

Edited Book: Higher education on small islands: Challenges to the geographies of centrality and remoteness in higher education

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Aims of the edited collection:

A number of questions about the geographies of higher education are thrown into relief by the context of the small island. In a paradox widely recognised in islands studies research, the physical boundary of the sea both complicates and necessitates connections with other surrounding islands and with larger mainland countries. For higher education, this interplay between isolation and connection leads to questions ranging from those of the role of higher education in student mobility and the inward and outward migration of young people, to connections between higher education and local / global employment markets, to the nature and characteristics of student and staff experiences, to issues of higher education governance, policy and finance especially in the contexts of varying levels of island autonomy, and to the positioning of local higher education institutions in global marketised systems. To ask these questions is to highlight the assumptions and tensions surrounding higher education more broadly along with the normative association of higher education with urban centres. Defined according to this geographical logic, the small island is ‘remote’; this edited collection seeks to re-position the small island as central to discussions of the geographical assumptions that underlie higher education.

The collection will be proposed for publication in the [Bristol University Press Studies in Comparative and International Education Series](#), and aims to represent and explore a range of island contexts, bearing in mind the different geospatial and historical positionings of island communities in terms of ongoing power relationships between Global North and Global South, and between island and mainland in determining education policies, curricula and experiences. We are seeking chapter proposals which emphasise the ways in which island contexts can disrupt normative discourses, understandings and practices of higher education and offer challenges to traditional thinking.

Chapter proposals

Chapter proposals should be for chapters of 6,000-7,000 words (including references and bibliography) and should be located in one of the four following broad topic areas:

1. Curriculum design in small island higher education
2. Higher education policy in small island higher education
3. Student or staff experiences of small island higher education
4. Conceptualising small island higher education

Chapters could address one or more of the following overarching themes (this list is not exhaustive)

- Isolation and internationalisation
- Colonial, post-colonial and decolonial relationships
- Mobilities
- Place attachment and belonging

- Island/mainland relationships and/or island group relationships
- Defining the 'small' island

Proposal submission process

Chapter proposals should be submitted to the editors using the email addresses above by Friday 28th May 2021.

Proposals should include:

- Proposed title
- Name, institutional affiliation and contact details of author(s)
- Topic area 1-4 (from above list)
- 300 word abstract particularly emphasising the chapter's contribution to disrupting current understandings of higher education

We cannot yet confirm the timeline for the book project; we aim to submit the proposal by the end of June 2021 and if successful will ensure that authors are given plenty of time for drafting chapter contributions.