

~~case. One finds brass bands everywhere in nearby Mediterranean islands (such as Sicily, Crete and Cyprus). Thus, one wonders, how similar or different from Malta are they in these respects, and whether Malta is such a very special case as Iacovazzi maintains.~~

~~The definitely least satisfying chapter of the book is the final one, in which few musical examples are analyzed. The problem I have with it is that the analytical tools that are deployed (an incredible variety of them exist) are like the net of a fisher: more or less effective, depending on the kind of fish one wishes to catch. In this analytical chapter, it is not clear what kind of fish the author is after. In the first section, Iacovazzi offers a description of features that are already quite visible on the musical score. In the second section, a few sound spectrum images are presented. But one remains at a loss as to what these features and images are supposed to mean. Saying that they express the high volume of the music and its 'verve' (or, in Maltese, *briju*) is not enough to justify the employment of computer technology. However, to comfort Iacovazzi, I can add that the analysis, of any music, is a very demanding endeavour in which even music theorists often fail to produce meaningful data. Luckily, however, this book stands on its own quite well, without chapter 6.~~

~~The book is on the whole indeed interesting; it is one of a kind, and one that certainly needs to be read by anyone undertaking further scholarly work on brass band traditions anywhere. Since French is not a widely practised language in Malta, an English translation of this book would certainly be welcome and appreciated by the Maltese. It would be fascinating for them to realize what a "thick description" (so philosopher Carl Gustav Hempel would have called it) scholars can give of a music tradition they usually take for granted, and simply represents for them a natural way of life.~~

~~Marcello Soree Keller
Monash University
Melbourne, Australia
mskeller1@bluewin.ch~~

François Taglioni (ed.) (2011). *Insularité et développement durable*. [Insularity and sustainable development] Marseilles, France: Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), pbk, 551pp. ISBN: 978-2-7099-1709-4 (Chapter abstracts available also in English).

Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis (ed.) (2010). *La Corse et le développement durable* [Corsica and sustainable development]. Ajaccio, France: Albania, pbk, 350pp. ISBN: 978-2-84698-352-5. €23.00.

Lorraine Guay (2011). *Le Québec des îles* [The islands of Quebec]. Montreal QC, Canada: Presses de l'Université Laval, pbk, 192pp. ISBN: 978-2-7637-9230-9. Can\$26.50.

Scholarship on sustainable development has taken the world by storm in recent years; and islands have once again gained centre stage, this time as living laboratories where the dynamics of sustainable development policies, however defined, can be observed and assessed in presumably more manageable settings. Considerable work is being done to analyse how small

islands are coping with climate change, what adaptation and/or mitigation strategies are in place, and what prospects of development can be realistically envisaged.

This contemporary trend is not restricted to literature and scholarship undertaken in the English language. These three books all provide interesting and timely accounts and analyses of different sets of islands from different parts of the world. Written from a primarily geographical perspective, the various authors and editors involved in these contributions share a concern for questioning what kind of development should these islands wish for: especially when they are faced not just with the already major challenges associated with climate change (shore erosion, more violent storms, less reliable rainfall, sea level rise ...) but also with population loss, lower levels of public funding, less international aid, acute tourism pressure, offshore finance under international scrutiny, and a resident population that will largely refuse to be short-changed and cheated from the materialist trappings of 21st century 'quality of life'.

For readers interested in insights gleaned from development strategies underway in a variety of islands, *Insularité et développement durable* presents a very useful collection. Taglioni, a university professor on Réunion, Indian Ocean/France, skilfully weaves together a fine set of papers, organized under four key themes: the socio-cultural, the environmental, the economic and the political. This book emphasizes the return of the conceptualization of the 'island as laboratory', connecting with a rich tradition in French (and English) literature that includes contemporaries like Louis Brigand, Louis Marrou and Anne Meistersheim.

Apart from the sheer scope of this collection – 550 pages, put together by no less than 46 different scholars – the narrative reminds us of some particular aspects of the French tradition of island studies that is somewhat different from the English tradition most readers of *Island Studies Journal* would be more familiar with. There is, first, a strong technical bent in many of the chapters, with a preference for a quantitative assessment of island related criteria. One good example is the 'typology' of '12 families' of United Nations member states, and how island states feature within this 'family tree', if organized by size, population, purchasing power and environmental vulnerability. Second, is a concern with islands that are, or were, part of the French sphere of influence: parts of the French state (Corsica, Mayotte); former French colonies, now members of *La francophonie* (Dominica, Madagascar); and areas with a strong influence of French culture (Jersey, Mauritius). For those interested in expanding awareness and appreciation of island affairs, suitable information about sustainable development initiatives among some islands may only be available in French, as in a volume like this. Third, is a critical approach to neo-liberal, market-driven recipes of island development.

A chapter on Corsica by Jean-Marie Furt and Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis compares the island to the Balearic archipelago, suggesting reasons for the contrast in the unfolding of their respective tourism industries. The authors conclude that, in both these Mediterranean territories, the social sustainability of tourism operations has been largely neglected.

This may explain why the concept of a "socio-eco-system" (p. 10) drives the analysis of the second volume, edited by the same Maupertuis. With a deliberate focus on Corsica, the French island that is 'nearby yet far away', *La Corse et le développement durable* brings together material collected during a seminar organized in 2009 on the same theme by the local cell of the *Centre nationale pour la recherche scientifique* (CNRS) at the Università di Corsica Pasqual Paoli, itself part of the LISA university consortium (*Laboratoire interuniversitaire des systèmes atmosphériques*). This work has a strong social science bent, and is organized in three sections, looking at history and the long-term (a keen French methodological pursuit); the boon and bane of tourism; and the institutions and tools required for a better (read, socially and

environmentally healthy) quality of life, respectively. The volume is as close as one can get to a complete and multi-disciplinary understanding of the development challenges now facing this island, with a narrative that shifts from the fatalism of structured dependency to the optimism of being small but great.

It seems that the current dynamics of demography are working in favour of islands close to metropolitan regions; more remote islands continue to see their populations dwindle. This is one clear observation (p. 142) that emerges from a close reading of the third book, *Le Québec des îles*. Navigating down the St Lawrence basin, from the islands in Lake Ontario, through bustling Montreal (built on a series of some 300 islands), and then out eastward to the island reserve of Anticosti and the climate change threatened Magdalene islands, Lorraine Guay takes us on a tour of some 3,000 islands and islets, noting their history of settlement, changing ownership, economic expansion/ contraction, strategic involvement in warfare, and more recent population trends. This is a very rich, even if largely descriptive, economic geography of the region, accompanied by many interesting photographs, list of key episodes and details of supplementary websites. This is a more popular version, and a fine companion volume, to Guay's earlier work, *À la découverte des Îles du Saint-Laurent*. Like France, Canada is (also) a nation of islands, and its islands are key to its national imaginary, even if recently somewhat overshadowed by the natural resource-rich province of Alberta, home base of current Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Both countries have to come to grips with what to do with such places caught, as Guay argues (p. 169), between tradition and modernity, and needing to decide whether their best bet for a sustainable future is to go with the flow, modernize and minimize their sense of islandness (have it eliminated by a bridge?); or to stick rigidly to an often reinvented rustic and folksy way of life that may attract lifestyle and urban refugees to come and settle. Hard choices.

Godfrey Baldacchino
Island Studies Program
University of Prince Edward Island, Canada
gbaldacchino@upe.ca

~~Lee Jolliffe (ed.) (2013). *Sugar heritage and tourism in transition*. Bristol, UK: Channel View Publications, Tourism and Cultural Change Series. 235pp. ISBN 13: 978 1 84541 387 3 (hbk) US\$149.95; ISBN 13:978 1 84541 386 6 (pbk) US\$49.95.~~

~~The week before I received the copy of this book to review, I was driving along Toronto's Waterfront, a site of 25 or more years of re-development that continues today. It is an area of mixed uses: high rise condominium towers, retail shops, restaurants and bars, theatres, recreation complexes, a new community college, a heritage industrial district, the early construction of housing for the 2015 Pan-American Games and sugar tourism: the Redpath Sugar Museum (which is briefly mentioned in the book) and Sugar Beach. The former is housed in a huge sugar warehouse and refining plant built in the late 1950s (with a dock large enough to handle the cargo of an ocean freighter) by a company that dates back to 1854. The latter is an urban beach park opened in 2010 by the City of Toronto on a quay adjacent to the sugar factory. Water contact recreation in Lake Ontario is not permitted here as Toronto Harbour is a working harbour, but the whimsical white sand, umbrellas, chairs, and~~