

Small Island Economies and Development:

A special thematic section of *Island Studies Journal*, 14(1), November 2019

Economies work differently in small island territories than in larger and mainland jurisdictions. Small population size and/or land area, often coupled with remoteness, affect how economies function and encourage potentially problematic governance forms and practices (including conflicts of interest, anti-competitive policies, and dependency on the public sector). Small islands are frequently said to suffer from skills shortages, lack of economies of scale, extreme industrial specialisation and dependence on a small number of external markets (thereby increasing vulnerability), high transport costs, and poor balances of trade.

Nevertheless, many island microstates and subnational island jurisdictions (nonsovereign island territories) have achieved economic success and/or stability, in part through their engaging – consciously or otherwise – in strategies that ‘make the most of smallness’. Political and/or economic integration with one or more larger states provide some territories with a steady flow of resources, even in the absence of strong domestic production. Some subnational island jurisdictions (SNIJs) staunchly defend their nonsovereignty and reap the benefits of political affiliation with a metropolitan state, while some island microstates successfully deploy their sovereign status in pursuit of strategic goals. Around the world, both island microstates and SNIJs frequently engage in niche, specialised, or innovative economic practices, literally trading upon their apparent insignificance. Such strategies often run counter to generally held development goals, which have typically been designed from a large-state perspective.

This special thematic section of *Island Studies Journal* focuses on the economic and development strategies of island small islands around the world, from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to wealthy states and territories. ‘Smallness’ can here refer to either small population size or small land area, thereby including places as diverse as Greenland, Singapore, Guernsey, Niue, and New Caledonia. It is necessary that submissions not only concern a place that happens to be an island but also focus on how a place’s (or multiple places’) island status affects economies and/or development.

Island Studies Journal is a web-based, freely downloadable, open access, peer reviewed, electronic journal that publishes papers advancing and critiquing the study of issues affecting or involving islands. It is listed and abstracted in Scopus and Web of Science (Social Science Citations Index). Selected peer-reviewed papers will be published as a special thematic section in *Island Studies Journal*, Vol. 14, No. 1 in November 2019.

For further information, or if you are interested in submitting a paper, contact both Adam Grydehøj (agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org) and special thematic section editor Javier L. Arnaut (jaar@uni.gl). Manuscripts should preferably be between 5,000-8,000 words (prepared in accordance with the *ISJ* house style: http://islandstudies.ca/guidelines_instructions.html). Submissions should reach Adam Grydehøj and Javier L. Arnaut by 31 December 2018 to be considered for this special thematic section.

This special thematic section is being produced alongside the conference ‘Economics and Development in Microstates, Islands, and the Arctic’, held in Nuuk, Greenland in November/December 2018: <http://www.islanddynamics.org/economicsdevelopment.html>.