



# Challenges to Primary ICT education in Papua New Guinea

SAM MEHRTENS 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

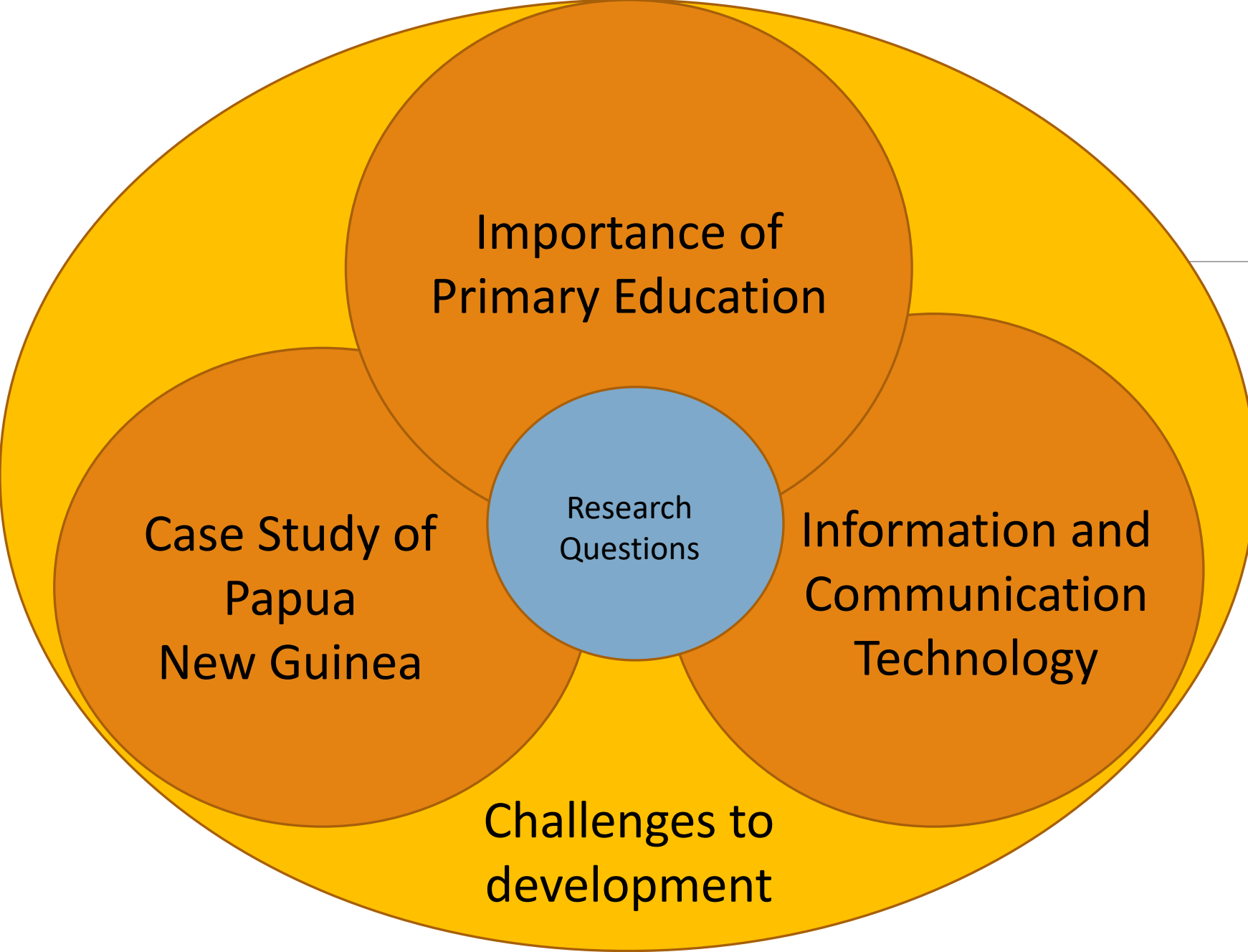
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*The aim of this research is to better understand what is further preventing the successful integration of ICT into Primary education within East New Britain, Papua New Guinea.*

# International commitment to primary education

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1970's: Basic needs debate

- Education For All

1989: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

2000: The Dakar Framework for Action

2000-2015: Millennium Development Goals

2015-2030: Sustainable Development Goals

Progression from identification of education as a need

Recognition of the need for tangible action on education

Recognition of the need for improving the quality of education

# Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Global South

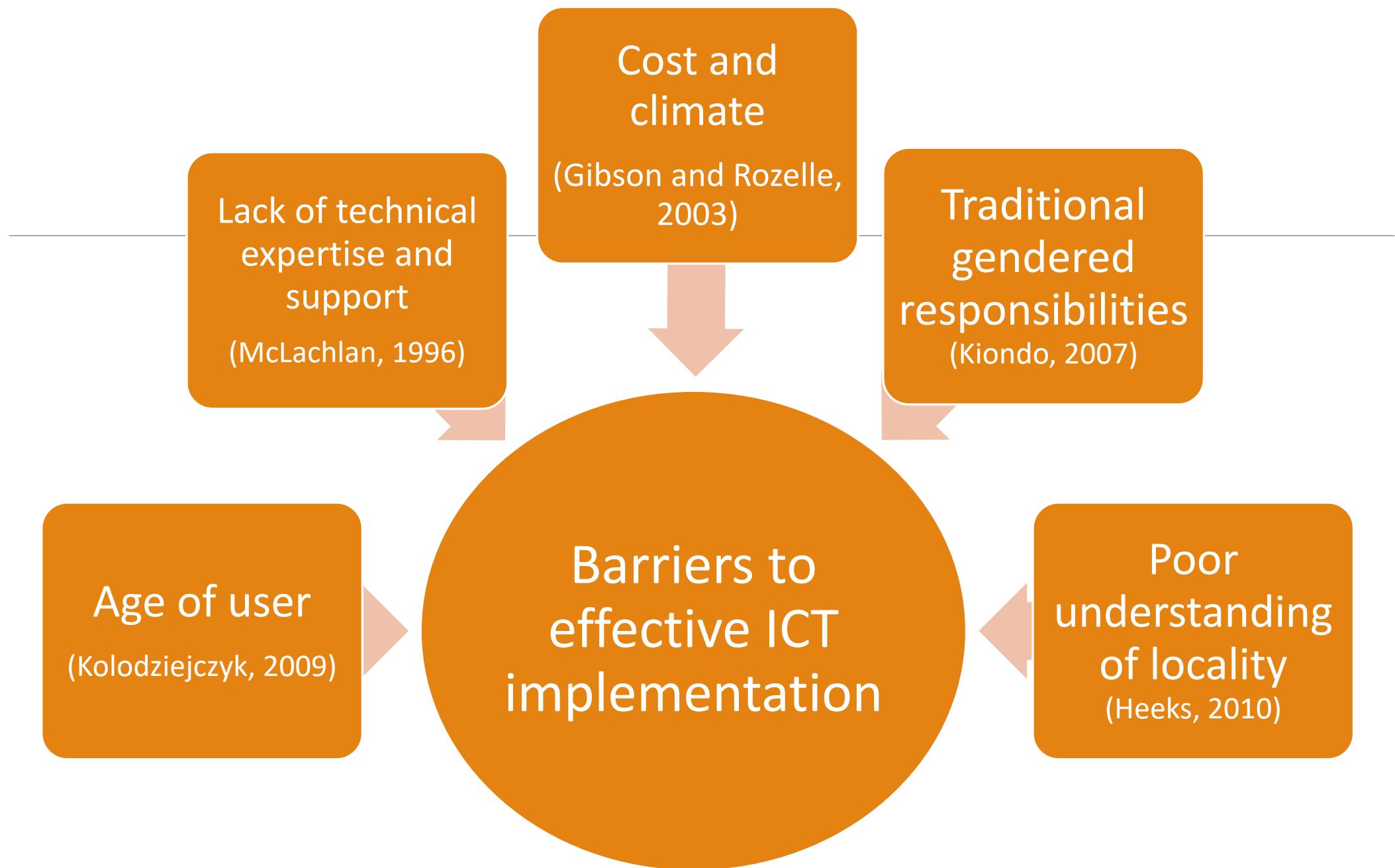
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Globalisation and drive for efficiency (Heeks, 2010)

International donors

**Importance to education:**  
Facilitates child centred learning approach replaces a teacher centred learning approach (Leach, 2008)





# Why East New Britain, Papua New Guinea?

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- **Papua New Guinea**
  - Lack of recent literature – closest example Kelgai and Middleton 2002
  - 2012 Tuition Free Policy
  - Recent education reform to incorporate ICT
- **East New Britain Province**
  - Rapid internal migration
  - Recent extreme natural events strain infrastructure
  - Researchers personal connection to East New Britain





# Research Questions

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1. How have primary schools in East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea currently integrated ICT into their schools?
2. What have been the barriers to integrating new technology into the classroom learning environment?
3. How have schools engaged with staff to develop awareness of the potential of ICT?



### Semi structured interviews

- 10 schools
- Age and gender considerations
- urban/rural

### Focus Groups:

- Kabaleo students
- Local authorities

### Methodology:

#### *Qualitative case study*

- *Positives and disadvantages*

### Fieldwork diary

- Biased on positionality

### Participant observation

- Ethical considerations



# Timeline:

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November 2016 –July 2017: Preparatory requirements

- Ethics
- Flights
- Contacting gatekeepers

August 2017- September 2017ish: Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea

September 2017 – October 2017: transcription and coding

November- 2017 July 2018: Data analysis and thesis writing



Questions???