



Reframing the Narrative: Indigenous Knowledge, Postcolonialism, and the Politics of Nature in Western Tanzania

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4:00PM, Room 100 CHEM Building**

Conservation efforts in Tanzania, and other African nations, have traditionally been inspired by visions of Africa as Earth's 'Last Eden,' with its abundance of wildlife and picturesque natural scenery. Such environmental narratives have their origins in European colonial discourses of nature, which continue to shape cultural perceptions of the African continent today. In fact, many of Tanzania's wildlife parks were first established as colonial game reserves, where European elites were allowed to hunt for sport while stringent restrictions were placed on hunting among 'native' populations. After the British colony of Tanganyika gained its independence in 1961, local communities were still largely excluded from the national park system while Western researchers were granted special access to these very same sites.

In his presentation, the recently-appointed Ashoka Fellow for Social Entrepreneurship, Yared Fubusa, will discuss his own experiences growing up in a small village near Gombe Stream National Park in western Tanzania. During the 1990s, Yared served as a research assistant to the British primatologist and conservationist, Jane Goodall, and he was also instrumental in launching outreach programs for the Jane Goodall Institute in Tanzania and abroad. More recently, Yared has sought to reframe the neo-colonial narratives of conservation by bridging the gap between humans and wildlife through the promotion of local participation in environmental decision-making, indigenous knowledges, and sustainable rural livelihoods.

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