

Islands, Islanders and Human Rights: Ongoing and Current Challenges for International Law

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Since 1945 a number of important human rights have emerged that reflect an evolution in the thinking about rights and particularly the challenges faced by island peoples. These include matters such as health, food security, climate change and environmental impact, and the potential loss of statehood.

In this seminar Professor Donald R Rothwell will assess these challenges faced by islands and islanders, before undertaking a review of the right of self-determination for island peoples. He will consider the status of Small Island Developing States and the way in which this group of states is considered within the United Nations, along with parallel processes that recognise the distinctive status of certain island communities at regional and sub-regional levels. These human rights dimensions will be considered in the context of the legal and political situations in Greenland, the Faroe Islands, New Caledonia and Puerto Rico. A common theme relates to those island territories that are not independent states, but which may be seeking independence or a change in their legal and political status through self-determination.



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Donald R Rothwell is Professor of International Law at the ANU College of Law, Australian National University, where he has taught since July 2006. His research focus on law of the sea, international polar law, and implementation of international law within Australia, as reflected in 26 books and over 200 articles, book chapters and notes in international and Australian publications. Professor Rothwell's recent authored, co-authored or edited books include *The Law of the Sea in South East Asia* (Routledge 2019) edited with David Letts; *International Law in Australia* (3rd edn, Thomson Reuters 2017) edited with Crawford; and *The International Law of the Sea* (2nd edn, Bloomsbury 2016) with Tim Stephens.

Professor Rothwell has acted as a consultant or been a member of expert groups for UNEP, UNDP, IUCN and the Australian Government, and acted as advisor to the International Fund for Animal Welfare. In 2012 he was appointed an inaugural ANU Public Policy Fellow, and in 2015 elected as a Fellow to the Australian Academy of Law. He is a regular media commentator on international law issues. His current research project is assessing islands and international law.

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