

Call for Papers 2019

Southwest Indian Ocean Islands: challenges and opportunities for sustainable development, security and regional cooperation

The Southwest Indian Ocean is characterized by the presence of several islands grouped into four island states (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles), three French island territories (Réunion, Mayotte¹ and the Scattered Islands²), as well as the British Indian Ocean Territory³ (Chagos Archipelago)⁴. These island entities are different one from the others in many ways, including by their size, culture, socio-economic context and political status. On the other hand, they share certain common traits that differentiate them from the neighboring states of the African continent, such as insularity, the historical importance of France, the Francophonie, and their regrouping in the Indian Ocean Commission (with the exception of Mayotte, the Chagos Archipelago and the Scattered Islands). Of all the regional systems of the Indian Ocean, it is undoubtedly the least known and recognized.

Yet, the insular community of the Southwest Indian Ocean is now gaining more attention in the context of the new geopolitical situation of the Indian Ocean and the economic and strategic rivalries related to it. In this regard, we note in particular the importance given to maritime security and the hopes placed on the blue economy. But other challenges are also at the heart of the island issues, including those related to the environment (climate change, biodiversity, marine and terrestrial environments), sustainable development (human habitats, renewable energies, transportation, resources management, etc.), and regional integration (regional institution/s, economic integration, cooperation programmes). In this context, the purpose of this issue is to explore the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development, security and regional cooperation in the Southwest Indian Ocean Islands.


This special issue comes at a moment when many local leaders speak of 'Indianoceanica' to designate this particular island community of the Southwest Indian Ocean. It is a term that is now gaining ground in some political, media and academic circles in the region. With this proposal, the aim is to develop a greater sense of belonging to the region, to encourage solidarity and cooperation between the different island societies, and to advance regional political and economic integration. In addition, this should also contribute to a better recognition and understanding of this original island community by the outside world, especially in the Indian Ocean. But it is still more of a proposition than a reality that needs to be analyzed and debated in order to clarify its contours, content, potentialities,

¹ Disputed territory with the Union of Comoros.

² Disputed territory with Madagascar, the Union of Comoros and Mauritius.

³ Disputed territory with Mauritius.

⁴ Some might add African coastal islands to this list such as the Zanzibar Archipelago (Tanzania). This special issue concentrates on the island entities that are not part of a continental African country.



constraints and challenges. The future will tell us if the term 'Indianoceania' will prevail, but in the meantime, it should be noted that this initiative is evoking the existence of a community of destiny in a region aiming for solidarity, security and prosperity.

For this special issue on the Southwest Indian Ocean Islands, *the Journal of the Indian Ocean Region* would like to receive proposals on any of the three proposed themes as well as on one, several or all the island entities of the region. We call for proposals of 500 words clearly indicating the theme, the geographical framework, the problematic, and the objectives of the text, as well as a preliminary title and the names and professional contact details of all authors.

Please submit your proposal before June 15th, 2018 to the Commissioning Editor of the journal:
Dr. Adela Alfonsi: adela.alfonsi@adelaide.edu.au.

Special Edition 2019

Southwest Indian Ocean Islands: challenges and opportunities for sustainable development, security and regional cooperation

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Potential contributors can access the JIOR website at: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/rior>
Authors are encouraged to submit proposals to the Commissioning Editor of the journal:
Dr. Adela Alfonsi: adela.alfonsi@adelaide.edu.au

For additional information on this call for papers and the Special Edition, please contact the
Leading Guest Editor:
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The journal seeks research articles, discussion papers, policy papers and book reviews on major Indian Ocean issues such as: regional geopolitics; resource exploitation; maritime jurisdiction, coastal management, ocean laws, maritime security; human and environmental security; human trade and cooperation. Interstate relations and non-traditional security threats thus constitute the substantive, but not necessarily exclusive, contents of the *JIOR*