



ISISA

Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

This issue starts with a warm welcome from the organising team of the ISISA 14th Islands of the World Conference.

Thank you to all the contributions sent in for this edition of the Newsletter, together with photos, call for papers, and even a poem.

Remember that this Newsletter is only what you make it. We encourage anyone who has something to say about Islands, Island Studies or Book Reviews about Islands to send them over to me for the next issue.

Reminder: If you have any contributions for the July 2016 Newsletter please pass them on to me by not later than June 15, 2016.

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Season's Greetings to you all!
Anna Baldacchino
Newsletter Editor

ISISA: 14th 'Islands of the World' Conference 2016

Niss(i)ology and Utopia: Back to the Roots of Island Studies
23-27 May 2016
Mytilini, Lesvos Island, Greece

The University of the Aegean is proud to host the 14th Conference of the "International Small Islands Studies Association", ISISA on Lesvos Island, Greece in May. This event will be in association with the RETI: The Network of Island Universities.

The Conference with a theme of "Niss(i)ology and Utopia: back to the roots of Island Studies" has attracted more than 140 abstracts, wonderfully diverse: from marine biology to performing arts. This wide range of topics is a challenge for us to make sense of this diversity and channel it in such a way that it will provoke people and sharpen ideas, bringing forward 'islandness' as a thin red line linking different topics, localities, themes and people, bridging the real and the symbolic geography of islands.



Rapanui gather in protest outside the Governor's Office, waving Rapanui flags that were outlawed until 2001

Source: <http://www.soychile.cl/Valparaiso/Sociedad/2015/08/28/343011/Detuvieron-en-el-aeropuerto-de-Santiago-al-empresario-y-lider-Rapa-Nui-Matias-Riroroko.aspx>

Insula does not mean insular

By Ilan Kelman

Madeira - the island of hills and holidays, of cable cars and cruise ships, of painted doors and Portuguese culture(s). An isle encapsulating so much exploration, history, and dimensions of insularity and of connectedness. From 19-21 November 2015, Madeira also served as the most welcoming location for an exciting island studies conference: The 1st Insula International Colloquium.

Titled "Peripheral Discourses of Modernity(ies)", presentations ranged from Irish literature to Madeira's disaster vulnerability to tourism images. I was privileged to have been invited to give a keynote on "Why islands and disasters? Peripheries and centres for vulnerability and resilience".

The colloquium was conceived and organised by CIERL (Research Centre for Regional & Local Studies) at the University of Madeira. Energetic staff and students provided the hospitality and framing, encouraging deep and intensive discussion of history and modernity as viewed through peripherality and centrality.

Islands, naturally, comprised the core, with mainland ideas on the periphery, but skilfully integrated. Many presentations and the contextualising of others, quite rightly, focused on Madeira, giving insight into the conference's locale.

The colloquium was especially impressive for its local content. The audience included non-academics from the island while local artists presented and performed, in addition to one evening screening a film on digital art by a local film-maker. Conference partners included local galleries and local businesses.

Participants were given the opportunity to present in Portuguese, Spanish, French and English. Many opted for Portuguese, leading to vibrant flavours of local culture and insights while ensuring inclusivity for an audience who might not be fully comfortable in other languages.

The venue in the capital Funchal was the Jesuit College, which now gives some space to the university administration. The building dates back to the sixteenth century with a gorgeous courtyard for the breaks and shelter under old stone archways in case of inclement weather. This historical ambience fostered discussion about the island, its role in Portugal, and the islanders who made the conference.

Papers are now invited for a special issue of [Urban Island Studies Journal](#) on the conference theme 'Peripheral Discourses of Modernity'. The submission deadline is 31 January 2016 with the full call and submission instructions [available](#).

Join us in the discussions for understanding Insula and beyond!



The conference's main lecture hall.
Photo: Ilan Kelman



A flood channel in Funchal, Madeira's capital.
Photo: Ilan Kelman

You can also reach ISISA through:

Listserv: isisa@yahoogroups.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Isisa-International-Small-Islands-Studies-Association/126009170815354>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/intsisia>

ISISA website: <https://maui.hawaii.edu/isisa/>

Coming Soon: New ISISA Website: www.isisa.org