

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## The romance and allure of island life

A visiting Canadian professor will deliver a public lecture on Friday afternoon in Hobart about the romance and reality of islands and island life.

Professor Godfrey Baldacchino, the Canada Research Chair in Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Islands, is visiting the University of Tasmania's School of Geography and Environmental Studies until April as part of a sabbatical year.

Prof. Baldacchino said islands were a fascinating area of study, which allowed him to travel around the world to exotic locations -- "to the eternal envy" of his colleagues.

"The purpose of my lecture is to explore how well my theoretical template fits with the reality of Tasmania," Prof Baldacchino said.

"That is why I have called it '**Island Enclaves: Tasmania as a sub-national island jurisdiction**' – that is simply a category of island territories which are not independent states, but have a fair degree of political autonomy.

"There are lots of them around the world, more than 100, in fact.

"I have been trying to explore what their commonalities are, what their challenges are, how they handle those challenges, and what the best practices are that one can learn from what some of them have done and what some of them have not done."

Prof. Baldacchino said the romantic ideas of island life held by outsiders were often inconsistent with the realities.

"That is part of the myth, though, isn't it, that idea of romance?"

"It is part of the myth of island life – that everything is rosy and harmonious, and that we all live happily ever after – unfortunately it is not always like that."

Prof. Baldacchino said anyone was welcome to attend the lecture on Friday.

The lecture will include tourism opportunities, governance, small business challenges for islands.

“I hope the lecture will be entertaining – it’s not just for geography buffs,” he said.

“The public is very welcome to attend and I think they’ll be in for a good time.”

**What:** Public lecture by Professor Godfrey Baldacchio on ‘Island Enclaves: Tasmania as a sub-national island jurisdiction’.

**When:** Friday 18 February - 4pm

**Where:** Geography and Geology Lecture Theatre Room 211 at the UTAS Sandy Bay campus. See here for maps:  
<http://www.campuses.utas.edu.au/campus-maps>

**RSVP:** Please RSVP for catering purposes by email to [UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au](mailto:UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au) or by phone on (03) 6226 2521.

**For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact Luke Scott at the UTAS media office on (03) 6324 5019 or 0488 021 960.**

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