

# The Case for Non-Sovereignty

Territories like American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Cook Islands and the Faeroes are sub-national island jurisdictions (SNIJs). They all share some measure of autonomous government, and are easily construed as independent states-in-waiting. Yet most of these territories exhibit no urgency to become independent. Instead, they appear to have decided that there are political and economic benefits accruing today when island territories are autonomous but not sovereign. In an uncertain world, a substantial degree of autonomy, respect and protection for local culture and identity, reasonable provision of employment opportunities, welfare and security by a larger and benign metropolitan state, have collectively weakened most local thrusts for independence. In spite of the mandate of the United Nations Committee on Decolonization, there is a strong case to be made today for non-sovereignty, and it is the SNIJs that provide clear evidence.

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**Godfrey Baldacchino** is Canada Research Chair (Island Studies) at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada; Visiting Professor of Sociology at the University of Malta, Malta; and Executive Editor of *Island Studies Journal*.

**David Milne** is an expert in federalism and Emeritus Professor of Political Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. His research interests include public policy for small jurisdictions and Canadian constitutional politics and law.

# The Case for Non-Sovereignty

Lessons from sub-national  
island jurisdictions

Edited by Godfrey Baldacchino and  
David Milne

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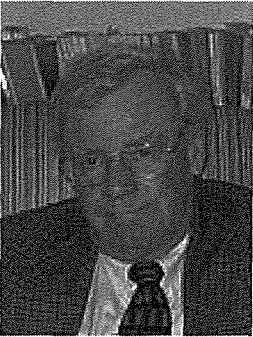
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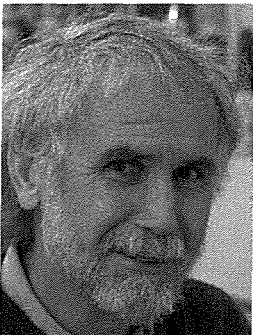
# Contributors



**Godfrey Baldacchino** is Canada Research Chair (Island Studies) at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, Visiting Professor of Sociology at the University of Malta, Malta, and Executive Editor of *Island Studies Journal*. His latest publications include *A World of Islands* (2007); and *Bridging Islands: The Impact of Fixed Links* (2007). His recent articles have appeared in *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, *Canadian Geographer*, *Journal of Small Business & Entrepreneurship* and *World Development*.



**Barry Bartmann** is Professor of Political Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, and the founding coordinator of its Island Studies programme. His fields of interest include the international relations of small (often island) states and comparative politics. He has made submissions to various governments and international organizations on issues regarding small states. His articles have appeared in such journals as *The Round Table* and *Island Studies Journal*.



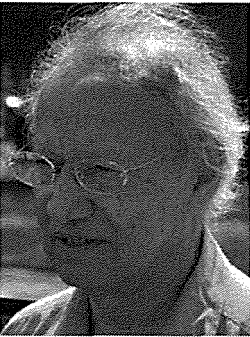
**John Connell** is Professor of Geography, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. His key research interests are concerned with political, economic and social development in less developed countries, especially in the South Pacific region and in other small island states. His publications include *Urbanisation in the South Pacific: Towards Sustainable Development* (2002).



**Bob Conrich** is a retired arbitrator with a background in law, business, construction, government, history, journalism and politics. A resident of Anguilla, British West Indies, for over twenty years, he does *pro bono* consulting work in the British Overseas Territories.



**Megan Davies** was formerly Research Assistant at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK. She has interests in disaster risk reduction, particularly volcanic eruptions and risk communication and perception. Her main experience is in volcanic disaster management in the Caribbean. Her research interests include the use of education as a disaster management tool.

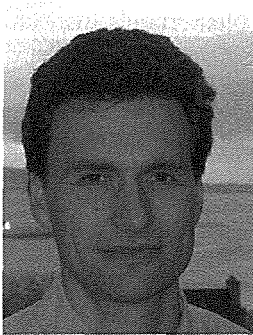


**Yash Ghai** was born in Kenya. He is currently Head of the Constitution Advisory Support Unit, UNDP Nepal. He retired at the end of 2005 from the University of Hong Kong after teaching there for seventeen years. Before then, he was Professor at the University of Warwick, UK. He has written on constitutional law, human rights, ethnicity and sociology of law. His books include *Autonomy and Ethnicity: Negotiating Claims in Multi-ethnic States* (2001) and *Hong Kong's New Constitutional Order: The Basic Law and the Resumption of Chinese Sovereignty* (1999). He has advised on the drafting or reform of constitutions in many countries: he was Chair of the Kenya Constitution Review Commission and Kenya National Constitutional Conference (equivalent to a constituent assembly). He is Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for human rights in Cambodia.

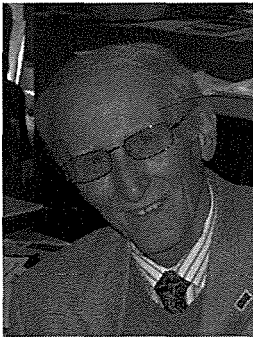




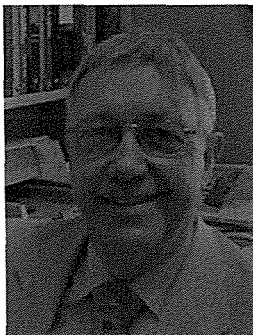
**Ilan Kelman** is involved in research and advocacy work that relates to two areas: understanding and reducing island vulnerability, which aims to build safe and healthy communities on islands and in other isolated areas; and disaster diplomacy, examining how and why disaster-related activities do and do not reduce enmity. Ethical research and practical approaches are of particular interest along with connections between disaster research and disaster risk-reduction practice.



**Sandy Kerr** is a Lecturer in Environmental Management at the International Centre for Island Technology (ICIT), Orkney Islands campus of Heriot-Watt University, Scotland, UK. His interests include the sustainable management of coastal and island resources, particularly fisheries, conservation and energy. His articles have appeared in journals such as *Ocean and Coastal Management*, *Fisheries Research* and *Town Planning Review*.



**Jerome L. McElroy** is Professor of Economics, Department of Business Administration and Economics, St Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA. His current research interests in small islands include sustainable tourism, Caribbean tourism after Castro, the impact of political status on tourism development, and the contrasts between tourist-driven (SITE) and aid/remittance-driven (MIRAB) small island economies. His articles have appeared in such journals as *Annals of Tourism Research*, *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* and *The Round Table*.



**David Milne** is Emeritus Professor of Political Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. Research interests include public policy for small jurisdictions and Canadian constitutional politics and law. His publications include the co-editing of *Lessons from the Political Economy of Small Islands: The Resourcefulness of Jurisdiction* (2000) with Godfrey Baldacchino and the co-authoring of the chapter on Island governance in *A World of Islands: An Island Studies Reader* (2007) with Edward Warrington.



**Tom Mitchell** is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK. He is a geographer working on climate change, disaster management, participatory processes and governance. Practical experience includes conducting deliberative processes for improving disaster resilience and working with small island developing states to assess disaster policy. Other interests include volcanoes, livelihoods, education and social vulnerability. He has extensive experience in the Caribbean and shorter assignments in the Indian Ocean.



**Gert Oostindie** is Director of the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), and Professor of Caribbean History, both at Leiden University, The Netherlands. He has published extensively on the colonial history and decolonization of the Dutch Caribbean; on history, ethnicity and migration in the Caribbean and Latin America in general; and on the significance of colonial history to Dutch national identity. Recent books include *Paradise Overseas: The Dutch Caribbean* (2005) and *Decolonising the Caribbean: Dutch Policies in a Comparative Perspective* (2003, with Inge Klinkers).



**Iain Orr** worked in the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) from 1968 to 2002, mostly dealing with China (including being Consul-General in Shanghai, 1987–1990). He negotiated Environment Charters with the UK's Overseas Territories (OTs), and managed an FCO fund for environmental work in the OTs. He is a founder partner of the Global Islands Network and a consultant to the World Land Trust.



**Kara B. Pearce** has a BA in Economics from St Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA. She currently serves as a Research Coordinator for the CB Richard Ellis office in Charlotte, North Carolina. Her research interests focus on the correlates of small island tourist economies.



**Anthony J. Regan** is a constitutional lawyer specializing in constitutional development as part of conflict resolution. He has lived and worked in Papua New Guinea (PNG) for some fifteen years where he taught at the U-PNG Law Faculty, and has served as adviser to Bougainville parties in the Bougainville peace process since 1994. He has also been involved in the Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka peace processes, and in the constitution-making process in East Timor. His current research includes: conflict resolution and civil society in Melanesia; and ombudsman institutions and leadership codes as constitutional accountability and anti-corruption mechanisms.



**Elaine Stratford** is Associate Professor in Geography at the School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, Australia. Her work focuses on cultural geography and the geopolitics of islands; sustainability and community; the sense of identity in place. Her research interests deal with the interstices of cultural geography and political ecology, with particular emphasis on island studies, sustainability and community, and the use of qualitative research methods. She has published articles in such journals as *Australian Geographical Studies*, *Cultural Geographies* and *Geoforum*.



**Kathleen Stuart** completed an MA degree in Island Studies in 2006, after a long career in the private sector during which she earned degrees in sociology, dietetics and business. She has assisted Dr Godfrey Baldacchino on the Jurisdiction Project since its inception in 2004, and began teaching Island Studies to undergraduates at the University of Prince Edward Island in 2007. Her research interests include public policy, entrepreneurship, sustainable development and jurisdiction. Her recent articles have appeared in *Sustainable Development* and *Journal of Small Business and Entrepreneurship*.



**Ronald L. Watts** is Principal Emeritus, Professor Emeritus of Political Studies, and Fellow of the Institute for Intergovernmental Relations at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, where he has been a member of the academic staff since 1955. He has worked for over forty years on the comparative study of federal systems and Canadian federalism, subjects on which he has written or edited some twenty books, monographs and reports, as well as over eighty journal articles and book chapters. He has received five honorary degrees, and became a Companion of the Order of Canada in 2000. His books include *Comparing Federal Systems*, third edition (2008) and *The Spending Power in Federal Systems* (1999).

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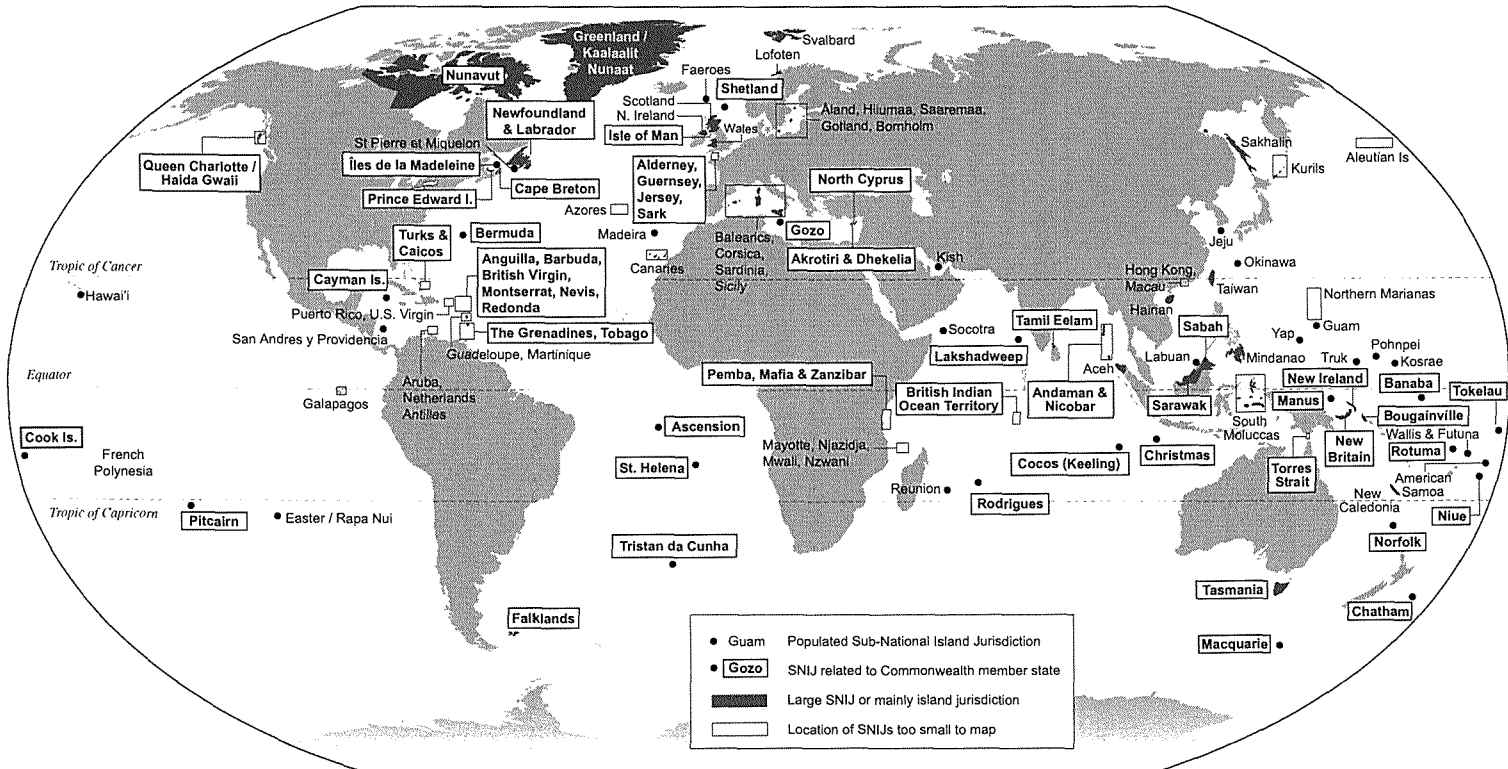
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*Godfrey Baldacchino*  
*Prince Edward Island, Canada*

*David Milne*  
*Malta*



The World's Sub-national Island Jurisdictions (2008).

Source: Compiled by Gill Alexander (Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland).