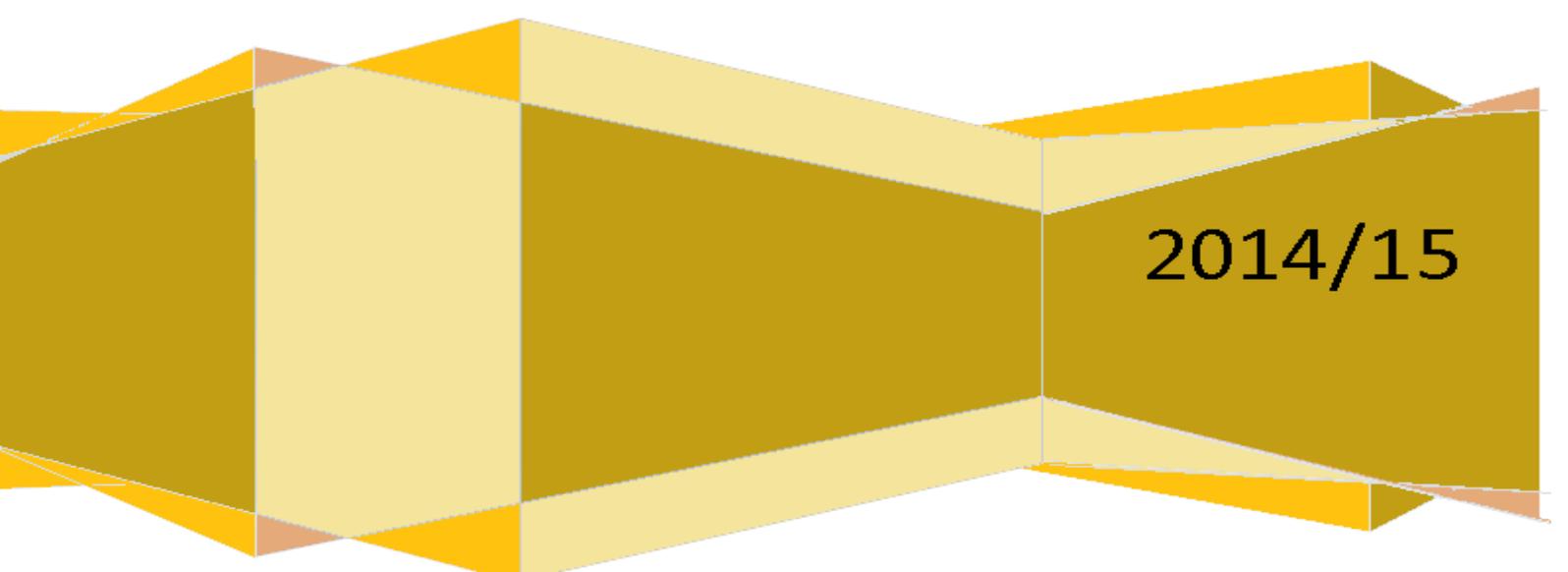


Islands and Small States Institute

Annual Report



2014/15

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1. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTE

The Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta offers Master courses on islands and small states studies, and organises various other activities including international meetings and public lectures. It also publishes a series of publications entitled “Occasional papers” and “publications of relevance to Islands and Small States.” The Institute also promotes research and training on economic, social, cultural, ecological and geographical aspects of islands and small states.

The institute evolved from the Islands and Small States Programme which had been set up in 1989 at the Foundation for International Studies, Valletta. In 1993, the Programme was restructured as an Institute with the principal aim of enabling the organisation to offer academic courses. As from 2007, the institute has been housed in the Guze Cassar Pullicino Building at the Tal-Qroqq Campus.

Staff

The Director of the Institute is Professor Lino Briguglio who offers his services to the Institute on a part-time basis. The Institute is administered by Ms Daniela Galea and assisted by Ms Romina Carabott.

Boards

The ISSI Board

In 2014-2015, the ISSI Board was chaired by Pro-rector Prof. Alfred Vella, with the following members, Prof. Lino Briguglio (Director), Prof. Roderick Pace (Senate appointed), Prof. Kevin Aquilina (Council Appointed), Dr Saviour Formosa (Academic staff), Mr Stefano Moncada (Senate Appointed) and Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino (Senate Appointed). The student representative was Mr Marc Henry Schembri.



The Location of the Islands and Small States Institute.

The MA (ISSS) Board of Studies

The MA (ISSS) Board of Studies was chaired by Professor Lino Briguglio, with Professor Roderick Pace, Dr Saviour Formosa, Mr Stefano Moncada and Mr Marc Henry Schembri (student representative) as members.

The ISSI Doctoral Committee

The ISSI Doctoral Committee is chaired by Professor Lino Briguglio, with Dr Saviour Formosa and Professor Roderick Pace as members.

2. THE INSTITUTES WEBSITE

The Institute's website contains information on the work that the Institute carries out. (URL: www.um.edu.mt/islands). It is structured as follows:

- The Homepage which provides an introduction to the Institute, the latest news, direct links to the study programmes offered by the Institute and previous annual reports;
- A Student Affairs page where MA ISSS students can view timetables, past papers, dissertation information, the Course Regulations and other information related to the Course/s on offer;
- A Publications page which lists the Occasional Papers and other publications of relevance to islands and small states;
- A Research page where interested researchers can view material related to the Islands and Small States including a list of dissertation titles that can be downloaded;
- A section related to the Health Research Group (HRG) including the terms of reference for the HRG, the members of the HRG, WHO Candidate Collaborating Centre at the Institute of Islands and Small States (ISSI). It also includes the Relevant Publications and Relevant Reports in the Press and any related news;
- A section relating to the Climate Change Platform (CCP) including the statute of the CCP, the members of the CCP, the Steering Committee of the CCP, relevant publications and any related news;
- A section dedicated to Sustainable Development including the consultation process towards the Sustainable Development process in Malta;
- A section which lists past events that provides information on the various events organised by the Institute;
- A staff page containing the contact details of the staff working at the Institute and a list of collaborating scholars.

3. THE MASTERS COURSE

The Course leading to the Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies is spread over two years of part-time study. Lecture sessions are normally held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Tal-Qroqq Campus and on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings at the Gozo Campus. The degree provides a cross-disciplinary perspective on various aspects associated with islands and small states, and allows for a specialist study in one particular area through a thesis. The students are also expected to write a dissertation, under supervision, on a theme of relevance to the islands and small states.

Course Content

The course consists of Environmental Studies, as the major area (40 ECTS credits), Economics as the minor area (20 ECTS credits), and the writing of a dissertation (30 ECTS credits). Topics covered include “Overview of Environmental Concerns for Islands and Small States”, “International Environmental Law and Environmental Diplomacy”, “Principles of Ecology and Biogeography of Islands”, “Environmental Planning and Management”, “Aspects of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics with Special Focus on Size and Insularity Factors” and “Research Methodology”.

Dissertations Titles

The dissertations submitted in 2014 in partial fulfilment of the MA(ISSS) degree were:

- “Managing the Environmental Impacts of Shipping: The Experience of a Small Island State – Malta.” Author: Melissa Abdilla
- “Political Governance Indicators and Small States.” Author: Robert Henry Bugeja
- “The Impacts of Tourism on Small Island States.” Author Marc Schembri

MA dissertations submitted in connection with the MA ISSS course are examined by a panel which includes an external examiner namely Dr Robert Allan Read of the University of Lancaster, UK.

In all, since the year 2000, a total of 87 students have obtained the MA (ISSS) degree.



MA ISSS students , together with Prof. Lino Briguglio graduating on Wednesday 2nd December 2015 at the Jesuit’s Church in Valletta.

4. COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

WHO Candidate Collaborating Centre

The Islands and Small States Institute has been designated as a candidate collaborating centre on health systems in small states for the World Health Organisation (WHO). The

implementation of the WHO's flagship policy document 'Health 2020' requires a multi-sectoral inter disciplinary approach.

For this purpose the ISSI has set up a Health Research Group with the objective of focusing on research initiatives related to policy capacity and governance of health systems in small states. It seeks to bring together the academic experience from islands and small states work in economics, international relations, environmental management and apply this to the discipline of health systems research. More information available here:

http://www.um.edu.mt/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/254141/Intoduce_the_Health_Research_Group.pdf

5. CLIMATE CHANGE PLATFORM (CCP)

The CCP's main objectives are (a) to facilitate collaboration between UoM entities and individual UoM academics interested in climate change issues and (b) to promote research and teaching initiatives relating to climate change at the University of Malta and elsewhere.

The Platform provides various facilities to encourage such collaboration and promotion of research, including (a) periodical issue of a newsletter that reports on CC-related activities by University entities; (b) information about research and teaching activities, as well as participation in climate-change related conferences by UoM entities and individual academics and (c) promotion and showcasing of research conducted by UoM entities and individual academics. All these initiatives will be publicised in a dedicated web space for the CCP.

The CCP is guided and overseen by a Steering Committee composed of up to seven UoM academics. The first Steering Committee, which will serve for two years (October 2015 - September 2017) is chaired by Professor Simone Borg, with Professor Maria Attard as vice-chair, and Mr. Stefano Moncada as the CCP focal point. The other members of the Committee are Prof. Lino Briguglio, Dr. Noel Aquilina, and Prof. Charles Galdies.

Membership to the CCP is open to persons with an interest in climate change issues who are willing to contribute towards the objectives of the platform. In order to become Members, applicants to join the CCP require the approval of the Steering Committee of the CCP.

6. CONFERENCES

WHO Conference in Andorra

Prof. Roderick Pace, representing the ISSI, attended the WHO Ministerial meeting on Health Systems in Small States, held in Andorra between 2 - 3 July 2015, The Hon Dr Christopher Fearne also attended. Prof. Pace delivered a presentation on "Governance in Small States – Implications for Multi Sectoral Implementation of Health 2020".

The presentation was well received and the initial feedback was that the first concrete step was made and this could eventually lead to the ISSI becoming a WHO Collaborating Centre. The impetus provided by Dr Fearne during the meeting was invaluable for this initial success in many ways.

Prof. Pace's presentation is available at:

http://www.um.edu.mt/islands/docs/Public_Health_Leadership_and_Governance_in_Small_States-26-06-2015.pps?WEBCMSLOGIN



Prof. Roderick Pace, (sitting on the right) and Dr Fearne (at the Podium) during the WHO Conference in Andorra.

"Our Common Future Under Climate Change"

The Institute acted as convenor for a panel session as part of the conference entitled "Our Common Future Under Climate Change" held on 7 - 10 July 2015 in Paris, France. A presentation was prepared by Prof. Lino Briguglio and Mr Stefano Moncada for the International Scientific Conference.

The presentation included a conceptual framework to position climate change impact in a vulnerability/resilience framework. It is argued that many communities are to be located in territories that are predisposed and inherently prone to being negatively affected by global warming in terms of health. This was the vulnerability side of the argument. The resilience side of the argument related to what can be done, policy-wise, to strengthen the ability of communities to cope with or withstand health problems and survive, recover from, and even possibly improve their health condition, in the face of global warming.

The presentation is available at:

https://www.um.edu.mt/islands/docs/climate_change_platform/Vulnerability_and_Resilience_Climate_change_11June15_5.pdf



A session of the Climate change meeting in Paris.

Third Global Biennial Conference on Small States

Prof. Briguglio represented the Islands and Small States Institute at the Third Global Biennial Conference on Small States, organized by the Commonwealths Secretariat in St Lucia in March 2015.

The theme of the conference was “Building the resilience of small states to withstand shocks” a subject on which the ISSI collaborated closely with the Commonwealth secretariat. Prof. Briguglio delivered a presentation on the Vulnerability/Resilience Framework. More information on the conference is available at:

<http://thecommonwealth.org/media/event/third-global-biennial-conference-small-states>



Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma (right) and Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Deodat at the Third Global Biennial Conference on Small States.

The Future of the Caribbean

The Institute was also represented at Forum on the Future of the Caribbean held in Trinidad and Tobago in May 2015, organised by the UNDP and the University of the West Indies. The forum brought together political leaders, academia, private sector leaders, young shapers, civil society and policymakers to engage in a vigorous debate and discussion under the theme of "Disruptive Thinking, Bold Action practical Outcomes". Prof. Briguglio delivered a presentation on "Governance in the Caribbean Small States". More information about this meeting is available at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/media/event/forum-future-caribbean>



H.E. Alfonso Múnera, Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) delivers introductory remarks during day two of the Forum on the Future of the Caribbean.

The Caribbean Growth Forum

The “Caribbean Growth Forum” was organised by the World Bank in St Lucia in June 2015. Prof. Briguglio delivered a presentation on Competitiveness Strategies for Small States. This event brought together in Saint Lucia, Caribbean heads of state and over 200 government officials, private sector, civil society and development partners to discuss what are the new strategies and tools necessary to achieve growth in the Caribbean. More information is available at: <http://caribgrowth.competecaribbean.org/>



The Prime Minister of St Lucia addressing the Caribbean Growth Forum.

Conference on legal aspects of small states

The Institute's is represented on the Board of the Centre for Small States at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). Prof. Briguglio was invited to deliver a keynote speech on “Competition Law and Policy in Small States” during the Inaugural Conference on the 'Small States in a Legal World' held in London on 7 September 2015. The conference was convened by Dr Petra Butler and Dr Caroline Morris of Queen Mary University of London. Information is available at: <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/events/items/152459.html>



Dr Petra Butler and Dr Caroline, convenors of the London Conference.

6. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Internship Student

Ms Anna Pojslova from Poland was an Internship student at the Institute funded by Erasmus Funds. She visited Malta between Wednesday 2nd September and Thursday 2nd November 2015 and worked on a Climate Change Survey among the University of Malta students.



From left to right:
 Ms Anna Pojslova
 (Internship student),
 Prof. Lino Briguglio
 (Director of the ISSI),
 Ms Daniela Galea
 (Administrator) and
 Ms Romina Carabott
 (Assistant
 Administrator).

Publications

The Institute annually publishes a series of six occasional papers (ISSN 1024-6282) on themes of relevance to islands and small states. The list of paper titles is available at https://www.um.edu.mt/islands/publications/occasional_papers

Other publications of interest during the academic year 2014-15 include:



“A Vulnerability and Resilience Framework for Small States” in Lewis- Bygone, D. *Building the Resilience of Small States: A Revised Framework*. London: Commonwealth Secretariat. Available at: <https://books.thecommonwealth.org/building-resilience-small-states-paperback>

This book was published by the Commonwealth Secretariat following a series of meetings by a Resilience Research Group appointed by the Commonwealth Secretariat in which the Institute had a leading role.



“Small Islands” Chapter 29 of the IPCC Book Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, Cambridge University Press.

(together with Leonard A. Nurse, Roger F. McLean, John Agard, Virginie Duvat Magnan, Netatua Pelesikoti, Emma Tompkins and Arthur Webb). Available at: <https://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/contributors/chapter/chapter-29>

The IPCC report on Climate Change: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Chapter 29 focussed on the impacts on small islands of which the director of the Institute was one of the lead authors.

“The Maltese Economy,” in Europa World Yearbook. Published by Routledge. Available at: <http://www.europaworld.com/pub/credits>

“Resilience Building in Vulnerable Small States,” Commonwealth Yearbook 2014 Nexus in Cambridge, UK. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/commonwealth-publications/publications-index/commonwealth-yearbook/>