



ISISA

Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

To start off this issue we have an invitation to the ISISA 15th Islands of the World Conference.

Apart from that, participants share their experiences in Lesvos, Greece during the last ISISA Conference plus many more interesting articles which one can find in this Newsletter.

Remember that the Newsletter is only what you make it. We encourage anyone who has something to say, or share 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 December 2016 Newsletter please pass them on to me **by not later than November 15, 2016.***

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15th 'Islands of the World' ISISA Conference 2017



Kangaroo Island, South Australia
2-8 July 2017

Congratulations to our colleagues from Lesvos for hosting a successful conference that further explored the notion of 'Islandness', welcomed delegates with warmth and generosity, gave insight into the life and culture of their Island, and provided an outstanding exemplar of sustainability for future ISISA island hosts.

About Aberdeen: Aberdeen (population 229,000) is among the UK's most important port cities, formerly a major fishing port and today centre of the country's offshore energy activities. Although it was the development of the North Sea oil industry that revived the city's fortunes in the 1970s, Aberdeen has a venerable history. From the majestic architecture of Old Aberdeen to the imposing monuments of the city centre to the cloistered fishing village of Footdee to the industrial harbour at the mouth of the River Dee, Aberdeen is a city of surprises – at once the cultural and economic capital of Northeast Scotland and this region's gateway to the wider world.

About the conference: 11-12 September are devoted to tours around Aberdeen city, harbour, and the surrounding area. 13-15 September will feature conference presentations by delegates and invited speakers. Presentations will be held at the University of Aberdeen.

How to make a presentation: Conference presentations will concern all aspects of sea, port, city processes. Presentations are invited from academic researchers, policymakers and government representatives, the business community, and NGOs. The deadline for abstracts is 31 March 2017, but to ensure that you have the opportunity to seek funding from your institution or government, we recommend that you early.

You can submit your abstract here: <http://www.sea-port-city.org/spc2017/cfp.html>

For more information, contact convenor Adam Grydehøj at agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org

Island Cities and Urban Archipelagos 2016: Hong Kong

By Ilan Kelman

Coastal cities tend to have harbours, as do islands. A “fragrant harbour” would seem to be an ideal location for combining urban studies and island studies. Which is exactly what we had for the Island Cities and Urban Archipelagos 2016 conference, held from 7-12 March in Hong Kong.

Impressively organised and generously hosted by the [School of English](#) and [Department of Geography](#) at the University of Hong Kong, the conference is the second in the series conceived by Adam Grydehøj's [Island Dynamics](#). The [Island Cities and Urban Archipelagos](#) network has served as a hub for those studying cities on islands, islands of cities, islands in cities, cities comprising islands, islands comprising cities, and all other city-island combinations. The outcomes are explored theoretically and empirically through the journal [Urban Island Studies](#).

The first conference, in October 2014, kicked off the network in Copenhagen, an island capital city. Both the Hong Kong and Copenhagen conferences were remarkable for their interdisciplinarity, with presentations from planners, architects, engineers, artists, musicians, sociologists, folklorists, and geographers amongst many other disciplines. We were all brought together by a common interest in exploring the intersection of urbanity and islandness.

In Hong Kong, the parallel sessions were expertly framed by the keynote speakers arriving from four continents. From a film about Pacific cultures encountering climate change through to greening island cities for sustainability, we received a tour of the world from their insights.

Sadly, one keynote was to be one of John Urry's last talks. He enthralled us with the terrifying amount of wealth secretly offshored to island city locations—just weeks before the Panama Papers hit international headlines. Days after departing from Hong Kong, having doled out his typical inspiration and generous advice, John passed away.

Despite the fascinating presentations and engaging discussions, our time was not spent just sitting down. The conference's official opening and closing were flanked by full-day field trips exploring the venue's island and city traits.

First, a boat tour of Hong Kong's Container Port brought us up close to the giant cargo ships and many islands within the harbour. The conference ended with a bus and walking tour of the New Territories, providing a sharp contrast to the water-based experiences. Several of us stayed an extra day for a stroll around Macau.

Other field trips included a Kowloon walking tour kindly given by local expert Ian Ho-yin Fong from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and a gorgeous sunset boat ride to Lamma Island for a fresh seafood dinner (with plenty of tasty vegetarian options as well). Adding in a cohort of student volunteers always on hand and a lunch-time theatre performance from university students and staff meant that the conference engaged with local flavour and flair ensuring that we felt part of the location, not just outsiders gawking through a conference lens.

The same energy, excitement, and creativity is already taking shape for the next Island Cities and Urban Archipelagos conference, to be held in [Madeira from 8-12 November 2017](#). Your interest might be Mumbai or St. John's; you might hail from Nuuk or Hobart; or you might just enjoy the intellectual and practical challenges of urban islands. No matter what your discipline, background, or work, come and enjoy mingling and exchanging with others who seek to connect cities and islands.



The old and new of Hong Kong's harbour. Photo: Ilan Kelman



Local conference host Dr Otto Heim, University of Hong Kong. Photo: Ilan Kelman

Island Literature: A Reading List

By Danielle Redd

Many novels are set on islands both real and imaginary. Historically speaking, western authors have tended to view the “desert island” as a *tabula rasa*, an empty signifier which they can inscribe with their own ideologies. For this reason, the island setting plays host to a variety of literary

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ISJ is since June 2012 the official journal of ISISA and since 2013, the official journal of RETI.

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