

## Marapu: konstruksi identitas budaya orang sumba, ntt / Purwadi Soeriadiredja

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### Abstrak

This article examines how the people of Sumba construct their cultural identity associated with their religiosity in the face of discriminatory processes around them. The Sumbanese with their Marapu religion are discriminated against because of the cultural identity attached to it, but due to their negative image. Discriminatory categories with all the attributes and roles attached to them are not natural constructs, but a history and representation. The cultural identity of the Sumbanese is the result of the interaction between the forces from the "outside" and the practices of their daily life. Marapu is a religion that serves as the cultural identity of the Sumbanese, and becomes the basis of guidelines or values that organize their lives. Even for the people who do not follow the Marapu religion. For them the Marapu is limited to the customs of ancestors only, and not as a faith they profess. For some of the Sumbanese, switching religion is a compromise, which is one form of "cultural protection strategy" that can reduce fear and aggression that arise between the individuals and society. The nature of this compromise culture is activated through the traditional institutions that always put through deliberation and uphold the concepts of togetherness and solidarity.