

Editorial

With *SRJ* now into its fifth year of publication, the present issue reflects the breadth of research which sustains the journal. Seychelles is in many ways a melting pot of different cultures. As such, it is an ideal venue for research, which flourishes in an international environment. To illustrate the point, the following list shows the varied provenance of contributors to the present issue (reviewers as well as writers): Seychelles, Mauritius, South Africa, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Sweden, Ukraine, Italy and the UK.

It is always good to see the work of a student leading to an article, in this case an undergraduate in environmental science, Saratha Naiken, with the guidance of her supervisor, Stuart Laing, and the collaboration of an NGO specialist, Robert Bullock. Together they have produced a fascinating study on measuring the condition of the population of two species of juvenile shark at St Joseph Atoll, with a view to learning more about future survival chances. Research which leads to environmental security is always to be encouraged.

Another joint article explains a proposed project on performance in schools, where the language used is not necessarily the students' first choice. This is the situation in much of sub-Saharan Africa, where European languages still prevail in teaching and assessment. Written by Mats Deutschmann and Olga Klymenko, the article emerges from the newly-formed Education and Socio-Economic Research Institute, which is separately reported in the section of the journal on research news.

Linguistics continues to attract scholarly interest and, in this issue, Christine Pejakovic explores the role of reduplication (or doubling) as a feature of Seychelles Creole. The author demonstrates that reduplication is different from repetition and that it has its own semantic-grammatical functions. Seychelles Creole has been interpreted by a limited but determined number of specialist researchers and this article is dedicated to the memory of Professor Annegret Bollée, architect of the modern Kreol Seselwa orthography.

Also, amongst the articles, Dennis Hardy writes about the nature of sovereignty and some of the geopolitical implications for a small island state like Seychelles. Boundaries offer definitive lines of jurisdiction but they can be notoriously difficult to determine in an oceanic setting. Sovereignty relies on the rule of law but what if this essential principle is flouted? Nothing can ever be taken for granted.

The present issue also features a collection of notes on innovative projects in the Blue Economy, all of which were demonstrated in an EU-funded conference held in Seychelles in

2022, under the banner of *BlueInvest Africa*. In contrast with more conventional academic projects, this provides an insight into practical research at the cutting edge. It is exciting, imaginative and important as a demonstration of the ongoing transition to a more sustainable use of the ocean that surrounds the African continent.

Finally, a review is included of a book by two of UniSey's visiting lecturers, Chris Kiyala and Geoff Harris, with the title, *Civil Society and Peacebuilding in Sub-Saharan Africa in the Anthropocene*. In the words of the series editor, Hans Guenter Brauch, 'the *Anthropocene* represents a major shift in Earth history as a result of the direct intervention by humankind into the earth system and nature.'

Behind the scenes, the editor is forever indebted to conscientious reviewers who provide an independent assessment of proposals. Importantly, they also offer advice to respective contributors, suggesting ways in which the final version might be improved. Reviewers give their time freely and willingly for the common cause of increasing the visibility of good research. They remain anonymous but certainly not unrecognized.