

# Yoseph Yapi Taum - EXPLORING THE CULTURAL

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## EXPLORING THE CULTURAL SPACE OF THE LAMALERA FISHING COMMUNITY IN LEMBATA ISLAND, INDONESIA

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### ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine the sea as a cultural space within the context of the Lamalera fishing community on Lembata Island. There exists a complex relationship between humans and the marine environment, encompassing cultural, economic, social, political, and spiritual aspects. The study reveals the maritime cultural heritage and cultural practices that have evolved around the sea, including myths, customs, fishing traditions, maritime trade, and the utilization of marine resources. Additionally, the research identifies the role of the sea in shaping the cultural identity of the Lamalera community, including livelihoods, beliefs, and unique cultural practices. This field study employs an interdisciplinary approach encompassing history, anthropology, sociology, and culture. Viewing the sea as a cultural space, the study unveils three cultural domains: mental facts, social facts, and artifacts. The results indicate that the Lamalera fishing community is a maritime society, where the entire cultural and spiritual identity is shaped by the sea as a cultural space.

Keywords: cultural space, fishing community, local wisdom, Lembata Island

### INTRODUCTION

The academic exploration of the sea as a cultural space encompasses a broad spectrum of disciplines, including history, anthropology, sociology, and culture. Notable studies in this field have been conducted by scholars such as Paine (2014), Strang (2014), Radovanovic (2015), Corsi (2017), Parlange (2019), and Yordan (2020).

In his book titled "The Sea and Civilization: A Maritime History of the World," Lincoln Paine delves into the history of the sea and its influence on human culture, encompassing art, music, and local traditions related to the sea. Veronica Strang (2014), in her work "The Ocean as a Cultural Landscape," illustrates the role of the sea in human culture and how it has shaped cultural identity and history globally.

Bojana Radovanovic (2015), in the article "The Sea as Cultural Space: The Example of the Mediterranean," discusses the role of the sea in Mediterranean culture, including art, music, myths, and oral traditions associated with the sea. Pietro Corsi (2017), in his book "The Sea in History: The Modern World," describes the historical functions and roles of the sea in human life, including its impact on art, music, myths, and local traditions.

Furthermore, Oronzo Parlange (2019), in the book "Oceanic Culture History: The Adventure of Human Relationship with the Sea," explores the history of human interaction with the sea, examining its role in art, music, and local traditions worldwide. Yordan Lyutskanov (2020), in the article "Black Sea as Literary and Cultural Space: State of the Art

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