

## *Sea Change: An Atlas of Islands in a Rising Ocean*

Christina Gerhardt

My current book project, *Sea Change: An Atlas of Islands in a Rising Ocean*, presents both the effects of climate change on island nations and the solutions to them. Yet it takes a different take than previous studies. Although a plethora of books devoted to climate change and its effects on island nations exist, most previous studies are scientific. Drawing on years of work as an environmental journalist and on my training in comparative literature, which in combination led to considerations and exchanges about the best narrative strategies to reach audiences, I came up with the idea for this book. *Sea Change: An Atlas of Islands in a Rising Ocean* draws on science but it weaves together environmental studies and environmental humanities, geography and cartography, creative non-fiction and literary studies.

According to the International Panel on Climate Change, Pacific island nations are responsible for 0.03% of global emissions. Pacific Island nations are thus among the nations that have contributed the least to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and global warming. They are, however, suffering from its impacts already, severely and disproportionately. Figures for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by and impacts on the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean are similar. Entire nations, their histories, cultures, and languages are at risk of being lost.

By providing a book-length study of the effects of climate change on islands and solutions for them through disciplines in the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities, *Sea Change: An Atlas of Islands in a Rising Ocean* contributes both a new geography and a new humanities approach to climate change that grapples with its most pivotal debates about rising sea levels and drowning islands, about climate refugees and repatriation, and about climate change's effects and solutions to them.