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Preface

The island has a new found prominence and has become one of the most recognised geographical forms of the Anthropocene. It is a powerful symbol of such forces as global warming, rising sea levels, the fallout of nuclear proliferation, ocean acidification, the waste of consumerism, ongoing colonialism, changing ecologies and evolutionary pathways, disruptive weather patterns, including intensified hurricanes and cyclones, and much more besides. But the key argument of this book is that not only does contemporary scholarship and associated practice regularly write about islands, they draw upon and think with islands as key sites for working through today's overarching predicament of relational entanglements, awareness and feedbacks. Our claim is that islands and islanders appear so often – and in so many different ways – in the development of relational thought associated with Anthropocene approaches, as to make the question what