

# **Between Ancestors and Landscape: Names, History and Memory among the Langalanga, Solomon Islands**

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## Abstract

This paper aims to explore the ways in which people are linked to landscape through history, and how history is remembered through landscape and names as seen in the case of the Langalanga, Solomon Islands. In Langalanga, place names and personal names associated with landscape play an important role in the making of history and in people's memory of the past. When people name a place or talk about a place name, they always make reference to the historical events or ancestral activities related to landscape. Place names are codes of memory of historical events and ancestral activities which happened in some features of landscape. In addition, in typical historical narratives, place names and features of landscape are recited in an ordered sequence. The 'spatialization of time' articulated people to history through the features and transformations of landscape. Personal names are also connected with memories of their ancestors and their experiences in Langalanga. Many personal names are a combination of the prefix '*ani*' (i.e. cry) and the suffix of the name of the places where they heard about a relative's death and wept. By including place names in personal names, the ancestors and people's connection with them are remembered.