

Islands and Migration

The papers in this collection were originally presented at a one-day online symposium co-hosted by the Small Island Cultures Research Initiative (SICRI) and the Centre for Global Migrations (University of Otago). The symposium was scheduled to take place on Quarantine Island, which is a small island in the Otago Harbour and historically a location for early settlers to the region to go through a period of quarantine, but Covid-19 pandemic restrictions meant that the meeting needed to be conducted online.

The objective of the event was to highlight the impact of migration on small islands and their cultures, and encouraged contributions from any field that places islands at the core. Interdisciplinary approaches drawing on the field of islands studies were especially welcome. In line with the theme of the symposium, submissions addressed a range of topics covering diverse aspects of islands and migration, including effects on migrants, social activism, heritage maintenance, diasporic media, mobile communications, gender, refugees, festivals, lifestyle migration, and place naming and nostalgia. The papers had a focus on the Pacific and Pacific Rim, including coverage of a number of Pacific islands, Australia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Japan.

The subject of islands and migration has long been a topic of interest in the field of island studies (Connell 2018). Whether related to, for example, climate, education, employment, or identity, islands and migration are interconnected areas that contribute knowledge on the significance of islands and islanders in island, archipelagic, and mainland settings (e.g., Baldacchino 2014, Connell & King 2019, Gibson 2015, Grydehøj 2008, King 2009, Royle 1999).

The papers presented herein offer cases that contribute contemporary knowledge on islands and migration. They offers original insight into the importance of understanding the social and cultural flows to, from and between islands.

References

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