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The practices of Lutur and Wean in reclaiming local ecological knowledge as potential approach to curriculum development in small islands in Indonesia

Short description / Abstract:

Small islands in Indonesia face increasing environmental challenges due to the climate change, while also experiencing the erosion of local ecological knowledge through the dominance of colonial epistemologies within Indonesia's centralised education system. Drawing on Smith's (2021) 'reclaiming knowledge' framework, this poster presentation showcases the traditional fisheries management practices of *Lutur* and *Wean* in small island communities in Maluku, Indonesia, and explores the potential of these practices as a form of curriculum recovery to revitalise island communities' local ecological knowledge within formal education. *Lutur* refers to a fishing trap made from a circular arrangement of stones, while *Wean* refers to a woven bamboo fishing trap. These two fishing traps usually place in the see when the see water recedes. These practices embody sustainable ecological relationships through collective fishing management and environmentally responsible fishing methods. The research argues that integrating local ecological knowledge into school curricula can strengthen environmental awareness among children while fostering contextual and decolonial forms of education. In the Indonesian context, formal education, albeit the recently reformed curriculum, namely the Merdeka curriculum, often marginalises small island communities' local ecological experiences because the curriculum remains oriented towards universal modern knowledge rather than local realities. Therefore, this research challenges existing approach to curriculum development by positioning 'reclaiming knowledge' is as a crucial step towards developing socially and environmentally responsive education in postcolonial island contexts.