

## **Planning Discourses in Small Islands**

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**Research on small islands has been interdisciplinary. However, up until now, planning on small islands has not been a popular research topic in academia. A question that immediately arises is then: Can the general field of ‘island studies’ shed some light on the main planning challenges faced by small islands?**

**Small island territories enjoy a number of specific features which sustain the enduring idea that islands are different from other territories. Such distinctiveness appears usually under the general label of ‘islandness’ – a term which denotes island qualities, including geographical, social and political elements.**

**In particular, small islands are usually viewed as special cases in development. From the one side, they are faced with a number of distinctive development constraints, which fuel the ‘vulnerability thesis’ of small islands, and opportunities, which, conversely, bring about their ‘resourcefulness’. From the other side, development dilemmas, arising from the tensions between development paths forged on competitiveness issues and those following the precepts of sustainable development, are perhaps nowhere more evident than on small islands.**

**With these issues in mind, this paper intends to uncover the main planning discourses on small islands which can be drawn from a literature review on the general field of ‘island studies’.**

**Keywords:** small islands; island studies; islandness, planning