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A Comparative Overview of Academic Discourse on Indigenous Knowledge in the Middle East and Africa

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ABSTRACT There is convincing evidence that indicates a marked difference in how IKS is addressed in the context of Middle East and African studies. While there is a close connection between IKS and SD in African studies, these issues are absent in Middle Eastern studies. I proceed beyond this documentation to question why the Middle East is not addressed with the same analytical tools as Africa. Why has this difference in academic discourse on two neighbouring (and overlapping) regions emerged and what can it teach us about IKS studies in general? This amounts to a critical discussion of the IKS concept in itself.