

# Surviving well together: feminist postdevelopment practices for care

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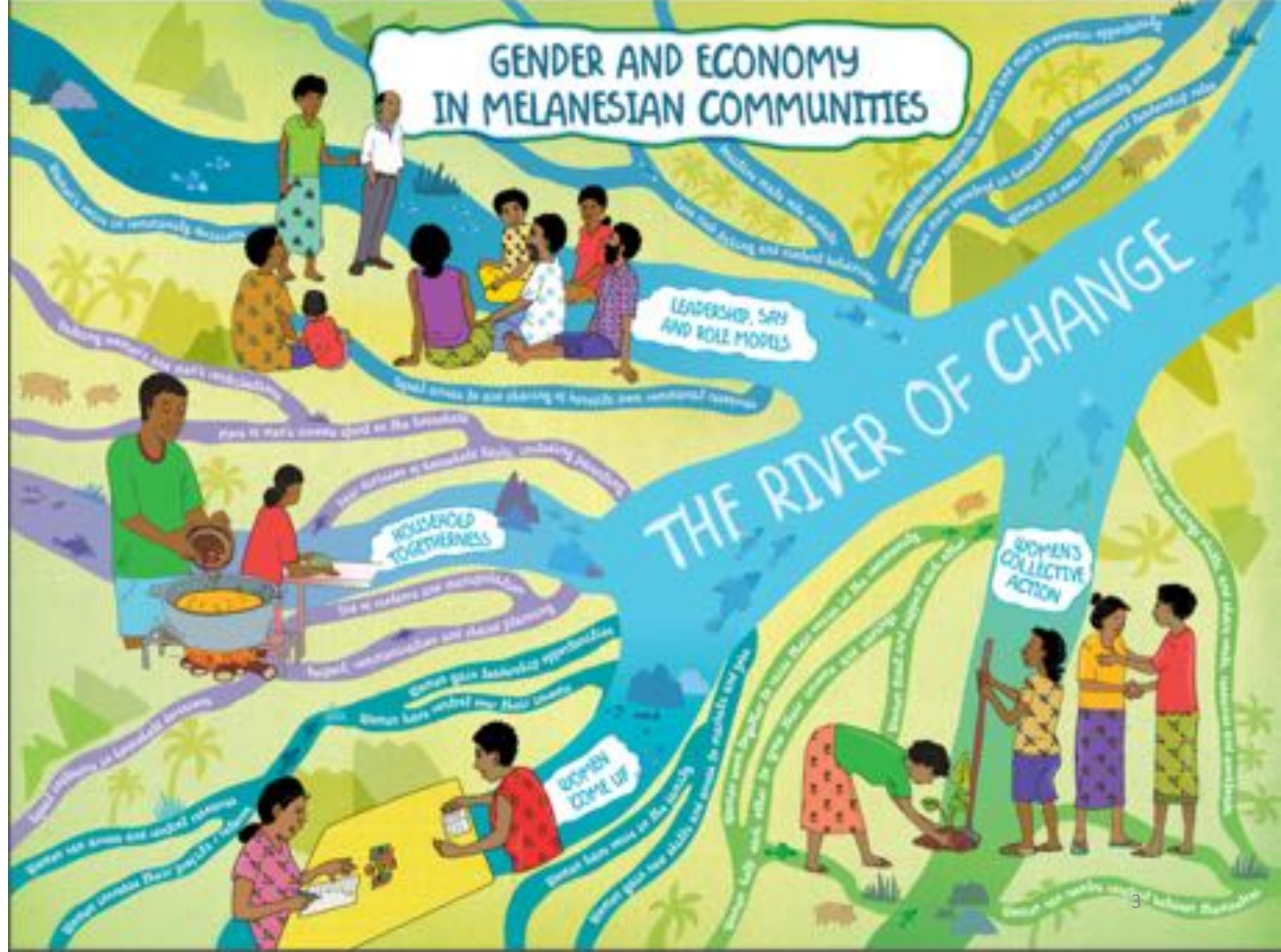
[See the full text in '**Surviving well together: post development, maternity care and the politics of ontological pluralism**', forthcoming 2018 in '*Postdevelopment in Practice*', edited by Elise Klein & Carlos Eduardo Morreo, published by Routledge]

# Postdevelopment as practice

- How to work towards goals of a more equitable world without reinscribing, and re-performing imperialisms of the past?
- Drawing on Gibson-Graham, Cameron and Healy's book *Take Back the Economy* (2013) – the idea of 'surviving well'
  - what is required for an individual, household, or community to meet their needs
  - what is required in order to thrive, to lead a worthwhile and satisfying life, and to enjoy well-being beyond mere survival.
  - Recognition that there is no surviving well without working together across families, communities, and the globe, along with our planetary companions.
- We explore 3 strategies for feminist postdevelopment research towards 'surviving well together'

# Strategy 1: Multiple Ontologies of Equity

Example: co-production  
of metrics for gender  
equity based in local  
understandings and local  
visions for change



# Strategy 2: The Body Multiple in Postdevelopment Practices of Engaged Care



A poster which says breast milk is the best food for infants. [cwdf.org.cn]

Example: recognition of multiple understandings of the body existing across parallel, co-existing health care regimes.

- Chinese medicine and Western biomedical knowledge of breastfeeding
- Possibility of honouring multiplicity, making space for traditional medicine and biomedicine approaches to be complementary:
- *Script for Midwife: You might be feeling a bit exhausted and depleted now after all that work. What we will do is have a little rest with baby resting on your chest, but then get some hot, nourishing food into you. Then we will give breastfeeding a go in an hour or so when you have had a chance to recover.*



Strategy 3: Acknowledging the politics of practicing a feminist postdevelopment scholarship

# Feminist postdevelopment practice:

- Sitting with unease and uncertainty
- Refocuses on what might arise from the conversation
- Refusing to already know where we should be heading and how.

Surviving well together requires the constant reprisal of ethical negotiations with our human and non-human others, across boundaries of majority and minority worlds, across ontologies, and across cultures.