



UNIVERSITY OF SEYCHELLES

Campus : Anse Royale & Mont Fleuri

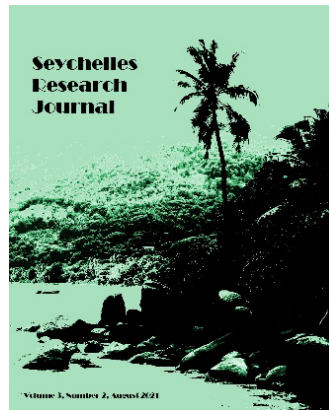
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Press Release

For immediate release

Seychelles Research Journal

Myths and Realities



Research in Seychelles has a long reach, a claim which is illustrated vividly in the present issue – the tenth in our short history. From the nine authors who have contributed, topics range from monsters and mythology to further insights into Seychellois Creole; from an impending conclusion to the long-running story of competing claims for Chagos, to the idea of states without armies. Nor, as a small island state in a vast ocean, can one ignore the perennial challenge of climate change adaptation. And there is much more, too, to be found in this issue.

Based on part of her recent doctoral dissertation, we lead with Penda Choppy's intriguing account of how mythical creatures have transitioned from pre-colonial times as well as at later stages of Indian Ocean history. Representations are carried over time and between cultures through to the present day, with modifications along the way. This is original research that cannot fail to interest readers from different disciplines.

Approaching Creole culture from a different perspective, Olga Klymenko and Christine Pejakovic show ways in which the spoken language differs from the written version. This tendency is a generic characteristic of language evolution, and the authors urge comparative research on the other two official languages in Seychelles, French and English.

As always, the environment features, and in this issue, Daniel Etongo offers another of his well-researched contributions. Adapting to climate change is, of course, a global challenge but it looms especially large in the case of small island states. Etongo explains why this is the case and then explores the effectiveness of

nationally coordinated rather than sectoral approaches. This is an important paper that deserves the attention of policy-makers beyond as well as within these shores.

Geopolitics is another familiar topic in the journal and this time there are three pieces to attract readers. Chagos, for instance, has long been an archipelago of contention. Negotiations are currently ongoing and it looks as if a resolution is finally possible. Mauritius claims the islands as part of its own territory but the article by Dennis Hardy warns that all might not be as it seems. Meanwhile, off the far coast of Africa. Jean-Pierre Cabestan questions the relationship of China and Cape Verde, with the telling question: how can a small island state navigate between great powers?

Then, in one of the research notes, Zoltan Barany shares his ongoing interest in those relatively few nations which manage without standing armies. On gaining independence, Seychelles was one such nation but that changed after just one year. Barany questions whether the country would now be better served if the resources that sustain its defence forces could be diverted to other activities.

Other research notes tell us about the Charles Telfair Centre, ‘a new regional platform to connect ideas for change’ that is part of Curtin University in Mauritius; about an international project to identify the various cultural and political conditions that either constrain or encourage the development of a country’s journalism; and a study which centres on the legal construction of the kind of blue bonds pioneered in Seychelles, in the context of finding effective financial mechanisms to support ocean sustainability projects.

After five years of publication, successive issues of the journal offer a fascinating cross-section of research in our small but always-enquiring island state.

The current issue can be viewed online at www.seychellesresearchjournal.com.

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