

AN OPERATIONAL CONCEPTUALIZATION TO ESTABLISH ISLAND CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY

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Resumen

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Poca atención ha sido dedicada a las islas fantasmas (Priam, 2004, p. 60). Las islas pueden ser parte de un Estado continental, de un Estado insular, o pertenencia ninguna. El cambio climático llama la atención más que antes sobre estos objetos geográficos definidos como “tierra rodeada de agua por todo lado”. En nuestra opinión urge identificar estas piezas del puzzle sobre los mapas mundiales, regionales o locales (Priam, 2016). Este trabajo resulta de una revisión de lo que se atiende como isla por el mundo, lo que demuestra un desafío en el ámbito de conceptualización. Publicamos en el 2016 un libro que presenta una conceptualización de las islas bajo “simple insularidad” y “doble insularidad” (Priam J., 2016, BiblioServices, 243 p.), la cual fue adelantada durante la

Conferencia del CIEMADES que tuvo lugar en Puerto Rico en el 2006. Desde un punto de vista económico, las islas “fantasmas” participan no solo de la economía estatal, sino global. Nuestra conceptualización permite tal integración. Lo ilustramos a través del caso de islas del Archipiélago francés de Guadalupe en el Caribe. La visión economista que ha dominado ha sido de considerar las islas lejanas como en atraso de desarrollo. Nuestra conceptualización difiere, ya que integramos su aportación en el sentido económico tras su pertenencia política y ecosistémica. Un agrupamiento reciente de unas islas de Brasil y la acción tomada por el Gobierno venezolano, entre otros, demuestran la importancia para desarrollar la investigación en este campo. El trabajo en proceso de las Naciones Unidas para identificar las islas por el mundo demuestra la necesidad de atenderlas mejor en el futuro.

Palabras Clave: islas fantasmas, archipiélagos, cambio climático, economía, conceptualización.

Abstract

Attention is not paid to ghost islands (Priam, 2004, p. 60). Islands can be part of a continental State, an insular State, or pertaining to none. Climate Change makes those geographical entities more visible than before, defined as “a land surrounded by water in all parts”. In our opinion it is urgent to recognize those pieces on international, regional and local maps (Priam, 2016). This article results from a review of the global literature regarding the definition of islands that demonstrates a gap regarding conceptualization in that field. We published in 2016 a book that presents a conceptualization for islands under “simple insularity” and “double insularity” (Priam J., 2016, BiblioServices, 234 p.) that was first presented during the 2006 CIEMADES Conference in Puerto Rico. From an economic point of view, islands participate to the economy of a State and global economy. Our operational conceptualization allows such considerations. We illustrate our analysis through a case study of an island part of the archipelago of Guadeloupe. The economic vision has been the one to “eliminate the backwardness caused by their isolation or remoteness”. Our approach is at the opposite that allows to give visibility to the enhancement of the economy due to political and ecological solidarities. A recent group of Brazilian islands and action taken for Venezuelan islands show such new trends we have to work on. The ongoing United Nations work to identify islands worldwide shows need to better integrate them in the future.

Keywords: ghost islands, archipelagos, climate change, economy, conceptualization.

1. Introduction

Our proposal is leaning on the hypothesis that ghost islands are part and contribute to the State economy. We call them too “forgotten islands”, in “simple insularity” or in “double insularity” (Priam, 2016). This means that a continental or insular State benefits from invisible islands. This is the case for more or less close islands or even remote islands. Those final land for destination drive to peculiar transportation through more or less small planes or boats. By the way we have to mention that past colonial relations within islands to a mainland may explain the use of itineraries instead of others. We argue that islands contribute to peculiar ecological connectivity and solidarity that can explain the use of some resources at the State level. Of our knowledge there is the categorization of islands made by the Government of Japan in the 50’ to attend their economic development of that 6,852 islands archipelago (The Association for the Development of Japanese Remote Islands, 1989) and considerations done the European Union. Let’s consider our Materials and Methods.

2. Materials y methods

We used our past experiences related to the study of islands, and made an exploration of the consideration of invisible islands worldwide, that means under a State or insular sovereignty. We made two internships at the International Scientific Council for Island Development (INSULA) c/o MAB-UNESCO in 2006 and 2014 that gave us access to a wide library dedicated to islands, thanks to its General Secretary Dr. Pier Giovanni d’Ayala.

Finally, we made a review under Google scholar of the use of “simple insularity” and “double insularity” and looked for islands on internet databases.

3. Results and discussion

Review and research regarding islands demonstrate a real gap. Regarding past data accessed in the Library of the International Scientific Council for Island Development (c/o UNESCO-MAB) we found that The Association for the Development of Japanese Remote Islands (1989) identified that there were in total 3,922 islands, as of the 1st of April of 1985.

“Furthermore, for the Island Nation of Japan, a categorization applied to islands distinguishing “Mainland and islands” (The Association for the Development of Japanese Remote Islands, 1989, p.1):

Japan is a country composed of some 4,000 islands. In Japan, the world of “island” is generally used as the meaning of the dependent island, around 1.000 km² or less. The five principal islands

Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku, and Okinawa mainland which are greater than 1,000 km², are called Mainland, not Islands, in Japan. There are 425 inhabited islands except these principal islands” (in Priam J., 2016, p. 97).

“We learnt about The Remote Islands Development Act (Wake Shigeyoshi¹, 1992, pp 10-14), which in its first section “states that the basis aim of the Act is to eliminate the backwardness on the remote islands due to special circumstances arising from their remoteness from the mainlands” (Wake S., 1992, p.11) and that:

The Remote Islands Development Act had been elaborated for 10 years, but it had been extended every ten years after it expired with each period of ten years corresponding to a Project. Wake S. (1992) mentioned that at the commencement of the third project the remote islands of Japan were classified into five separate categories [...]:

Category 1 refers to those islands in the inland sea close to the mainland. Category 2 is for those islands in the outer seas close to the mainland. Category 3 is for groups of islands. Category 4 is for single isolated large islands. Category 5 is for single isolated small islands (in Priam J., 2016, p. 124).

That first endeavor for that integration of 261 remote islands pertaining to the Japan archipelago has been elaborated in 1950's (Kuhawara S., 2012).

Then “A review of the Literature through Google scholar (<http://scholar.google.com/>) in January 2014 about “simple insularity” and “double insularity” showed that the first isn't used, and the second can quite exclusively be related to European islands. In fact, since October 1987, Europe has taken into account some special territories called the Ultraperipheral Regions (or Outermost Regions) that correspond to islands except French Guiana. In fact, French Guiana has been considered as an island, and appears in lists of islands as the territory presents a kind of remoteness as islands regarding their environment: the sea for the islands and the forest for French Guiana² (Priam J., 2004). In fact the forest constitutes an obstacle that makes it an isolated territory comparable to an island.

Those Ultraperipheral Regions³ are related to European States: France (Guadeloupe, Martinique, La Reunion, French Guiana, and more recently Saint-Martin and Mayotte), Spain (Canary Islands) and Portugal (Madeira and Azores). Special considerations were institutionally included in the Maastricht Treaty (Annex of the Treaty, under Declaration number 26) in 1992; then in 1997 with the Treaty of Amsterdam, with article 299.2 TCE. The report produced in 2008 by the Government of the Canaries, indicates that the main driver of the effort is a “center” that defines the Ultraperiphery (Dirección General de Asuntos Económicos con la Unión Europea, Gobierno de Canarias, 2008: p.5).

After the Maastricht Treaty, 7th of February 1992, the status of Ultraperipheral region was

recognized (Declaration 26 of the Treaty of the European Union. The creation of the Committee of the European Regions in 1994 was an important step forward. Declaration number 26 was then integrated in the Treaty of Amsterdam, 2nd of October 1997, in article 299 (ex article 227 of the Treaty of Roma) (Priam J., 2004, p. 53).” (in Priam J., 20016, pp. 92-93).

Even if many islanders use in their publication “double insularity” (see Priam J., 2016, pp. 91-102), on the website of the European Commission we can only find ([www://eur-lex.europa.eu](http://eur-lex.europa.eu)) the definition of a “twofold insularity” published in 2005 described as follows:

[...] twofold insularity, i.e. the fact that some outermost regions are themselves broken down into a number of islands

Thus, “At a Conference on the Ultra-Peripheral Regions of the EU held in Brussels on December 15th 2006, Ottaviano presented “The Challenges of Ultra-Peripherality: A New Economic Geography perspective”⁴ (see p. 2) and we read:

The task is daunting because UPRs [Ultraperipheral Regions] are “a case apart” (EURISLES, 2002). These are regions that belong to the EU but, at the same time, also to geographical and economic areas that are not European. Not only they are far from their national mainland but, in the majority of cases, they are also close to non-European countries that are much less developed. As a result, their situation is characterized by remoteness, insularity (even ‘double-insularity’ as some UPRs consist of groups of islands themselves rather far from one another), small size, difficult topography, harsh climatic conditions, strong dependence on few products.” (in Priam, 2016, p. 99).

This last point shows the role and place of islands, to be better attended into the whole.

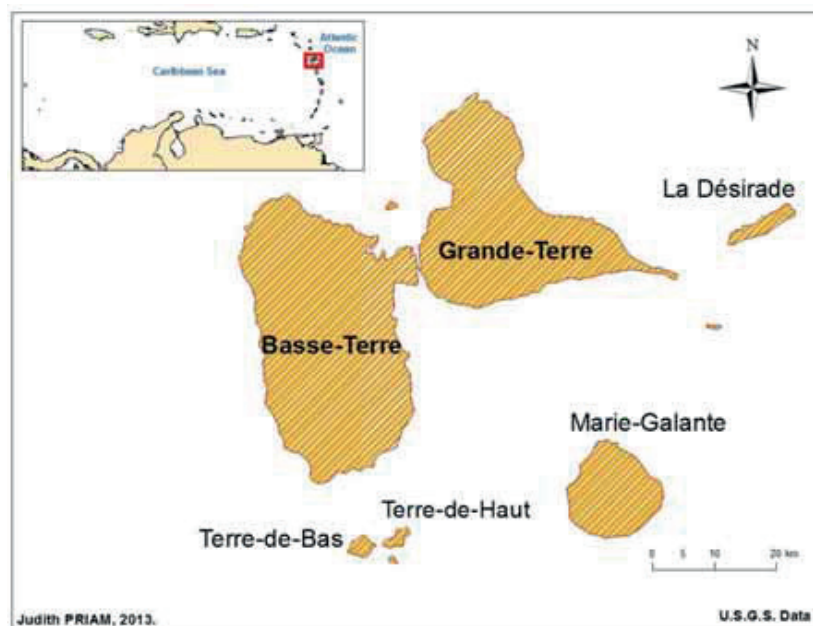
We identified in 1998 some elements regarding an ecological and societal study in Terre-de-Haut, an island part of the archipelago of Les Saintes. It is located to the south of the whole archipelago of Guadeloupe. It demonstrated the dependence of decision-making vis-à-vis stakeholders located on the two biggest islands: Grande-Terre and Basse-Terre (see Map 1). We attended that case study through a Master Thesis research prepared at the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin in 2004 and proposed our first categorization through “simple insularity” and “double insularity”.

¹ Shigeyoshi Wake was mayor of Setoda village, Hiroshima Prefecture, President of the Association for the Development of Hiroshima Remote Islands (Wake Shigeyoshi, 1992, p. 10).

² But we may mention that the main city of French Guiana is Cayenne, one of those insular cities (E. Aubert de la Rue, 1956, p. 154, first edited in 1935).

³ St-Barthelemy isn't anymore an Ultraperipheral Region but a PTOM since January 12th of 2012. On the opposite Mayotte became an Ultraperipheral Region instead of a PTOM on January 14th of 2014 (after Gibbes D., 2015, p. 11).

⁴ See <<http://www.regionesultraperifericas.com/es/documentos/Ottaviano.pdf>> , accessed January 2nd 2014



Map 1: The six inhabited islands of Guadeloupe: the biggest islands are Basse-Terre and Grande-Terre. Then there are Terre-de-Haut & Terre-de-Bas (the two inhabited islands of the Archipelago of Les Saintes), Marie-Galante and La Désirade. Saint Martin and St. Barthelemy evolved into a new political status in 2007 and aren't anymore part of Guadeloupe.

On Terre-de-Haut island (see picture 1 and Map 1), we documented in 1998 that it could receive on its 4.5 square kilometers, over 350 000 tourists a year (Priam J., 2004, p.111). We made recent interviews and learnt that many of them travel from the mainland, in Europe to spend their holidays there for a month or less. This is the case too for those tourists going to Marie-Galante and La Désirade.



Picture 1: Terre-de-Haut Island, belongs to the archipelago of Les Saintes (Guadeloupe, French West Indies). A view from the highest point (309m) showing the “bourg”. On the medium ground, the airport (Credit Picture Judith Priam).

Terre-de-Haut, thus is an island among the archipelago that can be identified by those who are used with the archipelago. We categorize Terre-de-Haut as in “double insularity” and identify the two islands of Grande-Terre and Basse-Terre as in “simple insularity”.

Our final step is the conceptualization⁵ that we present on Figure 1.

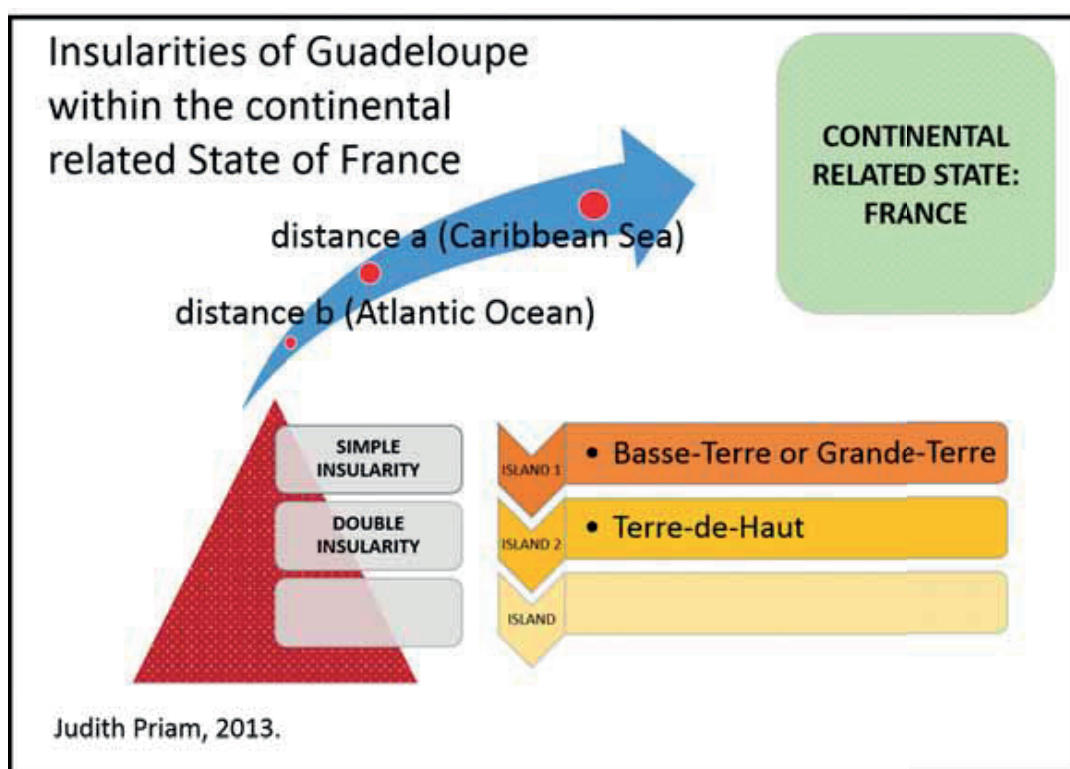


Figure 1: Final schematics of some Guadeloupe’s islands within the continental related State France. Then, the distance must be included.

[That conceptualization takes basis on our categorization as] Guadeloupe isn’t an isolated case in the Caribbean. In fact:

The past history of the Caribbean generated patterns in which islands are politically linked, such as St Kitts & Nevis, Antigua & Barbuda, Trinidad & Tobago, St Vincent & the Grenadines....

⁵ But regarding one specific domain, the representation will differ. Regarding birds by example, island of Terre-de-Bas, become in “simple insularity”. We conducted in fact a research about Pelecanidae in the archipelago (Priam J., 2016, North American Ornithological Conference, Washington DC) that allows such analysis.

So we can identify dependency of an island unto another, which can be considered as a handicap. For example, the revision of the status of Tobago illustrates such situation... Considering the Caribbean region, we propose a framework on political relations as on Figures 2 and 3 (Priam J., 2004, p. 128).

We consider two distinct cases that we call: “simple insularity” and “double insularity”. For the “simple insularity” (Figure 2), the island may be:

- independent: and so it is by fact sovereign or acts autonomously
- non-independent: linked to a continental territory, and so two options are to be considered.

The island has a proximity to the mainland or is far away.

The latter case could provide the basis for the establishment of a scale of distance.

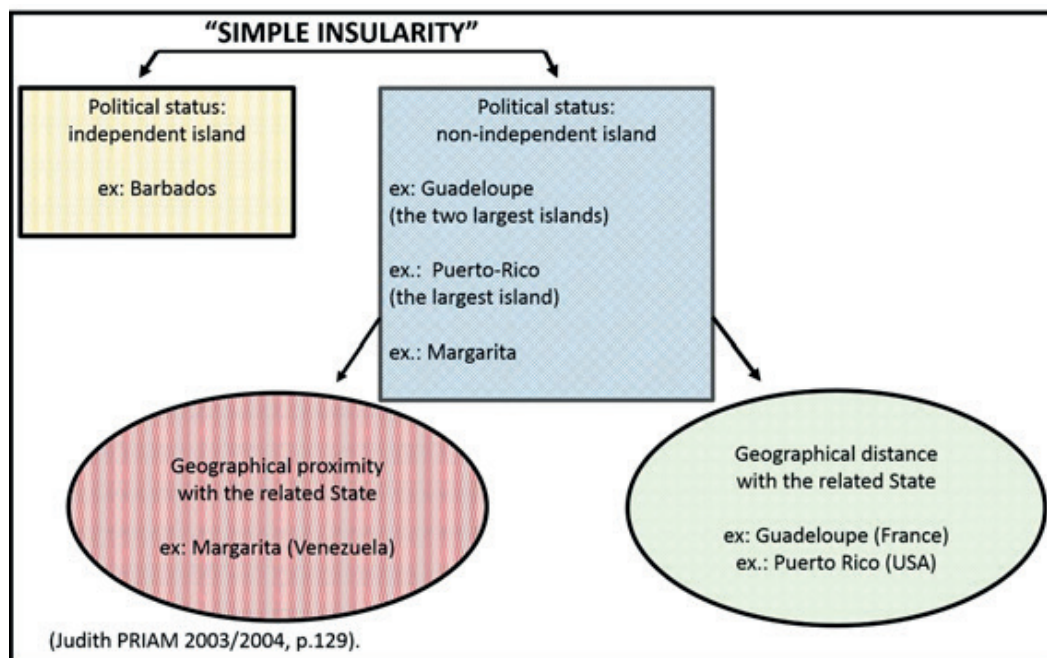


Figure 2: In the case of “simple insularity”, we identify independent or non-independent islands. For the non-independent islands, the distance to the related State must be taken into consideration.

The islands in “simple insularity” are in relation vis-à-vis of their related State (Margarita, Puerto Rico –the biggest islands-) or are in a self-determined status for independent islands (the case of Barbados by example). The “simple insularity” would mean a relation to a State with great distance or proximity, for those non-independent islands. For independent islands, this means that autonomous decision making is possible at the island level. But the case of Guadeloupe is particularly ambiguous as it includes in reality two larger islands connected by 3 bridges, plus other islands (in Priam J., 2016, p. 106).

“The “double insularity” (Figure 3) may be the second highest case for islands, as we can

identify a larger island it depends on. In the case of Guadeloupe, Marie-Galante as well as Désirade, Terre-de-Haut and Terre-de-Bas are in a relation of double insularity with the largest islands.

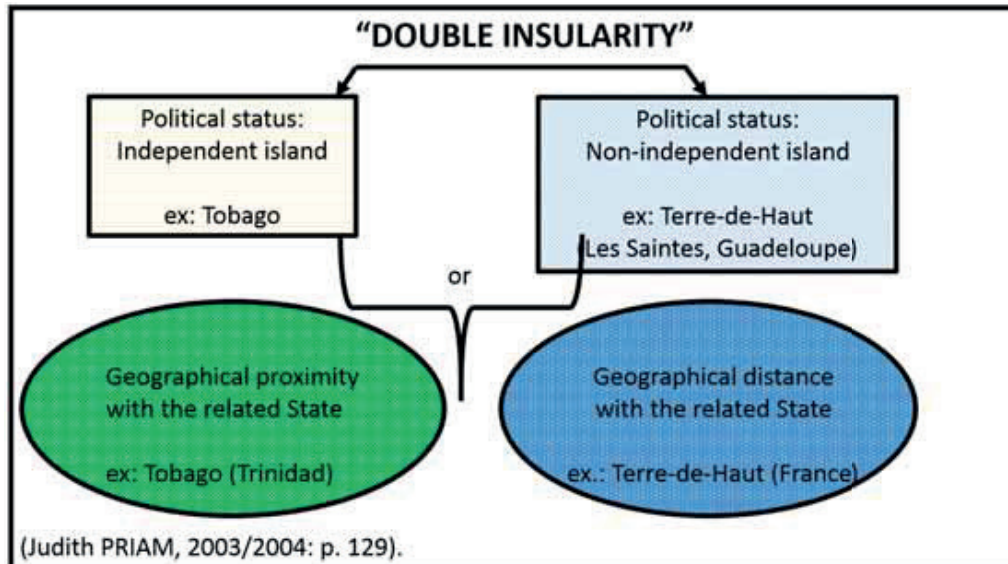


Figure 3: Within “double insularity” an island depends on another one. This is the case of Tobago related to Trinidad or Terre-de-Haut related to Basse-Terre or Grande-Terre (Guadeloupe) (in Priam J., 2016, p. 110).

If the island of Terre-de-Haut gained much more visibility than by the past, the action taken by stakeholders in Brazil demonstrates new trends. This shows how islands have always been part of the imaginary for human beings, and how they can contribute to the enhancement of economy.

“In Brazil, some islands are perceived with a new identified ecotourism potential as they formed the Brazilian Association of Touristic islands –ABITUR for Associação Brasileira das Ilhas Turísticas-. It was institutionalized during the World Travel Marketing Latin America in 2014 (WTM 2014). The Association was initiated with Mel island (Paranaguá, Paraná), Fernando de Noronha (Pernambuco), Ilhabela (São Paulo), Grande (Rio de Janeiro) and Marajó (Pará)⁶ (see Map 3). Going further, Fernando do Noronha must be better examined as it consists of a 26 km² archipelago that includes 21 islands and islets. The main island of the same name, is 17 km² and the only inhabited by around 2,100 inhabitants⁷.

⁶ See <<http://roteirosincríveis.uol.com.br/noticias/ilhas-turisticas-brasileiras-criam-associacao/>>, <<http://abiturbrasil.blogspot.com.br/2015/03/planejamento-estrategico-e-de-marketing.html>>

⁷ See <<http://www.mourosb.com/portal/images/pdf/fernando%20noronha.pdf>>.



Map 3: Mel island (Paranaguá, Paraná), Fernando de Noronha (Pernambuco), Ilhabela (São Paulo), Grande (Rio de Janeiro) and Marajó (Pará) formed the **Brazilian Association of Touristic islands**, institutionalized in 2014.

The Government of Venezuela was pursuing in 2013 a wider visibility of some islands of the Caribbean Sea, as we read:

“Venezuela want to favor tourism in four of its islands of the Caribbean”

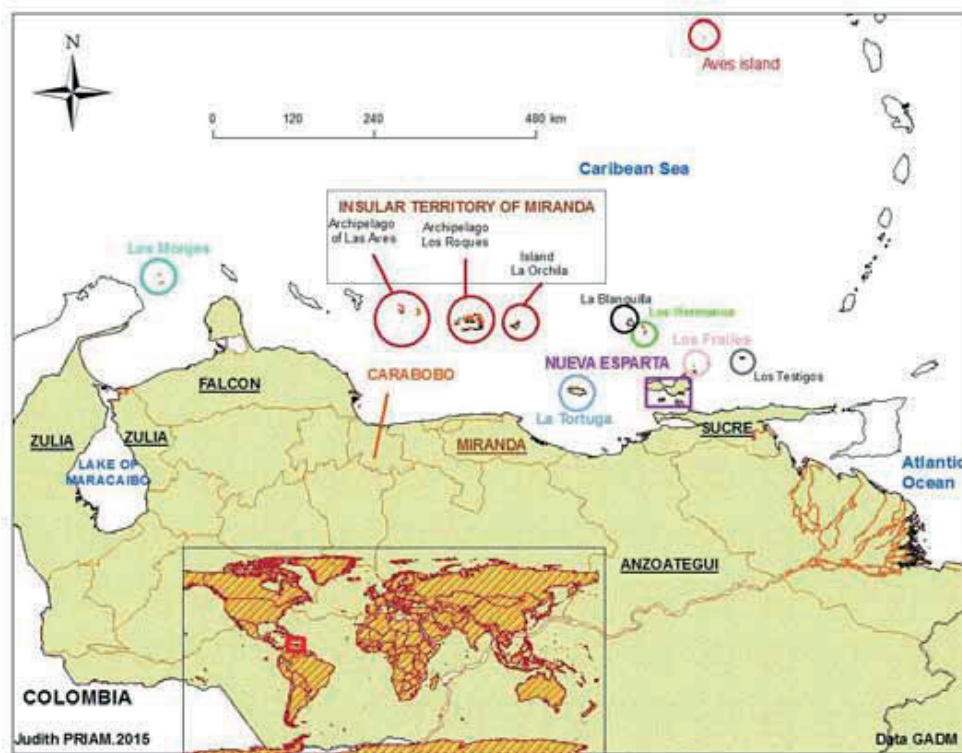
The Government of Venezuela is engaged in attracting tourists from Brazil, Colombia and Panama to extend its incomes, through a first step within four Caribbean islands, said the Minister of Tourism, Andrés Izarra. After an interview to the private channel Nenevisión, Izarra, signaled that flights has been renewed by the state line to Margarita Island from North of Brazil, Colombia and Panama, and he highlighted La Blanquilla, La Orchila and La Tortuga as next destinations in his tourism scheme (Source: Agencia) –our translation, accessed online in 2014⁸.

In the book entitled, “Geography of Venezuela, 3rd year” (after Navarro C., 2014, Geografía de Venezuela, 2014, p. 32), some information is provided regarding islands related to Venezuela as follows (see Map 4) :

⁸ <http://www.estrategiaynegocios.net/csp/mediapool/sites/EN/UltimaHora/story.csp?cid=456888&sid=1451&fid=330>

“The insular component is around 1,270 km² with the State of Nueva Esparta (including Margarita, Coche and Cubagua), the new Insular Territory of Miranda⁹ – (formed by the Archipelago of Los Roques, Las Aves and Island La Orchila¹⁰) and the Federal Dependencies.

Venezuela has sovereignty over 330 islands, archipelagos, islets and cays classified in three groups’



Map 4: The insular components of Venezuela sum around 1,270 km² with over 330 islands (in Geography of Venezuela, Ed. Santinalla, 2014, p. 32).

At the mainland scale, those islands are considered insignificant for the whole. We argue that they are key components that explain activities from the mainland related to fishing, tourism, biodiversity.... Regarding fishing by example, some islands provide conditions as a nursery for juveniles. To don't exist, some fishing activities couldn't have been developed at a State scale.

Nevertheless, the Archipelago Los Roques, is known and appears in a spanish map since 1529,

⁹ It has been created by a Special Law in 2011. In the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, we read , nº39.840, Article 2- The Insular Territory Francisco Miranda, includes the following Federal Dependencies : The Archipelago Las Aves, the Archipelago of Los Roques, the Archipelago of La Orchila, y others islands, islets, cays and existing banks in formation or appearing inside the limits of the Insular Territory of Francisco Miranda, our translation, p. 390-750

¹⁰ Created by a special Law in 2011, it is an administrative division of the Federal Dependencies, accessed from <http://archivo.globovision.com/designan-nuevo-jefe-del-territorio-insular-francisco-de-miranda/>.

(in Venezuela Los Roques- Parque Nacional-, Ed. Ecograph,

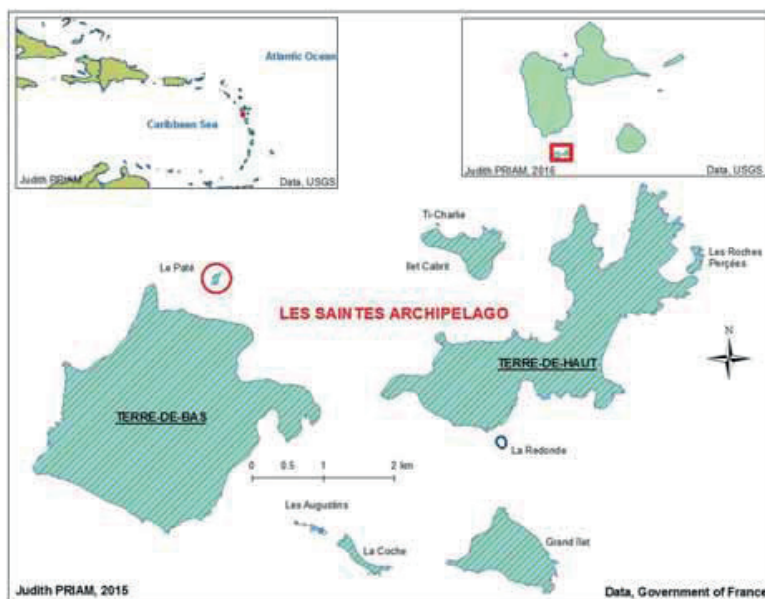
2003)¹¹. [...] It consists in a “fourty-two small islands [that] surround a 400 km² lagoon.

This case shows complexity of insularity. Visibility must be given to islands, at the State level.

“Based on the huge work on the inventory of islands done at the international level it has been concluded that there are more than 170,000 islands worldwide. The topographic mapping of all those entities is of paramount importance .[...]

On the 21st of June 2014, we had access to some data available under the Global Island Database; that includes targets of the inventory at the global scale. We gained access to data about some Caribbean islands where many insular features were identified under an ID number.

To the North of Terre-de-Bas (see Map 5), for example, there is La Grotte (called locally Le Paté) under ID#389504¹², (see Figure 4). When considering that particular case, La Grotte, we found information regarding its importance for fish and related economic activities such as diving. This case could be used to illustrate the principle of emergence” (in Priam J., 2016, pp. 179-180).



Map 5: Le Pâté, one of those rocks of the archipelago of Les Saintes.

¹¹ Marine maps must have been the best source for islands identification.

¹² Extracted from [//gidtool.unep-wcmc.org/#389504](http://gidtool.unep-wcmc.org/#389504), accessed 2014. It is no longer accessible.

Those elements give the basis for conclusion and recommendations.



Figure 5: La Grotte called locally Le Pâté, under the *Global Island Database* had the ID number 389504 (accessed online on the 21th of June 2014).

4. Conclusions and recommendations

Our article allows to fill gaps regarding insular complexities and to identify new paths for research. This is by example the economic benefits to mainland due to interdependency and ecological connectivity or disruption.

The conceptualization under “simple insularity” and “double insularity” allows to reveal new realities of the whole economy and the place of islands regarding economic and ecological connectivity or disruption. Due to climate change threats, it is urgent to make visible the enhancement of islands to a State and the whole.

The last hurricane Maria highlighted both islands of the Archipelago of Guadeloupe, Terre-de-Haut and Terre-de-Bas, in terms of impacts, as Saint-Martin to the North. Puerto-Rico as a Free Associated State was highlighted under its dependency vis-à-vis the USA, opposite to the independent island of Dominica. The proposition of the President of Guyana to receive impacted islanders, demonstrates new issues:

Guyana’s vast landscape can serve as a “gift” to Caribbean islands devastated by recent hurricanes, President David Granger said today as he sought to get the dangers posed by climate change firmly on the international agenda.

“We are the largest CARICOM (Caribbean Community) state and we have to consider our land space as being the hinterland of the Caribbean. (<http://today.caricom.org/2017/09/19/guyanas->

land-space-can-serve-as-gift-to-the-caribbean-battered-by-hurricanes-president-granger/).

We anticipated new trends under two sections of our book “New interconnections: From the vicinity to a wider scale”, and “Insularity: Towards a worldwide coalition” (in Priam, 2016, Chapter 4 pp. 135-150). We consider human movements, regarding climate change threats. But islands can be attended regarding the whole ecological equilibrium as through bird migration by example.

The Galapagos Islands, represent a peculiar case due to the Darwin’s Theory of Evolution, and islands will continue to provide big opportunities for understanding complexities.

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