

It takes a community to write a research paper, and when I one of the paper's co-authors the community needs to be particularly large and supportive. I do my (flawed) best to keep a list of the many thanks that accumulate over the creation of each research paper. When the paper is published, I randomly select three people from the list and describe why I am thankful.

I'm hoping the process serves three goals: (1) communicate thanks to the variety of people who make my research possible, (2) publicize the many types of support, large and small, that go into my academic research, and (3) remind me to stay thankful.

*I include a * for anyone I single out outside of the random selection*

I am thankful to Linda Papagallo, who was really the inspiration behind the project. She reached out to Venoo and I to participate in the forum about the project and was relentlessly encouraging about keeping us involved despite the fact that we were both out of our disciplinary element. She and Greta Simplici were also wonderful leaders of the community of scholars working on re-thinking methods for studying pastoralism.

I am thankful for Zara Rias for encouraging me to take the time to wear different disciplinary hats.

I am thankful to Sam Hambira for being thoughtful and helpful in response to my many questions about his experiences as a surveyor for government and research organizations. Our long whatsapp chat history is a testament to his kindness, and includes many insights that ultimately ended up in the paper.

*I am thankful to Venoo Tjiseua, who is both an incredibly smart and hard working co-author and a dedicated friend.

I am thankful to Venoo Tjiseua for his support