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Jakarta, December 3rd, 2025

Re: EFEO Fieldwork Grant 2025 Final Activity Report

Grant Recipient: Pratiwi Yuwono

Institutional Affiliation: PhD Candidate, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Southern Cross University, Lismore, Australia 2480

EFEO Host Centre: EFEO Centre in Jakarta, Indonesia

Grant Project Title: Mortuary practices, health, and diet of insular Wallacean populations since the Austronesian expansion: The case of the Kolana site on Alor Island, Indonesia.

Grant Period: 1 July 2025 – 31 October 2025

Total budget received: €3400

Report Date: 15 January 2026

Project Summary

This report details the activities and outcomes of the four-month Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO) Fieldwork Grant received for the period July to October 2025. The grant supported the foundational bioarcheological analysis phase of my doctoral research on the late Holocene Kolana cemetery in Alor Island, Wallacea. Attached administratively to the EFEO Centre in Jakarta, I commenced the grant with a period of consultation and resource access in Jakarta before transitioning to focused laboratory analysis at the Archaeology Department of Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta.

The primary objectives for the grant period were successfully met. I compiled a complete osteological database, conducted a thorough paleopathological assessment, and made substantial progress on three major research publications. Immediately following the grant period, in November and December 2025, I completed the analytical work, presented findings at an international conference, and initiated external collaboration for radiocarbon dating. While stable isotope analysis was delayed due to equipment failure, a concrete plan is in place. This grant has been instrumental in accelerating my PhD timeline and generating significant scholarly outputs from the Kolana collection.

Activities Undertaken During and Immediately After the Grant Period

1. Grant Period (July – October 2025): Core Bioarcheology Analysis

Accordance with the grant's purpose, this period was dedicated to the hands-on scientific study of the Kolana skeletal remains in the archeology lab of Universitas Gadjah Mada after the commencement date and visiting EFEO Office at Jakarta and achieved key objectives:

- Database & inventory: A comprehensive digital database for all 19 individuals was established, detailing preservation, burial context, and elemental completeness using standardized methods (Buikstra & Ubelaker, 1994).
- Paleodemographic profiling: Biological profiles (age-at-death and sex estimation) were completed for all suitable individuals, forming the demographic baseline for the population study.
- Paleopathology analysis from macroscopic observation: A systematic macroscopic analysis of all skeletal elements was conducted. This included the documentation of dental pathology, and specific lesions associated with differential diagnosis. A significant focus was the detailed recording of potential infectious disease signs, potential tropical disease, malnutrition signs, and intentional dental modifications (tooth ablation, filing, and dental staining possibly from betel nut quid).
- Manuscript preparation: Data analysis was directly channeled into manuscript writing. By the end of October, advanced drafts for two papers, one on a possible treponemal disease case and another on dental modifications were prepared for submission.

2. Post-Grant Completion & Dissemination (November – December 2025)

The momentum from the grant-funded period allowed for the swift completion and dissemination of results:

- Finalized Bioarcheology Analysis: Throughout November, I finalized all microscopic verification using Dino-Lite equipment and completed the integration of data for the mortuary practices study.
- Conference Presentation: On December 11th 2025, I presented the paper “A Possible Case of Pre-Columbian Treponematosi in Neolithic Wallacea: Bioarcheological Evidence from Alor Island, Indonesia” at The Australasian Society for Human Biology (ASHB) Conference in Auckland, New Zealand. The presentation was well-received and generated valuable scholarly feedback.
- External collaboration initiated: To secure a robust chronological framework for the site, bone samples from key individuals with possible pathology cases were sent into the laboratory of Prof. Tom Higham at the University of Vienna for AMS Radiocarbon dating. This collaboration ensures high-precision dating to contextualize the bioarcheological findings.

Research Outputs and Progress Toward PhD Completion

The grant directly enabled significant progress on my PhD dissertation chapters and related publications:

- Submitted: 'New Evidence of Intentional Dental Modification from the Early Neolithic Kolana Cemetery, Alor Island, Indonesia.' International Journal of Osteoarcheology. (Under review).
- In Preparation: 'New insights on treatment of the dead by insular Wallacean peoples at the early Neolithic Kolana cemetery, Alor Island.' (Manuscript draft completed, in the stage of polishing before circulating to the co-authors for comments and feedback, targeting submission to Q1 in the middle of 2026).
- Preparing presentation for the burial practices paper to be presented on the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association in November 2026 in Yogyakarta.

Thesis Chapter Completion

The grant-funded analysis forms the core of three empirical chapters:

Chapter 1: Mortuary practices and paleo demography at Kolana. (Data collection complete, writing in final stage).

Chapter 2: Dental modification patterns in Late Holocene Indonesia. (Data analysis complete, manuscript submitted).

Chapter 3: Health and disease: A paleopathological perspective. (Data analysis complete, manuscript submitted).

Research Limitations and Future Directions

One objective of this research faced a delay: the stable isotope ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$) analysis for dietary reconstruction. The mass spectrometer at Southern Cross University has been inoperative since July 2025, with repairs stalled due to a lack of technical staff and laboratory technician.

Future directions: To prevent this from impacting my thesis submission timeline, I have arranged a second option to conduct this analysis at the dedicated isotope facility at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney in February 2026, with the guidance of my secondary supervisor, Dr. Melandri Vlok from the Charles Sturt University in Orange, Australia. New samples are currently being prepared to be brought to Australia and waiting for the Material

Transfer Agreement (MTA) document to be issued by Universitas Gadjah Mada as our counterpart in Indonesia.

Conclusion and Acknowledgement

The EFEO Fieldwork Grant has provided the essential concentrated time and support needed to transform the Kolana skeletal collection from excavated material into a rich, analyzed dataset. The progress made in these four months has been pivotal, directly resulting in one submitted paper, one nearly complete manuscript, a successful international conference presentation, another international presentation later in 2026, and the initiation of a key dating collaboration.

I am deeply grateful to the École française d'Extrême-Orient for this opportunity and for the support of the EFEO Centre in Jakarta. This grant has been a cornerstone of my doctoral research year. I confirm that any publications arising from this work will fully acknowledge the EFEO's generous support.