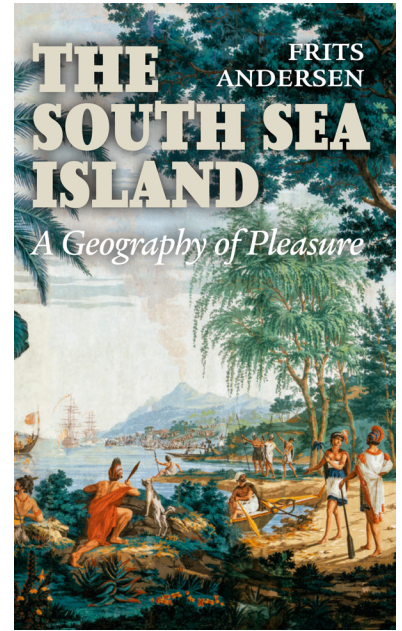


# PRESS RELEASE



## “Epoch-making literary history”

The Pacific Islands. For many of us, they are the epitome of a beautiful paradise where one can find “luxury, calm and pleasure”. But today’s criticism of growth theory and dreams of simple living are not new. When the Europeans colonized the Pacific Islands in the eighteenth century, the idea of the island as an ideal society is what lured them across unknown seas. Their numerous accounts have since helped to shape both contemporary and modern notions of freedom, nation, and culture.

*The South Sea Island* recounts the history of ideas and the literature about island, sea, and archipelago. In readings of travel literature, diaries, novels, films, and paintings from the eighteenth century to the present day, Professor of Comparative Literature Frits Andersen examines the narratives’ notions of nature, place, and utopia.

*The South Sea Island* contributes to the interdisciplinary debate in areas such as Pacific Studies, Island Studies, Ocean Studies, and Planetary Studies. The Danish edition received extremely positive reviews – “inciting” and “epoch-making literary history” – and was nominated for book of the year (by the Copenhagen weekly *Weekendavisen*). Furthermore, it was awarded the distinguished Georg Brandes Prize for literature for its “groundbreaking” qualities.

“With its nuanced efforts concerning several agenda-setting theories and methods of recent decades, *The South Sea Islands – the Geography of Pleasure* has the potential to bring literary studies into the twenty-first century as an important and relevant discipline, as we attempt to address some of the greatest challenges of our time, not least climate change.”

– Søren Frank, Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Southern Denmark

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Frits Andersen is a professor of Comparative Literature at Aarhus University, Denmark. His previous works include *The Dark Continent? Images of Africa in European Narratives about the Congo* (2016).

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