

2023 PNG Update

AWAGASI: Our Market Stories: Using Visual Creative Methods to Understand Market Vendors' Perspectives

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Introduction

- Urban settlements are represented from stereotypical model (Goddard, 2005).
- Urban settlements are link to urban economies (Frankenhoff, 1967).



Urban Kamkumug settlement. Photo credit Elias Alex (2020).

Background

- Market history in PNG
- Market is a place for trading to support urban household (Hukula, 2019).
- Income from urban markets complement other income (Kopel et al, 2017).
- Sociality of market (Busse, 2022).



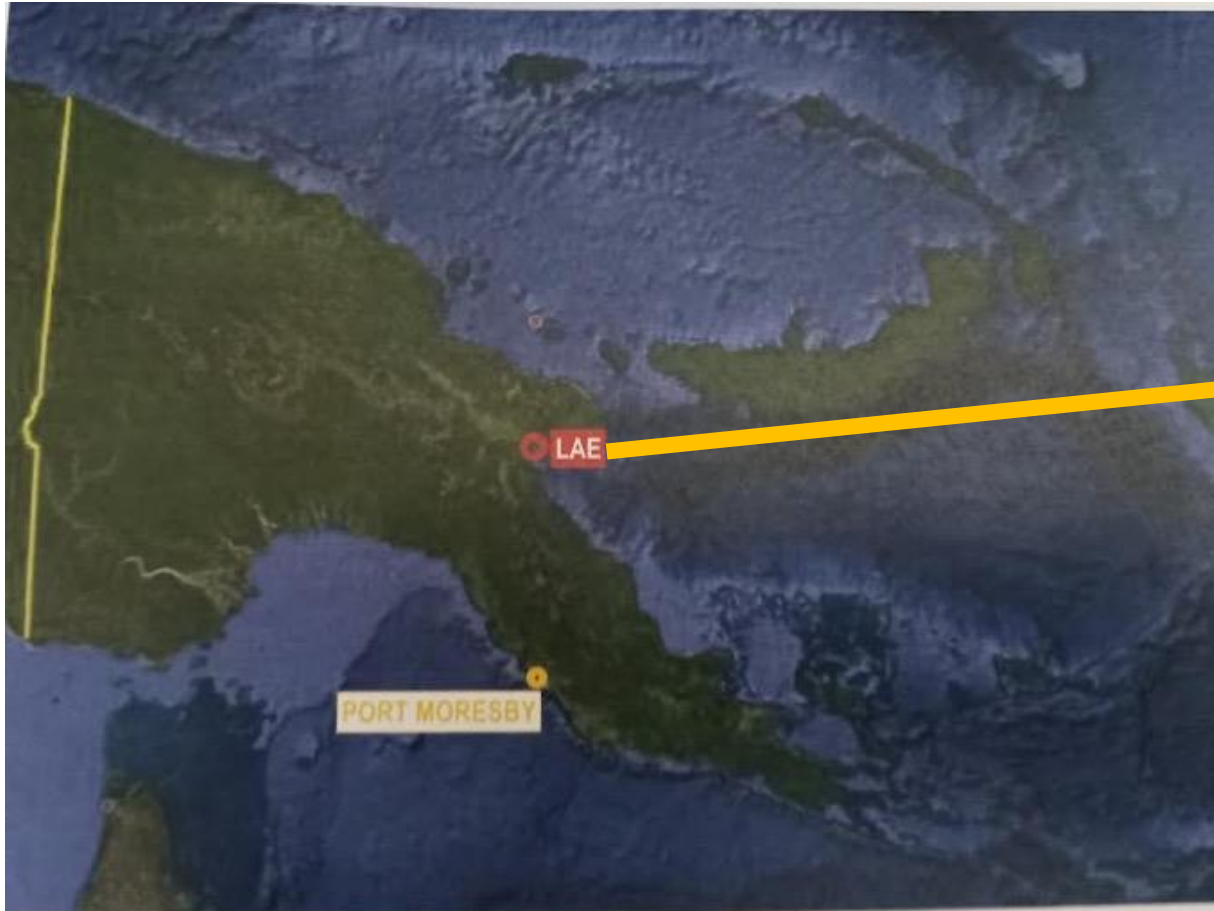
Urban Awagasi market Kamkumug settlement. Photo credit Wilma Langa (2020).

Research Questions

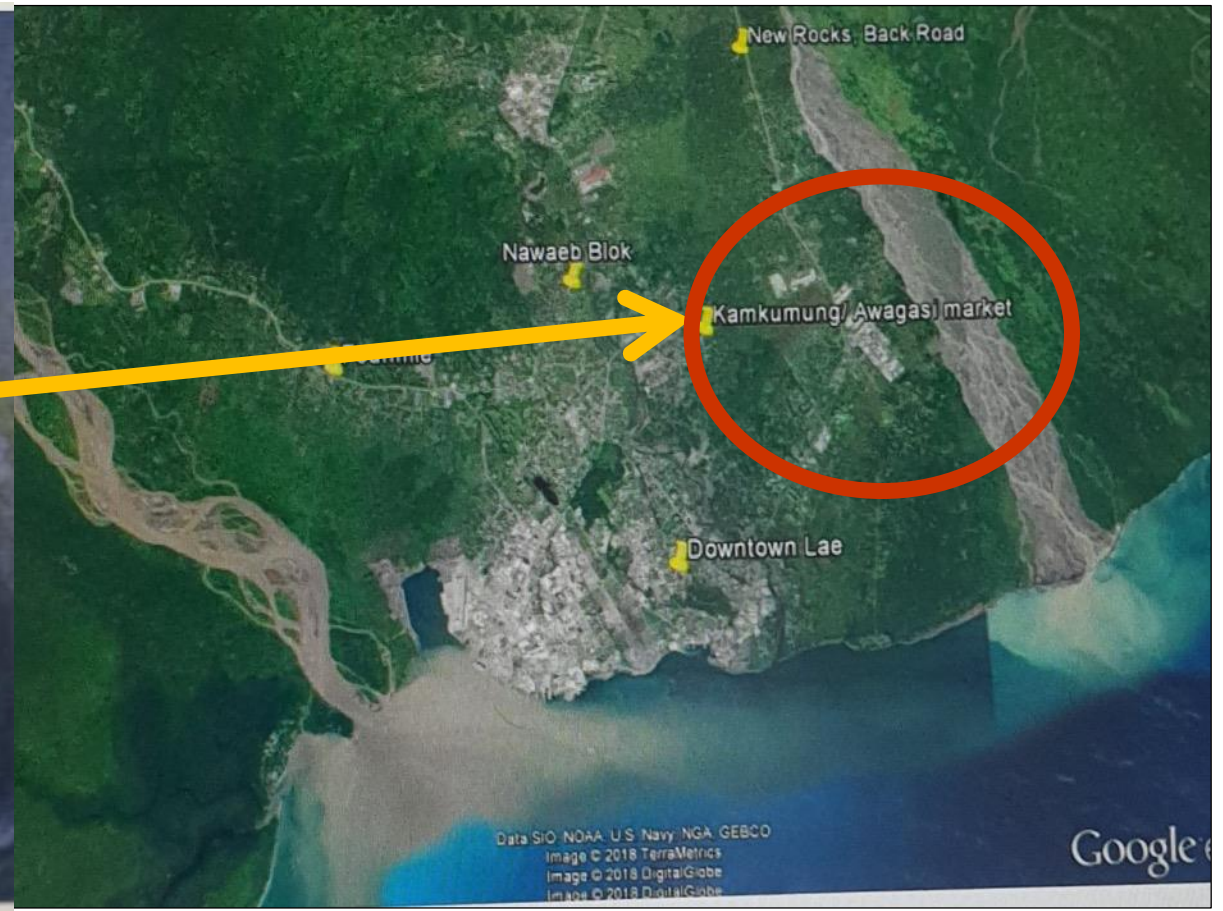
Overarching research question: How would the perspectives of market vendors challenge the dominant narratives of urban settlements?

1. What are the challenges of urban market?
2. What are the local responses to address urban market challenges?

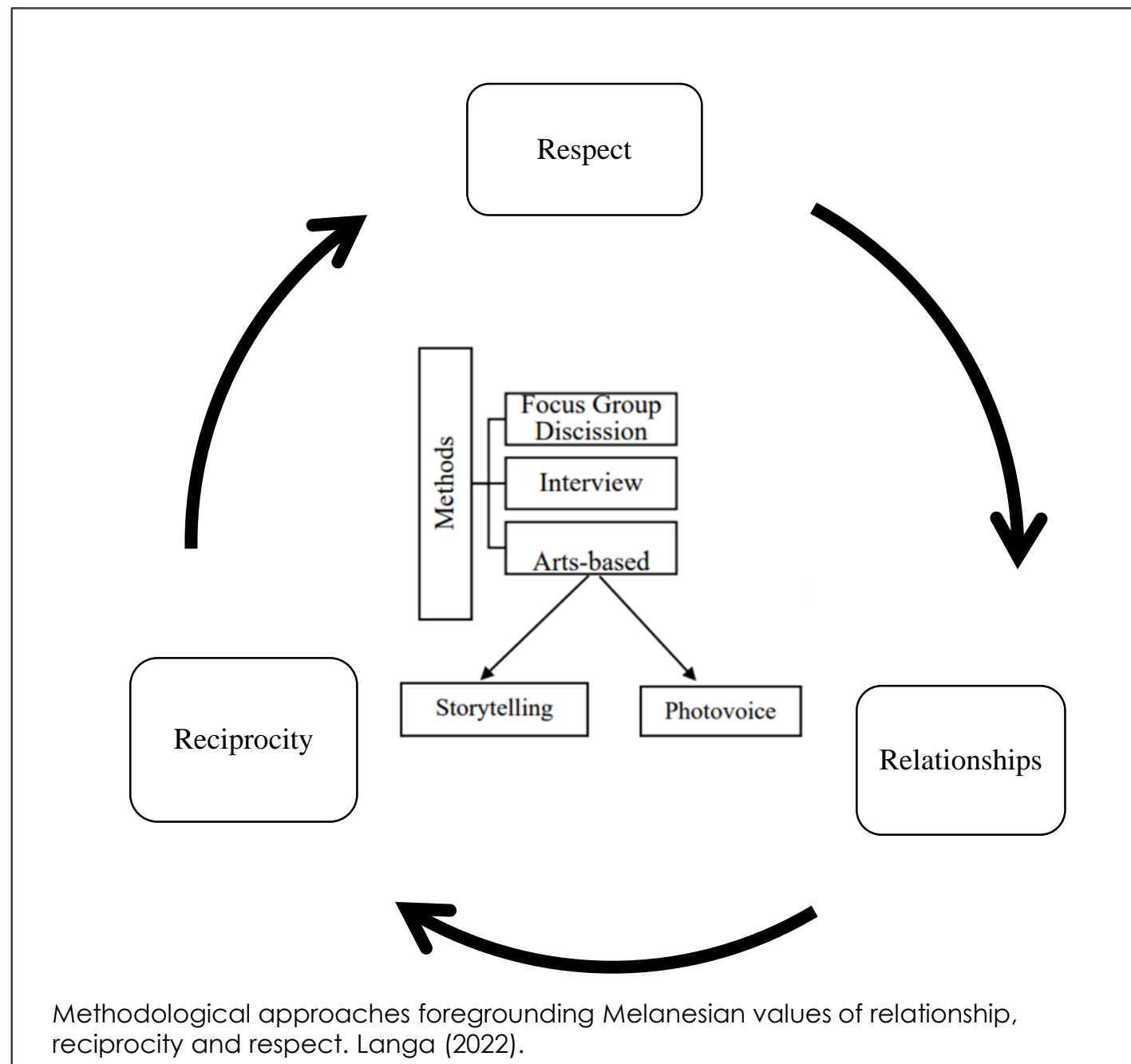
Study Site



Map of PNG showing Lae city. Adopted from PNGAus Partnership Lae main market redevelopment plan (2022).



Map of Lae city showing Kamkumung Awagasi market. Adopted from google (2023).



Research Methodology

1. Photovoice

“Is the process by which people can identify, represent and enhance their communication through photographic technique” (p.1). (Wang & Burris, 1997).



Photovoice participant taking photo at Awagasi market. Photo credit Elias Alex (2020).

2. Participatory creative mapping

Is the drawing of visual images to convey meanings... (Naughton, 1993).



Participants drawing their creative market maps. Photo credit Elias Alex (2020).

Photo Booklet



AWAGASI
Our market, our garden

Photo Stories from Market Vendors

Photo story booklet cover page. Photo credit Glenda Bobby (2020).

Research Findings and Discussion

Part A: Market Challenges

1. Some of the challenges of the market are that when it rains, we have no shelter, so we can't do our marketing.

Photovoice participant, female. (2020).



Vendors selling their fresh produce in an open Awagasi market.
Photo credit Wilma Langa. (2020).

Research Findings and Discussion Continue

2. Some challenges that I face are when there is not enough customers to buy my food....When this thing happens, I make less money.

Photovoice participant, female. (2020).



Vendors at urban Awagasi market. Photo credit Elias Alex (2020).

Research Findings and Discussion Continue

3. [Drunkards] grab vendors' sale items without permission. That is when the owner of the sale items start arguing with the drunkard and fight breaks out.

Creative mapping participant, female. (2020).



Vendors selling foods at urban Awagasi market. Photo credit Elias Alex (2020).

Research Findings and Discussion Continue

Part B: Local Responses to Challenges

(1) Harnessing Local Values

(a) Helping others

Here at Awagasi, we come from many different provinces....so we help each other out with food and other things.

Photovoice participant, male. (2020).



Vendors at Awagasi market helping each other. Photo credit Elias Alex (2020).

Research Findings and Discussion Continue

(b) Sharing resources

Some days, when relatives are in need of bus fare to go to Eriku, I give them the 2 Kina bus fare. Other times, some of the young boys are hungry and ask me for 1 or 2 Kina for a meal.

Photovoice participant, male. (2020).



Vendors at Awagasi market sharing monetary resources with families and friends. Photo credit Elias Alex(2020).

Research Findings and Discussion Continue

Local Responses to Market Challenges

(2) Local Leadership

Men and women leaders

We quickly stop the fight... Then we go back to the men and women at the market and encourage them to maintain peace.

Photovoice participant, female. (2020).



Women leaders. Kamkumung settlement (2020).

Research Findings and Discussion Continue

Local Responses to Market Challenges

(3) Local Capacities

(1) Market council

The market council stops the argument. So those that cause the disruption are dealt with...

Photovoice participant, male. (2020).



Some of the urban Awagasi market council. Kamkumung settlement.
Photo credit John Simon (2020).

Research Findings and Discussion Continue

(2) Mediation committee

When drunkards disrupt my market,
I take them to law [and mediation
committee] deal with them.

They...straighten out the issues so
both sides come to a peaceful
agreement and the market space is
at peace again.

Photovoice participant, female. (2020).



Mediation committee. Photo courtesy John Simon (2020).

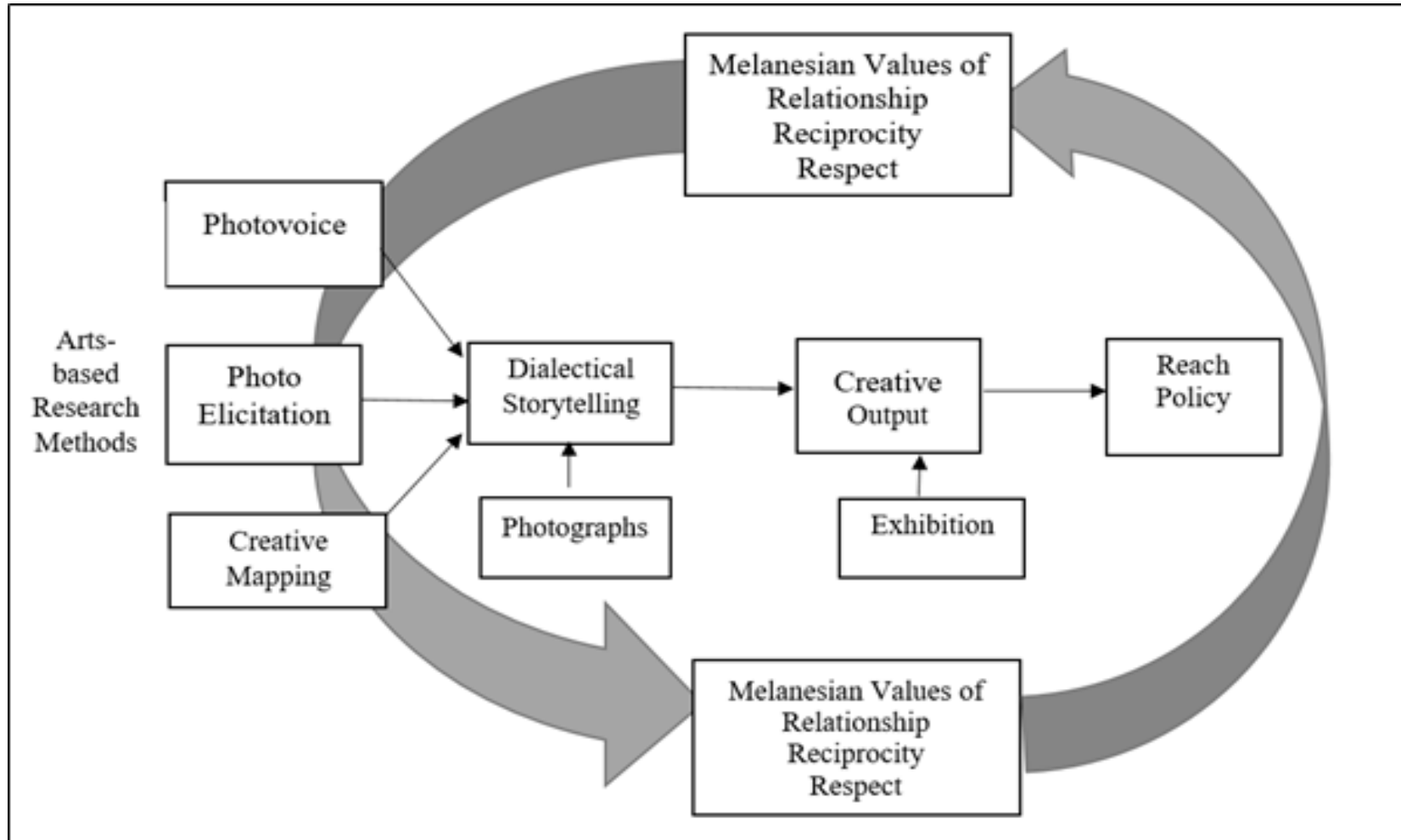
Conclusion and Recommendation

- Research methodologies must ensure that the voice of vendors are taken into account
- Arts-based approaches make those voices accessible for a variety of audiences
- Findings identified their challenges but also the solutions vendors have found
 - they apply Melanesian values of relationality and reciprocity as they rely on each other to maintain safety at the market
 - developed hybrid processes, utilising informal and formal systems to resolve conflict

Recommendations

- Integrate arts-based methodology into urban planning
- People's perspectives must be recognised and represented by an arts based framework
- Development of a conceptual framework as practical strategy to include people's perspectives in urban planning (work in progress: 'Yumi stori wantaim piksa')

‘Yumi stori wantaim piksa’-conceptual framework for social change



‘Yumi stori wantaim piksa’ conceptual framework for social change. (Langa, 2022).

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End of Presentation

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