



Institut
eXposum
UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTPELLIER

Anita Hardon Fellowship

Transdisciplinary innovations in Exposome Research



My Ambitions as a ExposUM Research Fellow

1. Articulating transdisciplinary and agenda's for Exposome research
2. Developing a multi-modal toolkit for situated exposure assessments
3. Co-creating 'Seeds for a Good Anthropocene'
4. Summerschool for PhD students/Master thesis students
5. Expanding Collaborations in and around Montpellier and globally

Developing interdisciplinary approaches

"Anthroposome expands the exposome by including people's daily practices that shape and mediate exposures, using ethnographic, non-targeted, non-hypothesis-driven methods."

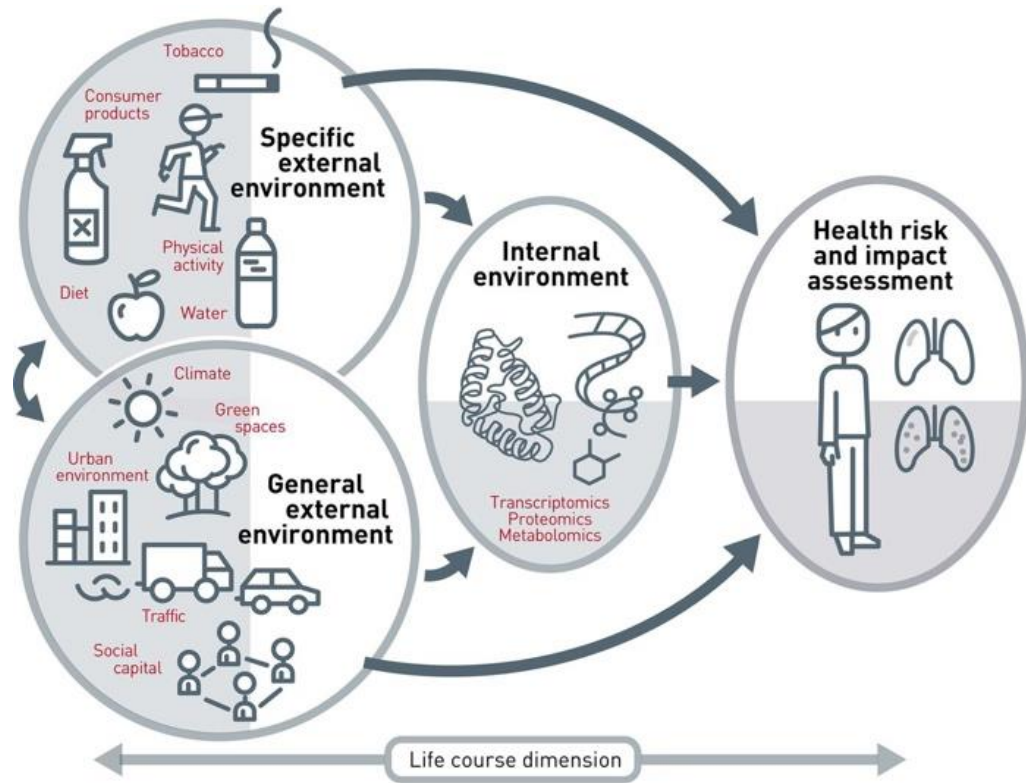
- Martha Ma. (Mara) Téllez-Rojo, MSc, DSc,
Professor, National Institute of Public Health (INSP), Mexico



Leahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Institute for Exposomic Research

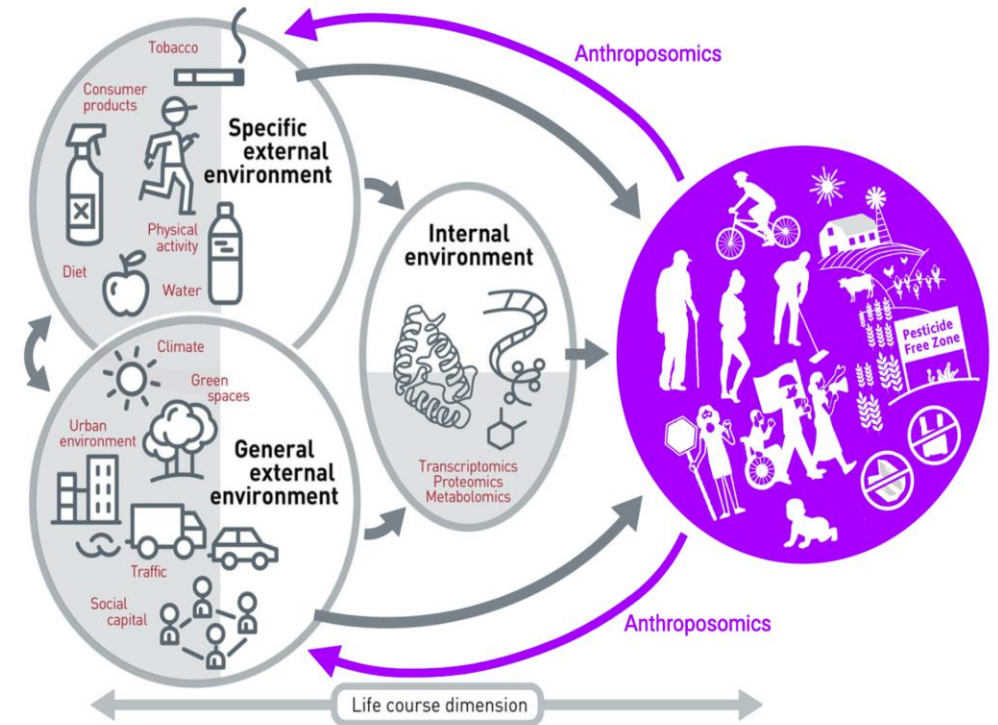
Anthroposomics: Integrating Anthropological Methods into Exposome Research – forthcoming in Environmental Health

Exposome models



Vrijheid M. Thorax 2014;69:876–878. doi:10.1136/thoraxjnl-2013-204949

Anthroposome model



Adapted from Vrijheid M. Thorax 2014;69:876–878. doi:10.1136/thoraxjnl-2013-204949

In press



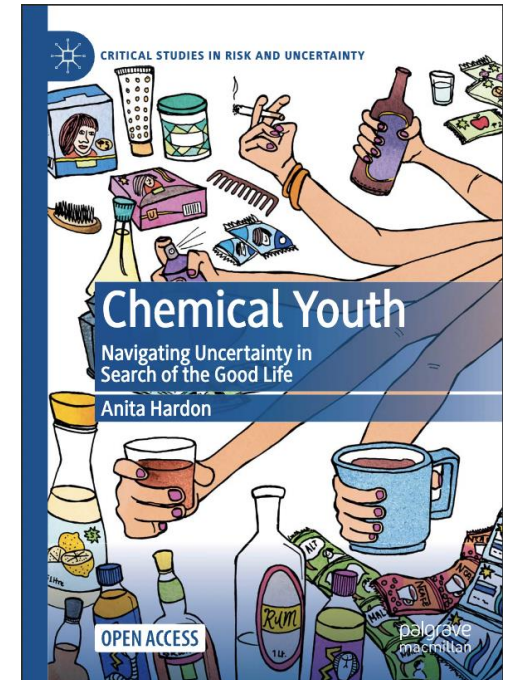
Anthroposome



The full range of micro-ecological practices through which individuals and communities sense, understand, avoid, mitigate and thus, shape exposures across daily life and the life courses

Anthroposomics toolkit

- Open-ended participant observation
- Life history calendars
- Sensorial/experiential cartography
- Head to toe interviews
- Chemical household assessments





European
Innovation
Council

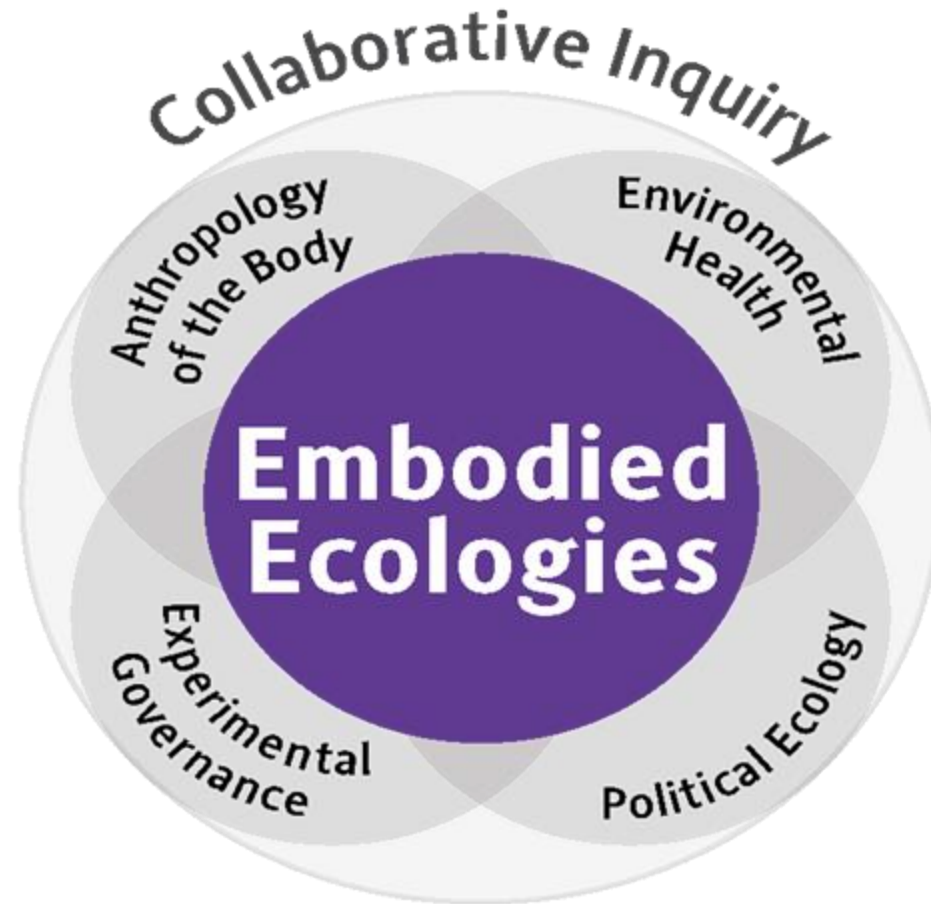


Embodied Ecologies

A collaborative inquiry into how people sense, know and act to
reduce chemical exposures in everyday urban life

Anita Hardon

Interdisciplinary Collaboration



CUMULATIVE EXPOSURES

The infographic illustrates various sources of cumulative exposure to environmental and lifestyle factors. The central yellow circle features silhouettes of a pregnant woman, a baby, a person cleaning, a person with a cane, and a person with a radiation symbol on their chest, surrounded by red molecular structures. The orange outer ring contains icons for water, food, household items, and industrial sources of exposure.

Ecological: multiple routes of exposure across the places where people live and work, which in turn are shaped by social, political, and economic forces and by regulatory structures and priorities

Regulation: Ambitious Aims – Slow processes

GLOBAL



1989



2017



2004



2006

EU



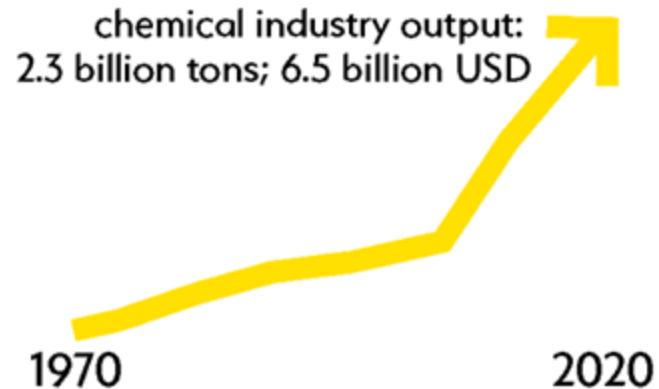
2021



2006

Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health (2018)

**Exposures
intensify**



Only Half

of the 5000 chemicals
have been

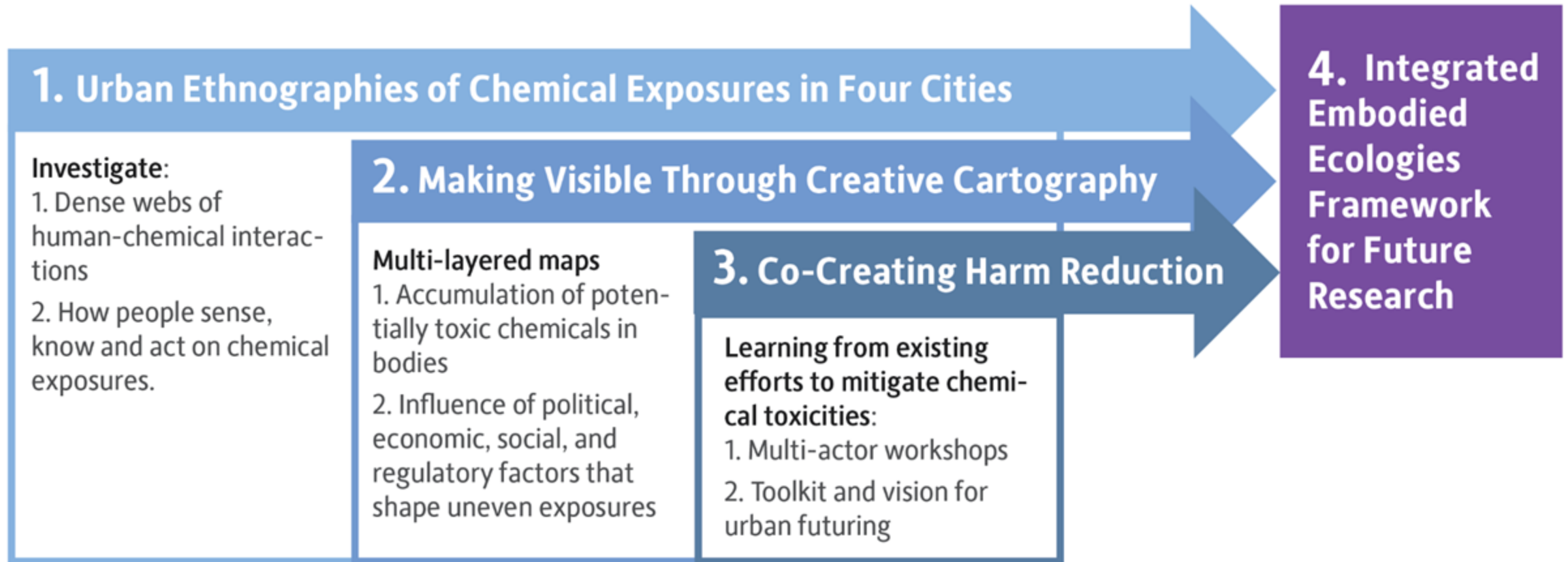
**tested for
safety**

Multiple routes:

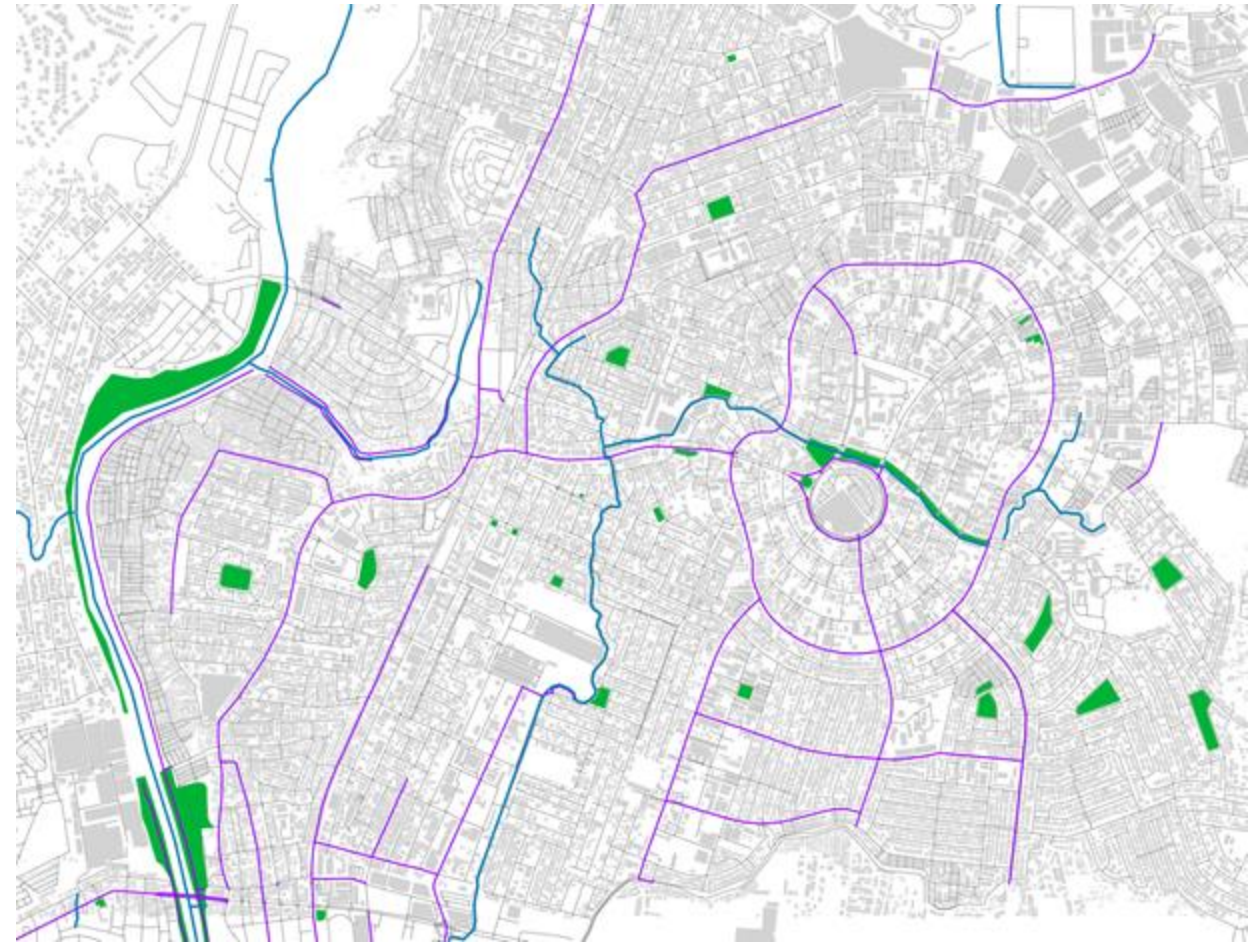
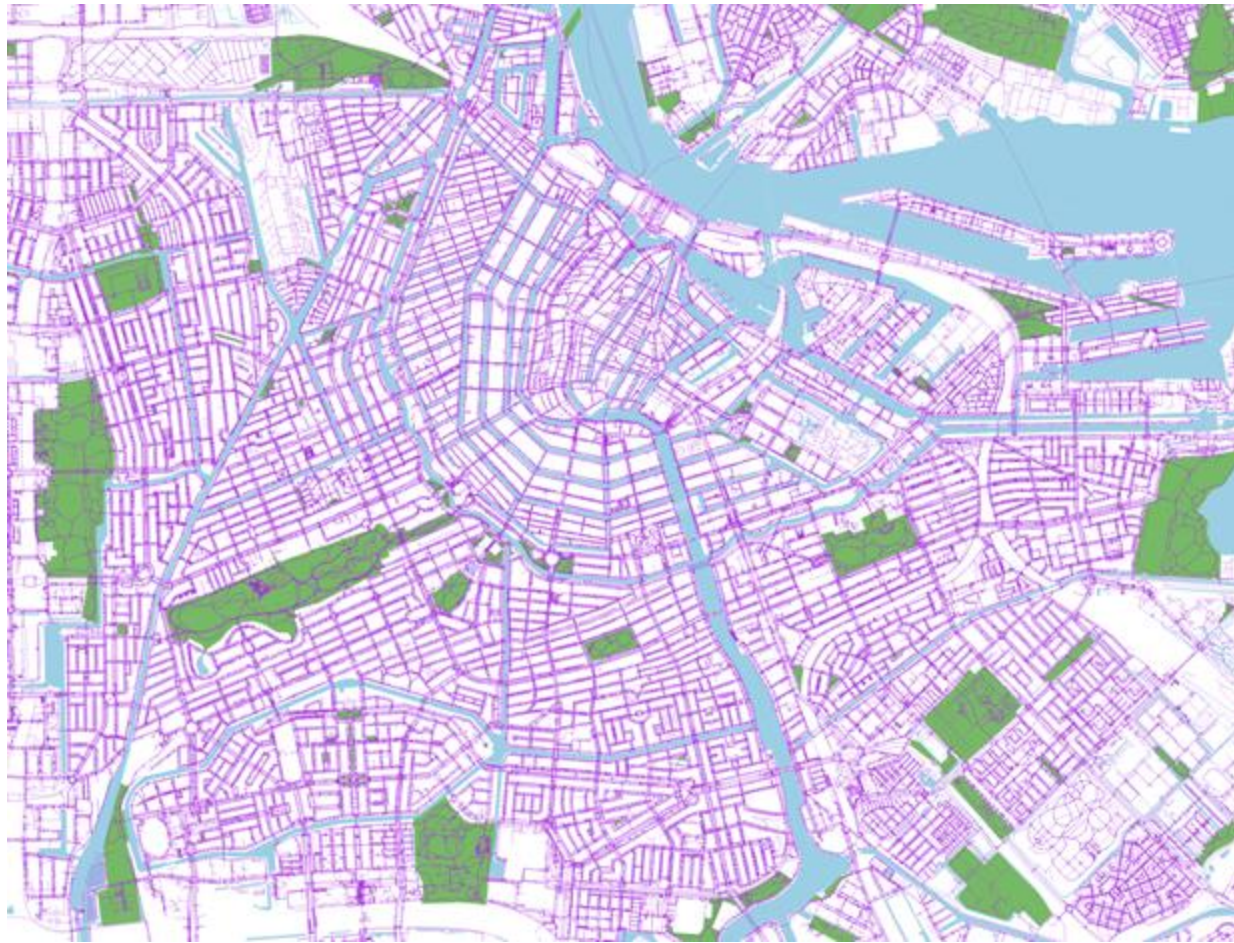
- **Water**
- **Air**
- **Soil**
- **Food**
- **Building materials**
- **Consumer products**



Four Aims – Four Projects



Contrasting cities and sites





1. Urban Ethnographies

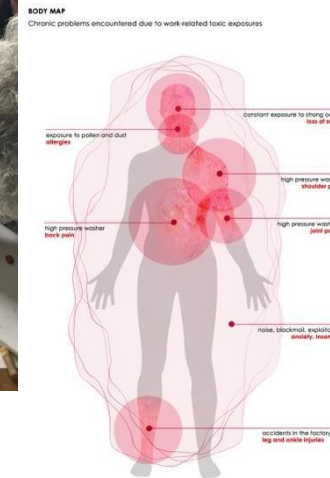
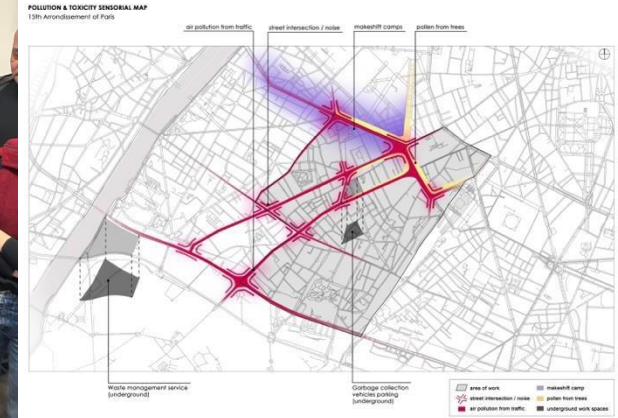
‘Grand Tours’ on cumulative toxicities as experienced by: garbage collectors, urban and rural farmers, small scale miners, shoe makers, environmental activists, scientists, pregnant women, fire fighters etc.

2. Sensorial cartography

Explore relations between embodied experiences and the spaces where they occur





Connect everyday embodied experiences and large-scale processes

Make visible ignored, overlooked, silenced aspect of toxicity

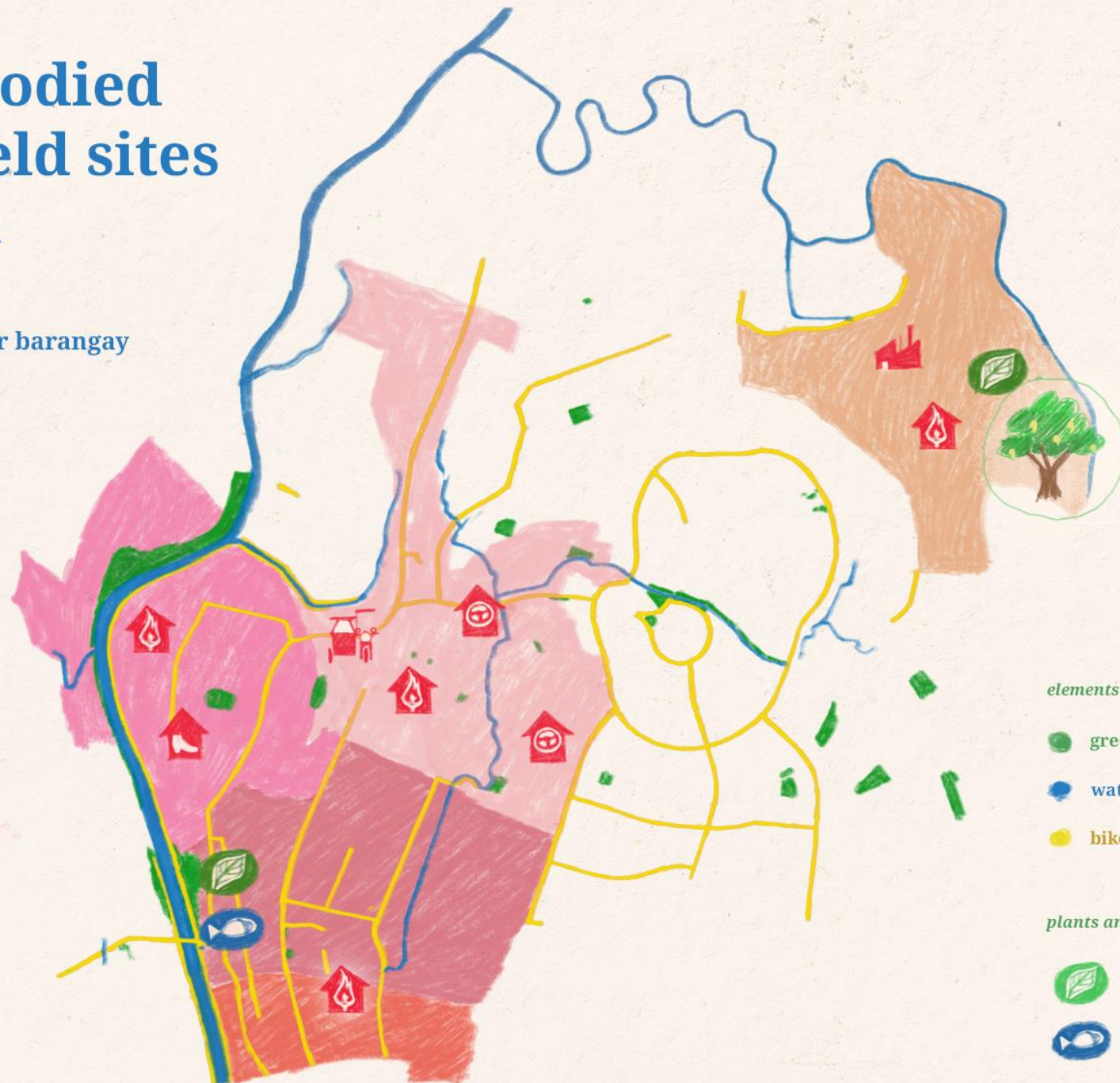


Map of Embodied Ecologies field sites in Marikina




Ethnographic interviews per barangay

	Malanday	25
	Concepcion Uno	15
	Fortune	13
	Santa Elena	1
	Sto. Niño	7

	<i>pagawaan</i> (shoemakers)
	firefighters
	factory (shoemakers)
	<i>talyer</i> (car repair workers)
	tricycle drivers



elements

-  green spaces
-  water
-  bike lanes

plants and animals

-  farming
-  fishing





Dolores St. as a Lived Space

A visualization of everyday activities in the alley

Residential Spaces

Shoemaking Workshop

Sari-sari store

Laundry or clothes drying

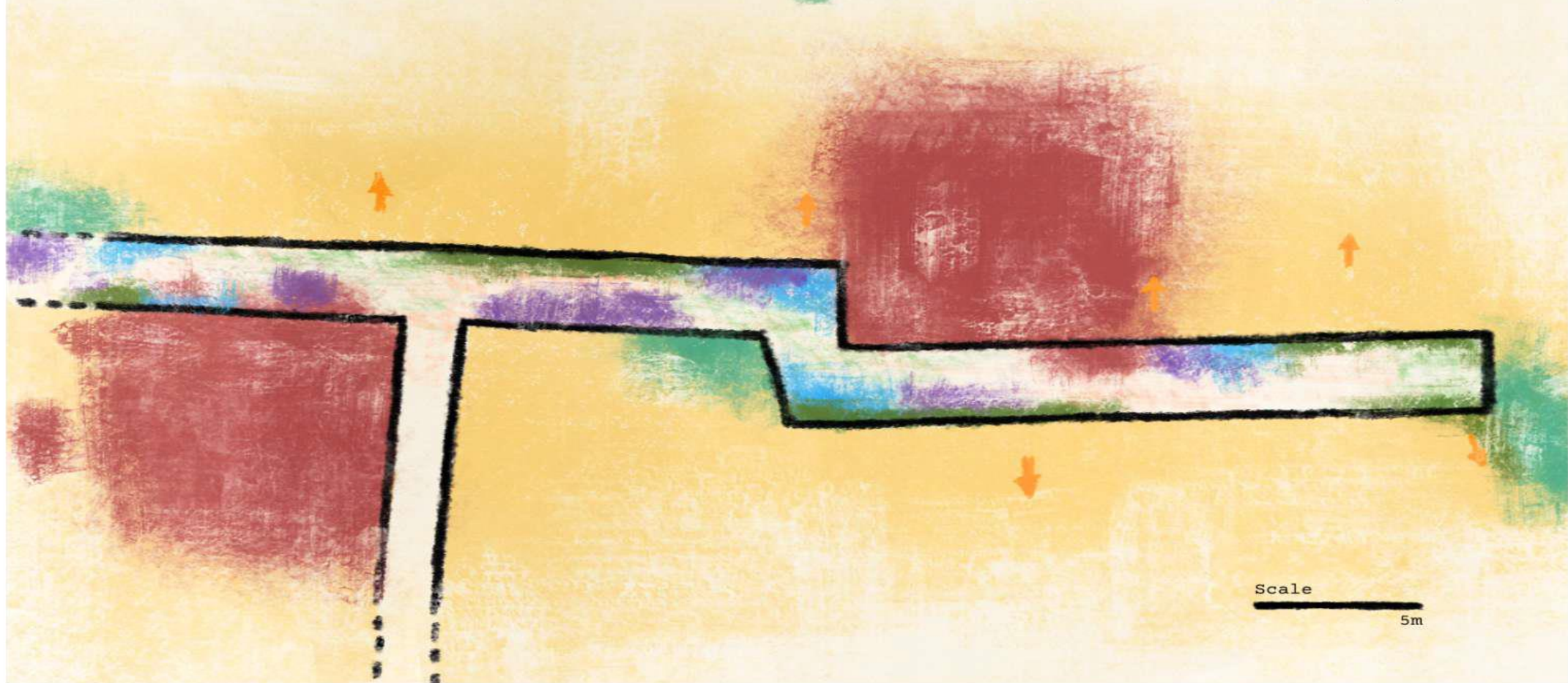
Potted or hanging plants

Motorcycles parked

Adults gather for chatter

Children playing

To smaller alleyways



Workers are “sanay”



Workers practice “art of unnoticed” (Luo 2021) – mindful acts

Use micro-ecological practices

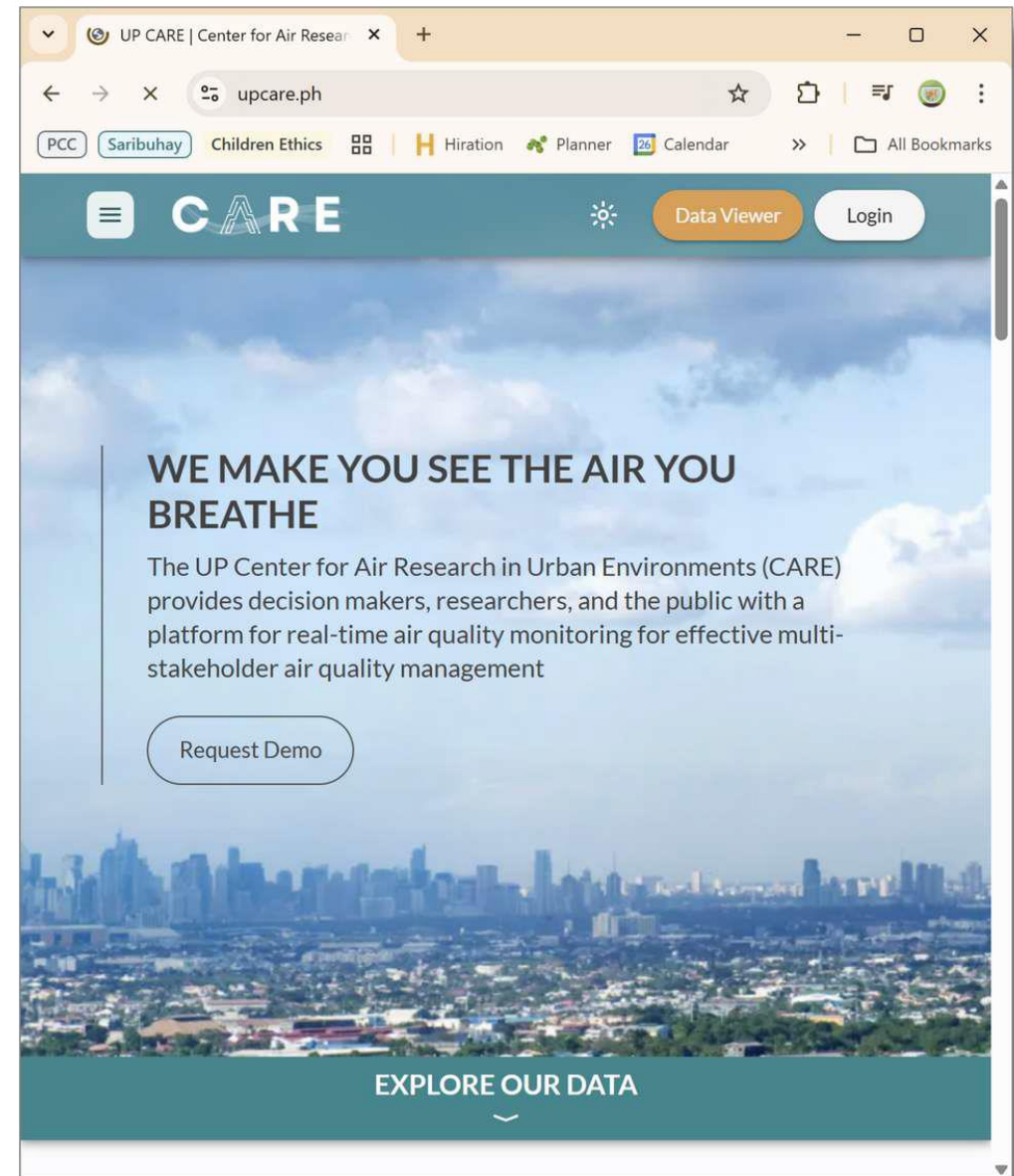
- to strengthen bodily resilience”: healthy eating, vitamins
- limit exposures by not smoking; taking mini breaks; ventilating



Transdisciplinary collaboration

- Multi-modal sensing:
 - How micro-ecological practices are
- related to air quality

To help assess harm reduction practices and develop ‘seeds of a good anthropocene



- r
co-creation of a “checklist”

○



Petsa ng Pagtatala: _____

Big. _____

Oras at Tagal ng Pagtatala: _____

I. **Paglalarawan ng Panahon.** Bilugan kung ano ang lagay ng panahon habang nagtatala.



Iba pa: _____

II. **Paglalarawan ng mga pangyayari sa eskinita.** Bago pumasok ng pagawaan, tignan kung ano ang mga nangyayari sa eskinita sa labas ng pagawaan. Lagyan ng ✓ ito at ipaliwanag (hal. Kung malapit ito sa pagawaan o malayo, kung marami ito o kaunti, etc.). Kung mayroong ibang nangyayari ay isulat sa ibaba.

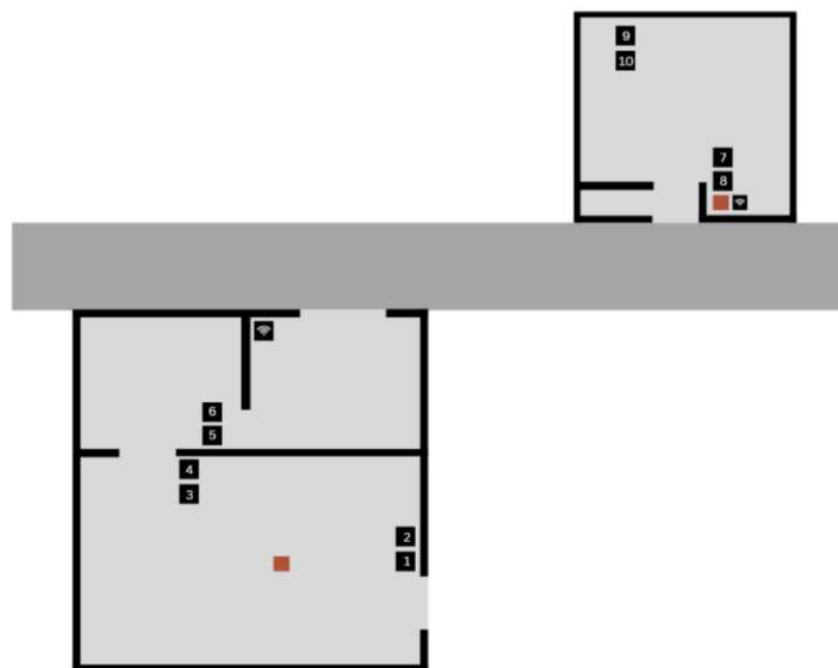
☐ May naninigarilyo

☐ May nagmo-motor

☐ May nag-iihaw

Ipaliwanag: _____

Ipakita sa larawan sa ibaba kung saan nangyayari ang mga ito.



- time, date
- weather
- activities outside the workshop
 - e.g. smoking, motorcycles passing by
- illustrating where

III. **Pagtukoy ng Espasyo at mga Monitor.** Bilugan sa **larawan** sa itaas kung anong **parte ng pagawaan** ang iyong inoobserbahan. **Markahan** kung saan nakalagay ang mga **bentilador** sa pamamagitan ng pagguhit ng **bilog** at ipakita ang **direksyon** nito sa pamamagitan ng pagguhit ng **arrow**.

Lagyan din ng ✓ kung nakabukas ang mga **pinto** at X naman kung ito ay nakasara.

Tignan din ang **monitor** kung nakasaksak ang mga ito. Tignan din ang **router** ng internet kung mayroong signal. Lagyan ng ✓ kung **gumagana** ang monitor sa espasyo at X kung may **problema** ito at ipaliwanag sa ibaba.

Sagutan ang mga sumusunod:

Kasama ka, ilan ang bilang ng mga tao sa inoobserbahan mong parte ng pagawaan? _____
Ano-ano ang tungkulin nila? _____

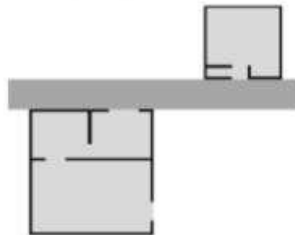
IV. **Mga Gawain sa Pagawaan.** Anong nangyayari sa parte ng pagawaan na inoobserbahan mo? Lagyan ng ✓.

- ☐ Pattern making
- ☐ Nagsusukat
- ☐ Nagugupit ng balat
- ☐ Nagtitildik at Nagbubutas
- ☐ Nagkakasa / Nagdidikit ng balat

- ☐ Nagtatahi
- ☐ Naglalapat sa hulma
- ☐ Nagpapatuyo ng upper
- ☐ Nagsusuwelas
- ☐ Alamoda

- ☐ Finishing
- Iba pa:

Ipakita kung saang parte ng pagawaan ito nangyayari.



Anong klase ng sapatos ang ginagawa ng mga manggagawa habang ikaw ay nag-oobserba?

- illustrating airflow
 - the direction of fans
 - whether doors are open or not
- checking of sensors
- number of people
- activities in the pagawaan (shoe-related)
 - illustrating where

V. Mga Gamit sa Pagawaan. Ano-anong mga **materyales** ang ginagamit ng mga manggagawa habang ikaw ay nag-oobserba? Lagyan ng ✓ at lagyan ng **detalye** kung kailangan.

☐ Synthetic Leather

Brand: _____

Manufacturer: _____

☐ Leather

Brand: _____

Manufacturer: _____

☐ Contact Cement

Brand: _____

Manufacturer: _____

Lalagyan: 

Big. ng lalagyan na nakabukas: _____

☐ Pintura

Brand: _____

Manufacturer: _____

Lalagyan: 

Big. ng lalagyan na nakabukas: _____

☐ 300U

Brand: _____

Manufacturer: _____

Lalagyan: 

Big. ng lalagyan na nakabukas: _____

☐ 405

Brand: _____

Manufacturer: _____

Lalagyan: 

Big. ng lalagyan na nakabukas: _____

☐ 409

Brand: _____

Manufacturer: _____

Lalagyan: 

Big. ng lalagyan na nakabukas: _____

Paano ginagamit ang mga materyales na ito habang ikaw ay nag-oobserba? Ipaliwanag bawat materyales (hal. Kung kinakamay, may kagamitan, etc.)

- materials/chemicals used in the pagawaan
 - brand
 - manufacturer
 - container
 - quantity
- description of how these are used
 - bare hands /w/ equipment
 - open canisters

VI. **Paglalarawan ng Hangin.** Ano ang lagay ng hangin? Lagyan ng ✓.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amoy rugby | <input type="checkbox"/> Presko | <input type="checkbox"/> Amoy tae |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amoy balat | <input type="checkbox"/> Amoy gas | |

Ano sa tingin mo ang nakakaapekto sa lagay ng hangin? Lagyan ng ✓.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sabay-sabay <u>nagpapahid</u>
ng pandikit | <input type="checkbox"/> Nakapatay ang electric fan | <input type="checkbox"/> Nakabukas ang pinto |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nakasara ang pinto | <input type="checkbox"/> Kaunti ang gawa | <input type="checkbox"/> Naka-on ang electric fan |

Iba pang naaamoy o iba pang dahilan:

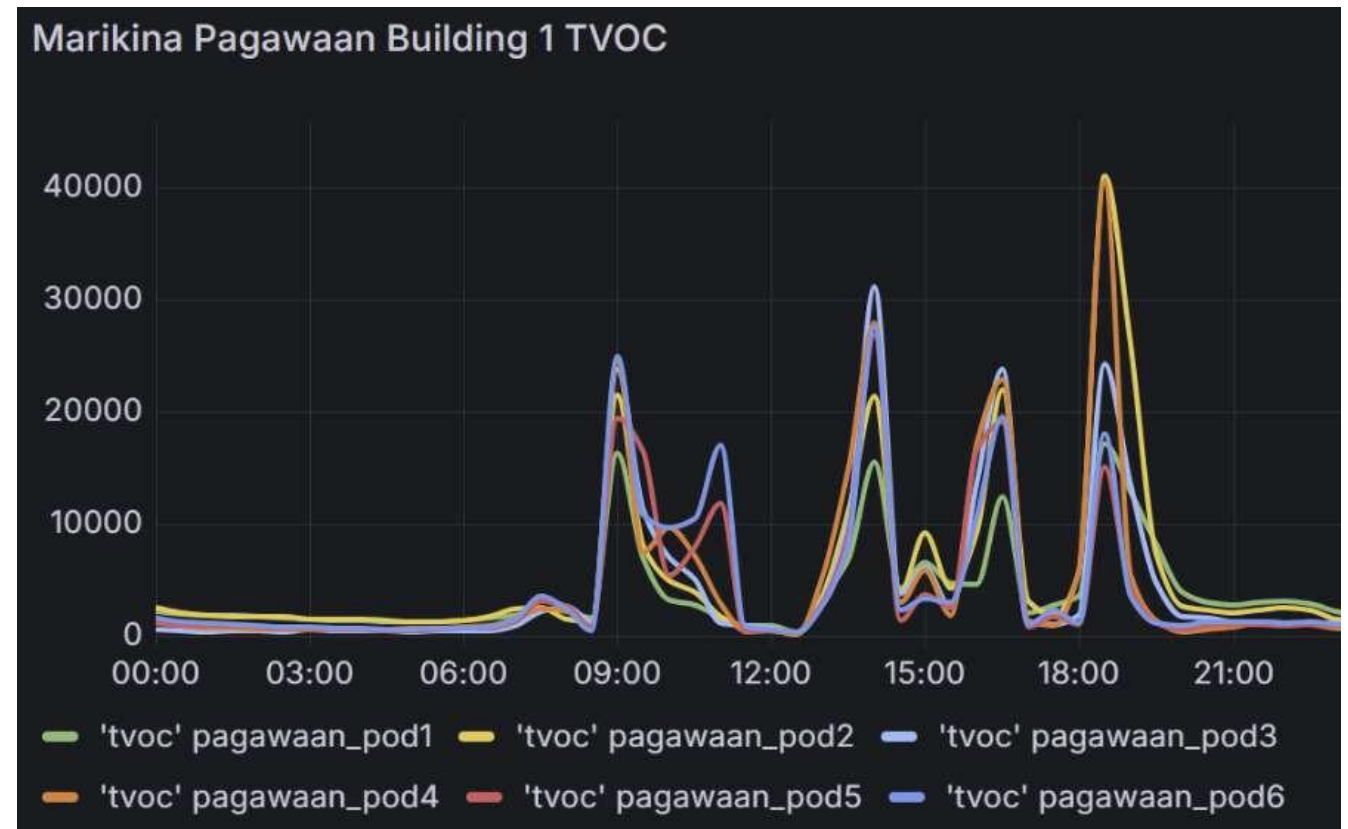
VIII. **Pagtatapos.** Bago matapos ang iyong pag-oobserba, ilan ang bilang ng sapatos na ginawa ng mga manggagawa habang ikaw ay nasa pagawaan? _____

VIII. **Iba pang Obserbasyon.** Ano pa ang iyong naoobserbahan? (Hal. Mayroon bang mga bata? Mayroon bang kumakain? Mayroong ibang ginagawa? Mayroong iba pang naaamoy, nakikita at nararamdaman?)

- perception of air
 - why
- number of shoes made during observation
- other observations
 - non-shoemaking-related activities (E.g. eating, children inside the workshop, etc.)



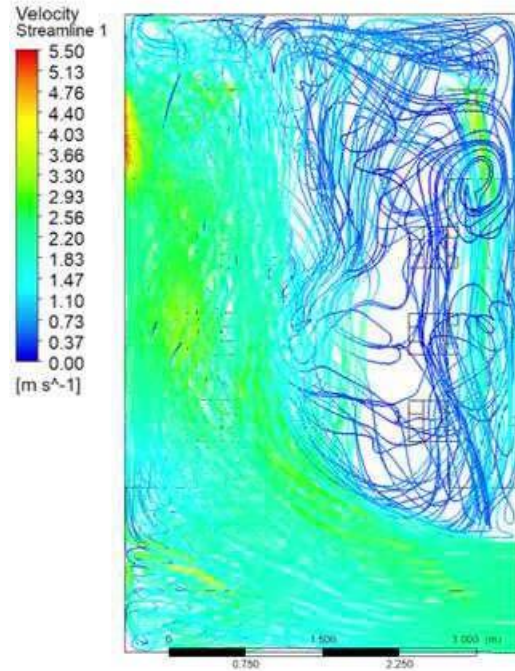
9:00 AM	Mananahi - nagtatahi Manunukat - nagsusukat Mag-aareglo - nagpapahid
10:00 AM	Mananahi - nagtatahi Manunukat - nagsusukat Mag-aareglo - nagpapahid
11:00 AM	Mananahi - nagtatahi Manunukat - nagsusukat Mag-aareglo - nagpapahid
12:00 PM	Lunch break
1:00 PM	Mag-aareglo - nagpapahid
2:00 PM	Mananahi - nagtatahi Manunukat - nagsusukat Mag-aareglo - nagpapahid
3:00 PM	Mananahi - nagtatahi Mag-aareglo - nagpapahid
4:00 PM	Mananahi - nagtatahi Mag-aareglo - nagugupit Coffee break / Snack time
5:00 PM	Mananahi - nagtatahi Mag-aareglo - nagugupit



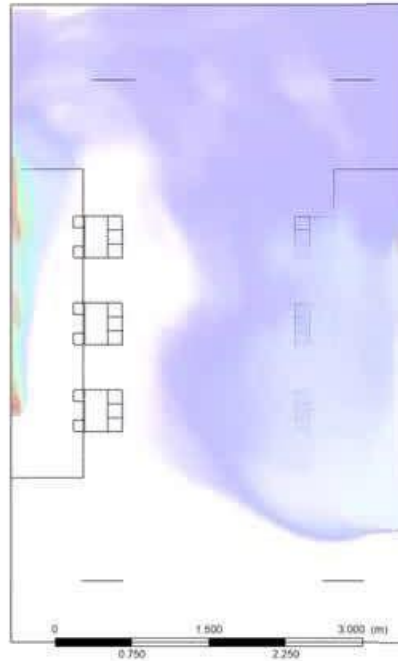
- lower VOCs during breaks
 - lunch break (no people)
 - snack break (some work while eating in the workshop)

Base Ventilation Model Results

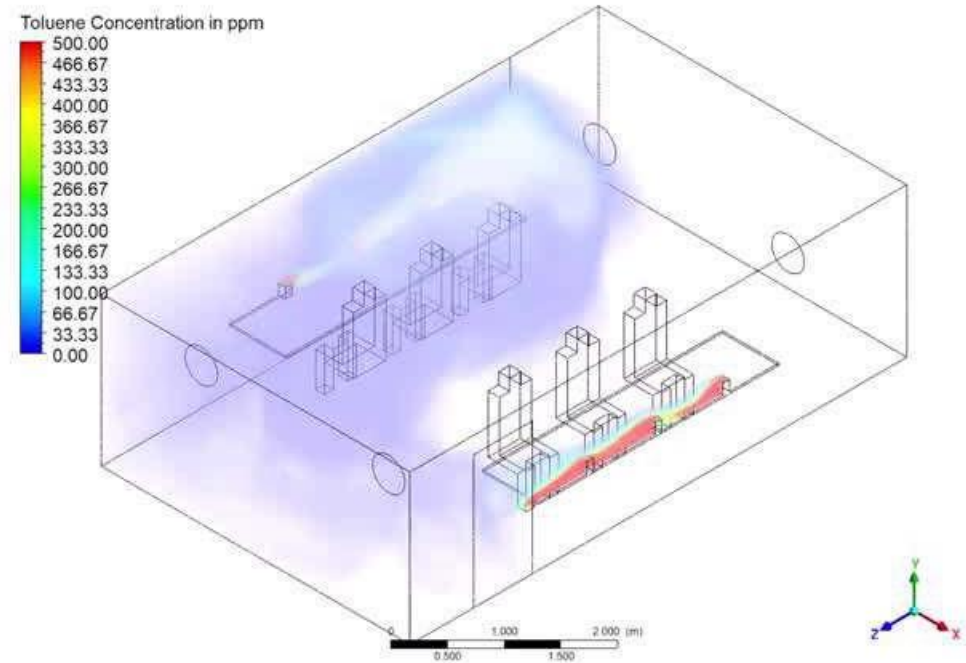
105s



Velocity Streamline
(Top View)



Toluene Vapor Dispersion
(Top View)



Toluene Vapor Dispersion
(Isometric View)

Co-designing seeds for a good anthropocene

Build on observed association between ventilation and levels of VOC and airflows in the workshop

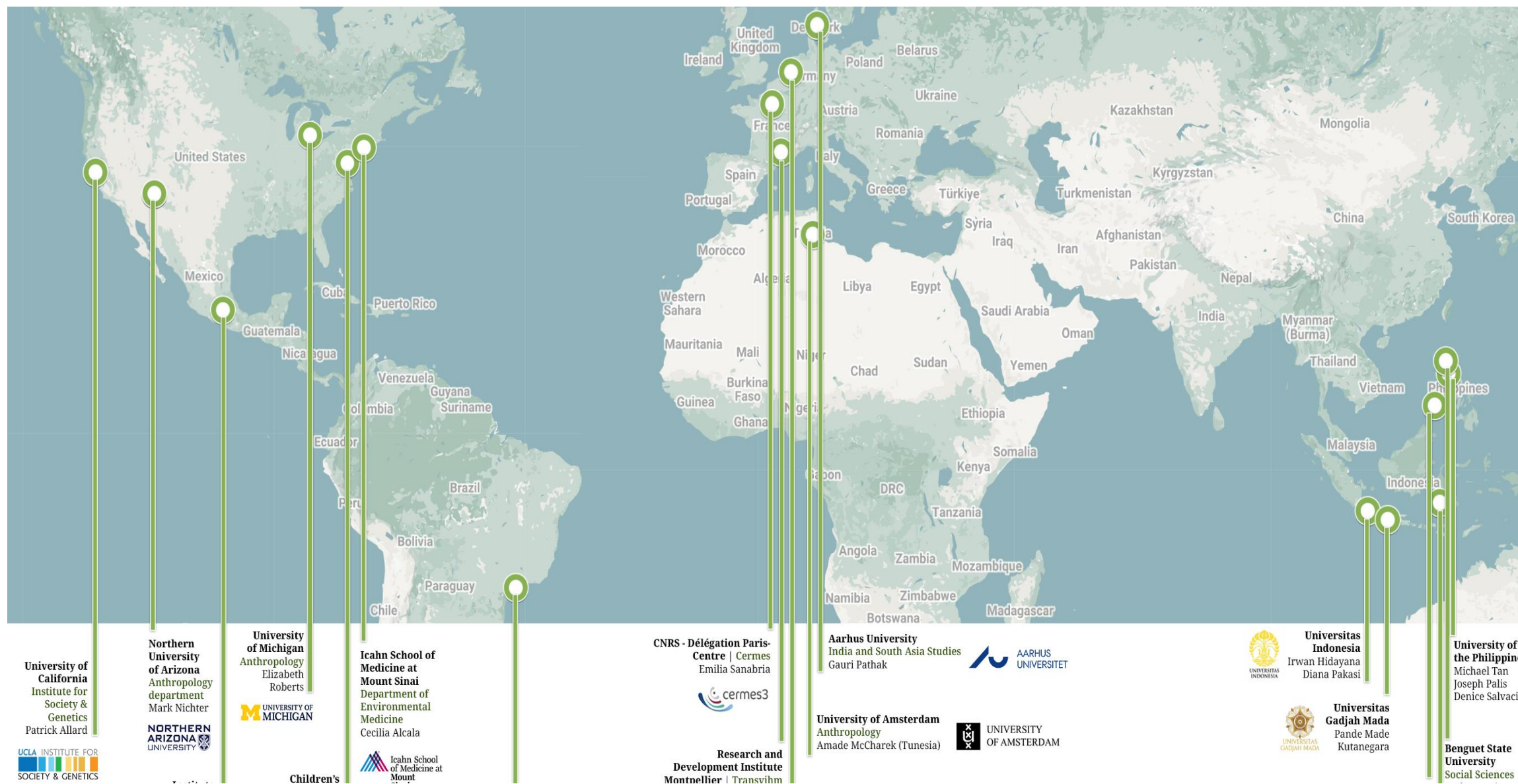


Consider practical issues related to shoemaking – glue needs to dry slowly



Recognize concerns that exhaust fans are expensive

Consider importance of socializing during work hours.



More from the Embodied Ecologies Team

Rekacewicz, P., Mandler, T., Cordero, D., Echague, P. A. A., Hardon, A., Pauchano, B., ... & Tan, M. L. (2025). Mapping everyday urban political ecologies: Experiential cartography as embodied methodology. *Urban Political Ecology*, 1(1-2), 88-117.

Mandler, T., Sandoval, M. R., Tan, M. L., & Hardon, A. (2025). Embodied Ecologies: How We Sense, Know and Act to Reduce Cumulative Chemical Exposures in Our Everyday Lives. *Medicine Anthropology Theory*, 12(2), 1-31.

G Lasco, A Hardon 2024. Sensing, knowing, and making water quality along Marikina River in the Philippines Human Organization 83 (2), 145-158

Hardon, A., Pakasi, D., Hidayana, I., Taqueban, E., Moyer, E., van Zeven, J., ... & Tan, M. L. (2025). Connecting the Dots: A Collaborative Ethnography of Plastic Leakages in Indonesia and the Philippines. *Practicing Anthropology*, 1-22.

Hardon, A., Dey, T., Pakasi, D., Taqueban, E. M., Hidayana, I., & Nichter, M. (2025). Confronting the material and structural leakiness of plastics: insights from multi-sited ethnography in India, Indonesia and the Philippines. *Cambridge Prisms: Plastics*, 3, e27.