

## Editorial

In the eighth issue of the journal, we can show once again the breadth of research in and about Seychelles, with articles ranging from the Blue Economy and projects to adapt to climate change, to the little-known subject of moths on the outer islands, and a fascinating analysis of how dictionaries are not as neutral as one thinks of them.

For a start, **Kelly Hoareau** reflects on her time as the former and founding Director of the *James Michel* Blue Economy Research Institute at the University of Seychelles. Over a period of ten years, Kelly has developed an impressive network of academics and NGOs, locally and internationally. She's made a major contribution. Now she is leaving Seychelles to start a PhD with Australia's Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre through the University of Tasmania. We will all miss Kelly but are pleased that she's agreed to join the international board of this journal.

Next up is an article by **Daniel Etongo** and his co-researchers, **Terence Vel** and **Johan Mendez**. This is an important account of an eight-year project centred on ecosystem adaptation to the effects of climate change. Of particular interest to readers is the story of a highly effective scheme to restore a previously-degraded area of wetlands at Bougainville. It is now a site of attraction used for picnics, for educational purposes, ecotourism, and a source of water for the farmers to irrigate their crops. It demonstrates vividly how research can help to turn adversity into hope.

For our third article, we put the spotlight on a subject that is new to the journal. The author, **Peter Russell**, who modestly describes himself as an amateur entomologist and independent researcher, has spent time on the outer islands investigating different types of moth. Through painstaking research, he concludes that a categorization of one species, made in 1911, was in error and needs to be reclassified. As a model of detailed scientific research, Russell's work is exemplary and should be read by all research students.

Finally, we look to **Olga Klymenko**, a specialist in linguistics, who points to ways in which dictionary definitions can shape our views on a subject. She takes as her example the case of the recently-published dictionary for Seychelles Creole, and ways in which gender is represented. While acknowledging that attempts are made to use gender-neutral terms, the dictionary still contains examples (not necessarily intentional) of stereotyping. Dictionaries are widely thought of as being objective, but this article shows that a socially responsive reader can never be too alert for hidden meanings.

Articles are the flagships of the journal but this issue shows that the flotilla of research news, a conference report and book review is certainly not to be ignored. As a young researcher, **Alessia Lavigne**'s work deserves special attention. While studying in the UK she sought to

explain the significant decline of turtle and tortoise numbers in Seychelles and elsewhere, linked to failures in reproduction. Coincidentally, her supervisor had developed microscopy-based methods to discriminate between fertilization failure and embryo death in bird eggs, and Alessia immediately saw the possibility of transferring this approach to her own area of research. This is innovative work and it is hoped that an article to report progress will follow in due course.

Elsewhere, **Wang Dongxia** and **Dennis Hardy** report on their recent research, which offers a profile of the local Chinese community, shortly to be published under the title of *Orient and Ocean: The Chinese Community in Seychelles*.

**Sam Bashfield**, an Australian researcher specializing in geopolitics, shares his experience of participating in a virtual conference on aspects of security in the Indian Ocean. Hosted by the Sri Lanka-based Pathfinder Foundation, the event was organized around three in-depth discussions with a shared interest in free and open seas.

In turn, Dennis Hardy reviews **William McAteer's** fourth volume in a sequential history of the exploration and development of Seychelles. *Another Story: The History of Seychelles 1976-2020* brings it all up to date, starting with the year of independence and taking the reader through the contentious years of single-party rule and on to recent events. In many ways, this recent history reads as a work of fiction with events (still ongoing through the courts) that beggar belief.

Finally, a word to thank our **independent reviewers**, who, as specialists, read and comment on each of the proposals. Although they remain anonymous, they are an essential part of the process to achieve the highest possible standards. We are all indebted to them for their invaluable contribution.

And, once again, we are grateful to **East Indies Company** for their generous sponsorship which makes this publication possible.

**Dennis Hardy**  
**Editor**