

# Island States/Island Territories

## Sharing Stories of Island Life, Governance and Global Engagement

28 March 2019

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Venue: **Aula, University of Aruba**



You are cordially invited to the first ever conference to discuss life, governance, and global engagement on, for, and with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Subnational Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs).

On Thursday, 28 March, 2019 our keynote speaker, Dr. Godfrey Baldacchino, will present a free public lecture about sub-state and subnational jurisdictions. Dr. Godfrey Baldacchino is a world-renowned scholar and researcher who has dedicated considerable efforts and energies to the growing field of island studies research – particularly that which seeks to contribute to a greater appreciation for different categories of small island territories.

### ***“Woke up, got out of bed, dragged a comb across my head: A day in the life of a SNIJ resident.”***

The growing literature about sub-state or subnational jurisdictions tends to dwell exclusively within the realm and behaviour of politico-economic elites. It deals with the tensions between metropolitan and local governance; the ‘games’ played out by politicians and political parties to score points by strong rhetoric, accusing one side of neo-colonialism, neglect or indifference; and the other of corruption, ineptitude and irresponsibility. It focuses on the macro level, whereby more or less autonomy results from episodes of power play.

All well and good: this is a fascinating field of research, and the fact that scholars engage in it, and are likely to continue to do so, is testimony to its rich opportunities for reflection, examination and insights.

In this lecture, I timorously propose to strike clear of this approach, its methodologies and epistemologies. Instead, I will shift my sights from macro to micro, from elites to the general public, from those engaged in dealing with politicians, the media and senior public officers, to those dealing with the local state in its various ramifications. From elites to those struggling to survive: today, every day.

### **Keynote speaker: Dr. Godfrey Baldacchino**

*Baldacchino is currently a Professor of Sociology and Pro Rector for International Development at the University of Malta and is also the co-holder - along with Dr. Jim Randall - of the UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, and the University of Malta. This Conference was the brainchild of the duo, who were keen on having the conference located on a subnational island jurisdiction.*

*Professor Baldacchino is the sole author or lead co-author of 22 books and monographs and sole editor or lead co-editor of 23 other publications. He is also co-author of over 120 peer reviewed articles and book chapters. He was the founding editor of Island Studies Journal based at the Institute of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, and is now Executive Editor of the Small States and Territories Journal at the University of Malta.*

*One of his recent publications from 2017 is a book chapter co-authored with Arjen Alberts, member of the Conference Planning Committee. The book chapter, which examines the cases of Aruba, St. Maarten, and the US Virgin Islands, is entitled 'Resilience and Tourism in Islands: Insights from the Caribbean,' found in the book Tourism and Resilience, edited by R. W. Butler (Oxfordshire, UK; Boston, MA: CABI).*

*Dr. Baldacchino is also editor of The Routledge International Handbook of Island Studies: A World of Islands (London: Routledge), published in 2018.*

**For more information on this event**

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*Hosted by The University of Aruba and organized together with UNESCO Co-chair holders in Island Studies and Sustainability, The University of Prince Edward Island and The University of Malta as well as The Aruba Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*