

Annual Report 2021

C20.25 Islands

A. Membership

1. The Steering Committee for 2021-2024

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Vice Chair: Annette Breckwoldt, Senior Scientist, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), Fahrenheitstr. 6, 28359 Bremen, **Germany**
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Steering Committee Members:

Eric Clark, Professor, Lund University, Department of Human Geography, Sölvegatan 10, 22362 Lund, **Sweden**. (Former Chair 2016-2021; Vice-Chair 2007-2016)
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Tessa Minter, Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology and Development
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2. Advisory Board

For the sake of continuity and to support the Commission, previous Steering
Committee Members (2006-2016) have kindly agreed to function as an
Advisory Board during the 2016-2024 term.

Chang-Yi David Chang, Professor, Department of Geography, National Taiwan
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Elaine Stratford, Associate Executive Dean, College of Sciences and Engineering;
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3. Corresponding Members:

The circulation list of corresponding members includes over 400 names from 35 countries: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Reunion Islands, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States, Virgin Island.

B. Meetings

Conferences and meetings have been organized by Steering Committee solely or jointly co-organized with IGC, or IGU regional conferences, or in collaboration with other island studies organizations, such as International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA) and Island Dynamics.

- The meetings/events the Commission held in **2021** and plans for later years:
 1. Strengthen communication networks among island geographic researchers and island communities, primarily through the Island Commission website, Facebook, and newsletters.
 2. Collaboration with IGU for an Island Session '***Time for Island Research(ers)***' at the IGU Centennial Congress '**Time for Geographers**', to be held in Paris, 18-22 July 2022 (<https://www.ugiparis2022.org>).

C20.25 Islands: Time for Global Island Research(ers) (TGIR)*

DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION

The Session we propose for the IGU Centennial Congress 2022 'Time for Geographers' aims to put the spotlight on local island researchers of various (inter-)disciplinary backgrounds, and their work towards achieving island sustainability. Especially early career researchers from small islands across the world will be welcome to present and exchange their sustainability challenges, perceived knowledge gaps, and the solutions they have come to find.

In global assessments, some SIDS (Small Island Developing States) are still not included, and data from small islands is merely integrated. Similarly, in the conventional international peer-reviewed publication system of science, local islanders rarely appear as co-authors or first authors. An independent research profile is a necessity to keep science independent and to be able to tap into international funding schemes (e.g. for marine conservation projects). A transdisciplinary research landscape needs to be established for and by local students and scholars. This enables them to start planning for locally determined sustainability targets and aspects, and to contribute globally with valuable lessons for our 'planet of islands'. Session contributors will present their research themes empirically anchored in local contexts.

This paper session provides opportunities to engage with ideas of sustainability within

island geographical scholarship, the challenges of island sustainability beyond the academy, and the shifting field of global-local island research itself. We welcome papers addressing concerns such as (but not limited to): What is the role of island researchers in taking matters forward to achieve specific Sustainable Development Goals? What are the forces at play in processes of social and economic polarization, environmental degradation, and the generation of 'uncommon futures' in island societies? What alternative agendas and concepts might island geographic research advance for the future? How can international visibility and the voices of young islanders and SIDS scholars be enhanced, to contribute to global discussions of visions for home islands?

The two main objectives and outcomes will be a) to provide an interactive platform to international research to connect "from island to island" in a way they would normally not have the scope, time and capacity, and b) joint peer-reviewed publications by the contributors on the challenges and barriers found and the solutions that can facilitate local research towards meaningful local science that enables sustainable use and development of island resources (both human and natural). This will be supported by a small exhibition of island research and work during the congress, which would also bring islanders together "across all seas" in a hybrid face-to-face/digital manner.

At this stage, it is too early to list names and affiliations of some expected speakers, but possible themes are: (1) *Islands in Anthropocene*; (2) *Island decolonization and indigeneity*; (3) *Local artists + art scholars presenting at the conference - visual attention*; (4) *Link between terrestrial and marine ecosystems and related extractive industries*; (5) *What does it mean to be "models of the world" in everyday debates?* (6) *UNESCO SIDS participation & case studies*; (7) *The social-ecological roles of reef passages*; (8) *Indigenous Fisheries Knowledge – lost stories or integrated modern management?* (9) More topics to be announced.

Chair: Annette Breckwoldt, Senior Scientist, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), Bremen, Germany, Email: annette.breckwoldt@leibniz-zmt.de

Co-chair 1: Huei-Min Tsai, Professor, College of Science, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan, Email: hmtsai@ntnu.edu.tw; **Co-chair 2: Mucahid M. Bayrak**, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan. Email: mmbayrak@ntnu.edu.tw; **Co-chair 3: Khalissa Ikhlef**, UNESCO Section on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Email: kikhlef@unesco.org

Supported by the Steering Committee of IGU Commission on Islands (C20.25): Eric Clark (Lund University, Sweden), Adam Grydehøj (Island Dynamics, Denmark), Bénédicte André (Macquarie University, Australia), James A. Randall (University of Prince Edward Island, Canada), Jonathan Pugh (Newcastle University, UK), Patsy Lewis (University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and Brown University, USA), Sun-Kee Hong (Mokpo National University, Republic of Korea), Tessa Minter (Leiden University, the Netherlands), Su-Hsin Lee (National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan)

3. Collaboration with International Small Island Studies Association to organize the 18th '*Islands of the World Conference*' in Zadar and area, Croatia - 13-19 June 2022 (<https://conference.unizd.hr/isisaislands/>).
4. Regional Meetings: Co-organize a South Pacific Islands Conference in collaboration with the SOCPacific project (<https://socpacific.net>) based on fieldwork periods in Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia conducted in 2019-2021, with an outlook for potential collaboration in 2022.

5. Education Programs – In order to promote the study of island geography in education programs at all levels, the Commission will organize various workshops and educational programs for island geographical studies, young geographers exploration, young islanders programs, and so on.
6. Online book launch of “Tsai, H.M., Lin Y.R. and Bayrak, M.M. (eds.) (2021) *Indigenous Resilience and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the context of Climate Change*. MDPI: Basel, Switzerland (ISBN: ISBN 978-3-0365-2632-4)”, organized on January 12, 2022, attended by representatives of Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan, and including 40+ international and domestic attendees.
7. April 23-24, 2021 - *The Island Humanities Conference and Webinar* held by Mokpo National University, Republic of Korea. 15 presenters came from Malta, Taiwan, Japan, Vietnam and South Korea; over 50 participants. The themes including East-Asian Perspective on island studies, customary marine tenure and the humanities of the islands, what comes after vulnerability, etc. Part of articles have submitted the special issue of *Journal of Marine and Island Cultures*.
8. April 27, 2021 – Joint webinar with Future Earth- Coast Commission- on *Landscape Conservation, Geopark and Future Earth Coast Conference*. 16 paper presenters came from France, Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The themes including small islands’ biocultural diversity, coastal management of small islands, cultural heritages of Geopark, promoting Suto-umi for coastal conservation, and the Future Earth Coasts Projects in France, Taiwan and Southeast Asian Countries.
9. April 29, 2021- Webinar on Covid-19 Challenges for Asian Pacific Islands, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. 10 papers were presented. Participants mainly come from Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Singapore.
10. May 2021 – Dec. 2021 *Taiwan- New Zealand Pacific Islands Indigenous Science and Innovation* pilot project, Overseas Science and Innovation Center of College of Liberal Arts, National Taiwan Normal University; sponsored by Seed Grant, Higher Education SPROUT Project, Ministry of Education, Taiwan. Activities included research among three Indigenous communities in Taiwan, and the completion of a documentary on Indigenous education.
11. December 11, 2021 – *The 8th East Asian Island and Ocean Forum- “Changes and Chaos in Islands and Seascapes”* Organized by Prof. Sun-Kee Hong (IGU-Islands Commission Member), Institute for Marine and Island Culture, Mokpo National University, Korea.

C. Networking

The Commission on Islands (C20.25) has been active for over a decade now, having been approved by the IGU Executive Committee at the IGU Brisbane Conference in July 2006. Since its inaugural conference was held in Taipei, Taiwan in 2007, the Commission has gathered scholars from around the world who are

interested in studying islands as distinct geographical phenomena and in exploring their significance in the contexts issues concerning global change, sustainability and resilience research, cultural geography and humanities, political and economic geography, and other key aspects of development. The Commission also works together with relevant national and international organizations in promoting research on and awareness of island development issues, as well as to strengthen the significance of the wealth of diversity of island cultures

The IGU Commission on Islands has consistently networked and collaborated with other island studies organizations, most prominently the **International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA)**, **Island Dynamics**, **Future Earth- Coast**, **A Sea of Connections-Contextualizing Fisheries in the South Pacific Region (SOCPacific)** Project, and so on. It has furthermore collaborated with other IGU Commissions, most notably previous **C12.21** Indigenous Knowledges and Peoples' Rights. The Commission plans to initiate dialogue with more Commissions to look into potential collaborations such as co-organizing conferences (e.g. staggering days at same venue, with overlapping research interests convening together at the end of one conference and beginning of the other; or, convening together throughout, but with some keynotes and sessions in plenum). These might include Commissions such as **C20.06** Coastal Systems; **C20.12** Geographical Education; **C20.17** Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change; **C20.21** Global Understanding; **C20.22** Hazard and Risk; or **C20.32** Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses.

Related Links in the networking:

IGU: <https://igu-online.org/>

ISISA: <http://www.isisa.org/index.php> ;

Island Studies Journal (SSCI): <https://www.islandstudies.ca/>

Journal of Marine and Island Cultures: <https://jmic.online/>

Island Dynamics: <https://www.islanddynamics.org/>

Island Innovation: <https://islandinnovation.co/>

Future Earth Coast: <https://www.futureearthcoasts.org/our-hotspots/>

SOCPacific Project: <https://socpacific.net>

D. Publications

1. Island Studies Journal (ISSN: 1715-2593):

<https://islandstudiesjournal.org/> Latest issue: *Representing islands – producing islandness: Rethinking identities, mobilities, and relations in island research*, ISJ

- 16(2), November 2021. (editor-in-chief: Dr. **Adam Grydehøj**, IGU-Islands Steering Committee Member)
2. **Journal of Marine and Island Cultures** / International open access journal, SCOPUS / http://jmic.online/https://jmic.online/issues/?fbclid=IwAR0-bWa9gSggnGAMkqKFMT9wR7u7aLUG6kv9dFtudtrErm31ED_Lxo_nnHM#v10n2 (vol. 10-1 and vol.10-2 in 2021 were published) (editor-in-chief: Prof. **Sun-Kee Hong**, IGU-Islands Steering Committee Member)
 3. **Anthropocene Islands' initiative** (editor Dr. **Jonathan Pugh**, IGU-Islands Steering Committee Member) <https://www.anthropoceneislands.online/>
David Chandler & Jonathan Pugh (2021) 'Anthropocene islands: There are only islands after the end of the world Article Menu'. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2043820621997018>
 4. **Island Experiences with COVID-19** (co-editor: Prof. **James Randall**, IGU-Islands Steering Committee Member): covering 24 island experiences, Guam, Okinawa, Trinidad & Tobago, Grenada, Aland Islands, Shetlands, Malta, Egadi Islands, etc. <https://islandinnovation.co/category/partners/scelg-upei/>
 5. **SOCPacific:**
Kitolelei, S., Thaman, R., Veitayaki, J., **Breckwoldt**, A. and S. Piovano (2021). Na Vuku Makawa ni Qoli: Indigenous Fishing Knowledge (IFK) in Fiji and the Pacific. *Frontiers in Marine Sciences* 8: 967. DOI: 10.3389/fmars.2021.684303
Breckwoldt, A., Lopes, P., Selim, S. (2021). Look who's asking: Reflections on participatory and transdisciplinary marine research approaches. *Frontiers in Marine Sciences*. 8: 627502. DOI: 10.3389/fmars.2021.627502
Karcher, D.B., Fache, E., **Breckwoldt**, A., Govan, H., Ilosvay, X.E.E., Kon Kam King, J., Riera, L. and C. Sabinot (2020). Trends in South Pacific fisheries management. *Marine Policy* 118: 104021, DOI: 10.1016/j.marpol.2020.104021
Marino, M., **Breckwoldt**, A., Teichberg, M., Kase, A., Reuter, H. (2019). Livelihood aspects of seaweed farming in Rote Island, Indonesia. *Marine Policy* 102: 103600. DOI: 10.1016/j.marpol.2019.103600
Fache, E. and **Breckwoldt**, A. (2019). Introduction to Research Project SOCPacific: A Sea of Connections: An interdisciplinary, multi-level and multi-stakeholder study of South Pacific fisheries. *Pacific Geographies* 51 (16-21), <https://doi.org/10.23791/511621>
 6. Special Issue (2021) "**Indigenous Resilience and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the context of Climate Change**" in *Sustainability* journal (Guest editors: **Huei-Min Tsai**, IGU-Islands Chair; Yih-Ren Lin, and **Mucahid M. Bayrak**, ICU-Islands Executive Secretary) :
[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special issues/Climate Change Indigenous Resilience and Local Knowledge Systems](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special%20issues/Climate%20Change%20Indigenous%20Resilience%20and%20Local%20Knowledge%20Systems); examples of papers:
Berkes F, **Tsai H-M**, Bayrak MM, Lin Y-R. Indigenous Resilience to Disasters in Taiwan and Beyond. *Sustainability*. 2021; 13(5):2435. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13052435>

- Bayrak MM**, Hsu Y-Y, Hung L-S, **Tsai H-M**, vayayana t'. Global Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan: A Critical Bibliometric Analysis and Review. *Sustainability*. 2021; 13(1):29. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13010029>
- Persoon GA**, **Minter T**. Knowledge and Practices of Indigenous Peoples in the Context of Resource Management in Relation to Climate Change in Southeast Asia. *Sustainability*. 2020; 12(19):7983. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12197983>
- van der Ploeg J, Sukulu M, Govan H, **Minter T**, Eriksson H. Sinking Islands, Drowned Logic; Climate Change and Community-Based Adaptation Discourses in Solomon Islands. *Sustainability*. 2020; 12(17):7225. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12177225>
7. Tsai, H.M., Lin Y.R. and Bayrak, M.M. (eds.) (2021) *Indigenous Resilience and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the context of Climate Change*. MDPI: Basel, Switzerland (ISBN: ISBN 978-3-0365-2632-4).

- **URL: C20.25 Commission's website:** <http://geogsoc.org.tw/IGU-Islands/>
- **Commission's Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/IGU_Islands-293879944568925