

INTRODUCTION

This online publication comprises a selection of peer-refereed versions of papers presented at the first international Small Island Cultures Conference, held at Kagoshima University Centre for the Pacific Islands, February 7th-10th 2005 and organised as the inaugural conference of SICRI (the Small Island Cultures Research Initiative)

The conference provided an interdisciplinary forum for island culture specialists to present their research, to gain a perspective on work in other fields and to begin to form the SICRI network. Reflecting this, the papers published here comprise material on approaches to research and interaction with island communities and case studies of individual cultures. The range of Asian, Australian, European and Oceanic research featured here indicates both the diversity of cultures explored by SICRI researchers and common aspects of research philosophy and analysis.

Discussion of these papers via the SICRI group mailing list is welcome and any discussion 'strings' that arise will be archived online. (See www.sicri.org for contact details.)

Dr Mike Evans (editor) for the SICRI Steering Committee