Call for papers for a thematic section of Island Studies Journal on ‘Island transport challenges’

Guest editors: Abraham Leung and Stefan Baumeister

The peripheries of islands present unique challenges for transport planning and policy. Due to geographical isolation, transport by air or sea is financially and environmentally costly, and there are limited options. For near shore islands, fixed links are often built to create more capacity and overcome adverse geographical and weather conditions. Despite most cities being coastal or riverine, there is a noticeable neglect regarding the role water bodies have played in shaping transport infrastructure and travel behaviour.

Against this background, Island Studies Journal (ISJ) calls for this thematic section, welcoming contributions of current research on conceptualisations and empirical studies of island transport, advancing knowledge of special transport arrangements and ‘mobility cultures’, in particular transport development; travel behaviour; island-specific issues in economic, environmental and social sustainability; and perceptions and wellbeing of island travellers. Furthermore, this section aims to create greater awareness of the potential in linking sustainability, health, and wellbeing in transport research and practice of island communities. Specifically, we call for research papers on:

- How does the mobility of travel to/from peripheral islands interact with the ‘mainland’?
- The fixed links vs ferries debate
- Tourism aspects of island transport (ferries or fixed links acting as an attraction)
- Longer distance transport for islands and sustainability, such as sea and air links
- Subsidies and financial viability
- Island micromobility: small islands often boast some ‘micro’-modes and vehicles (e.g., e-scooters, mini-trucks/vans), which have been under researched
- Artificial islands and transport, as some jurisdictions are proposing artificial islands connected with fixed links as a whole package
- Gateway islands as transport and tourism hubs with special travel (visa) and administrative arrangements (e.g., Jeju Island in Korea, Hainan Island in China, Hawai’i, Phu Quoc Island in Vietnam, Åland Archipelago in Finland).

We encourage the involvement of scholars working in various disciplines and different parts of the world, including scholars engaged in comparative island research. Researchers using qualitative, quantitative, and mixed method approaches are encouraged to submit their proposals for consideration.

Authors are expected to engage with the existing body of island studies literature, as
found not only in *ISJ* but also in other journals and publications. Papers must be both theoretically informed and methodologically appropriate for their purpose. In order to be accepted for publication, articles must place island processes or ‘islandness’ at the centre of their analysis as it is not enough for an article to simply concern a place that happens to be an island.

It is hoped that this special section will be published in the November 2024 issue of *ISJ*, but individual papers will be published online ahead of print as and when they complete the peer review and editorial process. *ISJ* is a web-based, freely downloadable, open access, peer reviewed 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 Citation Index).

If you wish to submit a paper or would like further information, please contact guest editor Abraham Leung ([abraham.leung@griffith.edu.au](mailto:abraham.leung@griffith.edu.au)). Interested authors are asked to send first drafts of their papers to the guest editors by the deadline of **31 August 2023** at the latest, using ‘Thematic Section on Island Transport Challenges’ as the subject of the e-mail. The guest editors will then undertake an initial analysis of the paper and recommend revisions if necessary. Authors whose draft papers have been approved will be invited to submit their formal submissions to *ISJ* by 31 January 2024 through the journal’s online submission system: [https://islandstudiesjournal.org/submissions/](https://islandstudiesjournal.org/submissions/). All papers will be subject to peer review and must follow the guidelines for authors ([https://islandstudiesjournal.org/guidelines/](https://islandstudiesjournal.org/guidelines/)).

Contact the editors for more information:
Abraham Leung: [abraham.leung@griffith.edu.au](mailto:abraham.leung@griffith.edu.au) (Griffith University, Australia)
Stefan Baumeister: [stefan.c.baumeister@jyu.fi](mailto:stefan.c.baumeister@jyu.fi) (University of Jyvaskyla, Finland)