays in the 'success' of the SITE development of both jurisdictions. The third question pertains to the sustainability of the SITE path for these two islands. How does governance cope with the inherent limits of their carrying capacities? Efforts at planning for the limits to their carrying capacity have been undertaken on both islands, but have not yet led to significant modification of their development paths.

Keywords: Aruba, Sint Maarten, SITE development

5D CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Turning up the volume on 'island her-stories': Exploring gender mainstreaming potentials in resource management and climate policies in the FSM
Anne McDonald and Bertha Reyuw,
Sophia University

UNFCCC COP 23 is often remembered as the 'Islands COP'. Under the Fijian Presidency island nations' voices reverberated in their call to accelerate the Paris Agreement implementation. Another voice also reverberated – that of women, with the adoption of the first ever UNFCCC Gender Action Plan. Now the gaps need to be filled in policy in order to mainstream gender into climate policy, particularly in island nations on the frontline of climate change. This presentation shares the stories of women farmers and fishers from the four states that make up the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). By turning up the volume on their stories, it aims to explore environmental and resource use and management policy and tools in the FSM, and to gain new perspectives on gender and cultural identity when considering resource management approaches and integrative policy potentials. It also considers the interlinkages of i) culture, nature views, environmental awareness, and resource management practices, and ii) climate change adaptation policies and biodiversity management policies in island communities.

Keywords: gender, resource management, climate change, adaptation, vulnerability, resilience

Facilitating the development of Inclusive cultural industries as a form of climate change adaptation: The case of Trinidad and Tobago
Keron Niles, University of the West Indies

Cultural Industries are intrinsically collaborative and innovative. The producers of cultural content often co-create with others and draw on the skills, experiences, and expressions of others in order to enhance their own production capabilities. Moreover, cultural practitioners often participate in economic and productive activities that straddle different cultural industries (such as Heritage, Music, Film and Fashion). In addition, cultural practitioners and entrepreneurs also, at times, operate partially or entirely in the informal economy. This paper argues that current mechanisms used to measure economic and productive activities within the sector are inadequate. In addition, the author postulates that policies meant to cater to the needs of cultural practitioners and entrepreneurs must reflect the dynamism and complex interactions of the activities within it. Furthermore, using the twin island republic of Trinidad and Tobago as a case study, it is proposed that policy formulation and implementation should serve to create an enabling environment to facilitate the growth and development of an inclusive dynamic "value creating ecology" akin to that articulated by Hearn, Roodhouse & Blakey (2007). In so doing, the author highlights that cultural industries are often less vulnerable to climate change impacts than the petroleum sector. Policy that is meant to strengthen cultural industries therefore should be considered a form of climate change adaptation, within the context of creating economic resilience.

Keywords: culture, climate, adaptation, Trinidad, Tobago

5D CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Green islands: Communicating sustainability through islandness
James Ellsmoor, Island Innovation

The geography of islands creates a unique sense of place both physically and metaphorically that frequently encourages the adoption of the eco-island identity. The unique island brand has contributed to the formation of island spaces that encompass sustainability and the positioning of islands as leaders on environmental issues. However, not all islands are equal in their ability to engage with climate change and sustainability issues on the global stage. Subnational island jurisdictions (SNIJs) may find themselves unable to take a seat at events such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that make decisions directly impacting their future. Through the examination of two highly autonomous subnational island jurisdictions, Aruba and Tokelau, I aim to answer the central question: How is eco-island branding leveraged as a tool to gain political traction and international political representation for SNIJs? In this presentation, I argue that islandness may be a competitive advantage to leverage funding for sustainable development and be a platform for SNIJs to engage in global politics.

Keywords: eco island, renewable energy, Aruba, Tokelau, green branding, SNIJs, sustainability

6A ISLAND TOURISM: WHOSE TOURISM IS IT?

Who's in charge: Safeguarding island cultures
Louise Campbell,
University of Prince Edward Island

While culture is a way of life, cultural change is a fact of life, influenced more and more by tourism. In turn, tourism is increasingly contributing to island economies. In 2017, islands accounted for 14 of the top 20 countries in terms of the contribution of tourism and travel to Gross Domestic Product. How does independence factor into tourism development; i.e., are small island states more autonomous than dependent states when it comes to charting a path to tourism development? How does tourism's impact on culture differ between sovereign island states and subnational island jurisdictions? Are there differences in cultural trends between the two governance structures? Is the pressure to exploit the tourism industry greater in dependent jurisdictions than island nations? And, finally, regardless of governance level, what can be done to minimize any undesirable tourism effects and magnify those which are enriching? The purpose of this study, carried out through a review and analysis of scholarly and grey literature, is to better understand the relationships between and among governance, tourism, and culture and how they can be manipulated for the benefit of islanders and visitors alike.

Keywords: SIDS, SNIJ, tourism, culture, governance

Legal systems , tourism, and economic development: The Case of islands in the Caribbean
Don Taylor, University of Aruba

The legal systems in the Caribbean are many and varied and reflective of vestiges of colonialism's and neocolonialism's influence on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and are more prominently manifested in small non-independent jurisdictions (SNIJs) in particular. It is the overarching legal framework based on Western legal models that are as important as the physical and spatial structures of islands that attracts tourism investment and drives economic development in these islands. The prevailing narrative of resilience and the counter narrative of vulnerability are framed within a particular discourse of sustainability which minimizes and understates the critical importance legal systems have on economic development of islands. The purpose of this paper is to research the impact of legal systems in the Caribbean overall and indicate to what extent law and legal systems matters in driving tourism development, a key driver of mono-economic development on islands in the Caribbean. This paper seeks to highlight and critique the importance of legal systems contextually and philosophically in the ongoing discourse of vulnerability, resilience and sustainability, and potentialities of islands in the Caribbean.

Keywords: economic development, legal systems, resilience, vulnerability, sustainability, potentialities

6A ISLAND TOURISM: WHOSE TOURISM IS IT?

Private-public partnerships to develop sustainable agro-tourism: The Sao Tomé and Principe case study
Michele Maccari, University of Ferrara, and
Filippo Arfini, University of Parma

Sao Tomé and Principe (STP) is a tiny, amazing country, made up of two small islands located in the Gulf of Guinea. STP is facing challenges as it attempts to become a destination for international tourism due to its extremely limited size and its peripheral location (e.g., only one flight per week has been available from Europe to STP). Perceiving an untapped potential for agro-tourism development, a platform consisting of public institutions and private actors was established in 2014 to promote sustainable agro-tourism in STP. The platform aims to establish and manage agro-tourism packages capable of satisfying international tourists' growing demand for sustainable experiences in Africa. These sustainable tourism packages are supposed to offer opportunities for tourists to experience host communities and their daily activities along four agricultural value-chains that are mostly certified according to sustainable standards (i.e., organic and Fairtrade) and that can be enjoyed alongside the notable range of natural resources. This paper refers to the existent literature on Agri-tourism, also taking into account the outcomes of the 1st World Congress on Agri-tourism (Bolzano, Italy; November 2018) attended by the presenter.

Keywords: agri-tourism, Public Private Partnership, value chains, sustainable standards

6B NATURAL DISASTERS: TAKING STOCK

Dynamics of socioeconomic metabolism on islands: Material stock-flow-service of The Bahamas
Francisco Xavier Felix Martin del Campo, University of Waterloo

Resource security on small island states is increasingly aggravated by global environmental change. Sea level rise and extreme weather events result not only in infrastructure losses but also in the immediate loss of critical services. Restoring the services provided by these stocks comes with large material requirements for reconstruction, oftentimes incurring huge debts. This paper presents material stocks and flows for the Bahamas from 1990 to 2018, to reveal trends in supply and demand of critical materials (timber, concrete, aggregate, and steel). In particular the paper highlights the role of extreme weather events in driving the imports for new virgin materials for reconstruction. Simulations from GIS show the spatial distribution of housing stocks on the Bahamas, and the extent to which this sector is impacted by extreme weather events, such as hurricane Irma in 2017. The study provides insights on how island societies can move towards more sustainable and resilient modes of production, consumption, and infrastructure development.

Keywords: resource security, material stock and flows, extreme weather events, infrastructure development, GIS

What is the current state of Caribbean ecocritical studies?
Jana Braziel, Miami University

In an era of rapid global warming, increased destructiveness and intensity of tropical storms and hurricanes, and the concomitant rise in flooding, ocean acidification, seawater and freshwater pollution, and the ecological fallouts of industrial and post-industrial effluvia in the American hemispheres, generally, and in the Caribbean archipelago, more specifically, the time is here: we must urgently take up these pressing questions: What is the current state of Caribbean ecocritical studies? And how may local, grassroots, and political organizations work in concert with national and transnational organizations to support environmental resilience and sustainable development?

As a Caribbeanist and an environmental cultural critic, I believe that the path forward must embrace one that is simultaneously critical and constructive – critical of capitalism and its unbridled laissez-faire, free-market, deregulated premises, and yet also constructive of sustainable futures. This two-pronged approach has been illuminated by contemporary cultural critics like Naomi Klein, Adrian Parr, and Bill McKibben. While we do and must continue to grapple with the cultural meanings and semiotic registers of environmental degradation, I also urge that we attend to the material and political realities of global climate change and activist efforts to forestall its damages, including urging our governments to uphold the Paris accords, to revivify the foundational principles of the Rio Summit or of Rio+20 as we approach the anniversary of Rio+30 in 2022.

Keywords: Caribbean ecologies, environmentalisms, global warming, sustainable development, local, national and transnational cooperation

6B NATURAL DISASTERS: TAKING STOCK

How does quality of governance relate to resilience in small island states? The Case of Hurricane Irma in Saint Martin
Jeanne de Bruijn and Leo Huberts,
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

How do governments in SIS improve quality and integrity of governance in order to 'strengthen resilience' and handle sudden shocks (e.g. natural disaster) or long-term unsustainable development (e.g., corruption, clientalism)? How decisive are the quality and integrity of governance for the ability of governance systems (political, administrative) to cope with external pressures, avoid collapse, and achieve policy outcomes (addressing contemporary – and future – societal challenges)? The paper first addresses some basics on the quality and integrity of governance and relates these to resilience of governance in SIS based on literature. Are different value orientations part of insularity, e.g., universalistic value orientations versus more particularistic framed sets of values, anchored in kinship, religion, or ancestry? Does the density of the particularistic relationships in SIS hinder the development of resilient governance? This paper brings the results of a case study of hurricane Irma in Saint Martin on quality of governance and the resilience to cope with the hurricane challenges and sustainability into the future.

Keywords: integrity, resilient governance, sustainability, hurricane Irma

6C BUILDING RESILIENCE

How do we make our islands future proof?
Bianca Peters, 360º of Innovation

Research has shown that islands are, arguably, among the most vulnerable places on Earth, facing many challenges both external and internal, including adaptation to climate change, a small and specialized resource base, and inadequate capacity. Although it may be difficult to directly change the external challenges, islanders can become more resilient internally. They can do this by rethinking the way societies collaborate and how they can use innovation as a catalyst, thereby making them (more) future-proof. Using concrete examples gathered from island stakeholders throughout the Caribbean and summarized in a series of themes, this presentation explores how islands can develop a sustainable and resilient approach, thereby making them more future-proof.

Keywords: vulnerability, climate change, resilience, innovation, Caribbean

(Y)our responsibility to (y)our environmental heritage
Jemi Laclé and Stephen Snider,
World Bank

We build monuments as a remembrance of our history, we write biographies, we preserve traditions, music, languages, and architecture, we make documentaries and movies of our heritage. But why do we neglect our duty to our most important heritage: our natural living environment? Various Caribbean governments, private-sector entities, and communities have shown a growing interest in protecting the environment but all to varying degrees. In general, sustainable development and investment in our environment are both lower priorities for many SIDS. However, there is a shared Responsibility (Capital R) that all these sectors and countries share in protection. We must grapple with this Responsibility now and into the future. This paper examines how we can fulfill this Responsibility by refocusing our investment priorities and sticking to them.

Keywords: smart island, sustainable island, community (engagement), youth, top-down, grassroots, entrepreneurs, transparency & accountability

6C BUILDING RESILIENCE

Panic and policy: Island responses to pandemic threats and to global guidelines
Gerard Prinsen, Massey University

Not all pandemics are the same. Geography is one variable affecting the pace of a pandemic spreading. Pandemics tend to spread faster in densely populated areas with high global connectivity. This means a pandemic spreading to a small and remote island is likely to be slower. However, once established on such an island, the disease likely spreads faster. Nonetheless, when it comes to border closure as a pandemic response policy, global guidelines are the same for continental and island jurisdictions. The UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) argues that border closure policies are ineffectual and have huge economic costs.

In the last decade, researchers began challenging the relevance of this one-size-fits-all advice. Based on historic evidence and epidemiological and econometric calculations, it has been argued that border closure may be an effective option for islands to delay and reduce the impact of pandemics. In 2018, researchers of One Health Aotearoa New Zealand endeavoured to compile the pandemic response policies of 44 Subnational Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs) and 24 Small Island States (SISs). In about half the cases, a policy document could be accessed.

This presentation first outlines the arguments around border closure as an island-specific pandemic response policy, before it shares the analysis of the data collected. This analysis not only explores the extent to which islands align with global WHO guidelines or begin disrupting these international guidelines by carving out island-specific responses, but it also differentiates between the responses of SISs and SNIJs.

Keywords: pandemics, health policies, islands

The Power of the NextGen: Youth shaping small island states
Jemi Laclé, World Bank

Imagine for a moment that the island where you were born and raised feels increasingly unknown to you, your family, friends, and your world views. You feel like the place you call(ed) home does not hold the norms and values of when you grew up anymore. But, most importantly, the rapid facing (over)development (of tourism) has taken a toll on the peace, stability, environment, inclusiveness, and belonging of the island. You believe that the island has drifted far afield from its own shore and is lost in the big blue, has a crew aboard that has no clear vision, nor a well-working compass. You not only feel lost, but powerless – up until you meet 'like-minded' (young) change agents from all over the world and other SIDS that address the same challenges, but also have the (entrepreneurial) spirit, action, and ideas to make a change.

Young people are crucial to shaping and achieving sustainability on SIDS. But, what impact can and will the voices and actions of the next generation have on the direction of the development of SIDS in the upcoming years? What will youth perspectives, experiences, and civic engagement look like in the process? And what role are today's young people playing in achieving these goals?

Examples are provided of 3-5 SIDS (still TBD, depending on the timeline that we have and word count) and of youth-led initiatives (e.g., plastic pollution, ocean degradation, building entrepreneurship ecosystems, etc.) that are transforming the island towards a more sustainable and resilient island. The projects demonstrate the power of open, participatory, and collective action by youth on SIDS.

Keywords: sustainable development, youth, entrepreneurial ecosyste