

## BOOK REVIEWS SECTION

**Lilian Yamamoto & Miguel Esteban (2014).** *Atoll island states and international law: Climate change displacement and sovereignty*. New York: Springer. 307pp. ISBN: 978-3-642-38185-0. £72.

Climate change and atolls: yet again. It is remarkable how a topic balloons. Fifteen years ago, James Lewis was perhaps the main author discussing this subject within an academic book, although there were plenty of papers and reports being published. Now, there are books each year discussing climate change and islands. *Atoll island states and international law*, though, is important for tackling the underrepresented niche of law. But not just law for practising lawyers. Instead, it provides a solid background on the legal questions, debates, and prospects aimed at a wide readership.

The book has a wealth of technical detail, which does not make it light reading; but nor should it be light reading. The international law implications of low-lying island states affected by climate change are not a light topic, with important yet labyrinthine intricacies affecting entire countries, nations, and cultures. Kudos to the authors for taking on the challenge of providing a comprehensive reference and discussion for the legal options available and the ambiguities thereof.

This purpose is lucidly described at the beginning of Chapter 1, the Introduction, which also maps out the volume systematically and logically. Chapters 2 and 3 set the scene for atolls and climate change from a physical science standpoint. Extensive details are provided about the physical and ecological aspects. People are dealt with mainly at a macroscale and, even then, only briefly through topics such as insurance and migration.

Chapters 4 and 5 cover the main international law relevant to atolls under climate change. Chapter 4 describes climate change mitigation, which is reducing sources and increasing sinks of greenhouse gases, by focusing on AOSIS, the *Alliance of Small Island States* which represents small island developing states (SIDS) in United Nations negotiations. Climate change adaptation, which is addressing climate change's negative effects and exploiting its positive effects, is covered in Chapter 5 though highlighting UNCLOS, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Creative and intriguing ideas are presented, suggesting potential technical approaches for preserving islands in the face of climate change, such as elevating or floating islands to keep them above the rising seas. Deeper exploration of the social and cultural implications of each proposal would have added to the discussion; along with considering the technical and social feasibility of mobile, artificial island states, maintaining a population and livelihoods while roaming the seas, free from a fixed location.

Chapters 2 through 5 set the stage for the potential threat to sovereignty which the atoll states could experience; while being honest regarding the strong uncertainties surrounding island futures. The next two chapters consider the future in the context of wider, contemporary international law regimes and proposals. The full power of the authors' creativity comes to the fore, analysing and evaluating several possibilities for different modes of island state sovereignty or autonomy alongside the existing and potential international law mechanisms for islanders moving in the context of climate change.

Chapter 6 explores legal aspects of different sovereignty modes. The legal meaning of statehood and statehood recognition, along with the description of some precedents of altering statehood, provide background for options. Examples which atoll states could consider are

territorial acquisition, territorial mergers, and governing from elsewhere; all of which lead to different possibilities for recognition. The authors give their clear viewpoint that “It is unlikely that States which have already been recognised as such can lose their status even after losing one of the elements required by the Montevideo Convention (such as population, government or a defined territory)” (p. 212). There is plenty to investigate further on this topic including other precedents and ongoing situations such as Palestine/Israel, the takeover and assimilation of the Baltic countries in World War II, country mergers (e.g. Germany and Yemen) and splits (e.g. Sudan and Czechoslovakia), and the refusals of many island territories to accept full statehood, for instance Anguilla and Aruba. This chapter provides a solid starting point for considering these topics further, particularly the implications under climate change.

Chapter 7 covers displacement, or mobility, from atoll island states due to climate change. Based on current international law mechanisms, the discussion examines the advantages and disadvantages of changing existing international conventions or adding another one. Protection, bilateral agreements, and soft law are reviewed to support the analysis of the meaning of statelessness (linking back to the sovereignty discussions) and the role of human rights. Helpful ideas are covered with sensible discussion. Again, it would have been interesting to explore the legal ramifications of mobile states.

The Concluding Remarks, Chapter 8, summarise the book’s material and the authors’ standpoint, such as reiterating “we are not arguing for the creation of artificial islands to preserve maritime zones or sovereignty, but rather for the raising of existing islands” (p. 285). As with other chapters, the justification for the perspectives given is principally physical or legal. Social implications are given limited space.

Yet, *Atoll island states and international law* is well-argued and sensibly discussed throughout. Assumptions and interpretations are clearly stated, separating the facts presented from the authors’ analyses and views. The collaboration between the two authors is impressive, cleverly interweaving technical and legal aspects, while giving plenty of specialist detail for those seeking it yet providing overviews and explanations for the generalist reader. Photos and diagrams contribute substantially to communicating the material. The joint endeavour further produces a solid understanding of time scales, connecting geological, societal, and political timeframes and explaining how the differences impact decision-making.

The notable technical-legal cooperation perhaps also describes the book’s overall limitation that it suffers from a lack of social science. Island studies and vulnerability studies could have been integrated better, even if that would mean increasing the manuscript’s length slightly. The absence of key social science concepts and citations contrasts starkly with the comprehensive, detailed referencing and thorough descriptions covering physical science, engineering, and law.

Yet, a single book can incorporate only so much material. *Atoll island states and international law* fills in a major gap in the literature thus far, making it a useful reference for insight into legal options and interpretations of statehood and nationhood under climate change scenarios. It is sad to accept that this book is necessary and that many island states, territories, and cultures might be needing the material in it.

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**Stuart Hill (2014). *Stolen Isles: Shetland's true status*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Forvik: Forvik University Press., pbk, 200pp. No ISBN number. Proceeds to The Sovereign Nation of Shetland. £9.95 stg.** Also available at: <http://www.stolenisles.com>

Readers will be intrigued by the reference to a 'Forvik University Press'. Forvik itself is a rock located between the island of Papa Stour and mainland Shetland. Wikipedia will tell you that the Sovereign State of Forvik, previously referred to as the Crown Dependency of Forvik, is an unrecognized micro-nation run by Stuart 'Captain Calamity' Hill, the author of the book under review.

Hill established Forvik as a sovereign nation in 2008 after he offered Queen Elizabeth II to become its head of state; a reply to this offer has not been received. Hill's position is that Forvik, being part of Shetland, is not really part of Scotland, and so not even part of the United Kingdom: hence his offer to Her Majesty.

Hill and his arguments need to be seen in a context where Scotland has voted in an independence referendum on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Although the result (45% in favour of independence; 55% against) is unequivocal, a powerful wave of devolution and self-determination has been sweeping over the British Isles in recent decades. A reform by the Blair Government from 1998 granting executive powers to Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast did not stem nationalist sentiments. A Scottish National Party majority victory in Scotland paved the way to this historic referendum, timed to coincide with the 700 year anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Bannockburn (a Scots victory over the English).

The referendum campaign over Scotland's independence from the United Kingdom, attempting to terminate a 300-year-plus 'union', has however generated other centrifugal forces. These include the 'Our Islands, Our Future' campaign by Shetland, Orkney and the Western Isles. Scotland's three Islands Councils have laid out their vision for a stronger future following the 2014 Independence Referendum, calling for a commitment that, whatever the outcome, the needs and status of island areas need to be clearly recognized.

Hill disapproves, for one main reason: out of the three island councils of Scotland, two are not legally parts of Scotland. Both Shetland and Orkney are, according to Hill, sovereign entities that should not be 'part' of Scotland at all. The Scots had recognized Norwegian sovereignty over Orkney and Shetland as early as 1266, via the Treaty of Perth. The islands were then pawned by the King of Norway to the King of Scotland in 1468 and 1469, with clauses providing the right to redeem the islands back. But, because of a series of events, the islands were never returned. Scottish Kings James fended off all attempts by the Scandinavians to redeem the islands (by formal letter or by special embassies made in 1549, 1550, 1558, 1560, 1585, 1589, 1640, 1660 and other intermediate years), not by contesting the validity of the claim, but by simply avoiding the issue. Moreover, because land in Shetland is held by allodial (and not feudal) title – allodial title constitutes ownership of real property (land, buildings and fixtures) independent of any superior landlord – and the King of Norway only owned outright about 10% of land in Shetland. The remaining 90% was – a presumably still is – owned outright by its residents; who are thus deemed to be sovereign. Scotland has no business in Shetland (and Orkney), and assuming that the islands are part of Scotland is one major swindle. Even the 'appealing' argument of prescription – that Shetland and Orkney have now been *de facto* parts of Scotland for over 500 years – does not fly if one party has been prevented from challenging the matter; nor does it override the very clear original grant and subsequent documents. This is the argument of *Stolen isles*.

The book goes through considerable detail to explain how different episodes and legal documents over time maintain, directly or otherwise, that Shetland was not part of Scotland. The book also has an underlying autobiographical streak, documenting Hill's attempts to get himself convicted of various petty crimes – such as tax evasion, and putting an old Land Rover on the road with Forvik number plates – in order to get his opportunity to prove in court that it has no jurisdiction over his actions. But the fish would not bite. After a series of tribulations, including some days held in a prison cell, Hill gets his moment, in August 2011. But here is, as far as he is concerned, the unanticipated anticlimax. Instead of an assiduously deliberated case, the 'proof' of Shetland being part of Scotland is provided with reference to a published talk by Brian Smith: an opinionated piece, based on lecture notes, and which has no legal basis. Hill's 'analysis' of Smith's article, reproduced in this book, is also available here: <http://www.sovereignshetland.com/Documents/CourtCase/bsnotes.htm>

For Hill, there is still no evidence to show that Shetland is not already independent. He is not alone here: a group of concerned citizens wrote thus (*Shetland News*, 5 March 2014),

The constitutional position of Orkney and Shetland in the UK is unique, not simply because it involved an historic pawning arrangement but because it created an unresolved constitutional conundrum. In particular, it cannot be demonstrated that Scotland/UK ever acquired legal ('de jure') sovereignty over the isles.

*Stolen isles* is an interesting, documented study to justify this position, in the face of the assumed wisdom and legitimacy of the status quo. As retired judge Geoffrey Care writes in the introduction to this book, "whether you agree with Stuart Hill's conclusions or not, he presents a very comprehensive and thoroughly researched survey of just about the extant literature touching on the subject – even back to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century" (p. 10).

As for Hill himself, the same *Shetland News* media release candidly goes on to say,

Sure, Stuart Hill is a maverick, sure, he's (wonderfully) eccentric. And the more we support his campaign, the more we support the Shetland Island Council in their current negotiations with the Scottish and UK governments and encourage them to demand more meaningful concessions of local autonomy.

In his letter to me of 16 May 2014, typed on 'The Sovereign Nation of Shetland' letterhead, with flag and official address, and accompanied by a gifted copy of the book, Hill affirms,

*Stolen isles* is the story of ... court cases and details the lengths to which the Scottish judiciary were prepared to go in order to avoid confronting the question of whether Shetland actually is part of Scotland.

This book is recommended reading, if anything for the alleged 'wonderful eccentricity' on which the premise of Shetland's almost 700-year independence is based.

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**David Hanlon (2014). *Making Micronesia: A political biography of Tosiwo Nakayama*. Honolulu HI: University of Hawaii Press. 312pp, ISBN: 978-082483846-1. US\$55.00.**

This is David Hanlon's third book. Here, he focuses on the life and times of Tosiwo Nakayama, the man who would become the first president of the FSM. This is not the first biography of a Micronesian political leader; however, the only other one, on Roman Tmetuchl of Palau, is highly problematic and borders on hagiography. Hanlon's biography of Nakayama is respectful without being adulatory, as it tells the story of a flawed politician and person. This is an important work, not only because it is the first of its kind in terms of Micronesian political biography, but precisely because it eschews the Great Man theory of history and instead situates its subject in the context of the larger political, cultural, and social movements sweeping through the islands during the period of Nakayama's political life.

Organized chronologically and foregoing his earlier arguments against the notion of "Micronesia" as a colonial construct (although Hanlon does his best to demonstrate the American assemblage of Micronesia as a single entity) for the sake of facility and clarity for the reader, the book begins by tracing Nakayama's heritage from both his mother's side on Namonuito Atoll in what became the state of Chuuk as well as his father's journey from Yokohama, Japan, in 1915 to what was then the Japanese Mandate of Micronesia. Hanlon does an exemplary job of providing the context for the intersection of Japan, Chuuk, the US and the larger Micronesian regional imaginary, arguing that the country Nakayama would come to preside over is not made up of small islands scattered across a large ocean but is rather the product of larger and increasingly complex social and cultural arrangements. As Hanlon writes, Nakayama should be seen as a product of and influential mover of a region better known not as "Micronesia," reduced and marginalized as it is by the implications of the word "small" that tend to define it, but rather as "Macronesia," an expansive and interconnected set of atolls, islands, nations, and ocean.

Tosiwo Nakayama was born in 1931, during the height of the Japanese Mandate in Micronesia. Hanlon describes Nakayama's life under the Japanese as he remembered it, including the heart-breaking episode at the end of the war when his father was repatriated to Japan by the US, without his family. The book then outlines Nakayama's academic and political education under the US, which came to administer the Trust Territory of Pacific Islands (TTPI), made up of six districts: Chuuk, Majuro (in the Marshalls), Palau, Pohnpei, Saipan (in the Marianas), and Yap. Early on, Nakayama was singled out by American anthropologists and functionaries of the TTPI administration and, with the blessing of his (very extended) family and clan leaders, he was able to secure scholarships to formal schooling in the region, as well as to the University of Hawai'i. By 1962, at age 31, Nakayama entered politics with his election to the Council (later Congress) of Micronesia as one of two delegates from Chuuk. From the start, Nakayama advocated for Micronesian self-government, something that was denied by the US administration under a rubric of development discourse that argued Micronesians were not ready for such a move. Yet, Nakayama would push for self-government consistently over the next two decades, during which time he would be elected President of the Senate of the Congress of Micronesia, chair of the Constitutional Convention held in 1975, and President of the FSM during Compact negotiations with the US in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Indeed, if there is one critical lesson to be learned from the life of Tosiwo Nakayama, it is that his story belies the popular construction of Islanders (and other "developing world" residents, for lack of a better term) as political innocents or incapable of self-determination.

The heart of the book, therefore, is in the telling of the struggle to organize, write, and ratify a constitution for Micronesia, even as the delegations from the Marshalls and Palau were threatening to separate from the Trust Territory and negotiate their own political status agreements with the US, and despite the fact that Saipan already had done so while it still served as the capital of the TTPI. Hanlon gives a thrilling, almost minute-by-minute account of the process, which ran the risk of collapse up to (and almost past) the eleventh hour. In the end, the constitution was ratified by Chuuk, Kosrae (which had been part of Pohnpei district but was separated off for ostensibly cultural, but perhaps more realistically, political reasons), Pohnpei, and Yap. The Marshalls and Palau resoundingly rejected it, and the four remaining states in the Caroline Islands chain became the Federated States of Micronesia.

As Hanlon explains, it came as no surprise that Tosiwo Nakayama would become the first president of the FSM in 1979, as he had established himself as the champion of a united, independent Micronesia from the beginning. Nakayama, in Hanlon's telling, was not a bombastic, manipulative politician; rather, he was soft-spoken, even-keeled, and always listening instead of talking, more interested in compromise than in confrontation. It is therefore fitting, if not a little disappointing, that the country he came to lead was itself a product of compromise: Micronesia, as Nakayama envisioned it, had fractured, and he was governing a country that, unlike the Marshalls, Palau, or Saipan, was not borne from cultural or social motivations, but rather one that was made up of four culturally and linguistically distinct entities that were left over. Additionally, Nakayama never did achieve independence for the FSM, settling instead for the best deal he said he could get at the time: free association, in which the country is self-governing but its security interests are controlled by the US (as is its financial security, as US grants and loans account for more than half of its annual budget), continuing the colonial relationship in perpetuity.

Nor did Nakayama have a smooth presidency domestically, as he found the national government clashing with priorities of the four state governors, and in an early first test of his legitimacy he vetoed statehood for Faichuk, a group of islands within Chuuk lagoon that he was tied to culturally as well as through his wife's family. By the end of his second term in 1987 (presidents are limited to two terms in the FSM), Nakayama was ready to put his political life behind him, and he was largely ignored by the succeeding administration, so much so that he was not invited to the opening ceremony of the new national capital building in Palikir, Pohnpei, in 1991. Nakayama died in Waipahu, on the island of O'ahu, in 2007 after years of failing health; Hanlon points out that neither his presence in Hawai'i nor his death was acknowledged in any official way by the United States government.

If there is a criticism to be made of this book, it is that Nakayama occasionally gets lost in the contextualization of his times. Hanlon is adept at setting the stage and providing the bigger picture for the reader, but Nakayama does not always seem to be present. Perhaps this is a function of Nakayama as a conciliator and skilled negotiator: he was most effective when he framed a situation as having less to do with him and more to do with the country or the region. As a result, there is also a missing sense of passion on the part of Nakayama. The one time he gets upset in public, Hanlon tells us, is at the airport in Chuuk when he confronts a delegation from Faichuk. Indeed, the most compelling story in the book doesn't involve Nakayama at all, but rather his fellow Senator from Chuuk, Andon Amaraich, who lost his seat in the Congress of Micronesia in 1974 under suspicious circumstances to Nick Bossy, a relative of Nakayama's wife. Hanlon does a fine job explaining the interpersonal web of relations that links Nakayama, Amaraich, and Bossy, but the reader is left feeling Amaraich's disappointment and humanity in

a way that we never quite do for Nakayama. He was a man, it seems, who was as reserved in his private life as he was in public.

In the end, this is an important book, and one that needs to serve as a starting point for Micronesian histories and biographies yet to be written. Hanlon himself has expressed his surprise at the relative lack of historical scholarship on Micronesians and their islands, and the last thing he would want is for his work to be the last word on the subject. Rather, he has laid a foundation for future historians of the people of the region who would do well to build upon it.

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**Sébastien Larrue (Ed.) (2013). *Biodiversity and societies in the Pacific Islands*. Aix-en-Provence, France: Presses Universitaires de Provence, 248pp, ISBN: 978-285399877-2, €25.**

This volume brings together essays from a variety of natural and social scientists to examine issues relevant to native flora and fauna, along with the interactions of human societies among these biophysical systems. Its subject matter and approach is as diverse as the South Pacific islands that serve as its case studies: from New Caledonia to Rapa Nui (Easter Island), with many sites in between. The topics engaged by the eleven chapters that make up this book range considerably but can be roughly categorized into three main themes, each of which is quite familiar to island biogeographers: invasive species, habitat loss/fragmentation, and human effort to effect conservation. The chapters are not grouped according to these themes; rather, they appear in somewhat random order. This stochasticity was, at first, jarring to me as the reader. However, upon further reflection, I came to appreciate the ordering. Much like during an island-hopping journey, what one encounters next while reading this book may not be fully anticipated. Thus, when reading this book, I recommend readers to trust the editor in setting the itinerary; the read will be more adventurous in this way.

The first chapter (Pouteau et al.) discusses islands within an island, as it were. The spatially discrete, high-elevation refuges of native flora on the island of Mo'orea – created by the widespread presence of invasive species covering lower elevations – are shown in full colour, based upon remotely sensed satellite data. In focusing upon the issue of native flora surviving only because of vertical zonation, the authors of Chapter 1 show the connection between two of the major threats to biodiversity on islands: invasive species and habitat fragmentation. In fact, this is a case of fragmentation by invasion.

The second (Easby and Compton) and third (Connell) chapters continue on the theme of invasive species, with a case study of Rarotonga starlings in the Cook Islands (an endemic species threatened by invasive birds and rats), and a broad-reaching summary of invasives throughout the South Pacific, respectively. While Chapter 2 provides a detailed methodology that would be instructive to younger researchers planning their own fieldwork, Chapter 3 stands out as a theoretical introduction to the concept of invasions. Taken together, these chapters show the large and small scales of research into invasives in island contexts.

Chapter 4 (Kueffer) attempts to expand upon biogeographical theory of invasive species by showing that the social sciences may be able to offer more insight into our study of this problem. Perhaps I would have been more convinced if the author of this chapter had presented his argument in a more logical progression and had steered away from the graphical “framework” diagrams (pp. 74, 83), which were quite frankly meaningless, at least to me. Still the point remains, and is clearly made in the text, that aspects of human society – especially economic development – can be more predictive than island geography when assessing the potential for biological invasions.

New Caledonia is the setting for Chapters 5 (Lebigre) and 6 (Dumas), both of which are concerned with that island’s coastal mangrove forests, and to a lesser extent, other ecosystems. Taken together, these chapters illustrate the value of a variety of research methods. The first of these New Caledonia chapters relies upon extensive literature reviews as well as field research, while the second makes use of remotely sensed satellite imagery. The fieldwork-and-literature approach took on the question of invasive species and led to the conclusion that invasives were of minor concern to the mangrove ecosystems. The remote sensing research sought to determine the effects of human activity on large scale coastal habitats showed high levels of fragmentation within much of the New Caledonian coast. Each author convincingly employed the appropriate research method for the question being addressed.

Chapter 7 (Butaud and Jacq) reports on the findings of several field expeditions to remote and uninhabited islands within the Marquesas. Themes of past overgrazing, invasive species, and habitat fragmentation are repeated here; but the unique quality of these islands being (currently) uninhabited by humans gives the reader a perspective on the ability and struggles of natural ecosystems to regenerate, once circumstances of preservation are put into effect. The maps in this chapter are of exceptional quality.

The remaining chapters examine the role of human societies in the destruction, distribution, or conservation of insular floral biodiversity in the South Pacific. Chapter 8 (Hunt and Lipo) challenges the theory popularized by Jared Diamond and others of an ‘ecocide’ having taken place on Rapa Nui (Easter Island). The authors introduce compelling evidence for locally derived conservation strategies that actually promoted biodiversity, instead of causing its collapse. They attribute Rapa Nui’s decline not to unrestrained and purposeless deforestation by its native inhabitants, but to a common refrain from the annals of island ecology: invasive species, here at both the macro and micro scales as the authors implicate both invasive rats and introduced disease pathogens in the collapse of that island’s environment and society. Chapter 9 (Larrue and Meyer) sets out to determine the provenance of Banyan fig trees on Tahiti. Were they planted intentionally on ritualistically significant sites, or were they simply opportunistic colonizers of anthropogenic spaces? The authors demonstrate a correlation between the trees and the sites; but their assumption of causation lacks support. Chapter 10 (Bourdeix et al.) is my favourite in this volume. Its thorough approach to a narrowed topic – the contribution of traditional ecological knowledge to the conservation of unique coconut varieties – is supported by striking photographs and, in my opinion, the book’s best cartography: a hand-drawn map of Tetiaroa, the atoll designated by actor Marlon Brando as a site where environmental stewardship should be prioritized. Finally, Chapter 11 (Vougioukalou) offers an anthropological ‘kitchen garden’ study from the Cook Islands. As the author points out, there exists an abundant literature in this vein based in other geographical regions, but in which the tropical Pacific is underrepresented. The point is well taken and this contribution, while not theoretically game-changing, is a welcome addition to this literature.

Overall, this book integrates its diverse chapters well. There are several points of discontinuity, however, that remind the reader that this is an edited volume and not a cohesive work from a single research team. If the avoidance of this realization had been a priority to the editor, it could have been achieved through some simple, primarily aesthetic, efforts. First, the graphics – maps, photographs and charts – could have been standardized, if not in style, at least in quality. As it stands, the reader is presented with small, gray-scale photographs in one chapter (5) and larger, full-colour photographs in others (2, 8 and 10). Even more extreme is the variation in cartography within this book. Chapters 2, 6, 7 include useful, well-made maps. The maps in Chapters 5, 8, 9, 10 are less aesthetically and cartographically appealing. Chapter 1 does not include a map, per se, but does join Chapters 6, 7, and 10 in the spatial display of remotely-sensed or other satellite data spatially: technically maps, but appearing along a wide spectrum of quality and usefulness. Chapters 3, 4, and 11 are devoid of any maps whatsoever. A small-scale map of the entire region, spanning two pages at the overleaf or centrefold of the book, could have marked each of the chapters' field sites. Such a small effort would have contributed mightily to the book's cohesiveness.

Another point along the theme of integrating the chapters: throughout the book, there are several instances where the citation of another chapter within the same volume would have been appropriate. Since individual chapter authors are often unaware of the precise topics of their co-contributors until after publication, the task falls to the editor to notice these opportunities for cross-citation and to alert contributing authors, and readers, of these possibilities. It is always pleasing, at least to me, to see in a footnote or parenthetical citation, “[another chapter], this volume.” It enhances edited volumes as integrated endeavours.

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**Mark P. Hampton (2013). *Backpacker tourism and economic development: Perspectives from the less economic developed world*. London: Routledge. 166pp. ISBN: 978-0-415-59418-9 (hbk). £80. Mark P. Hampton & Julia Jeyacheya (2013). *Tourism and inclusive growth in small island developing states*. London: Commonwealth Secretariat. 104pp. ISBN: 978-1-84929-107-1 (pbk). £20.**

Mark Hampton has been at the forefront of economic analyses of backpacker tourism for the past fifteen years or so and the first book under review here synthesizes much of his previous work on this subject in a coherent and manageable introduction to the field. In doing so, he brings together a wide range of case studies, including from Indonesia and Malaysia, based upon his own and others' empirical field research in order to better elucidate his argument that backpacker tourism need not be viewed as directly negative by host governments but rather as a means for further direct and indirect economic development in a positive manner. He outlines the historical background to backpacker tourism and proceeds to briefly examine the culture of backpacking or independent travel. The crux of the matter for Hampton though remains his focus on the economic aspects of backpacker tourism and for this he must be applauded for developing a valuable message for students, researchers and policy makers. His work also

presents an up-to-date overview and notes many of the more recent developments in this research area such as ‘flashpacking’ and the impact of changes in ICT practices; however, the key strength of this book lies in providing a strong economic perspective on the impacts of independent travel, despite the acknowledged lack of reliable official data in many cases. The cases presented are divided into two main areas, notably urban enclaves and coastal enclaves respectively, with the latter being the most pertinent for readers of *Island Studies Journal*. A final chapter discusses the policy implications of his conclusion that backpacker tourism generates real economic benefits for local families in LDC’s, notwithstanding the socio-cultural impacts. My only gripe is with the publishers of this series. As this book is accessibly written and would make a good student introduction to the field, why do they resist publication in paperback?

The second book, by Mark Hampton and Julia Jeyacheya, develops the analysis of tourism in coastal areas from the previous book into a more fully fledged desk review of work on the economics of tourism in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Funded and published by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the World Bank, this study focuses particularly on the costs, benefits and impacts of cruise ship tourism on islands. They recommend that further basic groundwork and research needs to be done by SIDS so that they can best maximise the benefits of diverse tourism opportunities rather than relying on one market segment. Again, the key strength of this book, as with much of Hampton’s work, is in its economic analysis which is too often overlooked in times of more fashionable theoretical developments.

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**Anthony Van Fossen (2013). *Tax havens and sovereignty in the Pacific Islands*. St. Lucia, Australia: University of Queensland Press. 424pp. ISBN: 978-192190223-9 (Hbk) US\$18.**

Those who follow tax havens around the world may be familiar, at least by name, with the Pacific Island tax havens of the Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Nauru, Niue, Tonga, and Vanuatu. As Van Fossen points out, the Marshall Islands, known for their flags of convenience (FOCs), have the third largest shipping fleet in the world. Nauru is known for its offshore banks, and the Cook Islands for its asset protection trusts (to protect assets from seizure by wives, husbands, courts, and creditors). To these, he would add Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Palau, Tuvalu, and Kiribati.

A large part of his story is about the political background that makes these smaller, sometimes very small, islands offshore centres that facilitate tax evasion, bank secrecy, avoidance of labour regulations in shipping, and, in some cases, money laundering and other, perhaps more serious, criminal activities. Much of his story focuses on sovereignty, but also on relationships, both historical and current, with what he refers to as the metropolitan states (United States, UK, France, Australia and New Zealand). All of these countries are associated with Pacific Islands in some way along with other large or developed countries.

Some degree of sovereignty is necessary to achieve haven status, and the most successful havens are those that are fully independent. However, too much independence can also be associated with instability and many fully independent countries have never developed

offshore centers. Others such as Nauru and Tonga eventually had difficulties over time. And, as Van Fossen notes in the chapter on flag of convenience shipping, an association may be useful: the Marshall Islands shipping fleet is effectively protected by the US navy, even if it does not fly the stars and stripes.

In a chapter tracing the development of the off-shore centers, Van Fossen indicates that the likelihood of becoming a tax haven is associated with the particular countries (metropolitan states) with which the nations were associated. In general, the UK is depicted as a country whose laws and practices encouraged offshore centers, while these developments were less likely to occur with US or Australian connections and even less likely with France.

After a discussion of attempts to create new sovereign nations, two chapters are devoted to flags of convenience (FOCs) and what the author terms “the business of risk,” the latter including gambling, insurance, and asset protection. FOCs are concerned not only with tax avoidance but with avoidance of regulations which can lead to exploitation of labor and accidents. The author identifies the Marshall Islands as the most successful of the Pacific islands FOCs, Vanuatu as the most successful in gambling and captive insurance, and the Cook Islands as most successful in asset protection trusts.

In a chapter on countermeasures, Van Fossen discusses the many attempts that have been made by banks, the US and other countries, and international organizations to deal with the havens through blacklists, sanctions, negative publicity and other methods. He identifies two cases where actions by countries and banks ended offshore centers (in Nauru and Niue). Some of these actions underscore his final point: that sovereignty requires global recognition and that countermeasures also need to be global.

To an economist, this book is limited with respect to data. It is largely a historical narrative about what has happened in the havens. Although the statements about the size of the Marshall Islands FOC fleet provide some insight into the importance of this country in worldwide shipping (and avoidance of taxes and regulations on that shipping), there is otherwise a paucity of data. That lack can probably be traced to a general lack of evidence about the magnitude of offshore activities. It is clear from data provided by the Internal Revenue Service that these islands are not important as sites of US foreign subsidiaries as amounts of assets and earnings in Oceania are small: with US CFC’s earnings of \$46 billion in the Cayman Islands, \$91 billion in Bermuda, and \$19 billion in Singapore, the earnings in Oceania outside Australia and New Zealand are only \$179 million. One is left wondering whether these havens still have a small impact when other countries and individual evasion activities are considered.

Thus, while the author’s principal points – that sovereignty is a necessary but not sufficient condition, that historical connection to the large countries is important, that countermeasures need to be global – seem well supported by his evidence, the reader is still left with considerable uncertainty about the importance in the world economy (other than the Marshall Islands flag of convenient) of the Pacific island tax havens. Nor is it clear why some islands succeeded in developing offshore centers and some failed, and why one is more successful than the other.

The narrative leaves the impression that the Pacific islands tax havens go beyond illicit activities such as tax evasion to more disturbing criminal activities, such as money laundering, supporting terrorism, and embezzlement. It is not clear how pervasive these aspects of the havens are, but they appear to be a riskier place to put your money in than the tax havens of the Caribbean or Europe.

Despite these shortcomings, this book is important for anyone who is interested in tax havens, where they are, and how they work. Like other tax havens, these countries are small with relatively little capital of their own, and the potential gain from offshore activity is worth giving up taxes. Less tends to be written about these Pacific Islands tax havens and I came away from the book feeling that I understood much more about them.

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**Mel Galbraith, John Craig, Neil Mitchell & Hester Cooper (Eds.) (2013). Special issue: Tiritiri Matangi Island: 25 years of ecological restoration. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, 37(3). New Zealand Ecological Society, pp. 257-378. Free online: [http://newzealandecology.org/nzje/j37\\_3](http://newzealandecology.org/nzje/j37_3)**

This special issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* celebrates 25 years of the ecological restoration of Tiritiri Matangi Island, a 220 ha scientific reserve in the Hauraki Gulf, 28 km north of Auckland, New Zealand. It became one of the first major island restoration projects in New Zealand when plans were made to create a habitat for native flora and fauna on the island in the mid-1980s. At this time, the island was an abandoned farm, with only 6% vegetation cover. Since restoration began in 1984 (with tree-planting, pest eradication, re-introduction of native species), the island has undergone remarkable change to now be a pest-free habitat for endangered native species, with 60% vegetation cover. Even more remarkable is that tree-planting was carried out by community volunteers (with some specialist professional guidance). Tiritiri Matangi has been held as a model internationally, not only for its ecological outcomes, but also for its accessibility to the public. It has spawned many copy-cat ecological restorations on near-shore islands in New Zealand, particularly in the Hauraki Gulf.

This issue is a collection of papers about ecological research on Tiritiri Matangi's restoration specifically, or about research done on the island to benefit wider environmental conservation knowledge. The issue includes an introduction, followed by seven review articles and five research articles. The articles are based on a 2008 symposium at the New Zealand Ecological Society conference, celebrating 25 years of the ecological restoration of the island.

Appearing in an ecology journal, the articles generally highlight the successes of the ecological restoration of the island in terms of forest cover, the translocation of native species, the eradication of pests, community involvement in tree-planting and research (Galbraith, pp. 266-271), and the amount of research/data production. Some articles do critically evaluate (ecologically-speaking) the plans and outcomes of the restoration, such as the planting of a dense forest of *pohutakawa* trees which needed to be thinned out, as it was not supporting biodiversity (Galbraith, pp. 266-271; Forbes & Craig, pp. 343-352), and a study on the regeneration of a forest remnant which was not as successful as expected despite having surrounding re-vegetation (Myers & Court, pp. 353-358).

Reading the special issue does make one question the logic behind restoring an island to a previous natural state, and how accurate a restoration can be. Ecological restoration is presented as a way to give nature a helping hand, but it is, of course, unnatural. A good illustration of this is the (re)introduction of *hihi* (stitchbird) to Tiritiri Matangi (Thorogood et

al., pp. 299-300). Fifty-one birds were translocated to the island in 1995/6. As their survival immediately after release was poor, the birds were provided with feeders (with sugar-water) and nest boxes (to 'address the lack of natural cavities on the island').

Those looking for articles reflecting on the social construction of nature, how other issues (other than ecological ones) were dealt with (such as cultural heritage or Māori [indigenous people of New Zealand] associations), or critically analyzing whether nature restoration is even possible, will not find them here. This text is focused on ecological research. Indeed, there is a strong sense of the traditional narrative of humans being destroyers of nature in the past, to now being restorers of nature. Statements like '[t]he island has a long history of anthropogenic degradation' (p. 359) runs throughout the special issue.

This collection of articles, however, certainly makes a contribution to island studies. In terms of ecology, there is plenty on the plans and outcomes of an island ecological restoration program in general, and Tiritiri Matangi in particular, such as: the ecological outcomes of the restoration of Tiritiri Matangi (Mitchell, pp. 261-265); managing volunteers on the island (Galbraith, pp. 266-271); reptile (Baling et al., pp. 272-281) and avian (Parker, pp. 282-287) translocations to islands; vegetation change resulting from Tiritiri Matangi's restoration (Cameron & Davies, pp. 307-342); the story of Tiritiri Matangi's re-vegetation programme (Forbes & Craig, pp. 343-352); and bird population changes during the island's restoration (Armstrong & Ewen, pp. 288-297; Graham et al., pp. 359-369).

In addition – albeit not explicitly – the special issue does bring out key ideas which would be of interest to island scholars: the idea of an island being a laboratory for scientific study, the personal attachment or sense of connection a group of people can feel towards an island, and how islands can elicit the idea of naturalness (that it is possible to truly eradicate all pests from an island landscape and restore it to a former state).

One criticism is that although the text in most articles has been updated with references *post* the 2008 symposium, some articles may seem a bit dated (e.g., an analysis of a survey from 2005-6, research completed in 2008, and studies into red-crowned parakeets 2004-6). A minor point, which is common for those reading a special issue in its entirety, is the repetition in nearly every article about the size, location and general background to the ecological restoration of Tiritiri Matangi. This, of course, may be required for each article to be a standalone document, but could be an irritation for one reading the special issue.

The special issue is certainly a fitting commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ecological restoration of Tiritiri Matangi. It also brings to attention the considerable amount of work volunteers – specifically the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi (formed 1988) – have done on the island, and certainly makes one want to visit the island.

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**Fabio Attorre (Ed.) (2014). *Soqotra archipelago (Yemen): Toward systemic and scientifically objective sustainability in development and conservation*. Rome, Italy: Edizioni Nuova Cultura, 150pp, ISBN: 978-886812042-9. €22.**

The island of Socotra (alternately, *Soqotra*), lies in the northwestern Indian Ocean. Those who do know of the place, especially those involved in island studies, know it as a type of Arabian

Galápagos: a hotspot of biodiversity and insular endemism. This mysterious archipelago, inhabited by humans since ancient times, is a place where “dragon’s blood” drips from trees that resemble spiky umbrellas and two of the three Magi gifts to the Christ child (alas, no gold) are sourced. These Yemeni islands are closer - measured both by distance and geology - to Somalia, yet their human history ties them to Arabia. Aside from geology or history, owing to an effort of pure political will and a spirit of scientific and humanitarian cooperation, Socotra is tied to Italy as well. This book tells the story of that relationship.

This fascinating account of over a decade of cooperation between the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Yemeni archipelago of Socotra begins with an endearing dedication to Professor Paolo Bono, who had apparently been personally dedicated to the effort until his recent, and unexpected, death. Socotra’s unique biodiversity and abject poverty provide the framework for this book, which gives about equal attention to Italy’s efforts toward the development of human wellbeing and environmental conservation. Too often, in myriad cases of international aid, one of these foci overshadows the other, leaving either a better-developed economy within a fragmented natural environment or a still-impoverished people, living among protected or restored natural beauty. These fears are allayed in Chapter VI, which is reassuringly titled: “Environment as the wealth of the poor,” a fitting mantra for development on Socotra and other islands around the world.

Each chapter presents an update of Italy’s efforts in a specific area of conservation or development: water, flora, marine resources, economy, and human health, among others. Several of the chapters are co-authored by members of the Environmental Protection Authority of Socotra. The biophysical chapters are presented first, followed by those more concerned with the human condition on the island. In ordering the chapters this way, the editor has allowed the reader to build a mental image: first of the island itself, and then of its plant, animal, and finally human inhabitants. The effect is satisfyingly organic. Readers totally unfamiliar with Socotra will develop a layered knowledge of this island, which, as the Foreword reminds us, Marco Polo described as “the most enchanted land on earth” (n.p.).

As is customary, I must point out some failings of the volume, beginning with a few stylistic remarks. The map in the Introduction is a simplistic outline, leaving this geographer yearning for better spatial displays throughout the chapters. If only this small-scale reference map had demonstrated the same artistic skill and level of precision as the cross-sectional schematics in Chapter II: hand-drawn by the book’s dedicatee, the late Professor Bono. The photography, on the other hand, is sublime: the landscape on page 50, exemplary. Reptiles, plants, people and landscapes are not shown as flat, dead specimens but in well-framed, print-worthy photographs that could stand on their own in testament to Socotra’s uniqueness. I wish the photos had been larger and displayed one per page so their magnificence could be seen to its potential. It is also understandably difficult to transliterate words from Arabic – not to mention Socotri! – into English; in this case, that difficulty is compounded by the detour through Italian that many of the words presumably made. However, it should be noted that the spelling of words of foreign origin is inconsistent. Variations on place names such as *Qalansiyah/Qulansiyah* or *Haggier/Hagghier/Haghier* appear throughout the volume, sometimes in the same chapter. In this regard, the editorial responsibility to maintain internal consistency seems lacking.

Now to some critique of substance, rather than style. The Introduction refers to “the political instability of Yemen” (p.14) as a major factor in the project’s pause in activity, which led to the publication of this book as a way to “maintain alive the strong link” (p.14) between

Italian and Socotri researchers while fieldwork was, and is, impossible. However, after this point in the book, the chaos that is the current security situation in Yemen is given scant acknowledgement. In Chapter IV and elsewhere, it is asserted that the development of ecotourism is part of Socotra's path out of poverty. One must ask whether this is a realistic short-to-medium-term goal, given the ongoing insurgency initiated by Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and their associated terrorist networks and the hijacking of commercial ships and private yachts by Somali pirates, who are known to ply the waters around Socotra and have even been suspected of using the island as a resupply port. Personally, as intrigued as I am by the thought of witnessing the unique biodiversity of Socotra first-hand, I plan to wait this one out. Many of the island's potential visitors may feel the same.

Another point of substance is the book's reliance upon the so-called Decision Support System. This computerized model-generating application, explained in Chapter I, lurks like a spectre throughout the majority of the book's chapters. References to its involvement spring up unexpectedly in discussions of conservation, human health, and the economy. Such insight into the project's data analysis methodology seems unnecessary in the finished product. The descriptive prose of nearly every chapter is enough to stand on its own, transporting the reader, and bringing him or her in some small way to the island of Socotra. In travels of fantasy such as this, prevented as it were by distance and world politics, even the most scientifically minded reader wants to give him/herself over completely to the journey. Reminders of the computer modelling system that informs the analysis serve only to bring one back to reality, placing the reader in a windowless Roman computer lab, rather than on a windswept Socotran plain. This book transports the reader, despite the best efforts of the digital framework in which it was developed. For that, the authors deserve an extra word of praise.

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**Mary McDonald-Rissanen (2014). *In the interval of the wave: Prince Edward Island women's nineteenth- and early twentieth-century life writing*. Hbk & eBook. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press. 292pp. ISBN: 978-077354212-9. Can\$95.**

Acknowledging that the lion's share of social and cultural histories has been recorded and penned by men, it is unsurprising to note that the input and impact of individual women in times past have often fallen by the wayside. As a result, Mary McDonald-Rissanen's recent book offers a significant contribution to research areas as diverse as Canadian Studies, Island Studies, Language and Literature, Sociology, and Women's Studies. Assembling a chorus of women's voices that span nearly a century and a half, Prince Edward Island's settlement and social development is compellingly narrated through the accounts captured in the *journal intimes* of these singular Island women.

Drawing from eighteen Prince Edward Island female diarists – the earliest text dating back to 1859 and the latest one completed in 1998 – McDonald-Rissanen shares with readers a collection of personal accounts of PEI's social and cultural development as inscribed in the recorded journals of these urban and rural women. The book is organized into eight chapters, five of which focus directly on the diarists' narratives, which are thematically structured

around the following periods: *the emerging pioneer subject* (1856-60); *a rural woman's perception of home and beyond* (1910-1915); *the modern professional woman* (1884-1943); *urban bourgeois women and their everyday* (1845-1998); and *travelling women's diaries* (1864-1932). The remaining chapters serve to clarify the author's motivation for researching PEI women diarists, an impulse stemming from a desire to give voice to her grandmother and her island sisters' experiences and contributions, efforts which remain largely absent in other anthologies of Prince Edward Island history; to present life writing – and diary writing in particular – as a feminine form of writing, comprised of “messy texts” in which women are able to write themselves into existence; and to interrogate the disparity between the images of, and ideals set for, late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century women and the actual lived experiences of PEI women during that period.

A significant strength in this text lies in the author's painstaking efforts to validate the everyday and often mundane routines of the women diarists. While the published volumes of *The selected journals of L.M. Montgomery* “represent the diary extraordinaire for the breadth and depth of Montgomery's recording practices” (p. 6), McDonald-Rissanen persuasively presents the importance of acknowledging the day-to-day lives of the PEI women. Undertaking repeated and close readings of the diarists' journals – written in shop ledgers, daily journals, scribbles, Farmer's Almanacs, letters, and diaries – the author is able to tease out similarities and differences across the collected life writing. For instance, looking at the body of data as a whole, virtually all of the women diarists opened their entries with a note on daily weather conditions. In the case of the pioneer women and rural farmwives, McDonald-Rissanen observes how instances of nature writing in journals were descriptive rather than evaluative, as weather conditions dictated the success or failure of working the land. On the other hand, for the urban bourgeois women, she notes how the diaries contained evaluative *and* descriptive commentary on the weather as it hampered opportunities for visits and social engagements, the day-to-day “leisured” activities expected of wives and daughters of PEI's politico-social elite.

*In the interval of the wave* expressly contributes to island studies research, and to work on Prince Edward Island in particular, as “[...] women's diaries give new spins to clichés associated with the Island, its “Golden Age,” and its bucolic landscapes” (p. 219). Interrogating and critiquing the romanticized (and oversimplified) role of mother, homemaker, and wife, so regularly associated with island folk stories, McDonald-Rissanen allows the female diarists to speak for themselves through the accounts she has gathered. In following the diaries of early female settlers (Chapter 3), modern working women (Chapter 5), and female community leaders (Chapters 6 & 7), the extraordinary – as well as the purely ordinary – individual and collective efforts made by nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Island women are effectually brought to light. It is evident to the reader that these women were ardently committed to their families, their communities, and their lives on the Island, and it is a testament to their sisterly solidarity to read that “[w]omen thrived and survived on each other's company whether in the countryside as Lilly [Palmer Inman] was, or in the town as were bourgeois women Margaret Gray Lord and Wanda Wyatt” (p. 149).

It is challenging to identify any shortcomings in the book and, instead, it only left this reader wanting to review more of the diarists' accounts. The efforts taken to locate the Prince Edward Island women's diaries within the larger field of life writing – and particularly to position the accounts as gendered historical texts – are to be commended. McDonald-Rissanen clearly undertook exhaustive readings of the eighteen diaries, and the attention paid to the length, style and content of the entries – as well as the diarists' penmanship and its reflection of

their state of mind – is evidence of the care that the author took in bringing these women’s experiences to life. One possible addition that might have enhanced the book would have been pictures of the diarists, their homes, and their families, but these documents may not have been available to the author. In the absence of actual photographs of the diarists, however, the author has done a wonderful job painting a portrait of Prince Edward Island women’s histories; histories no longer lost in the waves.

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**Nadine Smith, Anna Halton & Janet Strachan (Eds.) (2014). *Transitioning to a green economy: Political economy of approaches in small states*. London: Commonwealth Secretariat. 214pp. ISBN: 978-1-84929-127-9 (pbk); 978-1-84959-917-8 (e-book). £70.**

The writers of the present book try to explore the reasons why the concept of “green economy”, so important in order to overcome the challenges of climate change and to achieve the goals of sustainable development, has not been applied satisfactorily. They admit that, even if there is an extensive discussion about the concept, there is very limited effort to put theory into application, mainly in the small (manly island) states that constitute a very particular category of countries. They recognize that the shift of the economy from a high resource consuming status to a ‘green’ one requires sustained financial and organizational support from the government, the fostering of appropriate technologies and innovations, plus a communication campaign in order to persuade citizens and businesses to change their current patterns of production and consumption.

The authors underline the fact that the small states have specific features: small population, limited resources, remoteness, vulnerability, small and narrowly based economy exploiting natural resources, high dependence on energy imports, and exposure to natural hazards. Small island developing states (SIDS) are generally under the most extreme conditions concerning size and remoteness, thus enhancing their vulnerability. Consequently, the lack of economies of scale results in low socio-economic performance, as is reflected in the Human Development Index. The green economy is considered as a tool contributing to sustainable development goals for increasing peoples’ well-being contributing to the eradication of extreme poverty, and achieving environmental sustainability, social inclusion and good governance.

The expansion of the green economy in small states has to phase in both socio-economic problems and political constraints. These countries have adopted different concepts and principles, as well different pathways, based on their diverse situations. Various stakeholders have also approached the green economy as presenting additional trade barriers that further marginalize their countries.

Despite the differences between the small states, a number of common issues are pointed out from the different case studies presented in this book. The main sectors concerned by the changes are: (a) the energy sector, because of the very high dependence of these countries on imports of fuel (increasing the need for foreign currency) demands a more effective use of energy and an increased use of renewable resources. Another reason for giving

priority to energy is the high multiplier effect to other economic activities; (b) the tourism sector, often the most important export activity for SIDS; (c) transport, a sector with high energy consumption and repercussions in all other activities and everyday life; (d) agriculture, an important activity for the survival of the population and exports. (e) the public sector, the main user of public funds, spending up to 46% of GDP, and a natural leader for the implementation of 'green actions' in all sectors (infrastructure, public buildings, energy production and use) by promoting the green paradigm in society.

The main constraints identified are the lack of strong governance mechanisms and of the political will to change, other policy priorities that trump the environment, a low capacity for implementation and strategic planning due to bureaucratic constraints, and the lack of available public finances due to high levels of national debt. Moreover, despite international development assistance, there are also unsuitable tax regimes and financial incentives, the reluctance of business leaders to shift from current practices, the high price of green technology, the low level of education and training, and the poor local capacity to supply green goods and services.

In many countries, the consultations for the green economy undertaken by governments in order to prepare the national reports for Rio+20, have not been accompanied by an implementation plan that identifies the resources necessary for doing so. These strategies are very often the purview of the Ministry responsible for the environment and consequently they are not integrated in the overall national policy.

An important conclusion coming out of this book is that small states could benefit from overall shift towards a green economy in all sectors; this could address core problems related to the specific characteristics of these states: including economic competitiveness, social inclusion, lack of resources and the mitigation of the impacts of climate change. Yet, it will be difficult to achieve this goal without mainstreaming efforts for a greener production and consumption by a better integration within a plan focusing on improving people's well-being. The upgrading of social capital seems to be a prerequisite for a better management of the environmental resources through different actions that require a higher level of human capital.

This book has merit in highlighting the key challenges that small states face in striving for sustainable development. The improvement of people's well-being (social equity) is at the heart of the declared objectives, along with economic effectiveness and environmental protection. By 'greening' production and consumption patterns (implying a better use of clearly limited resources), goal achievement could be made easier.

The structure of the book is rather odd: the case study outcomes and ensuing policy recommendations appear before the actual case studies. An overview of the common characteristics of small states and how these impact their natural, human and social capital, economy and society could have served as an introduction; followed by the presentation of the case studies, then an overview of the opportunities and barriers to the transitioning to the green economy, and finally a review of ensuing policy recommendations. Additionally, the list of recommendations is not structured and prioritized, even if a sense of what is more important emerges from the analysis.

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