

# ANTHROPOCENE ISLANDS

## EARLY CAREER ANALYTICAL STUDY SPACE

### ANTHROPOCENE ISLANDS INITIATIVE

The island has become a key figure of the Anthropocene - an epoch in which human entanglements with nature come to the fore. For a long time, islands were romanticised or marginalised, seen as lacking modernity's capacities for progress, vulnerable to the effects of catastrophic climate change and the afterlives of empire and coloniality. Today, however, the island is increasingly central to both policy-oriented and critical imaginaries that seek to more positively draw upon the island's liminal and disruptive capacities, especially the relational entanglements and sensitivities its peoples and modes of life are said to exhibit.

The 'Anthropocene Islands' initiative (see <https://www.anthropoceneislands.online>) gains its initial impetus from the 2021 book *Anthropocene Islands: Entangled Worlds* (written by Jonathan Pugh and David Chandler). It explores the widespread turn to working with islands for the generation of new approaches to critical thinking, knowledge, and policy practices associated with the Anthropocene. Through agenda-setting publications and talks, establishing a new monthly Zoom reading group (starting April 2021), an ongoing section of *Island Studies Journal*, an early career analytical study space (details below), and workshops and sessions at conferences, the 'Anthropocene Islands' initiative will examine why and how engaging islands has become important for the generation of some of the core frameworks of contemporary Anthropocene thinking. A useful addition to the approach is outlined in the 2021 *Dialogues in Human Geography* paper, 'Anthropocene Islands: there are only islands after the end of the world', also written by Jonathan Pugh and David Chandler, which is available here: <https://doi.org/10.1177/2043820621997018>

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As part of the 'Anthropocene Islands' initiative, we also want to establish an earlier career analytical study space. The purpose of this will be to generate a relaxed space where early career scholars can chat about and explore the many different ways in which islands and islanders are being thought about in broader Anthropocene debates and literatures. Thus, we will critically 'stand back' from and analyse cross-cutting and discernible patterns of thought - analytical ways of thinking about islands and islanders which can be drawn out, traced, or mapped from Anthropocene debates and literatures.

We use the term "early career" loosely and it is really up to people to decide if they feel they fall into this category themselves; but it could include MA students, PhD students, and those in the early years of their academic career.

The early career study space will launch in June 2021 and will initially meet 3 times per year on the same day as the [Anthropocene Islands reading group](#). We also want to build up into holding sessions at conferences, workshops, and other activities.

#### MEETING DETAILS

**Date of first meeting:**  
Thursday, 24 June 2021 at 6pm London Time (UK)  
(immediately after the Anthropocene Islands reading group)

**Zoom Registration Link:**  
<http://bit.ly/anthropoceneislands-ec>

Please note: Before you attend, we strongly advise you to read the paper 'Anthropocene Islands: there are only islands after the end of the world', available to download here: <http://doi.org/10.1177/2043820621997018>  
This will give focus to the meeting.

If you would like to take part, please contact Jonathan Pugh ([Jonathan.Pugh@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Pugh@ncl.ac.uk)) and Maggie Henry ([MJHenry@upei.ca](mailto:MJHenry@upei.ca)) to be added to the Early Career Analytical Study Space email list.