



# 11<sup>th</sup> ANATOMY OF ISLANDS

## ISLAND AT THE TABLE: MEDITERRANEAN DIET BETWEEN GLOBAL PROCESSES AND ISLAND KNOWLEDGE

Jelsa, island of Hvar, Croatia

28 – 30 September 2023

**After five years of meeting on Vis and another five on Lastovo, we invite you to Hvar, to the town of Jelsa, where the 11th Anatomy of Islands symposium will take place at the end of September this year. This time we are inspired by land as a material and symbolic island resource, which on Hvar takes us to the Stari Grad Plain (Starogradsko polje), the oldest preserved example of Greek plot division system on the eastern Adriatic coast which is still in use today and included in UNESCO World Heritage List in 2008. This cultural landscape that has been and remains the “belly of the island” is the conceptual starting point of this year’s symposium, in which we will examine the island’s resources through the prism of the Mediterranean diet, understood in its broadest sense.**

Today the issue of the Mediterranean diet and its importance for the island communities needs to be addressed by taking into consideration the social, cultural, class, gender, spatial and identity making processes that shape this phenomenon. The Mediterranean diet is understood here as the totality of skills, knowledge, practices, beliefs and traditions that reflect local cultures and their way of life. As such they are related to farming and fishing, processing, preparation and, particularly, the consumption of food, viewed through its various social and symbolic aspects and perceived as a local knowledge and specific lifestyle. While posited as a heritage

concept of preserving the traditional way of life, the Mediterranean diet equally emphasises a rational use and long-term preservation of natural resources. In contrast to the globalised food reality, this concept advocates locally oriented food systems and offers significant opportunities for creating development policies aimed at strengthening the food sovereignty and resilience of island communities by bolstering local production and local food consumption.

The 11th Anatomy of Islands will be dedicated to examining good practices, local food and production activities, cross-sector connections between various stakeholders in short food supply chains, and the far-reaching consequences that food policies have on the overall development of island communities as unique and vulnerable social and cultural spaces. At a time of increasing awareness of the adverse consequences of climate change and specific risks that island spaces are facing today, such as tourism and gentrification, the symposium presents the possibility for a critical discussion of possible development policies shaped by the contact of initiatives from both above and below.

Islands are unique spaces due to their still sufficiently preserved terrestrial and marine biodiversity, economic structure based on limited arable land, specific traditions and technologies of food cultivation and production, as well as island lifestyle. Due to shortage of farmland and scarcity of resources, island economies are

small-scale economies based on a “mixed” economic model of the island household and diversification of economic activities. Disasters, economic crises, unemployment, poverty and famine have historically had a decisive and long-lasting impact on islands’ economies and populations. Coping with the scarce resources, islanders diversified their economic activities while advocating for the optimal usage of resources. As a consequence, over time, emerged the notion of islander as *bricoleur* – crafty and adroit individual known for its skills of improvising and adapting in a constantly changing environment - that shaped the ways island communities adapt to change.

This September on Hvar, we will deal with island spaces, islanders and their food practices. We want to open various questions and encourage different disciplinary approaches. Being aware of the danger of falling into the methodological pitfall of uncritically decomposing the island as a whole and the inevitable interweaving and networking of everything that happens on the island at the level of everyday experience, we see the topics of island space, islanders and the Mediterranean diet as heuristic incentives within which a multitude of possible solutions can be profiled:

#### **Food as a tool for sustainability**

- Mediterranean diet
- Food and heritage
- Sustainable development
- Food sovereignty
- Solidary food supply practices
- Cooperatives and associations as frameworks for connecting producers
- Food trends in tourism
- Economy of tourist catering
- Agro-ecological worldviews
- Counter-urbanisation and new inhabitants of rural island areas
- Neo-endogenous development
- Market branding of food products and services

#### **Islander-*bricoleur* – local knowledge in the face of everyday challenges**

- Local knowledge and traditional specialities
- Disasters, economic crises and island migrations
- Cultures in contact – “furešti”(newcomers) and locals
- Global processes and seasonal rhythms
- Activism and resident participation (associations, petitions, gatherings)
- Transformations of island lifestyle

#### **Islands facing challenges**

- Fragile environments and protected areas
- Development policies
- Public spaces (markets, meeting places, cooperatives and cooperative spaces)
- Public agricultural and forest areas, municipal land
- Private vs. public property (land ownership issues, customary law, disputes)
- Spatial planning on islands
- Traditional island architecture (conservation of island architecture vs. contemporary trends in housebuilding)
- Climate change and local responses

The past ten years have proved that islands provide an inexhaustible source of research challenges and discussions. Therefore, contributions from other areas and spheres of island existence are also welcome at the symposium.

#### **PLACE AND TIME**

**Jelsa, island of Hvar, Municipal Hall, 28 - 30 September, 2023.**

#### **PARTICIPATION FEE**

Registration fee per person is 60 euros (students 30 euros). All symposium events (including the excursion, the summary booklet, and final dinner) are included in the registration price. The costs of transportation and accommodation are covered by the participants themselves. Members of the association “Anatomy of Islands – Centre for Research and Development” will receive a 20% discount on the registration fee. The entrance to the symposium is free for the interested population of the island of Hvar.

#### **APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

Applications should be sent by e-mail to:

**[info@anatomija-otoka.com](mailto:info@anatomija-otoka.com)**

**Submission deadline is June 15, 2023.**

#### **LANGUAGES**

Working languages of the symposium will be Croatian and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

## ORGANISERS

NGO "Anatomy of Islands – Centre for Research and Development"  
[www.anatomija-otoka.hr](http://www.anatomija-otoka.hr)

## CO-ORGANISERS

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb, [www.ief.hr](http://www.ief.hr)

Department of Ethnology and Anthropology, University of Zadar, [www.unizd.hr/etnologijaianthropologija](http://www.unizd.hr/etnologijaianthropologija)

Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, Zagreb, [www.imin.hr](http://www.imin.hr)

LAB852, Creative Agency, Zagreb, [www.lab852.com](http://www.lab852.com)

Local action group, LAG Škoji, Hvar, [www.lag-skoji.hr](http://www.lag-skoji.hr)

Municipality of Jelsa, [www.jelsa.hr](http://www.jelsa.hr)

Tourist Board of Jelsa, [www.visitjelsa.hr](http://www.visitjelsa.hr)

Jelsa Municipal Museum, [www.muzejopcinejelsa.hr](http://www.muzejopcinejelsa.hr)

Jelsa Municipal Library, [www.library.foi.hr/lib/38](http://www.library.foi.hr/lib/38)

## PRESENTATION SUBMISSION

- Full name of the presenter
- Name of the institution
- Website (personal or institutional)
- Phone/mobile number
- E-mail
- Type of presentation (individual, panel)
- Title
- Technical requirements (PC or Mac, projector, audio)
- Language of the presentation
- Presentation abstract (up to 300 words)
- Short biography (up to 100 words)

## INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

The presentations will be organised in thematic sessions of 90 minutes. Each presentation will take 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute discussion.

## PANEL PRESENTATIONS

We encourage submissions thematically grouped into panel presentations. An individual panel presentation should take up to 90 minutes, with 3 to 5 speakers presenting, followed by a discussion. All panel speaker applications (up to 300 words per presentation) should be sent together, along with the title and short description of the panel (also up to 300 words).



ANATOMY OF ISLANDS



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