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## Editorial: Decolonising Resilience – Reimagining Economies Beyond Extraction

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### Abstract

This editorial situates the contributions of this issue of the *Journal of Resilient Economies* within a decolonial framing of resilience. The featured papers explore resilience across multiple scales: regional coordination of ecological and economic systems in the Yangtze River Economic Belt (Wang et al., 2025), behavioural finance under ambiguity and framing effects (Kiky, 2025), and cultural economies expressed through nightlife motivations in Yogyakarta (Anggraini et al., 2025). Although diverse in focus, each paper highlights a common challenge: the persistence of extractive, uniform, and short-term economic logics that undermine sustainable futures. Building on earlier editorials that positioned resilience as partnership, transformative adaptation, and empowerment across frontiers (Chaiechi, 2021; 2022; 2023), this editorial argues that resilience must also be understood as a decolonial project. Moving away from colonial legacies of exploitation and Eurocentric standards of rationality, resilience requires embracing plural knowledges, ecological interdependence, and cultural specificity. The studies in this issue demonstrate how resilience emerges not only through technical models and policy interventions but also through human motivations, cultural practices, and community agency. By reimagining resilience as decolonial, this issue contributes to broader conversations on designing economic systems that are robust, adaptive, inclusive, and sustainable.

**Keywords:** Resilience, Decolonial Economics, Economic and Ecological Coordination, Behavioural Finance, Cultural Economies, Sustainability

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## Introduction

This issue of the *Journal of Resilient Economies* showcases how resilience is forged across scales: from the psychology of individual investors, to the cultural practices of communities, to the coordination of ecological and economic systems at a regional level. At first glance, these contributions might seem disparate — one exploring behavioural finance under ambiguity, another investigating the lived motivations of nightlife tourism, and another modeling regional sustainability pathways. Yet a unifying thread runs through them: they all highlight tensions between short-term pressures and long-term sustainability, between inherited logics of exploitation and the search for regenerative futures.

I suggest that one way to interpret these contributions is through a decolonial lens: moving away from colonial economic legacies of extraction and uniformity, and towards pluralistic, context-sensitive, and regenerative models of resilience (Quijano, 2000; Escobar, 2018). This framing builds on earlier editorials in this journal that emphasised resilience as partnership (Chaiechi, 2021), transformative adaptation (Chaiechi, 2022), and empowerment across diverse frontiers (Chaiechi, 2023). Together, these pieces argue that resilience is not only about surviving shocks but also about liberating economies from outdated models and embracing more inclusive, sustainable, and culturally grounded futures.

## Regional Pathways: Moving Beyond Extractive Growth

The study of the Yangtze River Economic Belt by Wang, Han, and Wang (2025) provides a striking example of resilience at the regional level. The authors demonstrate that while ecological resilience in many parts of the Belt remains relatively robust, economic resilience often lags behind. This imbalance reflects a lingering dependence on “pollute first, treat later” strategies — an extractive development logic deeply tied to colonial-industrial histories of growth at all costs.

Using coupling coordination models and system dynamics simulations, Wang et al. (2025) show how carefully targeted economic policies can bridge this gap, enhancing coordination between ecological and economic systems. What is crucial here is not only the technical sophistication of their approach but also the broader message: resilience requires moving away from exploitative growth models and toward green, regionally defined pathways. This resonates with earlier arguments made in *Resilience Unveiled* and *Enhancing Regional Resilience*, where resilience was framed as more than recovery — as an opportunity for transformation in line with ecological realities (Chaiechi, 2022).

Seen through a decolonial lens, this study is not merely about fixing inefficiencies. It represents an act of economic delinking (Quijano, 2000) — charting pathways that reject Eurocentric industrial templates and instead draw from regional ecological contexts to define development priorities.

## Individual Behaviour: Decolonising Finance and Rationality

At the micro-level, Kiky (2025) investigates how ambiguity and framing shape the disposition effect — the tendency of investors to sell winning assets too quickly and hold losing ones too long. Traditional finance models, rooted in Western rational choice theory, often cast such behaviour as “irrational.” But this study complicates that picture. By incorporating ambiguity aversion and framing effects, Kiky (2025) demonstrates that these decisions may be rational in context, aligning with investors’ subjective targets and tolerances.

This is important because it suggests that resilience in financial systems depends not only on universal laws of rationality but on situated decision-making logics. In earlier editorials, we argued for resilience as adaptability and empowerment (Chaiechi, 2023). Here, we see those principles applied at the level of investment behaviour: people adapt within bounded rationalities shaped by emotion, culture, and context.

A decolonial reading of this research highlights how universalist, Eurocentric models of rationality have long dominated finance and economics, often dismissing alternative logics as irrational. Kiky’s findings remind us that plural rationalities exist, and that acknowledging them enriches our understanding of resilience in financial decision-making.

## Community and Lifestyle: Cultural Economies as Resistance

The study by Anggraini, Ihalaui, Hendratono, and Sugiarto (2025) brings us into the nightlife economies of Yogyakarta. At first glance, the hedonism and self-validation of nightclub visitors might seem peripheral to questions of resilience. Yet this research shows how motivations and lifestyles shape experiential economies that are increasingly central to urban resilience. Visitors seek not only entertainment but also identity, belonging, and self-expression.

From a decolonial perspective, these findings are deeply significant. Nightlife economies in Yogyakarta resist homogenising pressures from global tourism markets by affirming local cultural values and social practices. They demonstrate that resilience is not only about economic diversification but also about cultural

affirmation — protecting spaces where identity and community thrive, even in the face of globalising forces.

Earlier editorials in this journal have underscored resilience as empowerment across diverse domains (Chaiechi, 2023). This study exemplifies that empowerment in practice: cultural economies function as sites of resistance, where people refuse to be reduced to passive consumers in global markets and instead create resilient identities through lived experiences.

### **Towards Decolonial Resilience**

Taken together, these studies illustrate that resilience cannot be reduced to technical fixes, policy tweaks, or abstract models. It requires a reorientation of economic thought itself. For too long, economic systems have been guided by colonial legacies of extraction, standardisation, and subordination of ecosystems and cultures to narrow definitions of growth. Resilience requires shedding those legacies and embracing plural knowledges, ecological interdependence, and cultural agency.

This issue demonstrates that resilience is also about decolonising economic frameworks. Wang et al. (2025) show how regions can move beyond extractive growth. Kiky (2025) reveals the value of plural rationalities in finance. Anggraini et al. (2025) illustrate how cultural economies enact resilience by resisting homogenisation. Together, these contributions highlight that the most resilient economies will be those that honour diversity, centre sustainability, and reject exploitative logics.

As earlier editorials in this journal have argued, resilience is about partnerships (Chaiechi, 2021), transformative adaptation (Chaiechi, 2022), and empowered futures (Chaiechi, 2023). This issue extends those calls by urging us to decolonise resilience itself — to recognise that economic resilience requires not only technical solutions but also epistemic shifts, cultural affirmation, and ecological regeneration.

### **Conclusion**

Resilience is not just about withstanding shocks. It is about reimagining economies beyond colonial legacies of extraction. From regional sustainability, to financial decision-making under ambiguity, to nightlife economies of identity and belonging, the studies in this issue demonstrate diverse pathways to resilience.

To decolonise resilience is to liberate economies from imposed universals, to affirm the plurality of knowledge and practice, and to nurture systems that are robust, adaptive, and sustainable. If resilience is to

empower futures, it must also dismantle the legacies of colonial modernity and open the way to worlds defined by interdependence, creativity, and care.

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