

**Empirical Explorations in Island Feminism:
A special thematic section of *Island Studies Journal*, 13(2), November 2018**

A fresh perspective in the field of island studies, island feminism introduces an intersectional orientation that considers gender and sexuality within the social context of islands as they interact with social factors such as race, ethnicity, indigeneity, and class. Island studies research suggests that there are particular concerns associated with island societies such as loss of population and indigenous cultures, limited employment opportunities, climate change, and governance structures. For many regions, coloniality continues to play a significant role in shaping the organization of island societies culturally and politically but also physically, for example, with the continued presence of military bases. Island societies also have been distinguished by their particular resilience and community orientation, as well thriving local practices, engaged diaspora, and environmental awareness. Historically, islands have been at the forefront of globalization processes and considered to be some of the most cosmopolitan places in the world. An island feminist perspective considers how these and other aspects of island life are shaped by gender constructs, attitudes towards diverse sexualities, indigeneity, or race and ethnic differences.

This special section pursues questions such as: How do islanders, who are diversely situated, address matters such as gender-based inequities, social injustices, or sexual violence given their geographical landscape? What distinct forms of agency or opportunities exist on islands for groups that are often discriminated against or given limited access? At the interstices of the local and global, how do the social constructs or continental imaginary of island and islanders inform their engagement and reception by international institutions?

Research on islands has considered gendered activities, but has rarely analyzed these in light of a feminist perspective. On the other hand, while there are rich articulations on the interrelationship between coloniality and the imposition of gender and sexuality regimes in island regions such as Oceania and the Caribbean, this research generally has not considered how attitudes towards and expressions of gender and sexual identities may be informed by island geographies.

An island feminist perspective could benefit future strategies for island policies, including those that address economic development and climate change, and support cultural resistance by recognizing and supporting the varied gendered strategies for maintaining island livelihoods and preserving island topologies. Island feminism starts with the lived experiences, challenges, and opportunities of islanders, recognizing that these are constantly formed and re-formed by changes in identities, constructs of gender and sexuality, and the systems of global and local power.

For this special section we seek empirically based work, case studies and/or comparative studies, that make application of an island feminism perspective (see Karides, 2016) and/or explore its theoretical boundaries. Topics are open, including the questions posed above, but also: tourism, government structures and labor inequalities, protests and

confrontation of gender bias or homophobia, cultural shifts or legal changes regarding gender and sexuality, or economic development and climate change. We encourage the submissions of research that has focused on gender-specific groups (women, men, non-binary gender identities) on islands that have not considered their relationship to other social identities and islandness. Manuscripts submitted should engage directly with feminist, gender, or queer perspectives and/or theoretical frameworks and the field of island studies.

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. 13, No. 2 in November 2018. For further information, or if you are interested in submitting a paper, contact special section editors Marina Karides (mkarides@hawaii.edu) or Noralis Rodríguez-Coss (rodriguez-coss@gonzaga.edu). Manuscripts should preferably be between 5,000-8,000 words (prepared in the APA style, 6th edition, the ISJ house style: http://islandstudies.ca/guidelines_instructions.html). They should reach Marina Karides or Noralis Rodríguez-Coss by 28 November 2017 to be considered for this special ISJ section set for publication in November 2018.