



Dear colleagues and friends,

We are pleased to welcome you to the latest newsletter of the IGU Commission on Islands and to share some of the activities, collaborations and developments that have marked a very active period for our Commission. Over the past year, the Commission has been involved in a range of international events and initiatives bringing together researchers and communities interested in islands and island geographies.

In September 2025, we organised the session “Islands and Their Geographies in a Transforming Europe” at the **EUGEO 2025 Congress in Vienna**, while the Commission was also represented at the **2025 International Island Forum in Yeosu, South Korea**, looking ahead to the 2026 World Island Exhibition.

Our activities continued throughout 2026. In April, members of the Commission contributed to the **Night of Geography**, bringing island-related topics to wider audiences through activities organised in different locations. In July, we organised the special session “Discovering the Dynamics of Island Time-Spaces” at the **20th Islands of the World Conference on Jaeundo, Shinan County, South Korea**. August was particularly active, with a **pre-conference meeting on Büyükada**, organised together with the IGU Commission on Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change, followed by our participation in the **IGU Regional Conference 2026 in Istanbul**, where the Commission

organised and co-organised several sessions and strengthened its collaboration with other IGU commissions.

Taken together, these activities reflect some of the priorities we hope to foster through the Commission: creating spaces for exchange on contemporary island research, strengthening connections across countries and geographical traditions, building cooperation with other commissions and organisations, supporting young and early-career researchers, and bringing island geography to audiences beyond academia.

In the pages that follow, you will find more about these activities, contributions from our members, and information about forthcoming events and opportunities. We hope that the newsletter will serve not only as a record of what we have been doing, but also as a way of keeping our growing community connected and encouraging new ideas and collaborations.

We sincerely thank all our members and colleagues who have contributed their time, research, ideas and enthusiasm to the Commission’s activities.

We look forward to building on these connections and, above all, to seeing even more of our members involved in the activities and initiatives ahead. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter!

Anica Cuka

Editor of the Newsletter



ISLANDS AND THEIR GEOGRAPHIES IN A TRANSFORMING EUROPE – EUGEO 2025, VIENNA

The IGU Commission on Islands organised the special session “Islands and Their Geographies in a Transforming Europe” as part of the EUGEO 2025 Congress, held in Vienna, Austria, from 8 to 11 September 2025.

The session, chaired by Anica Čuka and Macià Blázquez-Salom, took place across two time slots on 10 September and brought together researchers interested in the changing geographical realities of European islands. The presentations and discussions addressed some of the key challenges currently shaping island communities and territories, including globalisation, demographic change, climate



change, spatial marginalisation, development pressures and questions of sustainability. Particular attention was given to the ways in which islands respond and adapt to these transformations, as well as to the importance of locally grounded approaches and cooperation across different levels of governance.

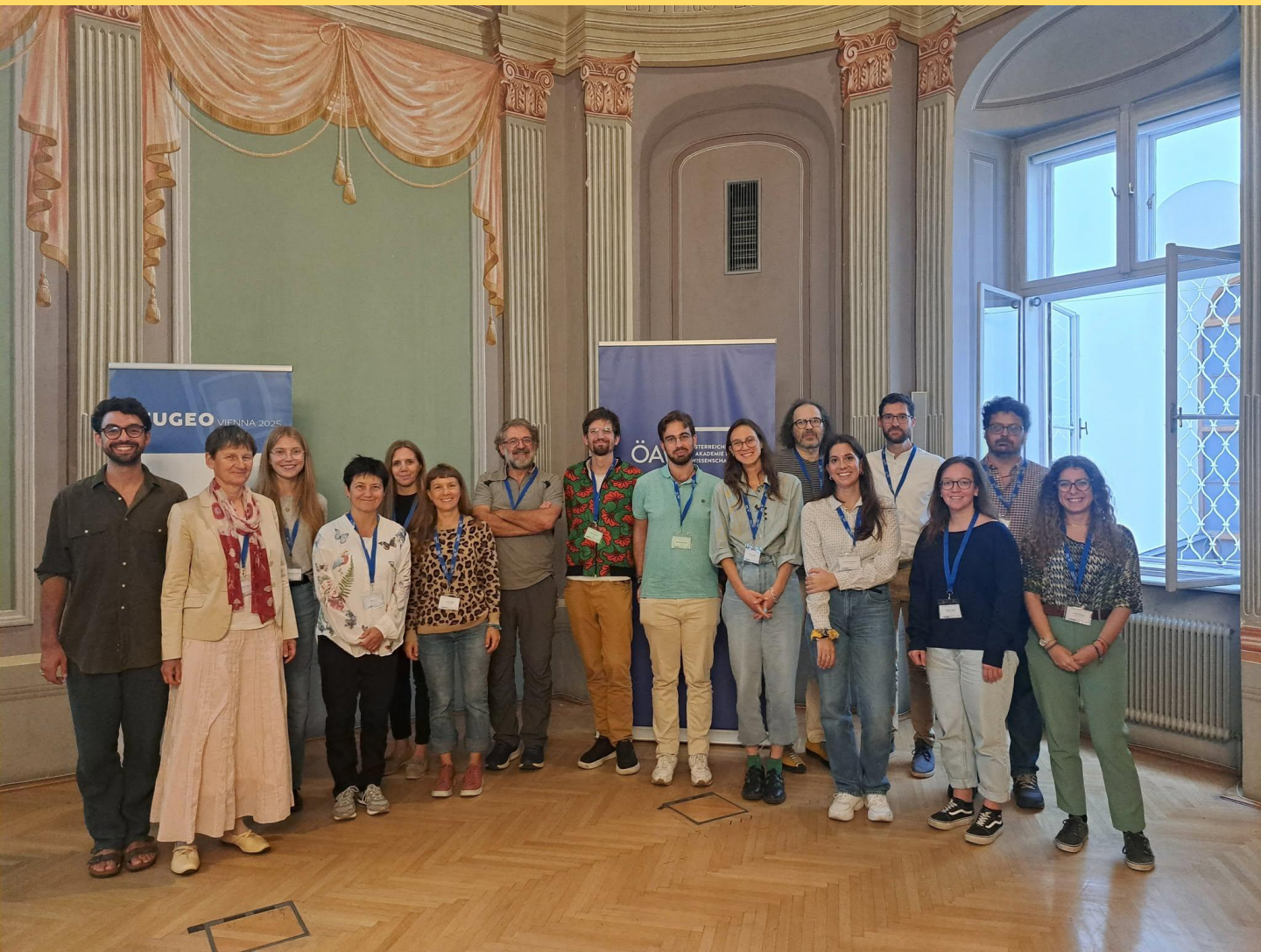
The session highlighted that, while islands are often characterised by geographical peripherality and limitations in resources and accessibility, they are also dynamic spaces in which wider social, economic and environmental transformations can be observed particularly clearly. The contributions demonstrated the diversity of contemporary European island geographies and the need for approaches that recognise local specificities while situating islands within broader regional and global processes.





The session also provided a valuable opportunity to bring together colleagues working on island-related topics within the wider European geographical community and to strengthen the presence of island geography within EUGEO.

We warmly thank all presenters and participants for their contributions and engaging discussions, and everyone who helped make the session a productive meeting point for exchanging perspectives on the challenges and possible futures of European islands.





INTERNATIONAL ISLAND FORUM 2025 IN YEOSU: CONNECTING ISLAND CULTURES, KNOWLEDGE AND BIODIVERSITY

The 2025 International Island Forum, held in Yeosu, Republic of Korea, brought together researchers and practitioners from across the world to explore “The Present and Future of Island Cultural Diversity.” The Forum also marked an important milestone on the pathway towards the **2026 World Island Exhibition (WIE)**, “**Island, Connecting the Ocean and the Future**,” which took place in Yeosu from 5 September to 4 November 2026.

Representing the IGU Commission on Islands as co-chair, **dr. Annette Breckwoldt** participated in the Forum and contributed to Session 1, “The Current Status and Changes in Island Cultural Diversity.” The presentation focused on “islands of knowledge” and on identifying, understanding and mobilising the connections between marine biodiversity and cultural diversity. It highlighted the importance of bringing ecological knowledge into dialogue with cultural practices and locally rooted knowledge systems when considering the futures of island communities.

The Forum offered a strongly international and interdisciplinary programme. Prof. Gloria Pungetti opened the event with a keynote addressing biocultural diversity, while Prof. Yuji Ankei explored cultural heritage and the importance of oral narratives.





International Island Forum 2025 in Yeosu: Connecting Island Cultures, Knowledge and Biodiversity

Contributions from colleagues of the Small Island Cultures Research Initiative (SICRI) further broadened the discussion: Valia Papoutsaki examined the complexities surrounding UNESCO heritage endorsements, while Meng Qu presented community-anchored approaches to sustainable tourism.

Dr. Mardiany of the East Kalimantan Province Research and Innovation Agency in Indonesia contributed perspectives and stories from the cultures of her home region. The programme also created space for exchange across disciplines and geographical contexts.

Prof. Hm Tsai contributed her regional expertise to the concluding panel discussion of the first day, reflecting the Forum's emphasis on international collaboration and open dialogue.

Beyond the individual presentations, the Forum demonstrated the value of connecting different forms of island knowledge and experience. Discussions around cultural diversity, heritage, biodiversity, tourism and community perspectives underscored the need for approaches that recognise islands not simply as geographically bounded places, but as interconnected social, cultural and ecological systems.





International Island Forum 2025 in Yeosu: Connecting Island Cultures, Knowledge and Biodiversity

The Forum was organised as part of the preparations for the inaugural World Island Exhibition 2026 in Yeosu.

Thanks are due to the WIE organising team, its sponsors and supporters, and particularly the member of our Steering Committee, Prof. Sun-Kee Hong of the Institute for Marine & Island Cultures at Mokpo University for creating an exceptionally welcoming and productive environment for international exchange.

The 2025 Forum provided strong momentum for the year ahead, setting the stage for continued dialogue on how island communities, cultures, ecosystems and knowledge can be connected across regions and disciplines as Yeosu prepared to host the first World Island Exhibition in 2026.





IGU PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING ON BÜYÜKADA, TURKEY

Ahead of the IGU Regional Conference 2026 in Istanbul, the **IGU Commission on Islands** and the **IGU Commission on Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change** jointly organised a pre-conference meeting on Büyükada, one of Istanbul's Princes' Islands.

The meeting brought together around 30 researchers and provided an excellent opportunity for academic exchange, networking and discussion in an island setting. Through presentations and discussions, participants shared research perspectives and experiences while addressing a range of questions related to the current challenges and future development of islands and tourism.

A highlight of the programme was the keynote lecture delivered by Prof. Macià Blázquez-Salom, a member of the Commission on Islands, which provided an important contribution to the discussions and themes of the meeting.

The event also offered an opportunity to strengthen connections between members of the two IGU commissions and to explore possibilities for further collaboration between island studies and tourism geography.

We sincerely thank all participants for their presentations, discussions and active engagement, and particularly our colleagues from the Commission on Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change for their cooperation in organising this successful pre-conference event.





IGU PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING ON BÜYÜKADA, TURKEY





IGU PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING ON BÜYÜKADA, TURKEY





SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS: COMMISSION ON ISLANDS TRAVEL GRANTS 2026

Supporting young and early-career researchers is an important priority for the IGU Commission on Islands.

In connection with the IGU Regional Conference, held in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 17 to 21 August 2026, the Commission awarded **four travel grants** to support the participation of early-career researchers.

Following a competitive selection process, four researchers were selected to receive a **€500** travel grant to help cover the costs associated with attending the conference.

The 2026 grant recipients were: **Kuan-Ting Chiang, Nora Müller, Shuqin Li, and Ming-Xi Chen.**



The travel grants provided an opportunity for young scholars to participate in an international scientific meeting, present and discuss their research, exchange ideas with colleagues from different parts of the world, establish new academic connections, and engage more closely with the activities and wider network of the Commission on Islands.

We were particularly pleased to welcome all four grant recipients to Istanbul and to see them actively contributing to the Commission's sessions and discussions throughout the conference.



SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS: COMMISSION ON ISLANDS TRAVEL GRANTS 2026

Their participation brought valuable perspectives and ideas to our exchanges and highlighted the importance of supporting opportunities for emerging scholars within the field of island geography.

The Commission warmly congratulates Kuan-Ting Chiang, Nora Müller, Shuqin Li, and Ming-Xi Chen and wishes them every success in their future research.

We look forward to following their work and hope to see them remain actively engaged with the IGU Commission on Islands and the wider international community of island researchers.

By supporting the participation of early-career researchers in international scientific exchange, the Commission seeks to strengthen connections across generations of scholars and contribute to a dynamic, inclusive, and internationally connected community of researchers working on islands and island-related geographical questions.





REFLECTIONS FROM TRAVEL GRANTS 2026 WINNERS

I am very grateful to the IGU Commission on Islands for supporting my participation in the conference with a travel grant. The €500 grant, equivalent to approximately RMB 4,000, covered roughly half of my round-trip airfare between Guangzhou and Istanbul. This support significantly eased the financial burden of attending an international conference and allowed me to enjoy the academic journey with much greater ease. I am especially grateful that the Commission selected four presenters, including myself, from among many applicants for this support. For an early-career researcher, such a grant means much more than financial assistance: it provides a valuable opportunity to become part of an international academic community and to engage in face-to-face exchange with scholars from different countries.

Istanbul is a beautiful and truly unique city. To gather there with people who share similar research interests, listen to one another's work, and discuss questions that we all care about was, for me, a rare and even somewhat romantic experience. The travel grant not only made my participation in the conference possible, but also gave me the opportunity to experience Istanbul's rich natural and cultural landscapes beyond the conference venue, making the entire journey more complete and memorable.

The session in which I participated, "Fluid Sovereignities: Geopolitics, Climate Change, and the Future of Island and Maritime Spaces," brought together six presenters: three from Taiwan, two from mainland China, including myself, and one from Japan. Although all of us were based in Asia, the research presented in the session was remarkably diverse. Our subjects ranged from human to nonhuman actors; some presentations addressed the "high politics" of military affairs and geopolitics, while others explored the "low politics" of agricultural economies, infrastructure, and ecological governance.

The approaches also ranged from historical narratives to analyses of contemporary processes. Despite these differences in subject matter and perspective, all six presentations engaged with the shared themes of islands, maritime space, and sovereignty. It was precisely this common ground within our diversity that enabled us to understand one another's work, exchange ideas, and learn from each other. I found the session exceptionally well organized, intellectually stimulating, and highly successful.

I would also like to express my particular gratitude and respect to Professor Takashi Yamazaki. Before attending the conference, I had heard my supervisor speak many times



REFLECTIONS FROM TRAVEL GRANTS 2026 WINNERS

about his research and academic journey. I had come to see him as a scholar who has remained committed to the research he truly cares about, who has strong scholarly ideals, and who is at the same time remarkably humble.

For this reason, I had long hoped that I might one day have the opportunity to meet him in person. This conference finally made that possible, and I was genuinely excited to meet him.

What made the experience even more meaningful was that, during our brief conversation after the session, Professor Yamazaki had not only taken notice of my presentation but also offered substantive suggestions and guidance for my research.

For an early-career researcher, receiving thoughtful feedback and encouragement from a scholar whom I have long respected was one of the most memorable and meaningful moments of the conference. I feel deeply honored and sincerely grateful to him.

I do not yet know where the next conference will take place, but I sincerely hope that I will have another opportunity to share my research in a session organized by the IGU Commission on Islands and to meet more international scholars who share a passion for island and maritime studies.

For me, this travel grant made possible much more than a conference trip. It helped me build new academic connections, encounter new research ideas and perspectives, and strengthened my desire to remain part of this open and welcoming scholarly community.

Shuqin Li



REFLECTIONS FROM TRAVEL GRANTS 2026 WINNERS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the IGU Commission on Islands for their generous support, which made it possible for me to travel to Türkiye and attend this conference. Hosted at the historic and academically distinguished Istanbul University, the conference provided me with an incredible opportunity to exchange ideas with scholars from around the world in such a culturally rich setting. It was truly a remarkable and unforgettable experience.

To be honest, I was quite nervous when presenting my research, knowing that I was sharing my work with so many leading scholars from around the world. Fortunately, the atmosphere was warm and welcoming. Completing my presentation and receiving insightful feedback from the audience not only helped ease my anxiety, but also provided me with valuable inspiration for my future research directions.

Throughout the conference, I had the pleasure of attending presentations on a wide range of fascinating topics and exploring diverse research perspectives, particularly those concerning the unique challenges faced by different island environments.

These experiences greatly broadened my academic horizons and have played an important role in my academic and professional development.

Without the support of the IGU Commission on Islands, attending this conference would have been far more challenging. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and for the trust and support that made this experience possible.

Thank you once again to the IGU Commission on Islands for your generous support!

Ming-Xi Chen



REFLECTIONS FROM TRAVEL GRANTS 2026 WINNERS

This year I had the opportunity to participate in the IRC preconference organised by the IGU Islands Commission together with the Commission of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change at Büyükada (Princes' Islands) as well as in the IRC Conference 2026 at Istanbul University from 14 August to 21 August 2026. The participation has been supported by the grant of the IGU Islands Commission, thank you therefore!

It was a great opportunity to present two of my recent research projects. On the one hand, I presented results of the investigation about revanchist tourism policies in the case of party tourism enclaves at the Balearic Islands and their regulation as "Excess Tourism Zones" on Saturday, 15 August 2026 at the preconference in Büyükada. On the other hand, I contributed to session "Island Contestations: Reclaiming Utopia from Touristification" organised by the Islands Commission by presenting recent research about tourism-critical social movements, particularly in Islands contexts on Wednesday, 19 August 2026. These presentations were relevant, because I could expose the new research area I am engaging with. I defended my PhD in 2024 about the commodification of nature through tourism and private protected areas. Recently, in September 2025, I started my postdoctoral research at Trier University which focusses on tourism-critical social movements.

Spatially I will concentrate on the Mediterranean Sea and the Balearic Islands in particular. Hence, participating and presenting first results were particularly important to me.

In addition, the shared preconference taking place at a tourist island was inspiring for further research questions and to build and strengthen the research network I started to develop during my PhD phase. I also really enjoyed the different panels during the IRC Conference organised by the Islands Commission, particularly those focussing on tourism studies. The discussions during these sessions were fascinating. It strengthened my interest in researching about islands and the question about their particularity in relation to the organisation of tourism and its contestations, which is the topic of my postdoctoral research. Following the week in Istanbul different ideas for publication about tourism and tourism-critical social movements in islands context emerged. Finally, I was glad to also participate in the informal meeting of the Islands Commission as it facilitated to get in touch with other islands scholars around the world. In a nutshell, the participation at both the IRC Preconference in Büyükada and the IRC Conference in Istanbul was exciting, inspiring and promising for future research collaborations. Thanks again for the support through the grant!

Nora Müller



REFLECTIONS FROM TRAVEL GRANTS 2026 WINNERS

Participating in the IGU Regional Conference 2026 in Istanbul was a valuable and memorable experience. I am sincerely grateful to the IGU Commission on Islands for providing me with a travel grant.

As a master's student travelling from Taiwan, the cost of attending an international conference is a significant consideration. The grant helped offset my travel expenses and reduced the financial burden of attending the conference. It made it considerably easier for me to participate in person, present my research, and engage with scholars from different countries.

During the conference, I presented my ongoing master's research on the formation of nighttime urban tourism spaces in Yancheng District, Kaohsiung. The research examines the relationships among nighttime tourism, urban redevelopment, cultural attractions, commercial activities, local residents, and visitors. Since the study is still at the proposal stage, presenting it to an international audience was especially meaningful. Preparing for the presentation and participating in the discussion helped me reflect on how I could define my research questions and explain the connections between tourism development and residents' everyday lives more clearly.

Another highlight was attending the Commission on Islands sessions and learning how researchers from different places and disciplines approach island-related issues. Although the cases presented were different from Taiwan, the discussions on tourism, mobility, identity, governance, and resilience revealed many shared concerns. These perspectives encouraged me to consider how my local case study could contribute to broader discussions in island studies while remaining attentive to its specific social and historical context.

The conference also strengthened my confidence in presenting in English and communicating my research to an international audience. The conversations before and after the sessions were particularly encouraging and made me feel welcomed as an early-career researcher.

I would like to thank all members of the IGU Commission on Islands for their support and warm welcome. The grant provided not only financial assistance but also an important opportunity for my academic and professional development. It was truly wonderful meeting everyone in Istanbul, and I hope to remain connected with the Commission and participate in its future activities..

Kuan-Ting Chiang



BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS IGU COMMISSIONS: JOINT SESSIONS IN ISTANBUL

The IGU Regional Conference 2026 in Istanbul provided an excellent opportunity for the IGU Commission on Islands to strengthen collaboration with other IGU commissions and to place island-related questions within broader geographical debates.

During the conference, the Commission co-organised two sets of joint sessions, bringing island studies into dialogue with political geography and tourism geography.

Together with the **IGU Commission on Political Geography**, the Commission organised the joint session **“Fluid Sovereignities: Geopolitics, Climate Change, and the Future of Island and Maritime Spaces.”** Held across two consecutive sessions on 20 August, it brought together research addressing sovereignty, borders and territoriality, maritime geopolitics, island identities, ecological change, governance and critical infrastructure.





BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS IGU COMMISSIONS: JOINT SESSIONS IN ISTANBUL

The contributions ranged from questions of residual sovereignty and self-determination in Okinawa and changing borders and identities in Kinmen and Matsu to agricultural resilience in Taiwan, developments in maritime political geography and the geopolitics of submarine cables. The discussions demonstrated the value of islands and maritime spaces as settings for examining changing relationships between territory, sovereignty, networks, environmental processes and geopolitical power.

The sessions were convened and chaired by Takashi Yamazaki and Edward Boyle, whose work in bringing the two commissions together created a valuable space for exchange between island studies and political geography.





BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS IGU COMMISSIONS: JOINT SESSIONS IN ISTANBUL

A second collaboration brought together the IGU Commission on Islands and the IGU Commission on Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change for the joint sessions “Island Contestations: Reclaiming Utopia from Touristification.”

Across two sessions, participants examined the complex relationships between tourism, islandness and processes of socio-spatial change. Presentations addressed tourism contestations, environmental pressures, local perceptions and memory, changing tourism spaces and imaginaries, land-use transformation and the ways in which tourism can reshape both island communities and insularity itself.

The geographical perspectives were wide-ranging, with research encompassing islands and coastal areas in the Mediterranean, Croatia, Taiwan, Grenada and South Africa. This diversity generated a productive discussion on how tourism development is experienced, negotiated and contested in different island and coastal contexts, as well as on the challenges of balancing tourism opportunities with environmental and social pressures.





BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS IGU COMMISSIONS: JOINT SESSIONS IN ISTANBUL

The session has been convened and chaired by Anica Čuka and Macià Blázquez-Salom, who helped create an engaging exchange between island studies and tourism geography.

Both joint initiatives demonstrated the value of collaboration across IGU commissions. By bringing different geographical perspectives into conversation, the sessions highlighted the many ways in which contemporary island research intersects with wider questions of sovereignty, geopolitics, tourism, environmental change, infrastructure, identity and local communities.

We sincerely thank all presenters, chairs, convenors and participants who contributed their research, ideas and perspectives. The lively discussions in Istanbul provided an important platform for exchange and opened further possibilities for collaboration between the Commission on Islands and other parts of the wider IGU community.





EXCITING NEWS: PROFESSOR TAKASHI YAMAZAKI ELECTED IGU VICE PRESIDENT!!!

We are delighted to announce that **Professor Takashi Yamazaki**, a valued member of the IGU Commission on Islands Steering Committee, has been elected Vice President of the International Geographical Union (IGU).

Professor Yamazaki is Professor of Geography at Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan, and a distinguished political geographer whose research focuses on political geography, geopolitics and Okinawa studies. He holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Colorado Boulder and has been actively involved in the IGU community for many years.

His engagement with island research is particularly significant. In 2023, Professor Yamazaki served as Chief Organizer of the IGU Thematic Conference “Islands in Relations: Conflicts, Sustainability, and Peace”, held at Osaka Metropolitan University and followed by a field trip to Okinawa. Bringing together 121 participants from 28 countries and regions, the conference explored islands through their political, social, cultural, environmental and geographical relations, with a particular focus on conflict, sustainability and peace.

The IGU Commission on Islands warmly congratulates Professor Yamazaki on this well-deserved achievement and wishes him every success in his new role.





Professor Sun-Kee Hong Appointed Director of the Institution for Marine and Island Cultures

We are pleased to share that Prof. Dr. Sun-Kee Hong, a member of the Steering Committee of the IGU Commission on Islands, has been appointed Director of the Institution for Marine and Island Cultures at Mokpo National University, Korea, effective 10 August 2026.

The Institution has a history of more than 40 years of research in island humanities and social sciences and plays an important role in advancing interdisciplinary island studies. In his new role, Professor Hong looks forward to further developing international collaboration and strengthening global island research networks.

Professor Hong is an active member of the international island studies community and also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Marine and Island Cultures.

The IGU Commission on Islands warmly congratulates our Steering Committee member Professor Sun-Kee Hong on this important appointment and wishes him every success in his new role.





IGU COMMISSION ON ISLANDS AT THE 20th ISLANDS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE – ISISA 2026

The 20th Islands of the World Conference (ISISA 2026) took place in Shinan, South Korea, from 7–11 July 2026, bringing together island scholars, practitioners and policymakers from around the world under the theme “Island Space and Time.”

The IGU Commission on Islands actively contributed to the conference by organising a dedicated scientific session, providing a platform for Commission members and colleagues to present current research, exchange perspectives and discuss emerging issues in island studies.

The session reflected the Commission’s commitment to strengthening international and interdisciplinary dialogue on islands and to fostering connections across the global island research community.

More broadly, ISISA 2026 provided an important meeting point for sharing research and experiences from diverse island contexts, while creating opportunities for new collaborations and reinforcing existing international networks.

The Commission’s participation and dedicated session in Shinan further strengthened its engagement with the wider island studies community and contributed to ongoing exchanges between geographers and scholars from related disciplines working on the complex spatial, social, cultural and environmental dimensions of islands.





COSTA – Observatory on Culture and Sustainable Tourism

Congress in Palma (Mallorca), October 22-24 2026

Registration is now open for an upcoming event organised within COSTA – Observatory on Culture and Sustainable Tourism, a project of the Casa Planas Foundation.

COSTA functions as a collective and independent research laboratory examining dominant narratives of global tourism and their social, cultural and territorial impacts.

The event will bring together experts from different disciplines to exchange perspectives and proposals on contemporary tourism models, connecting local and global perspectives as well as historical processes and current challenges.

An important point of departure for these discussions is the Casa Planas Archive, a photographic collection documenting and representing tourism and its imaginaries.

The event may be of particular interest to Commission members working on tourism, island and coastal communities, cultural landscapes, territorial transformations and sustainable development.

Further information and registration are available on the COSTA website:

<https://observatoriocosta.com/actualitat/>





**DOCTORAL WORKSHOP. EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS IN ISLAND AND MARITIME STUDIES
FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

September 23–24, 2026

Sala de reunions. Facultat de Filosofia i Lletres
Universitat de les Illes Balears

EUNICoast

For online assistance, please contact m.picornell@uib.cat

Presentation

Island and maritime studies have developed in recent decades as interdisciplinary research fields, with their own analytical frameworks, theoretical debates and methodological challenges. In this context, we offer a hybrid-format seminar dedicated to the presentation of research projects in island and maritime studies from the perspectives of the humanities and social sciences, with a particular focus on final-year undergraduate, master's and doctoral students. The activity, framed within the internationalization project of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of the Balearic Islands (UIB) -nowadays involved in the EUNICoast alliance-, aims to help early-career researchers to delimit objects of study, clarify the theoretical foundations of the field and identify the analytical specificities of island and maritime contexts. The seminar seeks to create a space for discussion on approaches, research lines and project design strategies in areas such as literary, linguistic, geographical, artistic, historical, philosophical, visual culture and anthropological studies.

Meeting dynamic:

Presentations can last between 10 and 15 minutes. Interventions are expected to provide a summary of the ongoing research work, regardless of its stage of development. After every session, a discussion time will be opened, with the participation of a specialist who will act as a respondent to the interventions.



DOCTORAL WORKSHOP. EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS IN ISLAND AND MARITIME STUDIES FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

September 23–24, 2026

Programme

September 23

15.45h Opening

- Pau De Vílchez, Vice-rector for International Relations, Solidarity and Global Justice
- Joana Petrus, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters
- Joana Maria Seguí, Co-director of the Chair of Insularity-UIB

16h Ocean Crime Narratives project Seminar

- Apocalyptic Authoritarianism: Climate Crisis, Media, and Power, with Dra. Hanna E. Morris (University of Toronto). Online presentation.

17.30h–18.30h **Session 1. Islands, ports and linguistic variation** (Chair: Maria del Mar Vanrell)

- James Ramsburg — "Insularity and Language Change: Lexical Variation among Catalan-Spanish Bilingual Youth in Mallorca".

- Cristina Herrera — "We are liking Englishes: Morphosyntactic Variation in Gibraltar and Balearic English".

- Maria Victòria Rodríguez-Lázaro — "Stylistic Shift of Relativizers in Gibraltar English".

Coffee break

18.45h–19.30h **Session 2. Islands, ports, and linguistic and cultural contact**

Chair: Elga Cremades

- Caterina Amengual Ripoll — "Language Ideologies and Attitudes and the Decision to Learn and Use a Minoritised Language: a Mixed Methods Approach". Online presentation.

- Marina Pérez-Martín — "A Corpus-based Approach to the Study of the BE-passive in Gibraltar English: Morphosyntactic Variation, Socio-cultural Pragmatics and Language Contact in Focus".

September 24

9.15h–10.15h **Session 3. Maritime and insular narratives** (Chair: Jesús Revelles)

**DOCTORAL WORKSHOP. EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS IN ISLAND AND MARITIME STUDIES FROM
THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES****September 23–24, 2026**

- Telmo Rodrigo Mendes da Silva Nunes — "From Deep-Seated Nostalgia to the Construction of a Cultural Identity: Interpretations of Insularity in Raiz Comovida". Online presentation.

- Carolina Peña Moreno — "The Stranded Aircraft Carrier: Mallorca as a Logistical and Economic Base for the Francoist Side (1936–1939). A Transnational Perspective".

- Agnès Gayà Grimalt — "La insularitat com a identitat de marca: el cas de la Perla Majorica".

10.15h–11.30h Session 4. Representations of tourism and environmental damage

Chair: Miquel Pomar

- Coloma Amada Mas — "Pertinença acústica i identitat cultural a Afinando al alba de Tomás Graves".

- Aina Gomis Sintes — "La rellevància del mite insular i les narratives turístiques en els estudis literaris sobre la insularitat. Un cas d'estudi des de la perspectiva ecocrítica".

- Francisca M. Buades-Pericás — "El dany mediambiental a la mar en les narratives catalanes contemporànies".

- Laia Ventayol-García — "Narratives del dany mediambiental a la mar a la literatura, la política i la llei contemporànies.

Coffee break

11.45h–12.30h **Session 5. Historiographical sources and historical analysis of island contexts**

- Aina Trias-Verbeeck — "Produir coneixement des de les illes: informants de la mar, xarxes consulars i pesqueries a l'arxipèlag balear (c.1722–1723)".

- Nina Laming López — "Alimentació i tasques de manteniment: la vida quotidiana a la prehistòria balear entre el II i el I mil·lenni aC".

12.30h–13.30h Session 6. Political mobilization and island history

Chair: Mercè Picornell

- Adrián Baranda Martínez-Abascal — "Vincles i divergències entre el moviment llibertari de Mallorca i Menorca entre 1910 i 1936".

- Antoni Bonet Robeta — "Anticlericalisme i clericalisme a les Illes Balears (1931–1939)".

**DOCTORAL WORKSHOP. EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS IN ISLAND AND MARITIME STUDIES FROM
THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES****September 23–24, 2026**

15.30h–16.30h Session 7. Cultural projections of islands and maritime spaces (Chair: Aina Vidal Pérez)

- Emilio Pavón Castillo — "Conducting One's Life in Maritime Modernity: Descartes, Prudence, and Circulation in the Dutch Republic". Online presentation.
- Ignacio Martínez Armas — "Océanos y cine contemporáneo".
- Ricardo Manuel Pereira Esperanço — "La cultura entre el territorio y la proyección internacional: el Arquipélago - Centro de Artes Contemporáneas como mediador entre lo local y lo global en las Azores". Online session.

16.30h–18h Session 8. Cross-cultural interaction in Insular and Coastal Destinations (Chair: Macià Blázquez)

- Louise Wolf-Gorny — "Host-Guest Dynamics in Insular and Coastal Destinations".
- Badr El Boudour Javari — "Future Scenarios for Transcultural Lagoon Regions".

Organization

Facultat de Filosofia i Lletres. Universitat de les Illes Balears

Organizing committee

Marina Pérez-Martín, Aina Gomis, Cristina Herreria, Jesús Revelles, Mercè Picornell, Maria del Mar Vanrell, Ignacio Martínez Armas, Macià Blázquez, Francisca Maria Buades

In collaboration with

Ocean Crime Narratives (ONC)

EUNICoast



This event has been organized thanks to a grant from the Vicerectorat de Relacions Internacionals, Solidaritat i Justícia Global (UIB).



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EUNICoast
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Ports and Coastal Territories

**LOOKING AHEAD: 21ST ISLANDS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE – CURAÇAO 2027**

The island studies community will meet again for the 21st Islands of the World Conference, an ISISA Conference, to be held in Curaçao from 6–10 June 2027. Under the theme “Navigating Challenges, Building Global Resilience: Island Solutions,” the conference will provide an international platform for sharing research, experiences and innovative approaches to the challenges and opportunities facing islands worldwide. Building on the successful cooperation at previous Islands of the World conferences, the IGU Commission on Islands looks forward to continuing its strong collaboration with the International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA) in Curaçao. We hope to contribute to the scientific programme once again through a dedicated IGU Commission on Islands session, bringing geographical perspectives into dialogue with the wider interdisciplinary island studies community. The Call for Abstracts is now open, with a submission deadline of 15 October 2026. We encourage members of the Commission and the wider island research community to consider participating and contributing to what promises to be another important gathering for international island scholarship.



AN ISISA CONFERENCE

Islands of the World
Curaçao 2027

21st Islands of the World Conference

Curaçao • 6–10 June 2027

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS*Navigating Challenges, Building Global Resilience: Island Solutions*

Abstract deadline • 15 October 2026

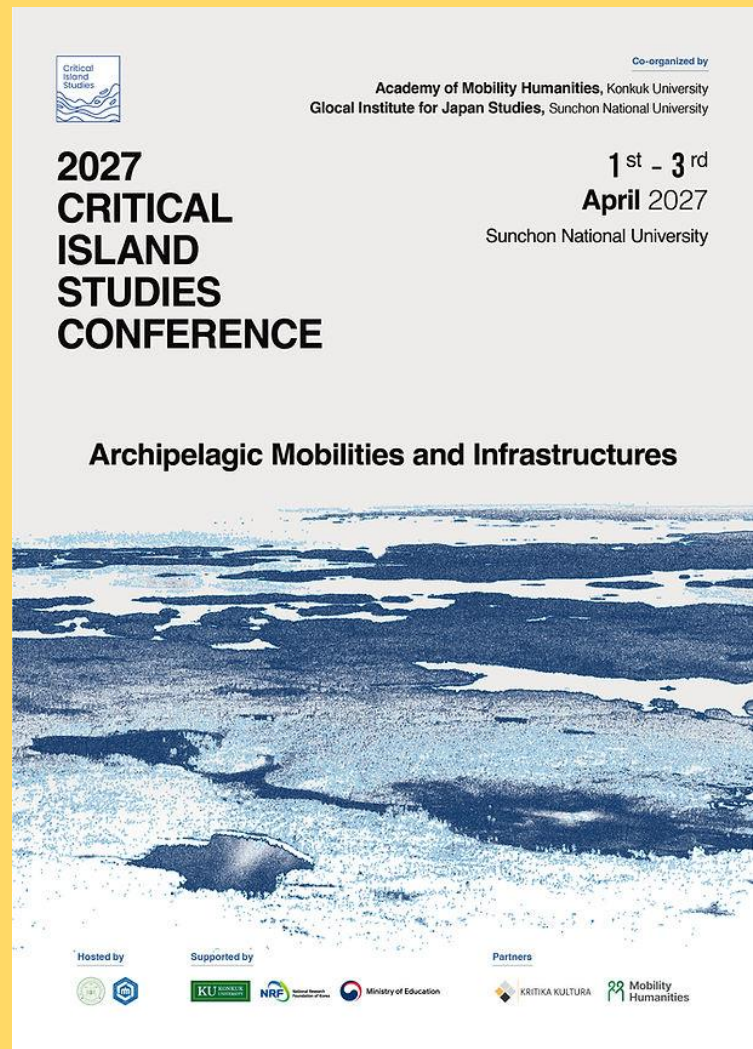
www.2027isisa.com



LOOKING AHEAD: 2027 CRITICAL ISLAND STUDIES CONFERENCE

The Critical Island Studies Consortium (CIS) is an academic network dedicated to challenging prevailing modes of knowledge production centered on the Northern Hemisphere. It aims to explore the epistemological and ontological underpinnings of emerging knowledge paradigms.

Discussions on globalization often center on the expansion of Europe and North America, sidelining other regions and establishing these areas as the “center” while characterizing the rest of the world as the “margin.” However, this perspective is problematic as it neglects the interconnected nature of the global system. To foster a fresh understanding of the environment and nature, it is imperative to move away from this Eurocentric viewpoint and embrace a more planetary outlook. This shift becomes crucial in addressing pressing challenges related to social and environmental crises. Archipelagic thinking present a potential alternative to the prevalent Eurocentric cosmology of nature, focusing on oceans and islands instead of land and continents. This approach offers the possibility of envisioning and crafting a more sustainable future for our planet.



Co-organized by
Academy of Mobility Humanities, Konkuk University
Global Institute for Japan Studies, Suncheon National University

2027
**CRITICAL
ISLAND
STUDIES
CONFERENCE**

1st – 3rd
April 2027
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More information can be found here:
<https://www.2027cis.org/>



STRENGTHENING COORDINATION WITHIN THE IGU COMMISSION ON ISLANDS

The Steering Committee of the IGU Commission on Islands continued its regular coordination and planning activities throughout 2026. In addition to the joint pre-conference meeting with the IGU Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change, the Steering Committee held an online meeting on **13 May 2026**. The May meeting provided an opportunity to review recent Commission activities and coordinate upcoming work. Discussions included a report from the meeting with IGU representatives, the Commission's financial matters, and preparations for forthcoming ISISA and IGU conferences. Particular attention was also given to the planned pre-conference collaboration with the Tourism Commission, the preparation of the Commission's newsletter, and other ongoing activities.

A further meeting was held on **19 August 2026** during the IGU Regional Conference in Istanbul, bringing together Commission members who were attending the conference in person. The meeting offered a valuable opportunity to discuss the Commission's future activities and priorities in a face-to-face setting. Particular attention was given to opportunities for joint publications and strengthening research collaboration among Commission members, as well as possibilities for developing shared initiatives arising from the Commission's conference activities and scientific sessions. These regular online and in-person meetings play an important role in maintaining an active and connected Steering Committee, coordinating the Commission's international activities, and developing new opportunities for collaborative research, publications and conference initiatives within the global island geography community.





GEONIGHT 2026

GeoNight (Nuit de la Géographie) has grown from an initiative launched by the French National Geographical Committee in 2017 into a global event supported by EUGEO and the International Geographical Union (IGU).

Through accessible and engaging activities, GeoNight brings geography closer to the wider public, with particular emphasis on young people and their engagement with geographical questions. In 2026, the IGU Commission on Islands joined the initiative with its activities were registered on behalf of the Commission and organised at Geography Departments in Croatia, Italy and Spain. Through workshops, games, quizzes and other interactive formats, participants had the opportunity to discover the diversity of islands, their cultures and environments, as well as some of the distinctive challenges faced by island communities.

Participation in GeoNight represents an important opportunity for the Commission to promote island geography beyond academic circles, engage younger generations and contribute to the wider visibility of geography. We hope to expand our participation with even more activities and locations in 2027 and encourage Commission members to become involved.

The IGU Commission on Islands will continue to support GeoNight as an important international initiative that demonstrates the relevance of geography and connects geographical knowledge with communities and future generations.



International Night of Geography



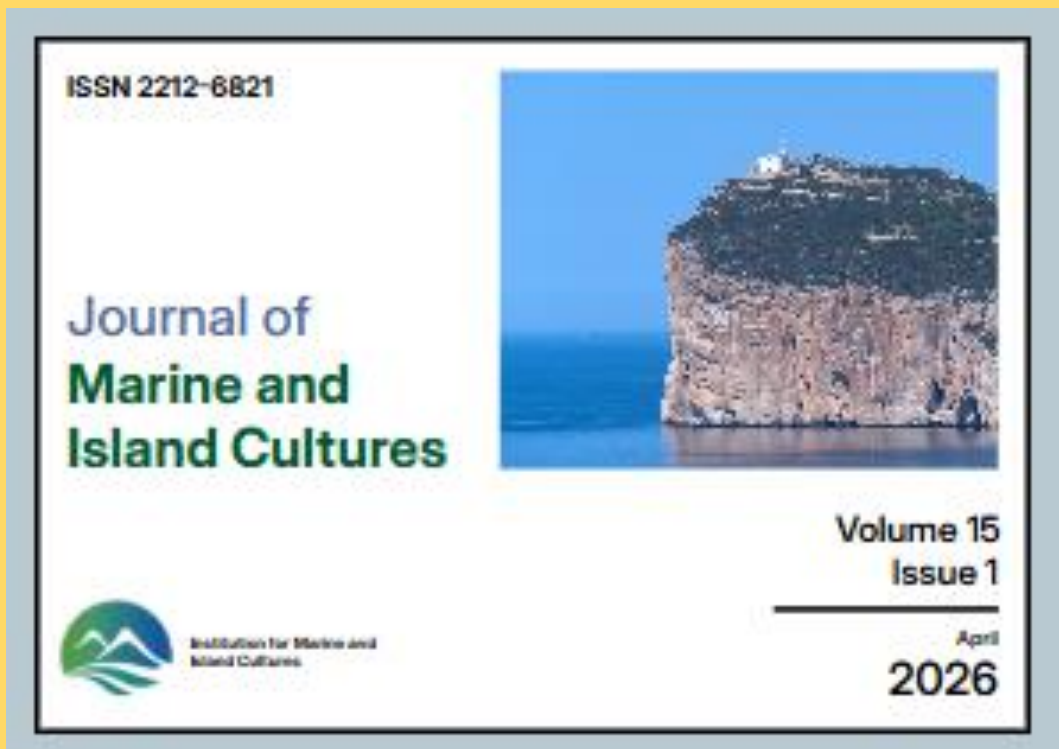
Special Issue in the Journal of Marine and Island Cultures (JMIC): The Present and Future of Island Cultural Diversity

Following the 2025 International Island Forum in Yeosu, a special issue of the Journal of Marine and Island Cultures (JMIC), entitled “The Present and Future of Island Cultural Diversity,” was published in Vol. 15, No. 1 (2026), with Evangelia Papoutsaki (SICRI / MIT-UNITEC, Auckland, New Zealand) as Guest Editor.

The special issue brings together contributions exploring contemporary perspectives on island cultural diversity and its future.

Explore the Special Issue – JMIC Vol. 15, No. 1 (2026)

https://jmic.online/issues/?utm_source=chatgpt.com#v15n1



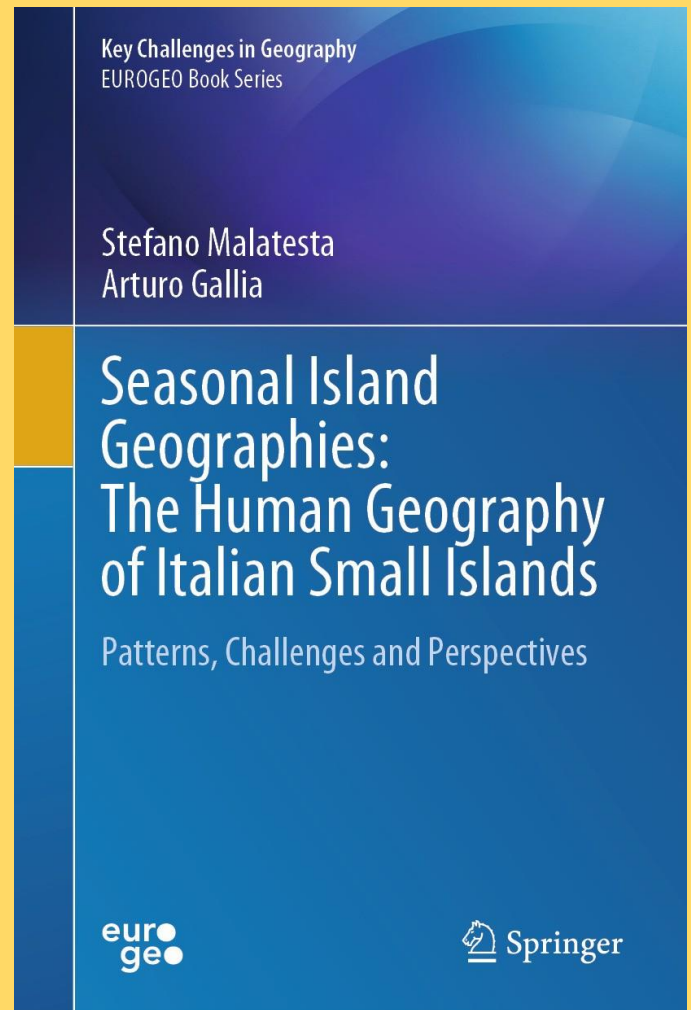


NEW BOOK

We are pleased to highlight the recently published book *Seasonal Island Geographies: The Human Geography of Italian Small Islands – Patterns, Challenges and Perspectives* by Stefano Malatesta and Arturo Gallia, both members of the IGU Commission on Islands. Published by Springer, the book explores the remarkable geophysical, landscape, demographic and cultural diversity of Italy's small islands.

With almost sixty islands inhabited permanently or seasonally, the Italian archipelagos—together with Dalmatia and the Aegean islands—represent a particularly significant region for understanding the human geography of the Mediterranean.

At the heart of the book is temporality as a key interpretative lens for understanding small-island geographies. The authors examine how the humanisation of island spaces is shaped by the recurring rhythms of seasons and by what they describe as “one-peak seasonality”—the concentration of climatic, social and economic activities within particular periods of the year. This concept of “seasonal politics” provides a framework for analysing how tourism, demography, energy production, connectivity and administrative geography interact and influence the territorial, environmental and social development of Italian islands.





NEW BOOK

Combining cartographic, statistical and historical sources with detailed case studies, the book situates Italian small islands within wider regional, national and European environmental and territorial policies. It will be of interest not only to geographers and island studies scholars, but also to researchers in environmental and social sciences, economics, architecture and political science, as well as practitioners, decision-makers and students.

The book was also presented at the 20th ISISA Islands of the World Conference in Shinan, South Korea, providing an opportunity to introduce this new contribution to the international island studies community.

Congratulations to our Commission members Stefano Malatesta and Arturo Gallia on this important contribution to island geography. More information about the book is available from Springer:

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-032-03390-1>





HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Are you interested in **Island Research** or **Island Geography**?
We warmly invite you to join our Commission!

To express your interest or request more information, feel free to contact any of the Commission representatives:

Chair: Prof. Anica Čuka — acuka@unizd.hr

Vice-Chair: Dr. Annette Breckwoldt — annette.breckwoldt@leibniz-zmt.de

Secretary: Prof. Mucahid Mustafa Bayrak — mmbayrak@ntnu.edu.tw

We look forward to hearing from you!

HOW TO REACH US?

You can reach us through our official website:

<https://geogsoc.org.tw/IGU-Islands/>

Connect with us on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/15pnB5infc/>

