

# INTRODUCTION

This theme issue of *Shima* is devoted to research on francophone island cultures and/or to research produced by francophone scholars. The issue attempts to address the bias towards anglophone island cultures and anglophone critical-theoretical perspectives inherent in any English language journal. Articles cover a range of islands that are home to francophone cultures (including Saint-Martin, Quisqueya, Mauritius, Réunion, French Polynesia and the Channel Islands) together with a broad analysis of the insularity inherent to small spaces (such as islands) provided by Francois Taglioni from the University of Réunion. Common to all the articles is a discussion of island societies, cultures and/or language uses in flux as insular societies established as a result of western colonial enterprises engage with modernism and internationalisation.

*Shima* welcomes submissions from researchers whose first language is other than English and has editorial resources to work on submissions from non-anglophone researchers. While these resources do not include translation services, non-anglophone researchers interested in submitting proposals are invited to contact the editor to discuss assistance that can be provided with material relevant to the journal. *Shima* is also interested to discuss the translation and re-publication of important papers in Island Studies that have not hitherto been available to anglophone researchers.

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