ÖAW | ISA

ÖAW Austrian Academy of Sciences | ISA Institute for Social Anthropology

Symposium

Islandness & Waste



9 December, 2026
5-7 pm

Austrian Academy of Sciences
PSK, Seminar room 1, 3rd floor
Georg-Coch-Platz 2
1010 Vienna
and via ZOOM

ORGANIZER

Eva-Maria Knoll, Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences

CONTACT

eva-maria.knoll@oeaw.ac.at

ZOOM-MEETING

https://oeaw-ac-at.zoom.us/j/65255815360?pwd=kDXajv8rm5OtaAlfVgtMGVfpZS4iat.1
Meeting-ID: 652 5581 5360
Kenncode: QZh5AC

Photo: © Shaahina Ali

OEAW.AC.AT/ISA

Keynote abstract

Growing up on an island, the ocean was our everything. Today island communities in Maldives face overwhelming challenges from development, climate change, and especially waste generated in the process and beyond. Half a century ago, waste was mostly organic, simple, and part of a life closely connected to nature. Our waste from building material to food to ornaments and accessories were more organic and less toxic. Over the last 30 years, rapid development and imported consumer goods have drastically changed both our lifestyles and the composition of our waste.

Book Launch

Experiencing Islandness: Oceans and Beyond (ed. by F. Heidemann & P. Schorch, University of Hawai'i Press 2026) addresses the dialectic relationship between islands and islanders as well as the resulting ways of life produced by this interrelation, a condition considered here as "islandness."

Program

5–5:30 PM

Keynote

Shaahina Ali, Executive Director Parley Maldives

Island Living and Waste in Maldives

5:30–6:30 PM

Round Table & Book Launch

Shaahina Ali, Executive Director Parley Maldives

Tim Burger, Researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Sissal Dhal, Islands and Care Network, International Small Islands Studies Association

Frank Heidemann, Retired professor at Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich

Philipp Schorch, Professor at Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich

Elisabeth Worliczek, President of the Austrian-South Pacific Society

Moderator: Eva-Maria Knoll, Researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences

6:30

Reception