




Perspectives on Decolonising Astronomy Education and Outreach


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"A political act where one party cedes power (usually under threat) to another. Historically, colonisation has resulted in large economic gains for the coloniser, and economic, religious, cultural, historic, geographic, and social rape, reconfiguration, and sometimes annihilation, for the colonised." (Boisselle, 2016)

what is colonialism

"The action or process of a state withdrawing from a former colony, leaving it independent."



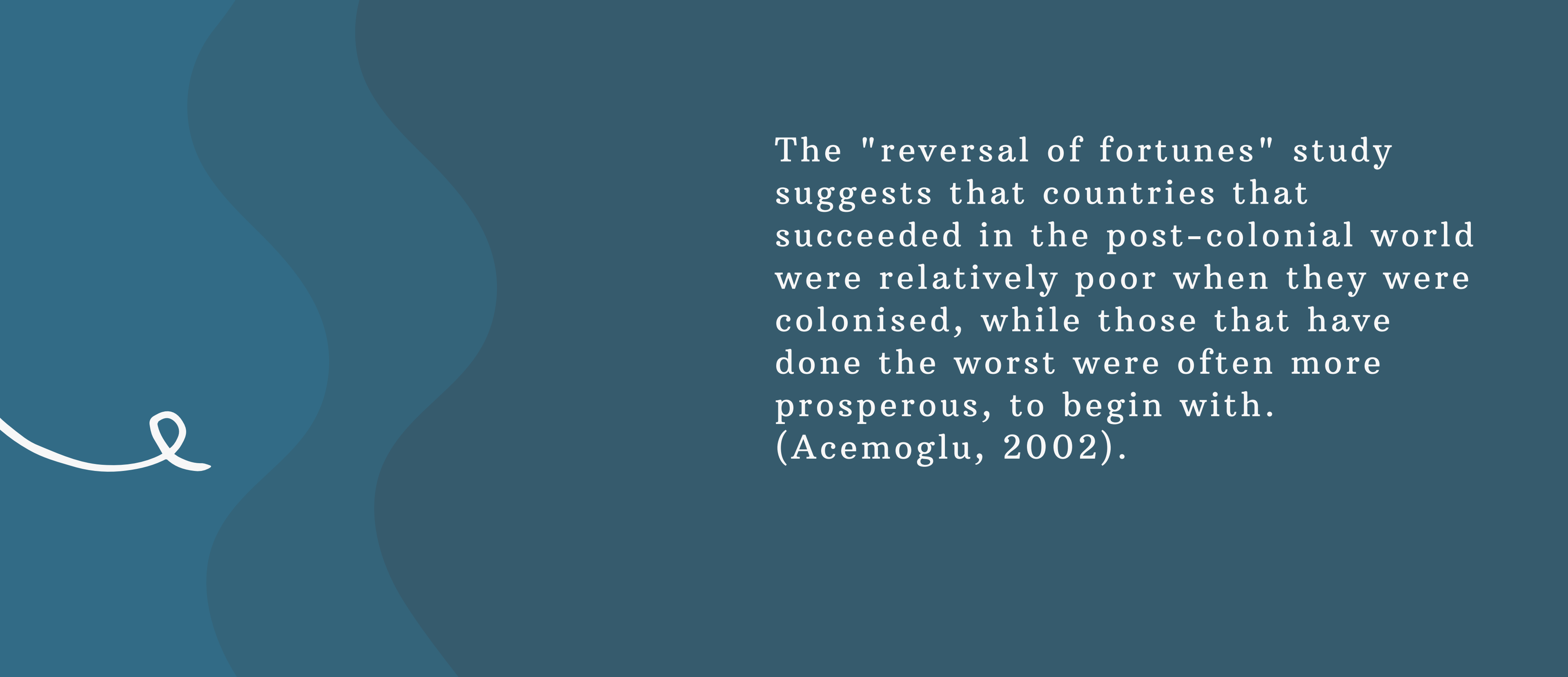
what is decolonisation

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"The aftermath of colonialism and today. It is a period to reclaim and rethink the history and agency of people subordinated under various forms of imperialism.


Postcolonialism signals a possible future of overcoming colonialism, yet new forms of domination or subordination can come in the wake of such changes, including new forms of global empire."

what is postcolonialism



The "reversal of fortunes" study suggests that countries that succeeded in the post-colonial world were relatively poor when they were colonised, while those that have done the worst were often more prosperous, to begin with. (Acemoglu, 2002).

what is postcolonialism

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- elitism is reflected in the relationship between class and language (English), leading to marginalised communities. (Sutoris, 2018)
 - hierarchy is a critical dynamic of global coexistence. Power is associated with multi-layered aspects of skin colour, age, networks, memberships, and more associated with colonial practices and social norms. (Hall, 2003)
 - globalisation (in education) education systems of developing countries have been more strongly affected by globalisation than large, developed ones. Conditionalities linked to the aid offered by multilateral agencies to developing countries have helped push a global agenda that talks about knowledge economies, standardised tests.

what is postcolonialism



AGENCY

**Europeans: once
explorers, always
explorers**

**Narratives and
frameworks of space
exploration use the
same narratives of;**

**explorers
discoveries
new worlds**

Outreach Programmes

- **Global efforts without local relevance**



Outreach Programmes

- **Quota-filling to relevant activities**
 - **'n' number countries**

We reached 100 countries -> We had 150 events in 100 countries
100 countries celebrated -> 150 events in 100 countries celebrated



Outreach Programmes

- **Critical review project proposals/collaborations**



Outreach Programmes

- Parachute science efforts





Rethinking the Eurocentric Curriculum:

The vast majority of students experience school science as a foreign culture, but their teachers do not treat it that way.

Aikenhead, G. S.,
& Lima, K. E. C.
(2011)

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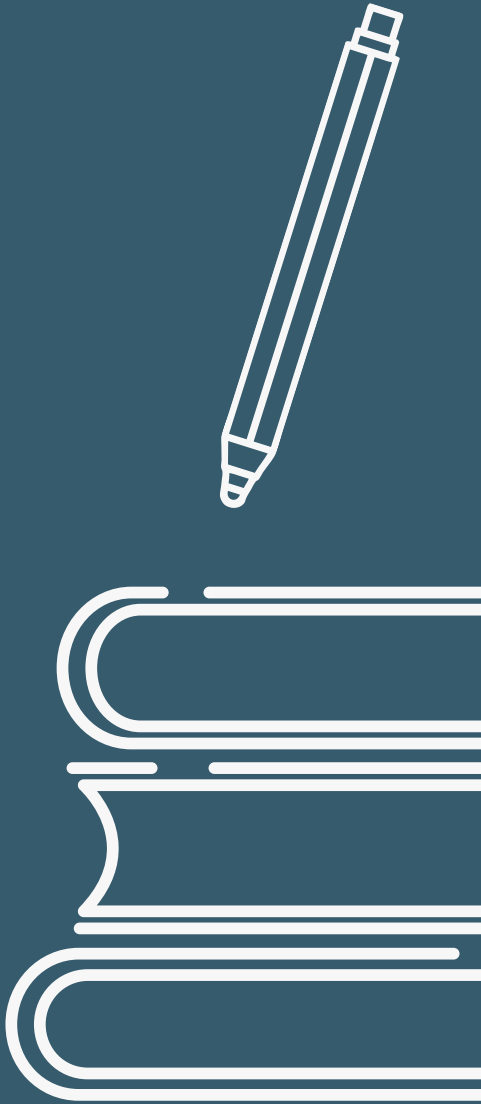
The general pattern that is to be observed from the Eurocentric philosophy: Westerners act; minorities react.

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Western and Global- North centric curricula

The word 'science' in the Anglophone world has privileged a very narrow meaning: Science is what scientists do, which is usually assumed to be the canonical science programs at universities. When did this meaning come into use?



Western and Global- North centric curricula

- In 1867, the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) defined the structure of school science by formulating a science curriculum for the Anglophone world. We have lived with that structure ever since.



**THE SYSTEM
ISN'T BROKEN
IT WAS
BUILT
THIS WAY**





Instead of erasing
Indigenous knowledges,
what if we braided
Indigenous knowledges and
Eurocentric astronomy?

Western and Global- North centric curricula

- **Changing of the mindsets to understand the existing curricula and to teach balanced curricula.**
- **Acknowledging that the current core curricula are very Euro/Western-centric.**
- **Diversifying the perspectives taught, and value the perspectives and worldviews that indigenous, non-western, global-south communities bring in. (Handayani et al 2018)**



“

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognise, accept, and celebrate those differences.

– Audre Lorde.

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