

Title for paper:

Anti-essentialism for equitable treatment of scientific and indigenous worldviews in science education
---From the Japanese perspective of science education---

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Equipment required: data projector

I am not a first time presenter.

Abstract:

The scientific way of thinking is based entirely on essentialism, which advocates finding unique reality or Idea, to use the Platonic term. By contrast, anti-essentialism results in allowing various types of reality. However, anti-essentialism is not diametrically opposed to essentialism against an idea the prefix “anti” literally conveys. Rather, anti-essentialism lies at the base of essentialism in the anti-essentialist perspective that every concept is based on relations. Clarifying the relationship between essentialism and anti-essentialism, the present discussion appreciates the merit of anti-essentialism in science education in non-Western countries. Learning scientific concepts based on anti-essentialism, pupils will be protected from conceptual confusion and from their cultural identity crisis in science lessons.