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## Turning the Tide: Island Imaginaries and Interdisciplinaries in Climate Change

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| Item Type     | Conference organisation   |
| Authors       | Mijts, Eric   |
| Citation      | Mijts, E. (2025, June). Turning the Tide: Island Imaginaries and Interdisciplinaries in Climate Change [co-chair] University of Prince Edward Island - University of Aruba – Sophia University. |
| Journal       | Turning the Tide: Island Imaginaries and Interdisciplinaries in Climate Change  |
| Download date | 2026-06-10 05:59:08   |
| Link to Item  | <a href="https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14473/1850">https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14473/1850</a>   |

# TURNING *the* TIDE

ISLAND IMAGINARIES & INTERDISCIPLINARIES IN CLIMATE CHANGE

## BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Turning the Tide 2025

Island Imaginaries and Interdisciplinarians in Climate Change

3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Small Island States and Subnational Island Jurisdictions

University of Prince Edward Island Prince Edward Island, Canada.

June 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



## **A1 Tourism**

### Entrepreneurial Responses to Climate Change in Island Communities: A Luxury Tourism Perspective

*Dennis Sakalauskas, Romeo V. Turcan (Paper)*

#### Abstract:

This presentation explores how climate change is reshaping entrepreneurial activity in island contexts, particularly within the luxury tourism sector. Drawing on qualitative research from luxury-based entrepreneurs of Fogo Island and Vancouver Island in Canada as well as remote locations in Iceland, we examine how Island-based entrepreneurs are integrating sustainability and climate resilience into new business models. Islands in Canada as well as in Iceland are experiencing challenges and opportunities of climate-driven change. Therefore, this session highlights how these Island based luxury new ventures go beyond regulatory compliance, leveraging environmental stewardship as a form of competitive differentiation. We also reflect on how island geographies influence entrepreneurs' sense of responsibility and connection to place, creating unique dynamics in their responses to climate-related risks. Participants will leave with insights into the strategies used by entrepreneurs in isolated or fragile island regions to navigate climate disruption while contributing positively to their local ecosystems and communities.

### The Everyday Island: Can Visitors Experience Authentic 'Everyday' Island Life? Susan Graham

#### Abstract:

Visitors often travel to islands with the hope of catching a genuine glimpse of island life, yearning for an authentic experience that goes beyond mere observation. But can visitors truly immerse themselves in the authentic island way of life, or are they merely engaging with a carefully curated, staged version of islandness that lacks the depth of real islander experiences? Residents argue that on Prince Edward Island (PEI), visitors can indeed experience the 'real' Island, and thus island life. By participating in activities that locals themselves enjoy—including activities that may be labelled as 'touristy' but are deeply embedded in the everyday lives of islanders—visitors can, for a time, live like an Islander. Yet many of the experiences identified by residents as being emblematic of authentic Prince Edward Island are susceptible to the impacts of climate change. In identifying these tourism experiences as being authentic and accessible to visitors, residents also implored visitors to respect, value, and 'tread lightly' in response to the sensitivity of the Island's natural land- and seascape. Themes to be explored include nostalgia, community, daily life, pride of place, ownership, and fragility of authentic spaces. By engaging with the island on these terms, visitors are not merely spectators but participants in a shared responsibility between the local and the tourist to protect the Island from climate change and environmental degradation.

Scientific Tourism: Opportunities and Challenges in Island Territories *Erika*

*Salazar, Juan Ricardo Gómez, Anne McDonald (Panel)*

Abstract: Humanity's exploration of diverse landscapes and cultures has long fueled knowledge creation and territorial transformation. Scientific tourism—anchored in this research-driven travel— offers a sustainable economic alternative for local communities, providing socioecological aligned opportunities particularly suited to island ecosystems. While often marketed as sun-and sand destinations, islands are, in fact, highly vulnerable regions, home to 20% of Earth's biodiversity, 10% of the global population, and numerous threatened endemic species. This unique fragility underscores the urgent need for alternative tourism models focused on biodiversity conservation in island contexts.

This hybrid roundtable convenes five experts from diverse fields to examine the opportunities and challenges of scientific tourism in islands, with an emphasis on the Caribbean, including San Andrés and Providence in Colombia. The panelists will explore sustainable tourism practices that align with ecological conservation goals, drawing on insights from tourism development, conservation science, and international market trends. Discussion topics include the role of global demand in supporting eco-conscious tourism products and how interdisciplinary approaches can foster new models of tourism that balance economic benefit with environmental stewardship. This session aims to inspire sustainable, conservation-oriented tourism models that safeguard island ecosystems while supporting resilient local economies.

**A2 Marine Life**

Connecting Corals: understanding coral genetics for climate resilience in tropical insular territories

Violeta Lopez, Eric Mijts

Abstract:

Climate change is affecting coral reefs dramatically. The reef-building corals in the Caribbean are decimated by the impact of changing water temperatures and extreme weather events. To understand in which way the negative consequences of global change on insular coral resilience, we need to understand the genetic connectivity of these ecosystems. The dispersal patterns of marine organisms are essential in shaping population dynamics. This study investigates the interaction between ocean currents and two reproductive strategies of scleractinian corals, and their combined influence on genetic connectivity among the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao. Coral reproductive modes, specifically brooding versus broadcast spawning, play a critical role in the genetic structuring of populations. We propose that locally brooding corals exhibit stronger genetic structuring than species with broadcast spawning, where larvae experience extended periods in the water column. Using 3D hydrodynamic simulations of Caribbean Current circulation coupled with an individual-based model of biological traits for

brooding corals and broadcast spawners, we assess abiotic connectivity patterns. Results indicate that dispersal potential is notably higher for broadcast spawners. Genotyping across two species using microsatellite markers reveals high genetic differentiation in brooding corals and comparatively lower levels among broadcast spawners. Additionally, sporadic dispersal events in brooding corals add to genetic diversity and suggest source-sink dynamics. This analysis of population connectivity and genetic structure in reef-building corals provides critical insights into reef ecosystem resilience, establishing a foundation for informed conservation strategies. Our research supports the long-term sustainability of these essential coral species in a changing marine landscape.

Fisheries Management in a Changing Climate: Insights from the Prince Edward Island Lobster Fishery

Marlene Chapman

Abstract:

The one hundred and fifty year-old lobster fishery of the Northwest Atlantic is a management success story, boasting increases in abundance and value since the 1980s. However, there are signs that these trends are changing, and this may be related to climate change. This study attempts to illustrate the adaptive capacity of Prince Edward Island (Canada) lobster fishers through the lens of social capital in the context of climate change and 'islandness'. With data gathered through semi-structured interviews, personal observation and grey and scholarly literature, features of social capital and how it is mobilised are compared and contrasted between two groups of Island fishers with different fishing customs. One group operates with 'territorial use rights in fisheries' (TURFs); the other does not. The data suggests that TURFs may have less adaptive capacity in response to some climate impacts on lobster. It also indicates that micro level features of social capital, such as attitudes and practices of collective action, may have less influence on the adaptive capacity of Island fishers than macro level features, which include formal relationships, structures, and participation in the policy process. Lastly, this study and numerous others indicate that continued effort to improve the working relationships of scientists, regulators, processors and fishers is key to strengthening the adaptive capacity of the fishery, as is smaller-scale research and planning.

Newfoundland Whales, Whaling, and the Ecological (Island) Imagination Adam Beardsworth

Abstract:

In 1972, Peter Scott, the Chairman of the WWF, claimed "the feeling is now abroad that if we can't save the largest animals we know we have little chance of saving the biosphere itself and therefore saving our own species." Scott's comments align with a shift in thinking about whales in North American culture. From the 16th century onward, whaling was central to the resource extraction economies of the Atlantic seaboard, including on the island of Newfoundland. While books such as Moby Dick question the rapacious practices of whaling the industry, it continued to thrive well into the 20th century. Even as fleets diminished, new, more efficient technologies allowed Newfoundland to join international counterparts in hunting most species of whale to near extinction.

With the rise of the environmental movement in the 1960s, however, the whale’s status began to shift—from material resource to metaphorical representation of ecological guilt, and to icon of the Newfoundland tourism industry. This paper proposes to explore the reanimation of the whale as a symbol of both ecological hope and loss. By focusing on Newfoundland literary and historical documents that emphasize the crucial relationship between whaling, island life, and island futures, it will emphasize both the symbolic and material importance of the whale to the island's future. It will also include a creative component derived from my own poetry manuscript in progress on whaling history.

### **A3 “Natural” Disasters**

#### Content analysis of Canadian media reporting of September 2022’s Hurricane Fiona in Prince Edward Island, Canada

Andrew Halliday

**Abstract:**

Hurricane Fiona was a significant natural disaster which hit the Atlantic region of Canada in late September 2022. It knocked out the island’s electricity grid with over 35,000 downed trees removed by utility crews to restore power. The restoration of power took many days, with some communities and customers requiring more than three weeks to get restored. It has been noted as the costliest weather event in Atlantic Canadian history.

This paper seeks to illustrate how Canadian media portrayals of this natural disaster framed the issue from a public policy perspective. Further, media coverage is analysis for how island aspects (islandness) is reported by local, regional and national sources. A mixed-methods content analysis utilizing the Eureka database as well as targeted Google searches is conducted. This quantitative and qualitative content analysis of media transcripts across print and broadcast mediums in Prince Edward Island, regional and national outlets is for the period between September 16, 2022 and November 16, 2022.

This study is part of a growing body of research on climate change and public policy on Prince Edward Island.

#### Gendered Vulnerability to Climate-Induced Natural Disasters on Island Communities

Lanyi Wang

**Abstract:**

In island communities, climate change brings severe natural disasters while exacerbating social crises, including an increase in domestic violence. In the Pacific islands, where patriarchal structures dominate, women’s needs are often overlooked, making them particularly vulnerable. This paper examines the challenges faced by women on islands following climate-induced disasters, such as limited access to emergency relief, loss of livelihoods, increased caregiving responsibilities, and heightened economic dependence. According to the World Risk Index 2021, Vanuatu is the world’s most disaster-prone country, offering a compelling case for examining structural barriers that exacerbate women’s vulnerabilities. Focusing on the events in Vanuatu like Hurricane Pam(2015) and twin Cyclones Judy and Kevin(2023), this paper explores gendersensitive policies and disaster preparedness strategies, such as accessible emergency shelters and targeted support services, to address these inequalities. Preliminary findings suggest that incorporating women’s perspectives into disaster response plans is critical not only for

advancing gender equality but also for strengthening community resilience against future climate threats.

Climate Change in Small Islands: Artificial Islands, Internal Migration, and Sustainability  
Ibrahim Uvais

Abstract:

In climate change discourse, islanders are frequently presented as victims of climate injustice. At the same time, island imaginaries often portray islands without islanders at risk of disappearing. These depictions of vanishing paradises have received fair criticism in Island Studies. Sea-level rise undoubtedly affects low-lying island communities. However, the islands' losses from rising seas are of concern to the extent that they affect islanders' livelihoods and the utility of island geographical space for island economies.

This paper is based on a case study in the Maldives, a low-lying archipelago in the Indian Ocean. It will present preliminary findings of a study on internal migration to the artificially constructed island of Hulhumale, an island reimagined as a safe geographical space for sustainable alternatives and adaptability to sea-level rise. Through a phenomenological inquiry of the lived experiences of internal migrants, the research asks, Is sea level rise a real or imagined rationale for inter-island migration? How do islanders compare their former habitats with their new geographical space of envisioned sustainability? Furthermore, how valuable is long-term sustainability in the islanders' visions of their new home? By asking these questions, the research aims to uncover conceptualizations of sustainability in the past, present, and future of islanders affected by climate change.

**B1 Human-Nature Relationships**

The Intersection of Culture and Climate on Prince Edward Island Angela Rowlings

Abstract:

Since August 2021, I've been documenting the intersection of culture and climate on Prince Edward Island. My photos are a testament to fishers and farmers who must adapt traditional practices to changing climate, children who play pond hockey or swim in Epekwitk's rivers and beaches, Mi'kmaq who are working to increase food sovereignty and sustainability by participating in programs to learn organic gardening at the Lennox Island Greenhouse, newcomers who are seeking a new life in Canada, home and business owners who have had their dreams crushed or flooded out by Fiona and other storms, Islanders of all ethnic backgrounds who share their music, dance, and storytelling, and researchers who measure changes and seek mitigations. Climate change is already forcing

changes in agricultural methods and has destroyed beloved local attractions like Teacup Rock. The collective way of life of Islanders is at stake. My photos capture the current social and cultural norms from daily life to special events that are likely to change further as climate change becomes more and more evident on this little red island. I would like to present these photos that capture the vibrance of island culture that is at risk as the climate crisis continues.

Digital Aestheticization of Fragile Environments, Conflicting Temporalities and Climate Change on Dugi otok Island, Croatia

Tomislav Oroz

Abstract:

This presentation shares the results of ethnographic field research conducted on Dugi Otok island in Telašćica Nature Park, focusing on digital aestheticization processes and their relationship to fragile environments. It explores how the digital "capturing" of natural landscapes, promoted by outdoor enthusiasts and tourists on social media, can obscure or amplify ongoing environmental changes in the age of "overheating" (cf. Eriksen 2016). What becomes visible or invisible through the digital aestheticization of fragile environments in the post-digital era (cf. Berry 2014)? Furthermore, the presentation examines how climate extremes, invasive plant and animal species, and waste management challenges are transforming Telašćica Nature Park and reshaping its conservation agenda. Drawing on an experimental methodology that combines senso-digital walks and semi-structured interviews, this research offers insights into the emergence of new aesthetic categories such as "Instagrammable," "magnificent," "cute," and others. What kinds of conflicting temporalities arise between human and non-human worlds, and how do these temporalities reshape contemporary engagements with what is considered "natural" Finally, digital aestheticization processes that are the focus of this research raise critical

Voices From the Pacific: Building Bridges Between Academia and Practical Action for Island Sustainability. Examples from Micronesia.

Iain Hall, Anne McDonald

Abstract:

There is often a distance between academic research and the practical efforts being made to address sustainability and climate change impacts in the small island context. This roundtable will bring researchers together with practitioners from Micronesia to explore how those embedded in research can contribute to on-the-ground projects and activities designed to increase climate resilience and adaptive capacities. Through real-world examples, island partners who have successfully collaborated with researchers will share their experiences in how these relationships can generate tangible outputs that benefit local communities, build small island capacities and support research opportunities. The roundtable will provide participants with insights into blending academic and practical expertise to build productive partnerships and support climate change adaptation and sustainable development efforts tailored to the needs of small islands.

This session addresses the concepts of climate adaptation, conservation, and community-led natural resource management in small island states.

## **B2 Entrepreneurship**

SISSTEM: Leveraging inequality to build a successful and sustainable partnership between a continental and a small island state university

*Nadine Buys, Anouk Mertens, Patrick Arens, Georges Gielen, Eric Mijts*

Abstract:

Advancing sustainable development and enhancing the resilience of small islands in the face of climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource scarcity relies on state-of-the-art knowledge of technological solutions embedded in local contexts. This necessitates building local and regional capacity, with higher academic education playing a crucial role. In response, the University of Aruba launched the SISSTEM (Sustainable Island Solutions through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)) academic bachelor's, master and research programs.

Given the University of Aruba's scale and available resources, a strategic partnership was formed with KU Leuven, a renowned university in Belgium, Europe.

Literature on North-South partnerships emphasizes the importance of equality among partners. However, interuniversity collaborations often face inherent inequalities in access to resources and scale, which were also evident in this specific partnership. This contribution demonstrates how acknowledging and leveraging these inequalities can foster an equal and sustainable partnership in which the complementarity of the institutions' capacities is pivotal. Through an explorative case study analysis using semi-structured interviews, we have identified some of the key drivers and barriers to establishing such a robust partnership. Here, we focus on the institutional levers and obstacles that made this partnership possible from the perspective of the larger continental institution.

Preparing Island-grown climate professionals for Turning the Tide

*Dr. Claudette Coote-Thompson (Paper)*

The University of the West Indies (UWI) in so many ways is a synonym for islandness. Home to several impactful climate initiatives, a UWI cross-campus interdisciplinary team developed a graduate programme to bolster the suite of training to prepare island-grown climate professionals for "turning the tide." A summer experiential learning course dubbed "UWI Living Lab" was offered as a practicum in the inaugural climate studies graduate programme. Graduate interns engaged with an approved climate-related project at the UWI by scoping, planning, collaborating and recommending creative and feasible solutions. Throughout the "learning by doing project" the small Caribbean-minded team led by their course facilitator was resilient in navigating challenges. More importantly the team contextualized the unexpected complexities associated with information management and other critical processes for shaping sustainability

consciousness. This presentation will outline the design, implementation, outcome and impact of piloting this experiential climate studies course.

Climate Resilience Incubator: Empowering Sustainable Solutions for the Magdalen Islands' Ecosystem

*Audrey Keating & Dominique Bouffard (Paper)*

Abstract:

La Vague's Climate Resilience Incubator is a pioneering program launched in 2024 focusing on sustainable development and impact-driven solutions. Its goal is to identify entrepreneurial opportunities that address climate change-related challenges in the Magdalen Islands and accelerate the implementation of effective solutions. Collaborating with local stakeholders, the initiative begins with mapping sustainable development opportunities to validate the most promising solutions. The program supports 22 selected projects through a blend of collective workshops and individual coaching, aimed at enhancing entrepreneurial capacities and practical application.

**B3 Newfoundland Storytelling**

Exploring Slow Violence in Newfoundland Poetry: A Case Study on Maggie Burton's Chores  
Logan Ropson

Abstract:

The climate crisis and cultural deterioration have become afterthoughts in a world dominated by industry. Reactionary media fail to fully convey the damage caused by our extraction-based society, particularly its "slow violence." Coined by Rob Nixon, slow violence describes the gradual, long-term harm industrial practices inflict on the environment and vulnerable communities, disproportionately affecting lower economic classes. Newfoundland's cultural erosion exemplifies this phenomenon. Its island culture, historically tied to unsustainable resource extraction-based industries, is deeply affected when those industries shift or vanish, disrupting traditional ways of life. Art, however, can counteract this slow violence. Ecocriticism in art, such as poetry and life writing, plays a vital role in addressing the climate crisis and advocating for cultural sustainability. Rural Newfoundland's struggles highlight the urgent need for this cultural preservation as communities face mounting challenges from unsustainable resource management and environmental decline. Poets respond by crafting works that force readers to confront the realities of life in these regions, capturing the implicit politics of aesthetics to foster ecological awareness.

For example, Maggie Burton's Chores, winner of the 2024 Griffin Prize for a first book, Vividly portrays the labour and resilience of Newfoundland's domestic female settlers. Using simple, accessible language, Burton captures the social and physical details of domestic life, reflecting

the systemic pressures on poorer classes. Her poetry exemplifies how environmental and cultural crises intersect, emphasizing the role of art in illuminating and resisting the long-- The term impacts of industrial and environmental degradation. The collection is a perfect example of how, in Island culture, environmentalism unfairly impacts the poorer classes of society, who are too caught up in the harsh conditions of day-to-day life to feel the long-term violent effects of climate change.

Experiential Learning and Relocation Literature: Cross-Cultural and Place-Based Immersion in Newfoundland Outport Communities to Inspire Sustainable Responses to Outmigration and Climate Change

Shoshannah Ganz

Abstract: This paper demonstrates the way literature and art can imagine and map ways of rebuilding and revitalizing communities on the brink of extinction or already relocated. As climate change makes various islands and geographies uninhabitable, and climate migrants attempt to relocate to rural places, this paper proposes that the arts have a central role in showing the way back to sustainable place-based existence in formerly deserted out port communities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

This paper discusses the ways in which student responses to reading literary works about relocation (Ishimure Michiko's Lake of Heaven), staying in relocated communities, performing the parts of relocated individuals in a play (Al Pittman's West Moon), and engaging through the arts and storytelling with communities struggling to survive (Conche, St. Lunaire-Griquet, and Ship Cove), can inspire empathy and even, through collective imagination, lead to responses that promote the survival and thriving of threatened communities. This paper will discuss, in part, the process of developing a major grant application towards the rebuilding of relocated and struggling communities through developing experiential one room school houses in the outports; contributing to building tourism and agriculture; and developing arts projects which respond to and promote sustainable responses to the challenges of outmigration and climate change.

Reading and Writing Newfoundland's Seasons from a Nigerian Perspective in the era of Climate Change

Chinweolu Obioma Nzekwe

Abstract:

My experience of growing up in Nigeria informs my first impressions and ongoing lived experience of island life on the west coast of Newfoundland. For this presentation, I will show the impacts of climate change on coastal Newfoundland imaginaries as expressed by local Newfoundland writers including selections from Stephanie McKenzie's "Suite for Winter" (Grace Must Wander 2009) and E.J. Pratt's writing about Newfoundland's coast. These Newfoundland poets' understanding of snow and the seasons will work as a point of comparison to my first encounter with the ocean and the colder climate in Newfoundland.

This paper will draw from a collection of prose poems I am writing for my master's thesis in the Master of Applied Literary Arts. Together my prose poems about my close encounter with the

ocean, snow and four seasons attempt to show the various ways in which my experience as an immigrant from Nigeria (with warmer climate and no snow) can reveal different and potentially adaptive ways of reading the interactions between humans, nature, and the seasons in the face of climate change. These observations have the potential to map new ways of adapting to the changing coast and seasons in Newfoundland as shaped by my historically and personally different history. Together my prose poems about my close encounter with the ocean, snow and four seasons attempts to show the various ways in which my experience as an immigrant from Nigeria (with warmer climate and no snow) can reveal different and potentially adaptive ways of reading the interactions between humans, nature, and the seasons in the face of climate change. These observations have the potential to map new ways of adapting to the changing coast and seasons in Newfoundland as shaped by my historically and personally different history.

## **C1 Workshop Session #1**

### Intersecting Ecologies: Personal, Social, and Environmental

*Paula Gerstenblatt & Jan Piribeck*

#### Abstract:

Gerstenblatt and Piribeck have been doing research and creative practices with communities on three islands; Long Island ME, Greenland, and Sears Island ME since 2020. This is an art and social science collaboration utilizing three methods of collecting and communicating data about climate change and island ecologies: interviews, public walks to sites of ecological significance, and collage workshops with residents.

The focus of this presentation is the art produced for the Intersecting Ecologies project, a two-person contemporary art exhibition exploring the intersection between personal, social, and environmental ecologies at the Parsonage Gallery in Searsport, ME, and a two-day retreat in conjunction with the exhibition (September 2025). The Parsonage Gallery mission is to prompt conversations about creativity, spirituality and ecology. The art in this project is informed by research into the unique ecology and history of nearby Sears Island and fractious debates over its future as an assembly site for offshore wind turbines. The exhibit/retreat will engage members of the local community and a broad range of stakeholders on guided walks, creative workshops, and structured conversations to foster a space for exploration, reflection, and dialogue about environmental issues for Maine and beyond.

This presentation will engage the audience in interactive arts-based activities utilized in our research and creative practices.

Basket Weaving Workshop

*Andrew Sark*

Designing Climate-Responsive Ventures: A Workshop on Island Entrepreneurship and Sustainability

*Dennis Sakalauskas*

Abstract:

This interactive workshop invites participants to explore how island-based entrepreneurs are responding creatively to the challenges of climate change. Using case studies from luxury tourism ventures in Iceland and other island contexts, we'll examine how founders integrate environmental and social sustainability into their core business strategies. Participants will engage in hands-on activities to map out the unique constraints and opportunities faced by island communities - including remoteness, ecological fragility, and cultural richness - and brainstorm entrepreneurial responses that address climate adaptation and resilience. Together, we will explore how these responses can create value not just economically, but socially and environmentally. The session is ideal for those interested in sustainable development, entrepreneurship, tourism, or climate action in small island settings.

The workshop aims to equip attendees with tools and inspiration to design their own climate-resilient initiatives, tailored to the needs and values of island communities.

**D1 Resilience & Climate Change Mitigation**

Maritime resilience: Urban design and the mitigation of climate change on PEI

*Shin Koseki, Leila Gillespie-Cloutier, Sarah Ouellet, Lina Ikram, Zoe Carrea*

Abstract:

How can urban design help mitigate the consequences of climate change on communities and ecosystems on Prince Edward Island? For millennia, the St. Lawrence Gulf has provided sustenance, affordance and space for humans, plants and animals of the region. Its unique biological and social ecosystem relied on a fragile equilibrium in which brackish flows, soft waters, tick icecaps, powerful winds and fertile soils. But global warming and massive anthropization now pose a threat to many, with a disproportionate risk to indigenous people, flora and fauna. Local communities are now running out of time, faced with overwhelming climatic, economic and demographic challenges.

This paper looks at how urban design can help mitigate the effects of climate change on the coastal communities and ecology of the Saint-Lawrence Gulf, in particular on Prince Edward Island. Looking at the recent evolution of climate in the region, and using tools akin to the

ethnographic method, we devise five projects that plan for the long-term adaptation of local populations and ecosystems in St. Peter's Bay, Grand Tracadie, North Rustico-Cavendish and Lennox Island Bay. These projects thus illustrate the potential of intersectoral research creation approaches to tackle global change on island

### Urban Imaginaries in Oceania

*Jean Mitchell*

#### Abstract:

While a bay for many of us is a body of water surrounded by land on three sides, a bay for fisherpersons is a place where they have spent or will spend lifetimes. It is an expansive, material and imagined seascape. In this presentation, I will draw on a two-year project on aquaculture and interviews with people who cultivate shellfish (oysters and mussels) in bays in Prince Edward Island. A discussion of their experiences in three different north shore areas underlines the differences and complexities of each ecosystem. The fisherpersons' perspectives on shellfish, invasive species, and climate change, I shall argue, is animated by their recognition of diverse agencies of wind, water sand and species, the fluidity of ecologies and the fragility of rural economies.

### Reforestation on a dry tropical island: case study Aruba

*Anita Aerts (Paper)*

#### Abstract:

Reforestation is a prime Nature-Based Solution for addressing critical climate challenges, including desertification, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. This presentation highlights the work of 'Ban Lanta y Planta – Trees for Aruba', a volunteer-based, community-driven NGO dedicated to restoring native ecosystems and raising awareness about the importance of trees and nature in general. In Aruba's arid environment, the organisation focuses on planting drought-tolerant native tree species, which are essential for improving soil stability, reducing erosion, and increasing water retention.

Beyond tree-planting, Ban Lanta y Planta is committed to supporting the protection of existing trees and mangroves.

By integrating reforestation as a Nature-Based Solution, the organisation not only helps to mitigate climate impacts but also creates vital habitats for native flora and fauna and enhances biodiversity. Additionally reforestation efforts provide ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water regulation, and improved air quality, which are crucial for building climate resilience.

The presentation will explore Ban Lanta y Planta's interdisciplinary approach, combining ecological restoration, community engagement, education, and collaboration with local

government, private sector, and public stakeholders. These efforts create awareness of the critical role trees and nature play in providing essential ecosystem services. The presentation will demonstrate how the foundation's reforestation efforts enhance biodiversity, foster climate resilience and offer a model for sustainable development in island ecosystems facing climate threats.

## **D2 Governance**

### Barriers to Climate Action: Perceptions and Challenges in Island Nations

Frieda (XiaoHan) Tang

While the importance of climate change is widely acknowledged, its impact is more acutely felt by island nations and communities. The alliance of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) has expressed their concerns about climate change vocally on the international stage. However, insufficient attention has been given at the micro level to the perceptions of local island residents regarding climate change. By reviewing literature specifically related to island contexts and people's perceptions of climate change, this paper identifies two issues worth discussing. First, several island communities (e.g., Vanuatu, the Philippines) reject the idea of anthropogenic causes of climate change due to religious beliefs. The second issue, which is more prevalent, is that many people who correctly attribute the causes of climate change and have a high awareness of its risks are less willing to contribute financially or adopt adaptive behaviours (e.g., in Singapore, Indonesia, Greece) due to more pressing social and economic concerns. These issues are concerning because a lack of understanding—or misunderstanding—of climate change hinders policy development, while low motivation to act creates challenges for the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies. Therefore, addressing these matters is essential for island-specific policy and governance implications related to climate change.

### Towards a Coherent Classification of Sub-National Island Jurisdictions Stephanie

Werleman; Steffen Eriksen

#### Abstract:

Similar to the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), Sub-National Islands Jurisdictions (SNIJs) grapple with many economic vulnerabilities such as high trade openness, limited economic diversification, and high exposure to climate change.

However, SNIJs and SIDS are not equal, calling for an urgent need to design policies Targeted explicitly at the SNIJs group to address climate change. Nevertheless, there is substantial heterogeneity in existing SNIJs classifications. The lack of uniformity hampers efforts toward contributing to the analysis of SNIJs. Systematic analysis of SNIJs is important for designing effective and efficient policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. To address this, we develop a coherent classification for these entities using multicriteria analysis (MCA) and incorporating geography, economics, and legal fields. This analysis is based on three criteria related to the

geographical and legal dimensions: the entity is non-sovereign, autonomous, and an island.

After selecting the SNIJs, we discuss their economic vulnerability position – including their trade openness, export concentration, dependence on strategic imports, and disaster proneness,

and quantify this by applying the Economic Vulnerability Index. We also compare their economic vulnerability position to that of their sovereign SIDS counterparts and the SNIJ's parent states. Our classification results in 35 SNIJs with different parent states. Despite being high-income and developed countries, SNIJs still face many economic vulnerabilities similar to those in developing countries. This coherent classification will help researchers and policymakers to more targetly analyze and manage SNIJs, particularly considering their heightened vulnerability to climate change.

The Role of Small Island Developing States within International Climate-Ocean Governance: Threats, Opportunities and Responsibilities

*Liam Saddington*

Abstract:

Global environmental change is transforming ocean spaces and threatening ocean health. From anthropogenic climate change to plastic pollution, the ocean is at the forefront of environmental degradation concerns. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have taken a leading role in the changing climate-ocean governance landscape. Indeed, island actors have sought to reimagine SIDS as large oceanic states – emphasising their geopolitical significance and role in climateocean governance. This paper considers the role of SIDS within contemporary international climate-ocean governance challenges. Drawing upon participant observation at the 4th UN SIDS Conference in Antigua and Barbuda, this paper argues that three distinct imaginaries underpin SIDS engagement with climate-ocean governance. Firstly, the ocean as a threat – principally through sea level rise – underpin SIDS engagement. Secondly, the ocean as an opportunity for economic development via the Blue Economy. However, the nature of this opportunity is contested, for instance recent controversy over deep sea mining. Finally SIDS have claimed that as large oceanic states they are responsible for stewarding the ocean – as seen through their efforts with the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions Treaty. This paper argues SIDS are utilising climate-ocean governance to create space for their voices and challenge wider geopolitical discourses about their ‘marginality’.

**D3 Health**

Co-Designing Spatial and Story Maps to Support Equity-Informed Decision-Making Related to Climate Change Adaptation in

*Kate Kelly, Nabiha Shafqat, Allan Campbell (Paper)*

Communities are stronger and better prepared for climate change when policies and programs consider people's health and social challenges. This project aims to support equitable climate adaptation decisions by creating spatial and story maps grounded in data (census and administrative health data) and lived experience. A Research Advisory Council of eight PEI residents, selected from 66 applicants, was recruited in Fall 2024 to identify key indicators related to climate change adaptation. The RAC worked in collaboration with the research team to develop engaging maps that reflect

the realities of local communities. By involving PEI residents in creating maps, we will explore how various health and social factors (e.g., age, income, respiratory conditions) impact people's ability to adapt to climate change. These maps also seek to guide decision-makers in identifying priority areas for supporting PEI residents who experience additional barriers related to climate change adaptation. This project demonstrates the value of connecting lived experience with data science to guide research and decision-making. Consultations are underway with provincial and municipal decision-makers to increase the clarity, accessibility, and usefulness of the maps across sectors.

Remoteness on a Nineteenth-Century Harbour Island: Environment, Experimentation, and Health on Partridge Island

Zachary A. Tingley; Dr. Erin Spinne

Abstract:

Over the course of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Partridge Island became a site that evoked two contradictory responses from its visitors: safety and fear. The island was a center for experiments of navigational safety crucial for the development of Robert Foulis' foghorn, and the site of the harbour lighthouse, both of which served as beacons of safety for vessels sailing to and from the port of Saint John from elsewhere in the Atlantic World. Yet, the island was a liminal space used to segregate both the city's medical 'undesirables' as well as, mariners and immigrants who were required to quarantine before they transitioned into the urban population from one climatic zone to another as they moved from the Atlantic World into the interior of British North America. Both practices can be seen in the 1832 cholera epidemic. In both instances the island's climate evoked specific responses from British colonial authorities interested in safeguarding the populace from tragedy as manifested through understandings of the nineteenth century environment. As a site used for both establishments for safe navigation, and quarantine the island was a place where jurisdictions overlapped and where the urban local of the city of Saint John met the cosmopolitan British Atlantic World. What medical practitioners and colonial officials understood the liminal space of Partridge Island to represent in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries continues to have ramifications in the present. By understanding how such climatic spaces were conceptualised in the past it can help us learn how to conceptualize changing climates in the present and the perceptions of safety and fear that they engender.

Balancing pasts and futures in the meta-archipelago: identity and geolocality in the Madeira Islands and other Macaronesia archipelagos.

*Ana Isabel Moniz, Francisco C. Marques, Paulo Figueira, Paulo Miguel Rodrigues*

Abstract:

We propose a panel of discussion around the tensions between cultural identity and political belonging for small archipelagic units constituent of particular political landscapes that are, historically, seen as continental and/or imperial in scope. For that, we will be focusing on the case of the islands of the archipelagos of Macaronesia, with a particular focus on the Madeira case, positioning its historical, historiographic, literary, and discursive dimensions in conversation both at the level of their archipelagic interiority and at the level of their geographical affiliations, national, continental and oceanic.

With a comparativist perspective, we plan to formulate the discussion around three epistemic models of humanistic study: the narratological, the historiographical, and, inspired by Elizabeth DeLoughrey's conceptual framework (2001), the archipelagraphic. The focus will be on understanding ways to approach the constituency of contemporary Madeira at the moment of the 50th anniversary of its constitutional reframing within the Portuguese Republic through the analysis of its endogenous discursive mythologies, structures, and practices.

We will not only be focusing on a retrospective of the dimensions of its social and political collective but thinking critically from the point in time from which we think, that is, post and decolonial, eco-critical, and socially sensitive.

## **E1 Coastal Environments**

### Underwater CoBots for Coastal Conservation: A Risk Analysis of the Posidonia Oceania Ecosystem in the Sibaritide

Adrian Pisa , Vittoria Scalise, Frank Andreas Schittenhelm, Sueleyman Torasan

#### Abstract:

Climate change and the degradation of coastal ecosystems represent a threat to Calabria from an ecological, economic and social point of view. In particular, the area under analysis is that of Posidonia Oceania of Sibaritide, a protected area on the Ionian side which, to date, seems to be explored with the use of remote sensing.

This study explores the use of underwater co-robots to conserve marine ecosystems and mitigate coastal risks, integrating a risk management analysis to evaluate their cost-effectiveness compared to traditional methods.

Therefore, the study proposes a research framework to answer the following research questions:

H1: Can underwater co-robots replace human intervention and other monitoring tools in several ways, offering significant advantages thanks to their autonomous capabilities and advanced artificial intelligence (AI) technologies?

H2: Can co-robots collect data on key parameters, highlighting areas at risk for biodiversity and erosion, enabling long-term preventative interventions?

The analysis shows that, although the initial costs are high, the long-term benefits include the protection of natural resources and support for tourism and fishing, with potential economic savings through the prevention of ecological damage and the reduction of emergency.

### Evaluating the State of the Coast and Policy Recommendations for Prince Edward Island

*Ross Dwyer*

#### Abstract:

Prince Edward Island's (PEI) unique coastline, which spans over 3,000 km in length, is under threat from both natural and societal stressors. Effectively managing the coast requires an understanding of the often-conflicting demands and their implications. Without a clear vision for how and where coastal development will be permitted in the future, planning for the impacts of coastal hazards, and safeguarding the Island's beaches for future generations will not be possible. Co-commissioned by the PEI Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, and completed in November 2023, the PEI State of the Coast Report 2023 (PEI SCR) provides an

overview of the current conditions of PEI's coastline, highlighting the state of both natural and human systems. The PEI SCR identifies the conditions under which natural coastal processes and coastal development intersect, where ecosystems are vulnerable, and where built systems are at risk.

Building off the PEI SCR, the Interim Coastal Policy Recommendations Report describes actionable steps, including new policies, regulations, strategic plans, and programs, to adapt to the risk the Island's coastline faces from extreme weather events, rising sea levels, erosion and flooding.

The purpose of this presentation is to examine the State of the Coast and Policy recommendations report in detail; to highlight the opportunities and challenges that a changing climate will have on Island shoreline protection, and to examine the alternative strategies and adaptation measures, such as nature-based solutions, while examining PEI's coast.

Plovers in a Dangerous Time: Mapping the Impacts of Climate Change on Piping Plover Nesting Habitat in Prince Edward Island National Park

*Caitlin Audas, Jenna Gaudet, Krisha Talati (Paper)*

This project is for our final project for our 'Environmental Map Design' GIS course. The goal of the assignment is to have us choose a topic, find data, and present it on a map. Our final deliverables will be a series of 10 maps illustrating coastline changes in the PEI National Park areas compared to Piping Plover nest locations over the years from 1968 until 2020. There will also be a short report outlining the importance of protecting species at risk and coastlines and applying these learnings to a broader island context.

**E2 Community Development and Engagement**

Recentering research in and on small island states: Island researcher methods, challenges and skills

*Anouk Mertens*

Abstract:

Small islands across the globe face the direct consequences of climate change and alarming biodiversity loss. In this context, islands and islanders are sometimes framed as a "litmus test" or "the ideal laboratory" for experiments to advise larger continental areas on how to address the effects of climate change and the biodiversity crisis. Due to the specific island context, islanders are the primary problem solvers in addressing and mitigating these challenges, and finding ways to adapt to them; however, in the first place, to protect their territories, populations, ecosystems, and cultures.

It is therefore crucial and urgent to adopt and integrate inter- and transdisciplinary scientific knowledge embedded within the local contexts. Given their leadership role, island-centred research by the local island-based knowledge institutes and researchers is key. Island-centred research should play a pivotal role in generating contextualized knowledge and solutions, whether or not embedded in reciprocal international partnerships with other knowledge institutes.

In this presentation, we will dive deeper into the island researchers' operating space for such island-centred research, based on insights from semi-structured interviews and interactive sessions with island researchers from a wide range of contexts and disciplines. Our data reveal

that despite the many challenges of conducting research from within the islands (incl. availability and accessibility of data, or technical and logistic challenges, funding, etc.), island researchers have found an array of ways to overcome these challenges and to produce valuable and impactful results for their societies and the rest of the world. This contribution aims to be a conversation starter amongst island researchers from insular and continental (institutional) contexts to further strengthen productive and equal collaborations in island-centred research.

Confronting Renewable Energy Injustice Through Asset-Based Community Development:

Lessons from Newfoundland's Port au Port Peninsula

*Nicholas Mercer, Nadine Tallack, Marilyn Rowe, Tami Park-Tighe, Em Coates*

Abstract:

As the climate crisis gains urgency, several powerful public and private entities have proposed mega renewable energy projects to produce 'green hydrogen' for export markets. While these 'clean fuels' are promoted for societal decarbonization, they may perpetuate injustices in host communities through resource extraction, citizen disempowerment, and exclusion of diverse peoples and understandings of 'sustainability'. In the face of a mega wind-to-hydrogen project proposed for the Port au Port Peninsula in western Newfoundland, we formed a communitybased research project with two local groups to model 'Asset-Based Community Development' [ABCD] as an alternative development paradigm. Through the use of community workshops, direct participation in community events, as well as photovoice and artistic expression, we sought to understand how sustainable island communities can be fostered by nurturing the cultural and natural assets that are already found in each unique place. Preliminary findings suggest new insights into community motivations for participating in ABCD processes, strategies for building on Peninsula strengths, and proposals for embracing distributive, regenerative community development. Ultimately, we argue that renewable energy transitions are not inherently just, and new participatory mechanisms are essential for shaping sustainable island futures.

Co-Creating Climate Futures: Creative Engagement Driving Climate Action in Island Communities

*Jing Wang*

Abstract:

As climate change escalates, island communities face significant vulnerabilities due to their fragile ecosystems and unique geographical contexts. This paper explores the transformative potential of creative engagement in driving climate action within these communities. It highlights the role of local culture, storytelling, and interactive participation in raising public awareness and inspiring diverse initiatives. Through an analysis of case studies from rural coastal and island communities in China, the paper examines how NGOs, governments, and businesses adopt innovative strategies to foster ecological experiments, reshape climate narratives, and strengthen community identity. These efforts are crucial in connecting various community members, enhancing environmental responsibility, and promoting active participation. By reimagining climate futures for island communities, this paper presents a novel pathway for climate activists, researchers, policymakers, and community members to explore sustainable

development practices collaboratively. It emphasizes interdisciplinary dialogue between culture, science, and policy to enhance public participation and environmental co-governance, especially in rural island communities.

### **E3 Reimagining Island Food Security: The Transformative Power of Blue Foods**

#### Reimagining Island Food Security: The Transformative Power of Blue Foods

*Anne McDonald, Erika Salazar, Iain Hall, Ming Cheng Chen, Julia Kabeshita, Niluka Prasadini Nanayakkara*

#### Abstract:

This panel addresses the transformative role of blue food systems seafood and other marine resources—in enhancing resilience and food sovereignty in island and coastal regions increasingly impacted by climate change. Research from diverse locations, including the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Sri Lanka, Colombia, and Japan, underscores the urgent need for community-based adaptation and sustainable resource management, as these islands are particularly vulnerable due to their heavy reliance on marine ecosystems. Small-scale marine food production not only helps mitigate food insecurity but also reduces the ecological vulnerabilities specific to island territories, thereby transforming their food systems.

The studies presented advocate for integrating modern scientific approaches with traditional practices, highlighting the importance of local adaptation in developing resilient blue food systems. By fostering community engagement and emphasizing the use of traditional knowledge, these research efforts demonstrate how blue foods can contribute significantly to long-term sustainability and food security for island communities. Moreover, they aim to preserve cultural heritage and protect biodiversity, ensuring that the ecological integrity of marine environments is maintained. Ultimately, the panel will explore how promoting blue food systems can empower local communities to thrive in the face of climate challenges, securing their futures and enhancing their resilience.

### **F1 Climate Change Education**

#### The value of an island-based environmental Field Trip for climate change education: Social Sciences teachers' perceptions.

*Stephen Geofroy, Benignus Bitu, Vishal Ramjattan, Pradeep Mathura and Shirdi Ali*

#### Abstract:

In Trinidad and Tobago, a postcolonial Small Island Developing State (SIDS), the adoption of appropriate methods for climate change education remains a challenge. Teaching largely occurs inside a physical classroom, with an underutilization of field trips as an impactful, holistic strategy. Secondary school social sciences teachers can play a key role in employing place-based

learning and field trips in climate change education. The purpose of this study is to explore the perceptions of secondary school social sciences teachers enrolled in a postgraduate diploma in education programme on the value of an island-based environmental field trip in climate change education. Perceptions of these teachers provide a pivotal link to their pedagogical practices. Gaining perceptions will assist teacher educators to better equip secondary school social sciences teachers in their transformative role as change agents. The methodology involved a qualitative research design with purposeful sampling of 22 teachers. Data collection consisted of journals, focus group interviews and photographs. Thematic analysis was employed. Findings are beneficial to teacher educators, as participants' knowledge and attitudes can enhance approaches for meeting the needs of secondary school social sciences teachers, charged with engaging in climate change education.

the face of climate challenges, securing their futures and enhancing their resilience.

Climate Change Education- The influence of culture and social norms when educating a Caribbean youth on climate change

*Ayana Arnaud*

Abstract:

Caribbean islands have been experiencing increased flooding, heat waves, hurricanes, landslides, coastal erosion, and droughts. These effects of extreme weather conditions are reminders that climate change and its effects are real. Therefore, climate change education is essential as the Caribbean tackles the negative consequences. So, what measures are the leaders of these Caribbean islands taking to better prepare and educate their citizens, especially the next generation, about climate change and its consequences?

Educating Caribbean youth on climate change should extend beyond traditional classroom settings. It requires a multifaceted approach that embraces and integrates cultural, social, and community-based elements. This research will examine the influence of culture, social norms and social media in shaping effective climate change education strategies for Caribbean youth in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Dominica. The research will explore how culture, social norms, and social media contribute to the development of effective climate change education strategies for the youth in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Dominica.

The study will assess the impact and perception of climate change among young people through an analysis and review of peer-reviewed and grey literature (inclusive of social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram), existing educational programs, local traditions, and community engagement efforts. The research will highlight the importance of cultural factors such as the influence of community elders, the islands' traditions, and religious beliefs in educating the Caribbean youth. Furthermore, it will explore the main drivers of climate change, including social norms, business and commercial practices, and cultural and traditional practices in the Caribbean. Finally, the research will assess ways to mitigate these influences, how young people can learn from past mistakes, and how digital platforms popular among the Caribbean youth can be utilized to further educate future generations.

Fostering Environmental Stewardship and Cultural Identity in Sicily's Minor Island Schools  
*Giambattista Bufalino*

Abstract:

This study examines the implementation of place-based environmental and cultural education in schools across Sicily's minor islands, including the Egadi and Aeolian archipelagos, as well as the islands of Ustica, Pantelleria, and Lampedusa. By analyzing the Three-Year Educational Plans (Piani Triennali dell'Offerta Formativa, PTOFs) of these islands, this research investigates how localized curricula foster environmental awareness and cultural resilience among students. Findings indicate that schools on each island embed local ecological knowledge and heritage studies into their curricula to build students' ecological literacy and sense of identity. Examples include marine conservation in Ustica and Egadi, sustainable agriculture in Pantelleria, and intercultural education in Lampedusa. These adaptations not only address climate challenges but also engage students in preserving the cultural and environmental heritage unique to their islands. This place-based educational approach serves as an interesting model, offering insights for other climate-sensitive island communities seeking to enhance environmental stewardship and cultural continuity through education.

Educational Outcomes for Children in Out-of-Home Care in Greenland and Aruba as a comparative study

*Bonnie Jensen, Ilisimatusarfik; Malous Tiekstra, University of Aruba and Eric Mijts,*

Abstract:

The purpose of this round table is to foster a dialogue among experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss the challenges, best practices, and potential areas for improvement in the educational outcomes of children in Out-of-Home Care (OHC) in Greenland and Aruba.

With this discussion, we will explore the similarities and differences in the colonial legacies of and the way in which these shared island imaginaries may be obstacles for the development of citizenship, ownership, and engagement with the island territories. Furthermore, we will discuss how these shared experiences have shaped the educational systems and policies in both countries considering the increasing impact of climate change on small island nations.

By examining the interdisciplinary factors influencing the educational outcomes of children in OHC, we aim to identify common challenges and best practices, and contribute to the development of more effective and inclusive educational programs for children in care.

This Round Table Discussion is expected to provide valuable insights into the factors influencing the educational outcomes of children in OHC in small island territories, taking Greenland and Aruba as a starting point. By identifying common challenges and best practices, this research can inform policy decisions and contribute to the development of more effective and inclusive educational programs for children in care. Additionally, the findings of this study may be applicable to other island countries with similar historical and sociocultural contexts.

The discussion will touch upon Educational Policies and Regulations, School Infrastructure and Resources, Cultural and Contextual Relevance, Climate- and Social Justice and Inclusion and how to strengthen the collaboration between OHC Providers and Schools.

By convening a round table discussion, we can bring together experts from both countries and similar small island territories to share their insights, experiences, and perspectives on the educational challenges and opportunities facing children in OHC. We believe that this dialogue will contribute to the development of more effective and equitable educational systems for children in care.

## **F2 Identity**

A collaborative mapping of the Mediterranean and remote Arctic imaginary: Carloforte and Ísafjörður between intangible heritage and a sustainable tourism future

*Daniela Desperati*

Abstract:

The research project aims to analyze from a multidisciplinary point of view the role of intangible cultural heritage as a vehicle of identity in small islands and coastal communities located in remote areas facing impactful global challenges. The scope is to monitor for a 3-year period the reality of Carloforte, Island of San Pietro, Italy, and the coastal town of Ísafjörður in the Icelandic Westfjords, both of which demonstrate a strong presence of narrations concerning the intangible heritage that contribute to shape the identity, the landscape and imaginary. The final aim is to validate the role of languages and intangible heritage as chorographic element of representation, in relation to global challenges and quality of life. A model, based on a mixed qualitative and quantitative research method, will be developed through a collaborative georeferenced mapping of the relationships between places and imaginary, with the scope to identify any critical issues to be taken into consideration in the proposal of a culturally sustainable and collaborative tourism development project.

Waterlogged: Sable Island as a Living Archive

*Emma Rath*

Abstract:

This paper examines the material culture of Sable Island through the lived personal experience of its everyday landscapes, where ecological fragility, human intervention, and fieldwork converge. Drawing on archival material, photography, oral history, and direct field research conducted on the island. This study interrogates the dual narratives of presumed isolation and ecological vulnerability that shape contemporary understandings of Sable Island.

The island's shifting sands, erosion, and rising sea levels create a continuously evolving environment, which fieldwork encounters in situ, offering critical insights into the tangible impacts of climate change. However, the materials documenting Sable Island resist straightforward representation.

Instead, they reveal island life's indeterminate, porous nature, where the boundaries between land and sea, human and non-human, shift continuously. This paper explores how these blurred lines

between fact and abstraction, documentation and interpretation, contribute to a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the island's identity.

By situating Sable Island's material culture within both artistic and scientific frameworks and embedding these observations within fieldwork encounters, the study offers a critical reflection on the limitations of traditional modes of representation. It ultimately argues for the necessity of interpretative fluidity, where lived experience and empirical observation combine to illuminate the complex ecologies of Sable Island, shaped by environmental flux and cultural imaginaries

Reflections on the climate changes in El botón de nácar, by Patricio Guzmán, and "Miudadivas, Pensatempos"

*Paulo Figueira*

Abstract:

In line with one of the symposium's fields, 'Material culture: lived experiences of the everyday', we tried to frame a film by Patricio Guzman, El botón de nácar, and the text 'Miudadivas, Pensamentos', by Mia Couto, in the discussion of proposals for climate crisis.

In El botón de nácar, although the story is set in Chile's recent history, alluding to the atrocities of the Pinochet dictatorship, the example of the indigenous tribes of Chilean Patagonia is pointed to as a form of sustainability in the face of the current (climate) crises. The indigenous people lived in communion with water, and this could be a possible way of balancing man with the environment. With Jimmy Buton's departure for London, this 'rain archipelago' is shaken, and the relationship of brotherhood with the sea and the element of water begins to disappear. On the other hand, the text 'Miudadivas, Pensatempos', by Mia Couto, praises the relationship with the small things that nature makes available to man, the thinker and the writer, as a path to writing and poetic material.

With the presentation of these two works, we reflect on the role of art and literature as areas for questioning the world and, as such, important in the rhizomatic and archipelagic involvement in proposing solutions to the problems of today's Man with a view to the future.

Shared Island Stories between Scotland and the Caribbean: Past, Present, Future

*Professor Karen Brown, Dr Heather Cateau, Jamie Allan Brown*

Abstract:

In the frame of the impressive conference theme, 'Turning the Tide: Island Imaginaries and Interdisciplinaries in Climate Change', we would like to share interim research findings from our 5-year interdisciplinary project Shared Island Stories between Scotland and the Caribbean: Past, Present, Future (2022-27: <https://sharedislandstories.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk>). Historian Dr Cateau will present on the topic of the "Past", drawing on extensive archival research conducted over 18 months in Scotland and the Caribbean, seeking to "reconstruct the fragments" of "hidden histories" of entangled relations between our islands in the context of colonial and climate histories. Museum and Heritage Studies Professor Brown will then present findings on the "Present" following extensive interviews with community heritage organizations and ownership on the Scottish Hebridean islands, to share climate change stories relating to traditional ecological knowledge, lived experiences of islandness, health and well-being. Finally,

Community Development, Heritage and Youth Action expert Jamie Allan Brown will deploy a comparative framework to critically analyze the impacts of a transformative transatlantic youth exchange between the island community of Harris and Barbados (2023-24). In particular, he will consider what new knowledge from the project brings to debates on climate justice, especially as they relate to the role of youth.

### **F3 Agriculture & Food Security**

Agricultural and environmental governance from the islands: learning, imaginaries and island dynamics in the governance of the GIAHS Chiloé site, southern Chile

*Eduardo Mondaca Mansilla; Pablo Aránguiz Mesías*

Abstract:

The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites (GIAHS) initiative was launched by FAO in 2002 to identify and protect places around the world that are highly relevant to addressing the major global challenges of agriculture and food security in the context of climate change. These sites are home to rich biodiversity and extensive traditional knowledge in the management and use of agri-food systems. Chiloé, an archipelago in southern Chile with more than 40 inhabited islands covering 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>, was one of the six pilot sites for the establishment of the GIAHS initiative and received official recognition from FAO in 2011 as the first and only place in Chile to be designated as a GIAHS site. This recognition highlighted the importance of these systems, mostly managed by family farmers, not only for their capacity to face global environmental challenges, but also for their role in preserving the island imaginaries, identity and cultural rights of territorial communities. This paper describes and analyzes the main experiences, dynamics and lessons learned from the governance process of the GIAHS Chiloé, which has been characterized not only by the preservation of the agricultural heritage, but also by the defense of relational and decisional forms of islandness.

Adapting to Climate Change: The Role of Material Culture in Shaping Crop Farmers' Responses and Resilience in Jamaica.

*Denise Dennis*

Abstract:

This study explores the intricate relationship between Jamaica's material culture, lived experiences, and climate change. Jamaica is known for its rich cultural heritage and diverse ecosystems, faces significant challenges due to the increasing impacts of climate change. Through a multidisciplinary approach combining anthropological, environmental, and cultural studies, this research investigates how material culture—encompassing artifacts, architecture, and everyday objects—both influences and reflects the ways Jamaican farmers experience and adapt to climate change.

By examining case studies from various farmers in Jamaica, the study aims to highlight the adaptive strategies embedded in material culture that farmers employ to mitigate and cope with climate-related disruptions. This research also seeks to understand how these adaptations are manifested in daily life, influencing resilience and sustainability among farmers. Ultimately, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of the dynamic

interplay between culture, environment, and climate change, offering insights into how cultural practices can inform sustainable development and climate adaptation policies among farmers in Jamaica.

Food Sovereignty in Jamaica and the Impact of Climate Change. Aneilla

*S. Dennis*

Abstract:

Small Island Developing States (SIDS), despite contributing minimally to greenhouse gas emissions, face some of the most severe impacts of climate change, including damage to infrastructure, loss of lives and livelihoods as well as cultural and economic disruptions. As climate change intensifies, food security in Jamaica is increasingly threatened, especially for small-scale farmers and local communities. This paper examines how climate change and government policies affect food sovereignty in Jamaica, focusing on the impacts of unpredictable weather, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events on traditional farming and local food systems. While climate issues are global, Jamaica's situation underscores the urgent need for locally adaptive strategies. By leveraging Indigenous knowledge and sustainable farming methods, this research explores agroecological practices, crop diversification, and regenerative agriculture as means to help communities withstand environmental shocks, sustain livelihoods, and reduce dependence on imported food. Additionally, it evaluates how policy and governance influence food sovereignty, particularly in light of Jamaica's reliance on international trade. This research employs a combination of literature review, including an exploration of government policies, and interviews with local stakeholders to center on farmers' experiences. It advocates for decolonized, integrated approaches to climate adaptation that support food systems, environmental justice, and sustainable development.

Gulf Island Metabolism: Animals, Energy, and the Circular Economy on Atlantic Canadian Islands

*Josh MacFadyen (Paper)*

Abstract:

Historians often point to large scale energy transitions as evidence of societal changes at national and global scales. For instance, the moment that Western European nations made the transition from wood to fossil fuel energy is also considered the moment they moved from traditional agrarian to urban industrial societies. Agriculture itself has experienced some of the most significant energy transitions in modern history, perhaps most famously the rising returns of agricultural output to labour in the nineteenth century. Productivity growth continued in the twentieth century although it came at a heavy cost in energetic terms. Farmers began to rely on relatively large amounts of fossil fuel inputs, and they traded the small farms of mixed husbandry for larger and increasingly specialized operations. Farms

that were once the world's primary energy providers eventually became an energy sink. Rural Canadians made a variety of decisions about how they would use land and other resources to produce food and fuel energy. From the perspective of both land use and total energy, the majority of settler activity was dedicated not to cash crops and human food but to feed. This paper will consider the geographic locations and historical functions of one of the most important, and relatively overlooked, bio-converters in rural Canada -- livestock. It uses diaries, census microdata, and the published Census of Agriculture to model and visualize the role that hay and other internal biomass energy flows played in a primarily circular economy. Following methods established by social ecological metabolism scholars, and particularly those who focus on island metabolism (Singh), the paper examines the metabolism of islands in Atlantic Canada, including the Magdalene Islands, from 1871-1971.

## **G1 Art Installations**

Solastalgia / Talking to Humans About the End of the World / An Impression of Everything - three short films about climate grief

*Millefiore Clarkes*

Shifting Shores: Island imaginaries expressed through an interflow of visual art, music and words.

*Julea Hope Boswell, Heather Taves, Len St-Aubin & Laurie Brinklow*

Walking Epekwitk: A Transmedia Ethnography of Islandness and Climate Change

*Ryan E. Drew*

How does islandness connect us, and how does it make us unique?

*Sara Langer*

Painting the Gentle Island

*William Montelpare*

Shifting the narrative from landscapes to lived realities: An interactive exploration of how climate change impacts people in PEI

*Kate Kelly, Kaleigh Duffy, Nabiha Shafqat, Tim Bernard, Jill MacIntyre, Allan Campbell, Ann Marie Clow, Prasanth Warriar, Alex Ouédraogo, Mary-Ann Standing, Josh MacFadyen, Carter Bruce*

Waterlogged: Sable Island as a Living Lab

*Emma Rath*

The Intersection of Culture and Climate on Prince Edward Island

*Angela Rowlings*

Performance of Trombone and Looping Station Connected to TTT

*Dale Sorensen*

## **G2 Poster Presentations**

Holistic Exploration of the Sustainable Use of Biomass as an Alternative for Fossil Fuels on Prince Edward Island.

*Japhet Machipisa*

Georeferencing Captain H.W. Bayfi eld: Mapping the Gulf of St. Lawrence's Historical Cartographies with ArcGIS

*Anthonia Bebiem*

Sustainable Agriculture and Water Use: Socio-Ecological Profiles of Prince Edward Island's Watersheds

*Daria Kass*

Collaboration Across Worldviews: natural and cultural resource managers on Hawai'i Island lead a relational approach to place-based research pathways

*Scott Laursen*

Changes in Water Requirements of Wild Blueberries in Atlantic Canada in the Face of Climate Change: Insights from Historical Data and Future Projections

*Atif Zahoor*

## **H1 Workshop Session #2**

Navigating the emotional realities of climate education and communication

*Krystal Pyke*

Abstract:

Climate change causes more than shifting weather patterns and unpredictable seasons. Intense storms, wide-spread destruction, and property damage to our physical reality reflect the inner turmoil, repressed anxieties, and overwhelming emotional chaos that we experience in our emotional and psychological realities. Climate change forces us to face uncertainties as bystanders to big changes, often leading to intense emotions, ongoing stress, and an uncomfortable awareness of the impacts to our everyday living.

While fear has been a useful evolutionary reaction that has kept our species alive, in the face of climate change, fear alone may be so overwhelming that it causes some of us to disengage completely - sticking our heads in the sand to avoid the burden and pain that is recognizing the state of the world.

If we are to build resilience, educate, and engage with climate change, we must find ways to work with our emotional reactions to build hope and find inspiration in the face of certain uncertainty. It is in understanding our shared experiences and the relationship between mental health and climate change that we can find strategies that work towards a better future for all.

Anchor and Drift: Transformative Pedagogies for Unmoored Futures

*Renee Valiquette*

Abstract:

In a time of profound unmooring, marked by cascading crises and systemic unraveling, how might we better mobilize the tools of higher education to imagine and inhabit more just and livable futures? In this workshop, we take “islandness” not only as a metaphor for entanglement and exposure, but as a lens through which to view the modern university: an archipelago of “disciplined” knowledge formations, too often adrift from one another, charting separate courses through shared waters.

Interactive Workshop: Knitting Woolen Clothing on PEI

*Cheryl Wartman*

Abstract:

Quammen (1996) states, “In our quest for progress and development, let us not forget that our survival is intricately tied to the survival of all other species”, reminding us that sometimes the traditional ways of living were more sustainable than modern approaches. Significant environmental impacts occur in fast fashion and textile production (Shamsuzzaman, M. et al., 2023; Rashidi-Sabet and Madhavaram, 2022), for example unsustainable manufacturing process emit groundwater pollution, and carbon dioxide emissions, the social effects of low paid clothing manufacturing jobs, and the inflated cost of transporting goods around the world. Traditionally in PEI, clothing was manufactured at home (Dutch Thompson, 2020) from wool produced by the families’ own sheep. Being self-sufficient and resourceful is key to island life where resources can be scarce or expensive to ship in (Royle, 2014). Keeping these island traditions alive is key to maintaining them (Royle, 2014), so conference attendees will discuss the economic, environmental, and social advantages (and possible disadvantages) of ‘keeping it local’ and experience what it is like to make something with wool. Each participant will be given a ball of wool and a pair of knitting needles and be taught to knit. I plan to discuss the history of sheep farming, wool making, and garment design as part of daily life on subsistence farms in PEI’s past and how we make wool today.

**I1 Roundtable**

Nature-Based Solutions and Climate Commitments in Small Island States and Territories

*Iain Hall, Anne McDonald, Eric Mijts, Juan Ricard Gomez Serano, José Nicolás Urbina Cardona, Maria Angela Echeverry Galvis, Erika Salazar (Panel)*

Abstract:

Small island states and territories find themselves on the front lines of climate change but often without the resources for large-scale adaptation measures. Nature-based solutions (NbS) – which involve actions to protect, manage, and restore ecosystems while addressing climate and societal challenges – offer cost-effective ways not only to adapt to climate change, but to support the natural resources that are commonly closely linked to livelihoods and human well-being in small island contexts. This round table will discuss the opportunities that NbS present in the small island context, as well as the challenges and limitations they may face. It will further consider

research examining the integration of NbS into the climate policies of small island states and territories, and the language utilised in doing so. Through these discussions this session aims to bring to the fore examples of policy best practice and discuss potentials for policy language development to better incorporate NbS into the climate adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk management approaches of small islands.

This session addresses the concepts of climate adaptation, conservation, and community-based natural resource management in small island states.

## **I2 Lived Experiences**

### Navigating Identity and Nation-building in the Dutch Caribbean in the Wake of Hurricanes

*Yolanda Richardson (Paper)*

#### Abstract:

Migration, nation-building, belongingness, and identity are common research themes in the Dutch Caribbean. Studies in these areas generally focus on identity and belongingness for the Islanders who move to the metropole or on immigration to the periphery and the related socio-economic dynamics. In the case of identity themes, these studies often focus on the recurring debate between who is “yiu di tera” (a child of the soil/native) and who is not. That which is seldom considered is the intraregional migration from Dutch Leeward Islanders to Aruba or Curacao and possible identity formation issues.

This study, which is part of a broader research on nation-building called Navigating Identities, will focus on the influence of the governance structure and constitutional arrangement of the Dutch Caribbean on national identity formation dynamics and nation-building. It grapples with questions on how the Dutch English-speaking intra-regional migrants self-identify and what are the characteristics of identity formation playing field due to the governance structures, a colonial history, and nation-building processes based on the one-nation notion.

Acknowledging that climate change has an impact on cultural heritage, discourses of citizens and politicians centering the message of one-ness with “our people” after hurricanes Luis (1995), Irma, and Maria (2017) are analyzed. This discursive oneness and reimagination of borders illustrate the potential to unveil the fluidity of the islanders' identity, even while insularism is often highlighted as an omnipresent source of dysfunctionality between the islands and an impediment to structural administrative collaboration.

### The Phenomenon of the "Saudade" Emotion and Reimagining Repatriation in the Literature of L.M. Montgomery: A Socio-Cultural Exploration in the Context of Climate Change

*Helena Ryan (Paper)*

#### Abstract:

Alarming sea-level rise, frequent storm surges, and other climate-related impacts continue to pose a serious threat to Prince Edward Island, triggering climate-forced emigration to the Canadian province. The profound consequence extends beyond the physical boundaries of an Island, forever altering the Islander's sense of 'home' and Island identity, with a lasting emotional impact. Through the lens of Nissology, this presentation explores the complex interplay between the Islander and non-Islander

identities of one of Canada's most esteemed literary figures and distinguished PE Islander, Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942). The study chronicles Montgomery's emotional experiences through an intertextual analysis that culminates in revealing her identity fusion. Montgomery's novels function as a survival tool for grounding her island identity, while her Journals take on a pivotal role as a map to guide her transformative identity. Both texts reflect her profound sense of "Saudade" – an ambiguous Portuguese term of lament, longing, and nostalgia. This emotional expression functioned as a vital act of self-compassion essential for survival and a reimagining of her repatriation to PEI. The research enriches the theoretical knowledge about L.M. Montgomery within the field of Island Studies, in the broader scholarly discourse on Climate Change, and the future prosperity of Prince Edward Island.

### **I3 Recentering Research**

#### Purposeful Digitisation for Island Communities Using Participatory Action Research (PAR)

*John Large (Paper)*

**Abstract:**

My presentation will focus on the role of digitisation in various PAR projects I have been engaged in, highlighting the ways in which digital outcomes can be purposefully adapted for research and community use. I will discuss, community-led digitisation, intergenerational sharing and preserving of cultural knowledge and our discovered 'Best Practices' along with 'best' equipment needed. Our current project, 'Shared Island Stories Between Scotland and the Caribbean: Past, Present, Future' (2022-27), brings together a diverse range of researchers and participants to shed light on newly discovered research material, and to investigate the shared links between the archipelagos of Scotland and the Caribbean. Key topics include climate change, forced migration, and cultural heritage preservation. I will be looking specifically at the role that effective digitisation plays as a bridge between these different project themes, and how the participatory digital outputs can be used in adaptive ways for both researchers and communities reimagining of borders illustrate the potential to unveil the fluidity of the islanders' identity, even while insularism is often highlighted as an omnipresent source of dysfunctionality between the islands and an impediment to structural administrative collaboration.

#### Empowering Long-Term, Relational Research Pathways:

#### innovation and adaptation at the speed of trust within more-than-human and human communities

*Scott Laursen (Paper, Storytelling)*

**Abstract:**

Significant global movement suggests transitioning away from conventional information exchange within academia (e.g., journals, filling information gaps, etc.) and instead empowering relational approaches to applied research (e.g., engaging embodied, place-based knowledge systems). Much of this redirection has occurred through engaging Indigenous knowledge systems and more broadly across disciplinary engagement (e.g., psychology, sociology, economics, and environmental anthropology), agencies, and university extension networks, elevating visceral knowledge forms that hold strong capacity to drive human behavior. Scott will share his professional path, which integrates outdoor education expeditions and community-driven research pathways (i.e., engaging and sustaining human and more-than-

human relationships), highlighting the value of moving beyond short-term, one-off research projects and outdated data exchange paradigms within research, science education, and science communication (e.g., the deficit model) Instead, he will consider the capacities of long-term relational approaches within higher education to empower data usage on the ground and to drive human behavior by engaging a diversity of knowledge forms amid trusted multi-project relationships. In closing, he will expand such notions through Kānaka ʻŌiwi (Native Hawaiian) relationality in practice from within the Kapukapu community on Hawaiʻi Island, where adaptive knowledge has been passed down over human and more-than-human generations for centuries.