

‘Nomadic identities, archipelagic movements, and island diasporas’: a special section of *Island Studies Journal*, 15(2), November 2020

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The last two decades have experienced an unprecedented acceleration of climate anomalies alongside massive migrations of populations between and across islands, mainlands, and sea boundaries. Emerging ecologies of political and environmental instability are creating new conditions of islandness within both islands and mainlands.

This journal special section invites an exploration into the new conditions of nomadic belonging between islands and mainlands. It explores the shifting realities of diasporas on islands, as well as of island diasporas on mainlands. What new patterns, rearrangements, affiliations, and convivialities are emerging as a result, and how does the changing nature of ‘islandness’ challenge our understandings of coastal habitation and oceanic belonging? How are the contemporary mass dispersals of peoples—such as the long walk from South America to the North; the boat peoples of the Mediterranean and migrations through Malta and Lampedusa; the movements of the Rohingyas from Myanmar into the Sunderbans of Bangladesh; the travels of Syrians across the sea, through Lesbos, and on to the island cities of Sweden; and now the dispersals of Venezuelans walking away from their nation—connected to the emerging island ontologies of becoming? What role does permanent or cyclical labour or education migration to or from islands play in the creation and maintenance of islander identities, economies, and territorialisations? How do the new relationships of nomadic identity shape communities of islanders living on other islands or on a new mainland, as in the case of Barbuda and Puerto Rico in the Caribbean following the monster storms of 2017? This special section takes a close look at the dramatic and escalating movement of societies at the interface of islands, mainlands, hinterlands, and shorelines in order to explore the new realities of citizenship, of belonging, of becoming, of invisibility, of unbecoming that characterize our current era of regional and global political, environmental, and economic interaction and integration.

This special section will be published in November 2020 in ISJ 15(2), 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, 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). For further information, or if you are interested in submitting a paper, contact guest editor May Joseph (mjoseph@pratt.edu). Manuscripts should preferably be between 5,000-8,000 words and must be written in excellent English (prepared in accordance with the ISJ submission guidelines: http://islandstudies.ca/guidelines_instructions.html).

Submissions should reach May Joseph by 31 December 2019 at the latest to be considered for this special section (please use the title ‘Nomadic identities’ as the e-mail subject).