

SCOTTISH ISLAND FUTURES - 2050 AND BEYOND

The Future of Core Periphery Relationships 3 February 2023

UHI | SHETLAND



Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

RSE

*The Royal Society
of Edinburgh*

KNOWLEDGE MADE USEFUL

ABSTRACT

The findings of the first RSE funded Scottish Island Futures – 2050 and Beyond workshop, which explored The Future of Core Periphery Relationships held on 3 February 2023.

Dr Andrew Jennings

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

Introduction

The workshop was held on **3 February 2023** (09.30 – 16.30) and was entitled ***The Future of Core Periphery Relationships***.

It was held entirely online as travel proved impossible for some of the invited participants. The focus was on island governance. Participants explored the current relationship between the Scottish islands and their metropolises i.e. Edinburgh and London and discussed whether there might be better models of governance and whether island autonomy is a goal to be strived for.

The workshop was in two parts - a focused group in the morning and a streamed session in the afternoon. In the latter, ideas and recommendations that had come up in the morning were further discussed and shared with a wider group. In the morning session there were 31 participants, while in the afternoon streamed session, in addition to 25 of the original 31, there were an additional 10 participants.

The morning session began with a short introductory presentation from Dr Jennings explaining the theme of the workshop, and the nature of futuristics. Quoting Dator's Laws of the Future, he asked the participants to try and escape from the confines of conventional expectation and imagine Scotland in 2050, the same distance in the future from the present as 1996 is in the past. Dator's Laws are - "The future" cannot be "predicted" because "the future" does not exist, but "alternative futures" can and should be "forecast." "Preferred futures" can and should be envisioned, invented, implemented, continuously evaluated, revised, and re-envisioned, and any useful idea about the futures should appear to be ridiculous¹. Jennings encouraged the participants to think beyond the planning horizon. During the session there was a presentation from a politician from the Åland Islands Jörgen Petterson, who explained the nature of the relationship between the Åland Islands and the Finnish Government and the benefits of island autonomy.

The sessions were recorded² and a transcript of the discussion has been prepared. During the sessions Slido was used to collect ideas, comments and opinions.

The workshop was the first of a series supported by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, which seek to address the following core questions:

1. How will vibrant, successful island populations be maintained into the future?
2. What level of autonomy will best serve the island communities going forward?
3. How can the islanders best engage with the changing environment?
4. How can islands become sustainable, and how can large-scale developments be absorbed by small island communities?
5. What role will island cultures and languages have in future scenarios?

¹ <https://soif.org.uk/about/jim-dator/>

² <https://youtu.be/66ilycp3vRU> and <https://youtu.be/zsxAvRLpoVk>

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

The Morning Session

There were three means of acquiring data – Slido polls, online discussion and VC Chat. This report will focus on the findings from Slido, which had focussed quotations, and a series of preliminary conclusions will be drawn.

At the beginning of the morning session the question was asked, ‘Where in the world are you?’.



Figure 1

The participants were based around the globe, including Canada, Ireland, Malta, Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and Barbados. Other were based in Scotland and [Figure 1](#) shows that Shetland and Orkney were particularly well represented. There was also representation from Mull, Jura, Tiree and the Mainland of Scotland.

The participants stated a wide range of research and professional interests. These were listed as follows:

Sustainability, environmental education, climate change; Island Studies - islandness, island identity, human geography, artistic expression on islands;

The seafood industry and the culture and politics of islands;

Sustaining communities;

Strategy and partnership;

Migration patterns in rural and sparsely populated areas;

Island governance (Scotland);

The effects of land reform in rural and island communities;

Economic development of Shetland (inc. community regeneration);

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

Island networks, Rural regeneration; The delivery of the National Islands Plan within the Scottish Government;

The modern political and constitutional history of Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles; Island development trusts;

Rural and community development - bottom-up approaches; Island policy, communities, infrastructure, and funding;

The islands diaspora and return migration in the Scottish island context; Small state studies; Design and creativity;

Scottish island depopulation; and Rural and island communities.

The participants embodied a great deal of expertise in island studies and knowledge and experience of the current situation in the Scottish islands.

In order to provide a sound foundation for the day's discussion, participants were asked what they felt would be the main challenges facing the Scottish islands in 2050. These were varied:

Sustainable energy self-reliance, immigration/ outmigration trends and stable demography, good local governance;

Survival. It feels as if there is a will to make them unattractive, unpopular and ultimately fail;

Equality between the islands - I can see bright futures for many islands who have had the capacity and opportunity to make use of land reform and the development of the blue green economy, but this is not universal. Many islands are being left behind while the focus is on championing the successes;

I think Shetland will, like the Faroe Islands, be an active part of the "High North" - which will be a hub (energy, environment, creative, arts) attracting considerable global interest. The challenge will be managing these interests;

Retaining a fair share/benefit of the primary resources currently being explored;

Maintaining a sustainable economy;

Preserving traditional cultural;

For some the transition to net zero;

Demographic challenges; Overpopulation; Sustainability.

Clearly issues of sustainability, demographic change and a fair distribution of resources feature strongly.

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report



Figure 2 - Jörgen Pettersson

The next element of the workshop was a presentation by Jörgen Pettersson, member of the *Ålands lagting*. He provided an overview of the origins and nature of Åland's autonomy, the islands' relationship with Finland and the EU and the powers held by the Åland Government. He noted the advantages of autonomy - **autonomy strengthens identity in a diverse world; autonomy ensures you are listened to; and autonomy gives you the freedom to deal with your own priorities, which are different to those in larger countries** (See appendix 3). His positivity was appreciated by the participants and elicited the following responses on Slido:

This is an observation from afar, but it seems that the relationship of Åland with Finland is quite different to the relationship of the Scottish Islands with Edinburgh and London. And I think the point about confidence is very pertinent;

Really inspirational, thanks Jorgen!;

Brilliant - what an inspiration ;

Autonomy, Collaboration, Confidence.

After Jörgen's talk the participants asked him a series of questions including Åland's current tax situation, local governance within the islands, and whether the current level of autonomy is sufficient. Despite having an autonomous status, Jörgen suggested that the Åland islands should seek more autonomy to be on a par with the Faroe Islands. Here is a transcription of the questions with the names of the questioners removed.

Questioner 1 *'In terms of your budget, do you raise your own taxes? Or do you get a grant from the Finnish government, which represents the amount of tax that you gather?'*

Jörgen – *'We pay exactly the same tax as everyone else in Finland, both companies and privates. We're very far from being a tax haven and that is something that would probably not be politically wise, to do up in the Nordic countries where we have the*

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

system of Nordic welfare and the system of everyone paying equally much of their income in taxes roughly. So the answer is that we're paying all our taxes directly to the ministry of finance in Finland, and we get back lump sum every year, which is 0.47% of the total income of Finland and that is then adjusted should our population rise. That would then be adjusted to increase even more. This is a pretty new system. We've had it for 2 years. Now before that we had ever since 1995 and onwards up till last year we had 0.45%. That sounds very, very tiny, but it is a huge difference for a small island... In my view, we have always paid more than we have got back from them. But that is how it works today.'

Questioner 2 *'I was interested to find out about the fact you've got 16 municipalities. We have a lot much, um, kind of larger scale of, of kind of local governance, um, in Scotland. So, our smallest municipality is 82000 where I live. You know, that's the smallest kind of local government structure, and so I was really interested to know how that's managed and also, then, is there a lot of reliance in local communities on volunteer effort or is that all managed within, uh, the delivery of services and, um, kind of provision of? Uh, yeah. Uh, ferries and services is that all managed at government level in the really kind of more outlying areas? Or is there a reliance on volunteers to do that?'*

Jörgen *'The lesser the municipality is the larger is the will to help from the local community. Our smallest municipality is 100 persons. And there is no way on earth that they could take care of all the legislative stuff that is needed for a municipality. But they still do it. So, there is a system of when the government Åland pays out money to all these different 16 municipalities. There is a mechanism saying that the one who makes a lot of money has to provide those who doesn't do that as much. So, there is a sort of Robin Hood over it where, where, where we take from the rich one, and gives to the poor in order to keep everything running. The smallest municipalities those are out in the archipelagos... We have 6 archipelago municipalities and although they are very small they are between 100 and 400 people each of them. Even though they are very well functioning and important for the people that lives there. While Mariehamn with 11,000, uh, inhabitants, they have a much larger organization in the municipality. But it's probably not as important for the average townner for the average guy in town, cause they see the municipality very seldom, while in the archipelago the office of the municipality, that's the hub of the archipelagos. So that makes things staying alive if you if you say it that way.'*

Questioner 2 *'Can I just really quickly ask then you said that the last thing in the lesser municipalities, smaller municipalities, there's more willingness to, from the local community to help. Is there a willingness or is it that they have to in order to survive?'*

Jörgen *'What's the difference?'*

Questioner 2 *'If I lived in a city, I could volunteer to be part of my community if I wanted to and help out with things like infrastructure and this local shop and things like that.'*

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

But I don't need to. If I don't do it in my current community, these things won't exist. That's the difference'.

Jörgen - *'I believe that it's a matter of perspective. Because if you do live in these islands, it's really not an alternative for you not to take part. So there are really no options. And that's my question in what's the difference? Because if you have. Made your choice to stay in that smaller community. You probably do that because you are prepared to help. And to assist, if you wouldn't be prepared to do that, you would probably move out. Which is maybe what's happening in the overall development where people tend to live, to leave smaller societies.'*

Questioner 3 – *'To what extent would you say that the constitutional status in Åland is somewhat settled now. I think of comparisons with the references to Faroe or Greenland where autonomy has kind of led to continuing debates over independence, is that a feature at all?'*

Jörgen - *'That is a very, very good question. We would like to be more like the Faroes. Because their autonomy used to be very similar to ours. But they have expanded their rights of making their decisions over the years while we are in quite a few ways we're standing still. We have over the last 5 years, been in negotiations with the new acts of autonomy for Åland in regard with Finland, but there's very little left of it when it comes to our wish list. What should be in it, it's very, very little left, so I doubt that it will happen at all. So, the largest things we've had over the last 10 years is that that we had this new financial systems, which is a little bit, it's a little bit sugar added to the previous ones, but it's a better system and it makes us a little bit more well off financially but in an autonomy way we have been we have been overtaken by by the Faroes and we, we would like to have more'.*

In the wake of hearing about the situation in the Åland Islands, feelings about the current relationship between the Scottish islands and the Scottish Government were explored in two Slido polls. Only those with an actual experience of Scottish island life were asked to respond. In answer to the first question, 'For those with experience of Scottish island life, how would you rate the current relationship between the Scottish islands and the Mainland?', 25% said the current relationship was poor, with 63% saying middling. Only 13% said the relationship was good.

This hardly ringing endorsement was followed by the question, 'For those with experience of Scottish island life, to what extent do you think the Scottish Government currently understands island needs?'. When those with no experience were removed from the poll, 8% thought the Scottish Government understood the islands very poorly, 50% thought poorly and only 42% thought they understood the islands well. **In other words, nearly 60% felt that the Scottish Government did not understand the Scottish islands well.**

The workshop attendees were then split into two groups to discuss the current situation in the islands. When the two groups were brought back together the groups' shared their opinions on Slido and in the VC.

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

The VC comments indicated a degree of unhappiness with the current situation, a **feeling of disenfranchisement**, particularly amongst those from the islands without their own island-based council. Here are some of the following:

Speaker 1 – *‘Well, basically, we had people from Tasmania, Ireland as well as Scotland, and we’ve been talking about the similarities with the metropole and remote areas and how, you know, you might think of the big enemy as Westminster. But then when it comes to devolving down to the Edinburgh area still they always, that becomes the center, and so you’re always no matter how far down you go, you’re never going to be represented, because it’s always the center you’re always feeling like they’re not taking your unique and distinctive characteristics and needs into consideration you’re being lumped in as all one or it’s a very urban rural divide and making policies that are wide when they aren’t applicable to an island, and ‘K’ mentioned something about the 20 minute thing that’s going on in Scotland that was just unrealistic for islands to everything to be able to live your life within 20 minutes of each other. So it’s, you know, those, and also, in the remark about the size of Scottish, the municipalities just being too large to get your head around and actually know everybody and know everything that’s going on. So, I hope I captured most of what we talked about.*

Jennings – *‘And I think, uh, one of the things that’s really good about this collection of people that we have today, is that we have people from the, the larger island municipalities polities, councils, whatever you want to call them, and representatives from the other islands who don’t have that, um, layer of governance structure, but are actually connected to mainlands as well as far as local government is concerned. And sometimes I feel they get left out. So, it’s nice to see you representing Mull, et cetera, who are actually here today. Um, and I think that might be what, uh, ‘J’ was alluding to there?’.*

Speaker 2 – *‘We had ‘A’ in our group, but she has just stepped away for a little bit and she immediately made that point, which I thought was very important. Um, I think a lot of our conversation developed was really 2 separate conversations. Um, I think a lot of our conversation developed was really 2 separate conversations. If you’re attached to a mainland Council, or you’re an independent Council.*

The next Slido poll provided the opportunity to comment on the current situation and to point to a number of challenges currently being faced by the islanders. **There was a wide range of comments, but dispiriting alienation, peripheralization, the need for governance reform at different levels, economic, connectivity and social problems all feature.**

The mismatch between the social requirements of the centre and islands also exists at local level. My island of Bressay is actually lumped in with ‘North Lerwick’ in the Shetland Islands Council. There really is little or no comparison between the island and the main town; COVID-19 provided a stronger sense of autonomy for islands;

The Island Act has helped to boost a sense of island empowerment, but does not adequately address some more complex issues;

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

Discussions from a research, historical, and sociological perspective: It feels as if there has not been much progress in some areas, it feels as if they are still appearing. The focus on autonomy has dwindled, but there is a sense of collective voices needing to be heard. Sense of alienation in rural areas, compared to the outreach provided to islands; We discussed representation, Islanders in Scottish Islands who are not part of the 'Big 3' Island authorities find it extremely difficult to advocate on issues and needs important to them. Discussion around missing layer of local democracy and how Scotland is poorly represented in this guise. Lack of bottom up inclusion and representation creates disempowerment in communities. EU structures provided support for local level organisations like development trusts. There is conflict around the appropriateness of unelected representatives in decision making functions;

We talked about the similarities between the Scottish islands and other jurisdictions such as Tasmania and Ireland: how even when governance devolves it's never local enough. Governments don't "get" islands: they tend to lump them all together and think of them as one instead of the differences between them all;

There's a very different context between islands attached to mainland councils and the "big 3";

Thoughts on remote communities post-pandemic Economic impact: The pandemic had a significant impact on the tourism industry, which is a major source of income for many islands. Access to healthcare: The pandemic highlighted the need for better access to healthcare services on the islands, which can be challenging due to the remote location and limited infrastructure. Supply chain disruption: The pandemic disrupted global supply chains, causing difficulties for the islands in obtaining essential goods and supplies. Mental health: The pandemic has also had a significant impact on mental health, with many people facing increased stress and anxiety. Digital connectivity: The pandemic has increased the importance of digital connectivity for remote and rural areas, including the Scottish Islands;

Community Council reform long overdue - needs properly funded and capacity built to improve democracy as a first step 1) some areas of ScotGov have an understanding of islands (i.e. islands team) but things like wanting to implement 20 min neighbourhoods across the whole country show that island needs still widely misunderstood.

The next two breakout sessions were future focussed. In the first session, named *Poor and Meh Scenarios - In a Right Slester / Keepin on Knappin* (the title reflects a project called *Imagining Shetland's Future* carried out by the Shetland Community Planning Partnership in 2011³) participants were asked to imagine a negative future, and in the second session *Zone of Aspiration – Got'n a Grip*, a successful, aspirational future was to be imagined .

The negative future was captured in the following Slido. **It captured a series of important points – the detrimental impact of climate change, the problem of a decreasing population and a subsequent inability to fill job vacancies, the suggestion that central government**

³ <https://www.shetnews.co.uk/2011/07/28/imagining-shetlands-futures/>

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

might turn its back on the islands because it's cheaper to allow depopulation to take place, inappropriate neo-liberal economics, and problems with travel and connectivity.

Extreme weather events and sea level rise wiping out communities and infrastructure;

Scottish Government decides addressing these challenges is too expensive for islands with small populations and decides to evacuate them! If we are being really negative!;

more jobs than people here too!;

Shetland already has more jobs than people, combined with a severe lack of housing - not a good combination;

The perception of it might be cheaper to depopulate islands is often based on current situation which is a result of under investment. If we look instead about the potential of islands things might look different;

Access to travel is increasingly dependent on being able to pay up front in order to get the date you need. For those on islands who can't afford that, that's a real issue;

Realistically we cannot expect national governments to spend millions on maintaining tiny populations if resources become tighter in future. In the worst case scenario we may see some smaller islands abandoned and resources concentrated on a few of the larger islands to keep them viable places to live;

essential travel routes being advertised predominantly for tourism when it should be for lifeline links first;

Neoliberal policies that reflect neoliberal economics... Competition vs. Collaboration...;

Demographic stats don't dig deeply enough to capture very small and very remote islands;

Importance of maintaining our landscapes, keeping them pristine, or our heritage: but who pays for it? The issues of Disneyfication of islands when they're taken over by tourism: what happens to the locals? Who's left to run the place? Issues of sea-level rise, neoliberal corporate agendas, corruption, lack of capacity as vibrant people leave their islands, becomes a downward spiral Sometimes doing nothing to a landscape is the best solution;

A trigger point for significant decline could be there not being enough potential students to be able to maintain further and higher education in the islands. That could rapidly increase the flight of young people to the mainland cities;

Lack of transport and connectivity, as well as the problem not just of depopulation, but of a changing demographic in which the population stays the same, but is composed mainly of older generations;

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

Ferries have aged beyond repair, timetables much reduced

The participants appeared to find it an easy and valuable experience imagining a negative future. This is the very point of futuristics imagine negative futures so that they might be avoided.

Speaker 1 – *'A little bit chilling that it is so was so easy to be negative about the future.'*

Speaker 2 – *'Oh, oh, my goodness. Yeah, it was it was a very, um, it was a good conversation. It was good for us to air what we were thinking about connectivity, and we thought that all of us, no matter what island region we were from, could relate to the problem of connectivity or that being one of the major issues the foundational core of our discussion was around. Lack of connectivity and depopulation back of connectivity. Obviously, from the point of view that it increases economic empowerment. If there's a way that people can travel back and forth. One of the remarkable comments in our breakout room was fact that there is a private ferry. Apologies I forget which region it was in, but it's run predominantly by private business and so it shows there is the economic capacity, but we see there being a lack of political will sometimes, you know, from a, you know, a more honest point of view, there's a lack of political will to allow the empowerment that comes from connectivity. That was something we noted, we definitely noted as well 'J' in our group was mentioning the, the really chilly scenario not just of the population, but the shift in the demographic where young people are leaving but the population stays the same because you have retirees coming so you have mainly an older population and there isn't obviously the sense of creativity in the sense of cultural dynamism and diversity. This kind needed to build resilience. So, um, it was it was a really a good discussion. I actually don't think it was that negative it was very insightful.'*

Luckily the participants were not too depressed by imagining a bleak future and were still capable of also imagining a high aspiration future. **There was a clear focus on increasing islander agency, with better island proofing, better connectivity, better housing and more autonomy.**

Genuine subsidiarity, at present Scottish Ministers still have a power of veto on too many things;

Balance! Population, jobs, transport, education etc etc;

Decisions made at the local level that is most appropriate;

Genuine island proofing policy and procedures;

Excellent connections (both travel and working together) between all islands from Unst to Arran - collaboration not competition;

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

*Get away from the hub and spoke model to more connections BETWEEN islands
Making municipalities smaller, at a more human scale, and encouraging
collaboration instead of competition between them;*

*It all starts with better governance - smaller municipalities which are appropriately
funded, tied together with an 'islands congress';*

Investing in regenerative tourism;

*Net Zero development could revitalise numerous areas of island economies and
energy justice;*

Boosting economic diversification;

*Creating more affinity to islands, supporting islands' well-being (financially and
otherwise) but not necessarily living there;*

*Harnessing the power of the islands diaspora to bring meaningful connections /
investment in the islands (moving beyond popular the idea of islands as places to
consume);*

Autonomy and confidence - two essential pillars;

*We already have more people wanting to live and work in Orkney than we can
accommodate - get the infrastructure right and the population will be robust enough
to be sustainable;*

*UHI model of distance and distributed learning is among the best in the world!
Concept of "High North" or reimagining geography... fascination with the Faroe
Islands and other places, and their cultural confidence (idea of going from "cultural
cringe" that comes from being othered by the core to "cultural confidence" that is
community-led) Reinstating more sea routes, sea travel;*

Tourist seasons that extend across the whole year;

*There was some enthusiasm for deregulation to allow for more housing to be built -
but I think there are serious dangers in that. We do need a lot of additional social
housing;*

*Greater autonomy but with appropriate resources and support (not leaving
volunteers to do it all for themselves);*

Excellent connectivity - physical and digital;

State-of-the-art affordable housing;

A diversified economy, less reliant on tourism

Although it was decided to leave the recommendations about how to achieve a high aspiration future until the afternoon session, Dr John Goodlad, writer, seafood industry innovator and previous candidate for the Orkney and Shetland movement, made **one**

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

concrete suggestion was offered, Scotland and therefore the Scottish islands should rejoin the EU.

Speaker 1 – *'In terms of funding, I made this point in the breakout session that, you know, good connectivity, better, ferry services, uh, tunnels, Um, better housing, uh, sustainable development of our economy. A lot of these things will take very large amounts of capital investment and, uh. There is no question at all. Uh, and people have done the analysis that the Scottish islands benefited disproportionately given the size of our population from European funding. And all of that's gone, and if anyone thinks that the European funding levels will be replaced from either the UK government or the Scottish government, I'm afraid that's for the birds. So, if we are going to get the capital investment that we required to deliver all of these essential parts of our future infrastructure. Returning the EU is in my view absolutely essential from an island perspective.'*

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

Afternoon Session



Figure 3 – Stacey Alvarez de la Campa

The afternoon streamed session, which presented and reiterated the morning’s discussions, was available to the public. It saw the majority of the morning participants joined by another 20 people. The latter could comment in the VC chat.

The session became with two presentations from international expert participants. Firstly there was a presentation from Barbados by Stacey Alvarez de la Campa the Community Engagement Manager for Island Innovation. She reflected on the morning session, and **highlighted the need for fostering island resilience, cultural heritage, intra-island collaboration and particularly encouraging island youth to return home with their dynamism and innovation.**

Tracey was followed by Dr Gerard Prinsen from Massey University in New Zealand . He has researched island autonomy in the Pacific and developed the concept of islandian autonomy, a form of autonomy practised in many subnational island jurisdictions (Prinsen 2017)⁴ Following the example of non-sovereign islands in the Pacific, such as Wallis and Futuna, Gerard suggested six strategies that the Scottish islands might wish to follow to increase their autonomy.



Figure 4 – Gerard Prinsen

⁴ Prinsen, G. ‘An Emerging “Islandian” sovereignty of non-self-governing islands’ International Journal 2017, Vol, 72 (1) 56-78.

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

The six strategies were as follows – **1. bend the rules of the metropole ie. Scottish Government, where necessary, there are very few examples of metropolitan authorities winding back the rule bending of islanders; 2. Say no in referenda around independence (probably not so relevant to the Scottish islands); 3. continuously negotiate the relationship, constitutional status, between the islands and the metropole; 4. Secure metropolitan funding when there are local shortfalls; 5. sign international agreements with or without the metropole (this is a form of paradiplomacy); and 6. replace the typical hub and spoke network of communication and transport with a point to point network or a reticular network making it easier for islanders to move around in their environment.**

In a short discussion after his talk Gerard suggested another interesting idea – Shetland should consider having a representative in the Faroe Islands.

Conclusion - Recommendations

The morning session had ended without recommendations, bar re-joining the EU, on how to avoid a potentially negative future and instead to achieve a high aspiration future for the islands. At the end of the afternoon session, and in addition to the suggestions offered by the two afternoon speakers, the participants offered their thoughts and suggestions in a Slido poll:

Legislation to create a Single Island Authority for each island group to provide all local public services under local democratic control.

Create an islands government 😊 (I am inspired by Gerard)

Recognise and accept that not just is every island unique, the different communities are also very different

Deregulation of the energy market so we can utilise our own and not have to sell low and buy high.

Capitalise on our location as the gateway to the Arctic, which will be of increasing importance as ice melt opens up new trade routes.

Tourist income could subsidise improved services for islanders as opposed to the other way round. Favourable rates for local businesses (credit, rent, transport of goods, etc.)

I think the fact that the current air transport option is a monopoly really doesn't help the cost of travel. I believe that the Islands would benefit from a not-for-profit air service, designed to connect the islands to the mainland and the other islands. When Flybe and Loganair were competing, the islands saw record-low prices, sadly it was executed poorly so we lost the choices, and then the prices went up!

Multilevel governance stakeholders need to collaborate with UK, Scottish and local government and Island community representatives sitting down together to agree appropriate next steps for EACH island including respective roles in shaping sustainability. Step 1: Define sustainability!

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

*Acknowledging the contributions islands *do* already make (eg. millions of whisky tax) and *could* make if the infrastructure was at the levels to allow it*

Engage with measures to limit climate change. Put mitigation in place when the former fails.

Representation at every table and forum we have capacity for. Not accepting the status quo. Leveraging islands bill and islands impact assessment to get our voices heard. Being generally annoying until people listen.

Don't assume business as usual.

More and better representation, more autonomy, better transport, economic forward planning and an acknowledgement that the islands are an asset provide a sound basis for further research and engagement with local and national government.



Figure 5 - Dr Breandán Ó Caoimh

Finally to round of the discussion, Dr Breandán Ó Caoimh, geographer, analyst and social researcher whose research focusses on sustainable communities, rural issues, and social inclusion was asked to sum up the day's discussions.

This afternoon has been fascinating. Absolutely fascinating. It's been very Scottish in many respects. But so much of what you've been saying for the last 2 hours could be said about so many contexts, I think that that's really interesting. I think this session and the whole day has been useful, because it has opened up conversations that we, either in island communities or in peripheral rural communities, don't have often enough and that's about power and power dynamics and where those need to be recalibrated, and I think UHI and Andrew, you need to be saluted and acknowledged for opening up that conversation in a very gentle but firm way. I think it's important, you know, unless we deal with decision making and governance and power and authority and relationships between the periphery and the center, and relocating that center to where, you know, real valuable resources are, and those resources are environment, they're heritage they're human capital and knowledge capital.

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

You know, they're not necessarily the values or the things that appear to be valorised in the neo-liberal system that we were talking about earlier on. So, I think, you know, your conversations today have certainly been very constructive and even though some of your questions Andrew had those negative slants, that challenged people, it was really striking to see how people took those and came back with constructive material and that that gives me hope...

What is the role for those of us who are involved in teaching, those of us who are involved in research?

We can be a facilitator. We can be an honest broker. We can be a cajoler. We can be a stimulant. We can be, you know, we can ask questions that need to be asked and help people to answer those questions constructively.

So. I do think as we progress to the next round of seminars, we need to look at... making these conversations inclusive, so that we do harness the full knowledge, cultural and social capital that is in our island rural communities. And, thanks for giving me an opportunity to be part of this conversation.

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

Appendix 1 - Workshop 1 Agenda

09:30 -09.40 WELCOME – ANDREW JENNINGS

09.40 – 10.00 *SHORT INTRODUCTIONS 1 MIN MAX!*

10.00 -10.20 FUTURISTICS AND THE WORKSHOP - ANDREW JENNINGS

10.20 – 10.30 *SPEND SOME TIME ON THE FOLLOWING POLL!*

10:30 – 10.45 DESCRIPTION OF ÅLAND AUTONOMY - JØRGEN PETTERSON

10.45 – 11.00 *QUESTIONS FOR JØRGEN*

11.00 – 11.10 BREAKOUT SESSION 1 THE CURRENT SITUATION *FOUR GROUPS EACH DISCUSS THE SITUATION FOR 10 MINUTES. GROUP CHOOSE REPORTER TO RECORD THOUGHTS FOR SHARING.*

11.10 – 11.30 *FULL DISCUSSION OF BREAKOUT SESSION 1*

11.30 – 11.40 BREAKOUT SESSION 2 POOR AND 'MEH' SCENARIOS – IN A RIGHT SLESTER / KEEPING ON KNAPPIN *FOUR GROUPS EACH DISCUSS THE SITUATION FOR 10 MINUTES. GROUP CHOOSE REPORTER TO RECORD THOUGHTS FOR SHARING.*

11.40 – 12.00 *FULL DISCUSSION OF BREAKOUT SESSION 2*

12.00 – 12.10 BREAKOUT SESSION 3 ZONE OF HIGH ASPIRATION – GOT'N A GRIP *FOUR GROUPS EACH DISCUSS THE SITUATION FOR 10 MINUTES. GROUP CHOOSE REPORTER TO RECORD THOUGHTS FOR SHARING*

12.10 – 12.30 *FULL DISCUSSION OF BREAKOUT SESSION 3*

12.30 – 13.30 *LUNCH BREAK*

13.30 – 16.30 *AFTERNOON SESSION*

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

Appendix 2 - SLIDO POLLS

1. INTRODUCTORY QUIZ
2. WORD CLOUD 1 – WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?
3. OPEN TEXT POLL - WHAT IS YOUR MAIN RESEARCH OR PROFESSIONAL FOCUS.
4. WORD CLOUD 2 - IMAGINE YOU ARE VISITING A SCOTTISH ISLAND IN 2050, WHAT IS THE FIRST THING THAT CATCHES YOUR EYE?
5. OPEN TEXT POLL - WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE MAIN CHALLENGES FACING THE SCOTTISH ISLANDS IN 2050?
6. OPEN TEXT POLL - RESPONSES TO JORGEN'S DESCRIPTION OF THE ÅLAND ISLAND SITUATION – COULD THE SCOTTISH ISLANDS COPY THEM?
7. MULTIPLE CHOICE - FOR THOSE WITH EXPERIENCE OF SCOTTISH ISLAND LIFE, HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE CURRENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SCOTTISH ISLANDS AND THE MAINLAND?
8. MULTIPLE CHOICE - FOR THOSE WITH EXPERIENCE OF SCOTTISH ISLAND LIFE, TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU THINK THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CURRENTLY UNDERSTANDS ISLAND NEEDS?
9. OPEN TEXT POLL - COMMENTS FROM THE BREAKOUT SESSION 1 THE CURRENT SITUATION
10. SWOT ANALYSIS [FILL IN AS WE GO ALONG]
11. OPEN TEXT POLL - COMMENTS FROM THE BREAKOUT SESSION 2 POOR AND MEH SCENARIOS – IN A RIGHT SLESTER / KEEPING ON KNAPPIN
12. WORD CLOUD 3 - WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES AHEAD?
13. OPEN TEXT POLL - RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO AVOID THESE FUTURES
14. OPEN TEXT POLL - COMMENTS FROM THE BREAKOUT SESSION 3 ZONE OF HIGH ASPIRATION – GOT’N A GRIP
15. OPEN TEXT POLL - RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO ACHIEVE A HIGH ASPIRATION FUTURE

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

Appendix 3 – Transcript of the Talk by Jörgen Petterson

I represent Åland , 6,757 islands depending a little bit how you count them, of which roughly 60 are inhabited. That's our place up in the Baltic sea. We are self governing, we're autonomous, we're demilitarized and we are neutralized as per the Crimean war to be exact a long time ago 1850 something. Uh, last year we celebrated 100 year of autonomy. In 100 year we have been in the fortunate situation that we can handle quite a few of our internal domestic affairs by ourselves, without involving Finland, who is our parent, I guess, is the right phrase for it.

We are 30,000 people roughly half of them living on the countryside, one third living in Mariehamn our capital and the rest is in our archipelago, which is quite unique arrangement where they're all, depending on each other in different ways. One could say that we have the, the same conflicts as you have in between cities and countryside, it's a little bit like that, but even so not because we are only 30,000 and therefore, most of us understand that there are really no room for conflicts here. In 1809 we were conquered by Russia in 1854 we were, uh, the Russians built a huge fortress, which was we were liberated by the British and the French, who came up through the Baltic Sea and made sure that the Russians went home never to come back. We were declared a demilitarized zone because of our tactical, strategic position within the Baltic Sea. We even have a memory from that in the Arch de Triomphe in Paris.

After 1921, we gained our own self government meaning that Finland has to guarantee the population of Åland , the preservation of their Swedish language, the culture and our local customs. This was a result after a conflict between Sweden and Finland where the Åland ers wanted to belong to Sweden and Sweden very seriously wanted to own the Åland islands, but hence the strategic. where are we strategically are in the Baltic and hence the superpowers at that time the decision was made, the only decision more or less from the League of Nations, saying that Åland should belong to Finland we were guaranteed all these demilitarization and neutralization by Great Britain, France, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Germany, Iceland, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia and Poland. Meaning that today when we are on the brink to move into NATO nobody has questioned this neutralization and demilitarization because it is an outcome of an international agreement. And once you've had an international agreement, they are very, very difficult to change, in either way, it's a standstill principle, which has been confirmed again during this NATO process,

In modern history Finland gained their independence in 1917, which made everyone on Åland to think what would be best should we go to fit to Sweden the country we knows since centuries, or the pretty newly formed nation of Finland? That was the basis of the worries I think it's fair to say that the Åland ers felt at that time. Anyway, we got the decision from the League of Nations. We got our autonomy, our first act on autonomy took effect in 1922. We are now negotiating on our fourth act of autonomy over all these one hundred years.

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

We got our own flag in 1954 which was symbolically very, very important and ever since 1970 we are a part of the Nordic Council. In '84, we got stamps for those of you are older. You remember stamps are small things that you put on envelopes to make sure that it arrived to the right addressee somewhere in the world. Nowadays you just click on a button, but those were the days and the stamps has been very fortunate for Åland both financially and identically, which is interesting. Symbols makes difference. Uh, in 1995 we became a member of the EU and since that very many things changed again. We don't negotiate only with Helsinki which is our capital, but also with Brussels. Well you know all but that's in the EU. We've got our own post in 1993, and we got our own radio and TV service, our public service, our BBC ever since 1996.

The Åland parliament is 30 members. I am 1 of them. I'm also the chair of the finance and business committee. We're elected every 4 years. Uh, we have election this autumn. To be able to take part in this election you have to have franchise eligibility dependent on right off domicile. Which is, I will explain at the very end of this. We're organized in the Åland parliament is very similar to the Scottish parliament in many ways. We then have an Åland government, which is appointed by the parliament after the election. And there is the administration and the political leadership, and roughly 6 different departments for different administrations.

The self legislative power is in areas, such as education, culture and heritage sites, health care, hospitals, social care, which is the clearly most expensive, so, to say, that takes roughly half of our budget, every year, environmental issues, trade and industry, local transport, municipal administration and taxation. We are still divided into 16 different municipalities. We, we used to say that we are probably having the world record in local decisiveness is that not the word, in local administration. We are best in the world when it comes to making decisions locally. Policing is our legislator, as is Postal Service and radio and TV, which I said. For Finland, this means that we can take care of most of our daily life challenges, but not when it comes to foreign affairs, and not when it comes to taxation, not when it comes to most civil and criminal law matters, the court system customs, Coast Guard, civil protection, and the church act. All of these is subject for negotiations constantly when it comes to reforming our autonomy act. It's not very easy though. We wanted one way, but Finland generally wants it another way.

In dialogues with Finland, we, uh, have the Governor of Åland, who is appointed in consultation with the Åland parliament and really in fact, by recommendation with the Åland parliament. It wouldn't happen that Finland would appoint a governor that is not sanctioned by the Åland parliament. We are right now actually, in the process of having a new governor, after the present one, him on the picture, there is retiring off to 20 odd years. We also have Åland on delegation that presents a statement of opinion and competence when it comes to legislation, which has to be confirmed by the president of Finland, in order to be real also, for Åland. We have 1 member of parliament in Finland out of 200.

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

Shipping is our grand industry. It started off with a small scale, farmer shipping many many years ago and today we have a modern commercial fleet. We take care of literally all the ferries between Finland and Sweden. Our economy in figures is that the private sector still is the largest one, but the signs are that it's weakening and that the public sector will increase, instead of the other way around.

The benefits of our autonomy it is to strengthen identity in a diverse world, which you clearly can see from stamps, from flags, from what have you. It's a tool to raise our profile. The autonomy forces countries to acknowledge your existence. When we turned 100 years the other year, last year we had ambassadors in Finland present here in Åland from like, 50 different countries, and all of these countries have now written reports back home to the governments and parliament saying that Åland is a subject. It's not an object. And that is something that is probably the most important thing you can do as an autonomy to make sure that you are heard that you are listened to, and that you're seen because if we would settle with just being a subject for everyone else to treat that wouldn't be the right way to strengthen our autonomy. So basically, we want to be an object, not a subject.

Our storytelling is one of the most important things in order to attract all this interest from the outer world, and it inspires us to try harder in competition with the outside in sports and culture in businesses and what have you. The latest one is now that we are preparing for a large scale sea based wind park very similar to the projects that's going on also in Shetland or in Western Isles. We do the same we're islanders we want to take advantage of the wind.

We do have an international self confidence we hope. We are used to deal with our own matters and we're also free to deal with our own priorities, which are different to those in larger countries. In the Nordic countries, towards which we have the closest cooperation we have the representation both in the Nordic Council, and in the Nordic council ministers and we and Åland ers and the Nordic benefits on equal footing they see how we deal with things and we learn from them. Just before this meeting, we had a meeting together with chairs from the different infrastructural committees all around the Nordic countries sharing experience when it comes to exploring hydrogen as the future fuel, when it comes to how to deal with the with the infrastructure challenges, tunnels roads, ferries and so on and so on electrifying cars. And what have you. We also have a Nordic Institute in Åland .

We are a member, as I said, since 1995 in the EU. We introduced the Euro since 1st January, 2002. That's very boring compared with how it used to be, but also very much more pre pre you can see what will come in the future in another way. So you sleep probably better, but it's not as fun as to have a an exchange rate, which you have to consider every day in your daily life.

Åland 's status in international law has been emphasized during this membership in the EU, and it was strengthen again now, when it comes to Finland, and also Sweden seeking membership in NATO. We approve all international treaties that Finland goes

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

into. We're outside the fiscal Union, which makes things a little bit complicated, but has also made it possible for all the shipping all the ferries between Finland and Sweden and Estonia while they are passing Åland and mooring at the Åland islands, and contributing to the infrastructure, they are allowed to continue to sell tax free on board, which, in a way is a sort of subsidized from the EU because it was considered needed when we entered the EU that if we couldn't continue with the tax free, the transport and the traffic to, and from the island, we would, be very, very, would suffer very hardly.

So, that's something we still love are outside the fiscal union that is challenging today because many people, they think that it's complicated to order stuff from abroad to Åland and the other way around. It's complicated for exporters here in Åland to sell things abroad. On the other hand, it has made us having, like, 24 departures every day from an island consisting of 30,000 people which is unique, it's literally like living on the mainland, although we live on an island.

Uh, there are derogations relating to Åland's special status in international law, and also laid down in 3 articles in a special protocol in the EU, meaning that this exemption us being outside the fiscal Union that's something that is there to stay. It's again, the standstill principle. Unless we want to raise it, it won't happen and therefore it's quite solid, solid structure.

The Åland economy in figures is that Mariehamn the capital is the largest one the countryside is less and the archipelago is very small.

Would we consider our autonomy being benefits for Finland? It's not only been beneficial for ourselves, but Finland has a great international example for peace solutions, which is used by everybody every now and then when you have conflicts all over, it strengthens the brand of Finland. Åland was actually used when Finland applied for membership of the Security Council of United Nations, claiming that we know what we're doing we've done this before we know how to create peaceful solutions. There are no subsidies from Finland, which is also very unique when it comes to small island communities, no subsidies.

We're culturally and linguistically diverse. We are pretty good football players I have to say. Both are men and women teams has won the league and even played the Champions League. That's not pretty bad for island of 30,000, you understand that you're Scottish, aren't you.

The right of domicile that's something that is very unique for Åland the purpose is to preserve the Åland's Swedish language and culture and to ensure the local production resources remain in the hands of the resident population. That does not say that nobody can move in, but they cannot buy property on other areas than those who are planned areas. But should they come to stay here they are free to buy property on everywhere else. Right of domicile is not a citizenship and it's not intended to limit competition or immigration. The exemptions exist the right to domicile is given to all those born in Åland if either parent has the right to domicile. Immigrants can apply

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

after 5 years. For Finnish citizens, knowledge of Swedish is required. We have tried very seriously to change this when we enter the EU. but so far we haven't succeeded it's still a demand that you have to be a Finnish citizen in order to get the right of domicile in Åland . If you get that, if you have it, you have the right to vote and stand for election, in elections for the parliament. You can own real estate. You can do that without the domicile as well. That's very important to know all the unplanned area is open for anyone to own it and you have the right of trade. This was the very brief history of the Åland islands, but thank you for listening and congratulations to all of you who are still awake after that.

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

Appendix 4 – Transcript of the talk by Stacey de la Campa

'It was really a wonderful discussion this morning. So, I would like to just kind of carry on from where we ended on a positive note talking about what are some of the recommendations we have to increase island resilience, the relationship between islands and the metropolis, or the center now. Coming from Barbados in the Caribbea,. I mean, I don't have a mainland per say, but when I started to consider it from a socio historical perspective of colonialism and post colonialism, there is that idea that autonomy is the key to moving forward and kind of believing in the integrity of your cultural heritage and seeing the, the uniqueness in that heritage to help build resilience is kind of at the core of autonomy and how we can move forward. So it was really wonderful to hear the perspectives from the Shetland island and some other islands. Um. In what I call the global north to see that some of the concerns are very similar. Some of the concerns are remarkably similar.

We talked about the idea of transport and connectivity. The lack thereof really undermining how well we can collaborate and how well, we can share ideas and create solutions and that being a key driver. And how we, we tend to become very isolated and insular. So, one of the things we did discuss was, how can we overcome that? How can we build really some digital bridges but there has to be some level of physical connectivity as well to keep that human interest going and to keep that connection going. So, we discussed that.

We also talked about it from the point of view of innovation. I'm thinking about, how can we collaborate and get the voice of the youth more involved and how do we use that dynamism? To change what we can see as the depopulation trap. The idea of there'd be being a diaspora of young people seeing there isn't really a future where they are in their islands because of the lack of economic diversity. And it then being necessary for them to go a field and leave home and we can all relate to that in, in my region.

What we discussed and what I think is is something to focus on is how can we bring these young people back while they're still young? And while they can contribute to the economic diversity, what are ways that we can create, we can incentivize who you are! It shouldn't be that way that you have to incentivize it, but, um, it is a reality right now in the current economic context and that economic context we can't discuss without talking about covid and what we saw the vulnerabilities exposed in islands, because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

It's really crucial to build resilience to focus on economic diversification and also to focus on the traditional ways that we're seeking to bring an income and boost our economies. Just flip the switch a little bit, tweak it a bit and have innovation and ideas come from collaboration and realize a collaboration is often it's not always a linear process that goes smoothly. It's often very iterative and it's very circular. So, if we can come together enough times, because that's something we talked about as well, it seems as, if there hasn't been much progress but the fact that that there is,

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

for me, that there is a conference or workshop like this, the fact that I am here shows that there is some progress in terms of how we are communicating and what we can do to change the future.

So, you know, we have to build that sense of collaboration and also build how can we have curated collaboration? How can we sit down and collect the data? That shows what's important to us? In islands?

We did discuss the idea of looking at issues in a way that's almost too overarching and not appreciating the nuances. The same things. For example, the island acts that we were seeing. Okay. There's some people in Scotland you think that can empower us, but at the same time there are those in rural regions that feel, wish that outreach was there for them. So there's still that alienation we still have to be aware of the nuances and the complexities behind everything else.

So, I mean, I, I think that looking at things like, you know, regenerative tourism, different ways of thinking of how we view tourism, which often can, you know, it's a double-edged sword anywhere that they are tourists. Well, what can we do to have any visitors and even remove that term? The term tourism, tourists I find almost demeaning and very anachronistic it doesn't really apply to how travelers are now.

Again one of the positive things of the pandemic, we want to seek that connection again. We want to seek the authenticity that can come from different places we visit and that's crucial for us building who we are and what we're about.

So, anything that fosters better connectivity anything that fosters a better way to exchange ideas. Better ways that foster, the, the bottom up approach and the interconnectivity between various stakeholders. So breaking down the silos of, I mean academia, we just launched academic counsel and Island Innovation. One of the best things about this meeting is getting to see some of the faces of everyone that I've been communicating with and we really see this as a way to connect stakeholders in academia with, with policy makers because it's about that connection that will be the driver of change and change.

It will happen. It may not happen as quickly as we would like it to because we're in islands and we're steeped in our history when we're in islands right? We are steeped in I mean, in somewhere like Barbados, I could go to the grocery store and before I get home, my mom will say oh, yeah I heard you were at the grocery store and I don't think well, because we're so connected. We know each others business.

We know generations back, but that, that insularity, we can look at in a positive way to think we, we know who we are and what we're about. How can we affirm that to build a sense of resilience. So, I mean, I could go on because I'm so happy to be here. So I think I'll stop now.'

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

Appendix 5 – Transcript of the talk by Gerard Prinsen

So, what I would like to do is carry on where Stacy left earlier on and others as well. Stacey mentioned this autonomy as a key, and cultural heritage as a sort of an additional driver, to autonomy to sort of sustainability. I've been working with a number of people around this idea of islandian sovereignty, which is a sovereignty of non sovereign island territories.

It's another way to say an increasing, never stopping process of optimization if you want islands, becoming more and more autonomous as time goes on. And I think, uh, Jorgen's talk this morning, even though he said, sometimes things stall. He also said that they had the 4th Act of Association, or something of the, in the Åland islands in 100 years.

That's 4 times in 100 years. That's not very often. I would site as a sort of a counter example New Caledonia. That has had more than 13 different constitutional statuses since 1958. So they have an average of about the new constitutional status every 7 years. So, there's a lot of variation there.

I'll try to keep it short. I have basically 2 slides I would like to share with, you. To explain ways in which I think islands can increase their autonomy, or actually the ways in which islands do increase the autonomy, so let's see if we can make this this work. Um, and you confirm you're seeing a blank screen. Okay. So there are 6 strategies that that I think it can be seen in islands, non sovereign island territories across the world. 6 strategies by which islands increase that autonomy and I think that gives us sort of an answer to the question of, of this 1st session, like, what is the future of this cooperative relationship.

There's one word of caution before I go into this, uh, this example. Most of the research done here is based on colonized, um, non sovereign territory. So it's the remnants of colonialism is about 40 or 50 islands of that could be used in the Pacific as well. Islands that maintain a relationship with the colonial metropole. What I would like to invite all of you in our sort of a Scottish, British hemisphere is to see to what extent these experiences of colonized island communities in their relationship with the metropole are useful for you.

Before I get to the 6 and then the quick overview. I'd like to give you an example of a very small community that I'm, I'm familiar with worked a few times there.

It's the community of Wallis and Futuna, so this is little map. So we can actually see where we are, Wallis and Futuna lies about 3 or 4,000 kilometers north of New Zealand, to the east of Australia, and it is as you can see an image here. It's a French overseas territory, So it will be associated with France integrated into it. It is France full stop. At least that's in the official term as much as, the Shetland islands are part of the, uh, the UK.

One of the defining features of France is it is, is the, the, the secular education. So, since the French revolution, secular schools, or Ecoles Laiques, as the French would

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

say, has been one of the principal cornerstones of what it is, what it means to the French and the French state has separated state and church, um.

Excessively almost you could say, constitutionally, that was determined and just in case anyone forgot, they sort of reiterate or remind everyone of that separation of state and church. This is a law of 2004 again that states in schools, you cannot wear or show symbols of your religious affiliation, you're not even supposed to talk about religion in schools in France, you get fired as a teacher, and you get sent to the headmaster if you have pupil if you wear a crucifix, or a headscarf it's a no, no.

The next slide I am going to show you is, I think, a beautiful piece of evidence of how islands resist that for those who are law abiding islanders I suggest that they get the content warning. What you're about to see is absolutely shocking in a French environment, so hold on to your seats. This is a picture of the classroom in Wallis, this should not be possible. This is a violation of the French Constitution, and yet every single classroom and in Wallis and Futuna is adorned like this.

To me, that's a great example of what is the 1st strategy to increase your autonomy. Basically, islands start bending the rules of the metropole and sometimes it has to be a bit sort of forceful. Sometimes it has to be with clever, um. You can talk about the details, but the essence is start bending the rules is 1 way through which islanders increase in autonomy. And there is very, very, very, very few examples of metropolitan authorities winding back the rule bending of islanders.

The 2nd, this of course, applies in particular took colonized island territories. Just say, no in referenda around independence. Saying, no, is also an expression of autonomy if metropoles would like to sort of create more distance between themselves and their former colonial possessions there are lot of examples, well about 18 examples where islanders said no in a referendum to full independence, or, uh, separation from the metropole.

The connection with the metropole for many islands is a sort of arena, within which negotiations takes place takes place and I think the Åland islands show the same thing you maintain a connection to Finland even if it's not your favourite one, maybe you would like to culturally connect better to Sweden, but once the deal is made you negotiate with the metropole. And independence to some extent cuts the, the link. It reduces your ability to negotiate. This bring us to the 3rd point as I mentioned earlier. Islands, non sovereign islands tend to negotiate continuously about their relationship, their constitutional status. I mentioned New Caledonia as a typical example, there's plenty of others. The other thing I found interesting in, um, in Jorgen's talk as well, as he said. The flow of money from the metropole to the islands has not changed in a long time, and then he admitted, well, actually it went up from point 45 to point 47. That was an important increase. I think that sort of underscores my point. If you look at the, the, the economics of the relationship between islands and the metropole you see a continuous, uh, increase in the flow of money and particularly, in case of climate change, when there's a disaster or in the case of the

Scottish Island Futures - 2050 Workshop 1 Report

need to invest in infrastructure the metropole will pay. It's hard negotiating. It's a battle, but there's plenty of examples of money coming from the metropole being invested in the islands that islands themselves could never raise.

The 5th way to increase your autonomy that may include the Shetland Islands as well, um, sign international agreements as much as the Åland Islands have done. There's plenty of examples of sub national jurisdictions, a term Godfrey created, I think, for which we should all be grateful. Sub national jurisdictions, if they're islands, they get away with signing international agreements. Issuing their own stamps as Jorgen said. It's just 1 example.

The last 1 we discussed in the, the workshop this morning as well. 1 way to increase your autonomy is trying to replace or displace or expand a change this hub and spoke network of communication and transport with a, a point to point network or a reticular network making it easier for islanders to move around in their environment.

These are 6 strategies in summary that non sovereign territories that we're formally colonized that are using to increase their autonomy to the extent, and then close it to to Stacy, making reference to Stacy to the extent that your cultural identity becomes stronger as you move forward in that process of optimization. I'd leave it at that!