

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	Small Islands, Big Issues: Small Island Developing States in a Globalising World
2	Module Code:	GLOB31612
3	Credit Points:	20
4	Duration:	Year Long
5	School:	Arts and Humanities
6	Campus:	Clifton
7	Date this version first approved to run:	September 2017

8 Pre, post and co-requisites:

These are modules that you must have studied previously in order to take this module, or modules that you must study simultaneously or in a subsequent academic session

Pre, Co, Post Module Code Module Title

9 Courses containing the module

<u>Level</u>	<u>Core/Option</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
6	Option	FT		BA Joint Honours Humanities
6	Option	PT		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages
6	Option	SW		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages
6	Option	FT		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages
6	Option	PT		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages
		FT	EURX003	European Exchange (Full Year)
		FT	INTX003	International Exchange (Full Year)

10 Overview and aims

This module aims to address aspects of globalisation in relation to a group of communities that are geographically dispersed yet share many characteristics and are commonly impacted upon by evolving global structures and processes. The study of small island developing states (SIDS) also allows a more manageable level of analysis that has relevance to and can inform debates on topics such as climate change or the influence and impacts of neo-liberal economic practices in an increasingly interconnected international trading system. The module will highlight both the diversity of the communities under consideration, plus the obstacles, challenges and opportunities that they share.

As a political grouping within the United Nations the Alliance of Small Island States has 44 members, or nearly one quarter of all of the world's states. As such they represent a very significant interest group and potential voting bloc within the UN system. At the same time many of these states are also tremendously vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, are often disadvantaged in terms of international trade and are routinely stereotyped as tropical idylls – which is far from the reality of life on some of these remote and fragile ecosystems.

The module will consider the historical experiences of these states across several geographic regions, including but not exclusive to the Pacific and Indian Oceans. This will involve a consideration of post-colonial political independence, aspects of domestic economies and international trading relations, identity and broader cultural issues and environmental factors. This is an ambitious brief and it will not be possible to cover all SIDS in great detail. Therefore certain states will be focussed upon to act as illustrative examples. The majority of examples will be drawn from the Pacific region, although the aim is to convey the manner in which many of the issues facing these states are also relevant to not only other SIDS but humanity and the global eco-system as a whole.

11 Module content

The module begins by presenting you with a historically informed analysis of how SIDS have variously achieved independence or, as with several ongoing French colonies, continue to be dominated by an external power. This then leads on to a consideration of the various neo-colonial relationships that continue to inform, and arguably to a large degree determine, the political, socio-economic and often environmental situations of SIDS. How SIDS relate to larger, more powerful states will also be addressed with reference to various theoretical approaches.

In addition to interstate relations aspects of domestic dynamics will also be explored. In particular this will address the situation of indigenous communities, notably comparing the divergent experiences of Aborigines in Australia with the Maori of New Zealand / Aotearoa.

Regional bodies such as the Pacific Islands Forum will be critiqued with regard to their roles and activities. This will include economic issues but also broaden the analysis to look at bodies such as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs.

Although SIDS are facing some of the world's most dramatic environmental and socio-economic challenges the content of the module will cover elements of both vulnerability and resilience. With regard to the latter emphasis will be placed on how SIDS have been able to work together to raise their concerns at the international level.

The approaches taken in addressing the above topics will be expressly multi and interdisciplinary drawing on relevant literature from the fields of Anthropology, Geography, History, Political Economy and Development and Global Studies.

12 Indicative reading

Lovegrove, R. (2012) *Islands Beyond the Horizon: The Life of Twenty of the World's Most Remote Islands*, Oxford, OUP

King, R. and Connell, J. (1999) *Small Worlds, Global Lives: Islands and Migration*, London, Continuum

McPherson, S. (2016) *Britain's Treasure Islands: A journey to the UK overseas territories*, Poole, Redfern Natural History Productions

Matthews, J. And Travers, D. (Eds.) (2012) *Islands and Britishness: A Global Perspective*, Cambridge, Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Fischer, S. (2013) *Islands: From Atlantis to Zanzibar*, London, Reaktion

Carlsen, R. et al (2011) *Island Tourism: A Sustainable Perspective*, London, CABI

Conrad, P. (2009) *Islands: A Trip Through Time and Space*, London, Thames and Hudson

Rudiak-Gould, P. (2013) *Climate Change and Tradition in a Small Island State: The Rising Tide*, London, Routledge

Baldacchino, G. (2010) *A World of Islands*, Prince Edward Island, Island Studies Press

13 **Learning outcomes**

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of the module

Knowledge and understanding. After studying this module you should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and critical awareness of the main aspects of how processes of globalisation are variously impacting on SIDS at the political, economic, socio-cultural and environmental level
- Illustrate the above with reference to specific examples as covered during this module
- Critically analyse the changing circumstances of SIDS drawing on relevant theoretical approaches
- Show knowledge and critical awareness of global and regional institutions and civil society organisations relevant to the evolving circumstances of SIDS in a globalising context

Skills, qualities and attributes. After studying this module you should be able to:

- Gather, organise and deploy evidence from a variety of secondary and some primary sources
- Identify, represent, and compare different theoretical approaches and arguments
- Demonstrate a critical ability to critique and challenge some of the 'tropical Paradise' stereotyping popularly associated with many SIDS
- Work with some amount of independence, demonstrated in self-direction, self-management and intellectual initiative
- Develop well-informed and critically aware analytical frameworks for understanding the contemporary challenges facing many of the world's small island states

14 **Teaching and learning**

Range of modes of direct contact

This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module,

e.g. lectures, seminars	
Lectures Seminars Online directed study Total contact hours:	39
<i>Range of other learning methods</i> This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research	
Directed reading and research tasks Independent study Total non-contact hours:	161

15 Assessment methods	This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements in the module		
<u>Element number</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	50%	Coursework	2,500 Word Essay
2	50%	Exam	Exam
Diagnostic/formative assessment This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark			
Formative assessment will be set during the first half of the module to enhance preparation for the essay. This will involve a library-based research exercise and self-assessed on-line quiz.			
Further information on assessment This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate			

Document management	
16	Module Title: Small Islands, Big Issues: Small Island Developing States in a Globalising World
17	Module Code: GLOB31612

18	Subject (JACS) Code	L250										
19	Cost Centre	128										
20	School:	AAH										
21	Academic Team	HLG										
22	Campus	2 (Clifton)										
23	Other institutions providing teaching	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>										
		<table> <tr> <th>Institution</th> <th>%</th> </tr> <tr> <td>23a Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23b Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23c Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23d Any other Non-UK organisation - Percentage not taught by NTU</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Institution	%	23a Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU		23b Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU		23c Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU		23d Any other Non-UK organisation - Percentage not taught by NTU	
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24	Date this version was formally approved by SASQC/DAG:	January 2017										