

# **The ‘Community of Communities’: Rethinking ‘Community’ in Langalanga, Solomon Islands**

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by

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## Abstract

Drawing examples from the Langalanga, Solomon Islands, this paper examines and modifies the conventional concept of ‘community’ by including local concepts, and proposes of an alternative research approach—the study of ‘the community of communities’.

A historical study of the Langalanga and their migration experiences shows that the stationary concept of ‘community’ or the methodology of focusing on one community alone is no longer sufficient and is often challenged by local people. I argue that among the Langalanga, various cultural and external forces help shape several genres of ‘community’, and we need to reconfigure what ‘community’ means and how people are connected in reference to local concepts.

In light of the complexity of globalization, the historical experiences of (post)colonization, and the increasing mobility of population, we need to develop elastic approaches which can equip anthropological studies to deal with local complexity. I propose an alternative model—the ‘community of communities’—to take into consideration the intricate network in terms of kinship, religion and residence, local history, as well as the their engagement with colonial and post-colonial power.