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The story of houses in the grassfields: mobility, belonging and hierarchies in urbanising North-West Cameroon

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PROPOSITIONS BELONGING TO THE THESIS

*The Story of Houses in the Grassfields:
Mobility, Belonging and Hierarchies in urbanising North-West Cameroon*
By Tegomoh Ngwaelung Evelyne

Explicitly related to the thesis

1. The development of the Papiakum people is engrained in mobility through trade/business and education
2. The focus of studies on connectivity and networks allows us to see land as a mobile commodity, which will situate the stories of place as being mobile in time and space.
3. The study of changing architectural landscape show how mobility, material culture and belonging need to be at the centre of our studies.
4. The Papiakum community may appear male chauvinistic but the silent power of women in construction cannot be overlooked.
5. Houses, no matter the size and type, serve as an important vector of belonging and indicate social/political position in society.

Societal Issues

6. Festivals and events are occasions that pull a community to commune and support each other as a people in good or bad times thus celebrating themselves and showcasing their material and immaterial culture.
7. The accessibility of ethnographic film makes dissemination of knowledge possible to a wider audience giving a chance for all and sundry to engage in discussions around and about its subject.

8. Respect for hierarchy in the community no matter elite's position and/or wealth remains a basic tenet.
9. 'Witchcraft' and power are salient daily discourse that manifest in everyday interactions and interconnections and need to be taken serious as an ontology that steers social life/society.

General/Personal

10. Violent crisis causes a new wave of mobility bringing into urban centres another category of migrants (Internal Displaced Persons –IDPs), who then become new nuclear of the study of construction and place.