

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference

1st circular

The Contemporary Dynamics of Relay Islands From Stop-Over Island to Insular Networks

12th & 13th September 2003, île de Porquerolles, Hyères, France

Organized by the *Espace et Culture* laboratory, Université de Paris IV-CNRS, ESA 8064

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I. Introduction

Isolated bits of land, confettis of former empires, scattered territories of far-flung horizons ... many are the ways of describing these little islands which come in various shapes and sizes - miniature worlds carrying so little weight on the international political and economic scale. With globalisation and regionalisation in high gear, these micro insular spaces are no more than samples of the miniature, mere anecdotes, far from being considered major territories. Yet, needless to say, some islands have, in no small way, contributed to, and still play an important role in the functioning of societies throughout the world. Spanning the seas and oceans, they are not mere "bits of the earth", but, quite to the contrary, happen to be nerve centres and hubs of the wheels of a world in constant motion.

Situated at the crossroads of maritime routes of varying importance, a number of these little island are beacons – indispensable pillars in the geography of exchange, serving as **intersections** at different levels and participating more or less actively in the dynamics of these great movements. **Relay islands**, on the other hand, play a more sophisticated, determining role than stop-over islands : they are pivots which redistribute forces towards other island or continental spaces.

Finally, at the ultimate stage, the systemizing of these relay islands can lead to the formation of veritable **networks**. Today the limits of human settlement on the surface of the earth have become boundless and isolation increasingly relative thanks to the process of simultaneousness made possible by the technologies of information and communication. The dispersed , fragmented or scattered nature of Island spaces is no longer an obstacle to the cooperation and integration of the latter into larger systems. In fact, one is witness to the proliferation of networks which are now taking into consideration the island fact. Whether these networks develop on the initiative of greater powers or on the impulse of the Island states and territories themselves, they clearly indicate a willingness on the part of islands to speak with one voice on the planetary platform. From the Caribbean to the Pacific, through the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean, there are dozens of spheres of cooperation. Whether they be of a political, economic or technical nature or organized according to groups of interest, these spheres of cooperation have interwoven links with each other. The ocean, through its apparent effects of discontinuity, confers on the island an ideal location as a productive or distributive knot which in turn feeds the transnational networks.

II. Major themes to develop

* The stopover element gives rise to a multitude of exchanges of an economic, social and cultural nature. While these exchanges contribute to the building of a society with an original insular identity against a rich cultural, ethnic and religious kaleidoscope, they can also be a source of profound instability, even internal strife and rifts. The study of the identity quest will be at the crux of the problematic of islands which oscillates in a dialectical manner between a desire to open up and close in, between integration and marginalisation.

* At a larger level, the various cultural influences which were sedimented over the various stopovers have produced, in these little islands, urban landscapes marked by an urbanism and an architecture which is eclectic, and even an original syncretism, reflecting the dimension of opening up. This avenue will be explored.

* Questions will also be raised as to the role and place of these island relays within the mechanics of the large exchange circuits in the commercial, economic, technical, financial and cultural areas. A synchronic and diachronic perspective would be the best.

* We will try, beyond the institutional dimension, to understand and measure the structure, the intensity and the interactions of the links which unite the insular networks, composed of little stop over or relay islands. The qualitative analysis will be given pride of place.

* Are these island networks specific scientific objects?. Can they participate in the development of these insular spaces by giving them the necessary leeway in spite of the great power blocs which have a tendency to throw weight on them by superimposition?

* Can regional insular integration do without the continental integration?

III. Language. French and English will be used indifferently.

IV. Calendar. An outline proposal of 1500 to 2000 characters will have to be sent by E-mail to Dr. Nathalie Bernardie (bernardie.tahir@wanadoo.fr), or Dr. François Taglioni (tagli@diplomacy.edu) **by the 15th of April 2003** at the latest. This proposal should specify the problematic, the aims and the contents of the research paper (see form to be filled and returned).

The authors must hand in the complete version and their contribution (40 000 characters maximum, bibliography and the notes inclusive) at the latest on the day of the symposium, with a resume of 1000 characters in English and in French and key words (six maximum) in French and English. The authors who will not give their contribution during the conference will automatically be excluded from the publication of their papers.

V. Publication. Proceedings will be published in 2004 by L'Harmattan in the collection "Géographie et Cultures" or by Editions Karthala

1. Text presentation of manuscript

- * Author (s): name(s) first name (s) job address of the institution, E-mail
- * Type : Times 11 simple spacing, justified
- * Margin : left 2cm , right 7cm, top 3cm, bottom 8,2 cm

2. Footnotes, if any will have to be grouped at the bottom of each individual page

3. Each document must respect the margins of the text, be identified by a number in the text and on the document. It will be accompanied by :

- the name(s) of their author(s)
- a title
- sources
- an explicit legend or caption not exceeding 150 characters.

4. The bibliographical references must be grouped at the end of the manuscript. They must be presented according to the following norms:

Amstrong, H. ; Read, R., 2000. "Comparing the economic performance of dependent territories and sovereign microstates". *Economic development and cultural change*, n°2, p. 285-306

Aubert de la Rüe, E., 1956. *L'homme et les îles*. Paris, Gallimard, 212 p.

Regnault, T., 1997. "Les intégrations économiques en Méditerranée", in Benhayoun, G. (dir.), *L' Europe et la Méditerranée* Paris, L' Harmattan, p. 83-100.

5. Quotation or citation references must be made directly in the body of the text according to the following model (Anderson's norm): author, year of publication, the page if necessary; example: (Regnault 1997, p. 88)

6. Software to be used (Mac or PC)

- * Text: *Word*.
- * Maps, schemas , photographs: *Illustrato*
- * Tables and graphs: *Excel*
- * Supporting material: floppy disk, ZIP or CD

VI. Accommodation .The seminar will be held at the Hotel des Mèdes in the village on the Island of Porquerolles. The organizers have negotiated a hotel rate for the seminar which amounts to 80 euros (approximately) per night for a double room and breakfast (coffee breaks and lunch included at the restaurant of Alycastre) .Further details as regards bookings will be provided later in the second circular.

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Registration (without communication)	Yes	No
Registration and communication	Yes	No

Miss, Mrs, Mr:

Name and First Name:

Work address :

Home address :

Function:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Proposed paper for communication (1 500 to 2 0000 characters) :

Key-words (maximum six) :

Please be kind enough to return the form by the 15th of April 2003 by e-mail to Dr. Nathalie Bernardie (bernardie.tahir@wanadoo.fr), or to Dr. François Taglioni (tagli@diplomacy.edu)