



# UNIVERSITY OF SEYCHELLES

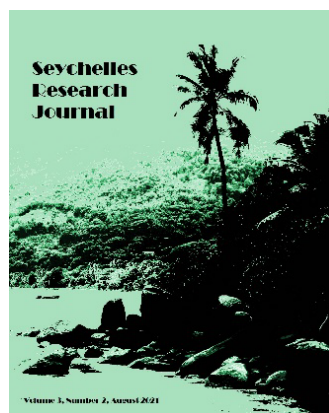
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## Press Release

For immediate release

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The prevailing image of Seychelles remains one of a tropical idyll, seemingly immune to the problems of the rest of the world. As we all know, the reality is rather different. True, palm trees on white, sandy beaches provide an exotic backdrop, but look closer and the islands are home to the same kinds of shortcomings found elsewhere. For those who prefer the pretence of innocence, look away. As this present issue of the journal shows, there is, inevitably, a dark side to the moon.

First in line is Georges Nicette's probing article on how heroin addiction is portrayed in the media. The author is an authority on the ways in which this ubiquitous drug can not only destroy individual lives but also corrode the very foundations of society. Over the years, he has worked as both a social worker and an academic, talking to addicts and politicians alike. Deservedly, his groundbreaking research on the subject has recently earned him a doctoral award. In this paper, Dr. Nicette invites the reader to question whether there is bias in media reporting and to consider how this might affect resultant policies. His goal is always to identify the best ways to support addicts seeking to break their habit.

Next comes an article on restorative justice, focusing particularly on how adolescents who find themselves on the wrong side of the law can best be treated. The author, Lisa Harries, has extensive experience of working at the cutting edge of the prison service in South Africa. Some of our readers may have met her during a visit to Seychelles, when she was the lead contributor to a colloquium on restorative justice. In this latest contribution, she argues that restorative justice can be combined with trauma-informed practice to produce a powerful tool for assisting young offenders. Lisa's understanding of its application in South Africa and internationally offers a valuable source of knowledge for practitioners in our own country.

From questions of social policy, the next article turns to the subject of traffic management. Apart from its intrinsic merits as a piece of research, it will be of particular interest to those who spend hours each day sitting in traffic jams. Over the past few years, car ownership in Seychelles has soared, while the roads on Mahé have remained more or less unchanged. Two German researchers, Marco Buck and Benno Rothstein, suggest – in a well-argued paper – the use of covered cycling routes, where solar panels are used to generate renewable energy. In this way, traffic flow could be improved while, at the same time, contributing to the country's sustainability.

Such is the nature of an interdisciplinary journal that the practicalities of traffic management are followed by an article on the use of folklore to reveal aspects of the histories of a once-enslaved people. Penda Choppy, who heads the Creole Language and Culture Research Institute at UniSey, is an international authority in the field. In a recent colloquium (reported elsewhere in this issue), she presented the paper now published here, exploring how folktales passed down through generations continue to hold value. Through these otherwise lost histories, important aspects of the cultures of people forcibly brought from Africa to work on plantations have been preserved. Drawing on her deep understanding of oral history, the author skilfully guides the reader from the past to present-day characteristics of Seychellois society.

In the final paper of this issue, Hope Johnson, a doctoral student at Cardiff University, has chosen Seychelles as the focus of her research into the blue economy. While acknowledging the innovative approach to ocean governance, she is wary of the influence of postcolonial values and relationships in shaping it. Her contention is that the colonial past of Seychelles continues to shape 'how nature is valued, who governs it, and whose knowledge counts in environmental policymaking'. The paper raises intriguing questions about how an approach reflecting the priorities of the Global South might lead to different outcomes.

Elsewhere in this issue of the journal, Penda Choppy has provided a report on the colloquium referred to above, and Dennis Hardy has written a book review of a recent publication by Darshana M. Baruah on the ocean-centred Indo-Pacific.

*Seychelles Research Journal* is a free, online publication that can be accessed at [www.seychellesresearchjournal.com](http://www.seychellesresearchjournal.com). The editor can be contacted at [dennishardy@ymail.com](mailto:dennishardy@ymail.com).

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