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Full Text:

Island Affairs

Islands are isolated but inspiring, small yet fascinating. Is one lifetime ever enough to explore an island? How could the collective knowledge of islands, islanders, and island topics be made available to everyone with an interest?

The "Affairs" approach is one format amongst many which permits people interested in islands to think beyond their usual topics and to better integrate island-related aspects into other activities. Focusing on a theme such as islands provides a common basis for discussion to connect people from diverse backgrounds and viewpoints.

The phrase "Island Affairs" is not new. Witness the International Journal of Island Affairs and New Zealand's Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs. Despite the difficulties of defining "islands" or "small islands," they can be intuitively understood as a relatively small land mass surrounded by water. Dozens of countries and territories are islands, while thousands more islands dot the globe. Due to their isolation and smallness, islands tends to have unique environments, people, cultures, and challenges. The power of islands to inform non-islands often remains unrealized and Island Affairs can do so.



Pangaimotu Island, Tonga (2004).

For more information, contact Ilan Kelman (an ASP Postdoctoral Fellow with CCB):
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