

TRANSFORMING INDIGENOUS / NON-INDIGENOUS RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS



THE INDIGENOUS/NON-INDIGENOUS
RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT

**THIS COMIC IS A RESOURCE
PRODUCED TO ENCOURAGE RESEARCHERS WHO
ARE EMBARKING ON INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS
RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS TO THINK ABOUT THEIR
METHODS, ASSUMPTIONS AND BEHAVIOUR.**

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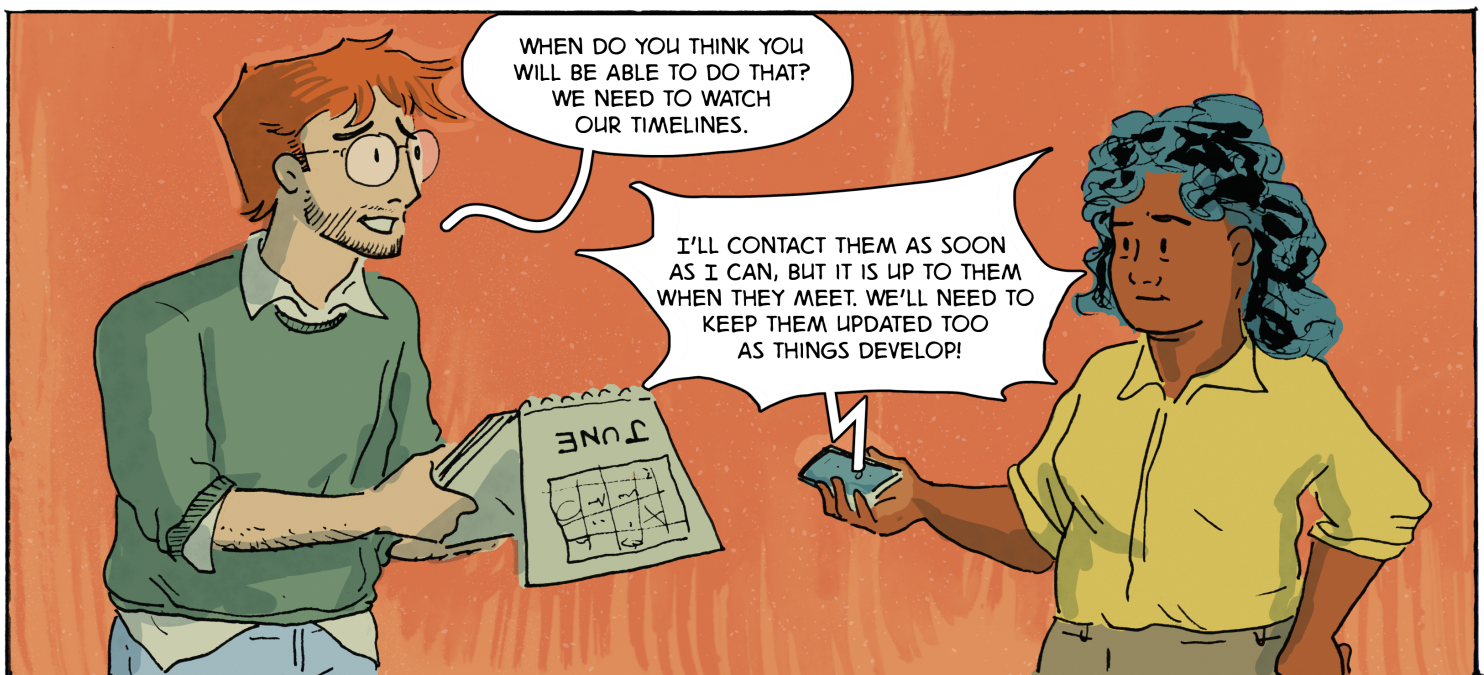
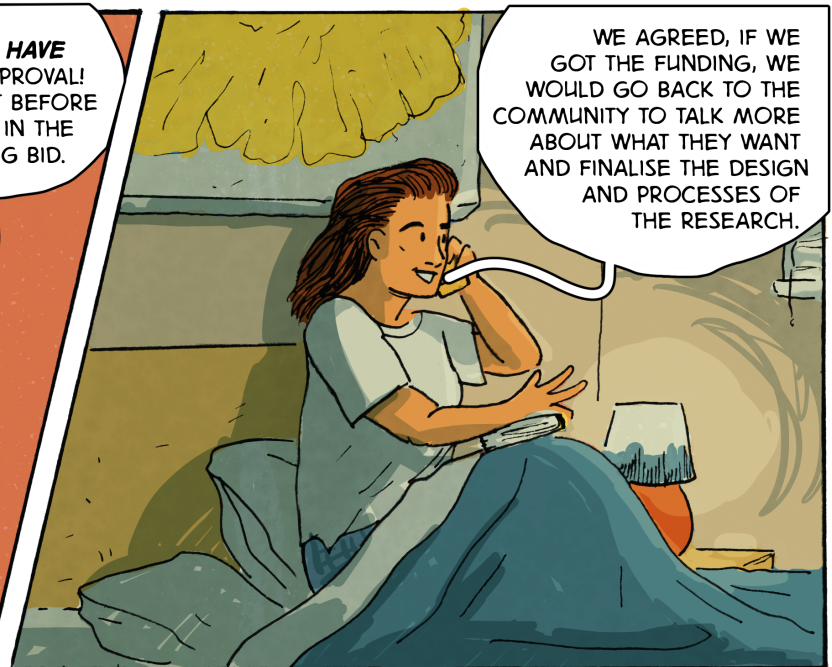
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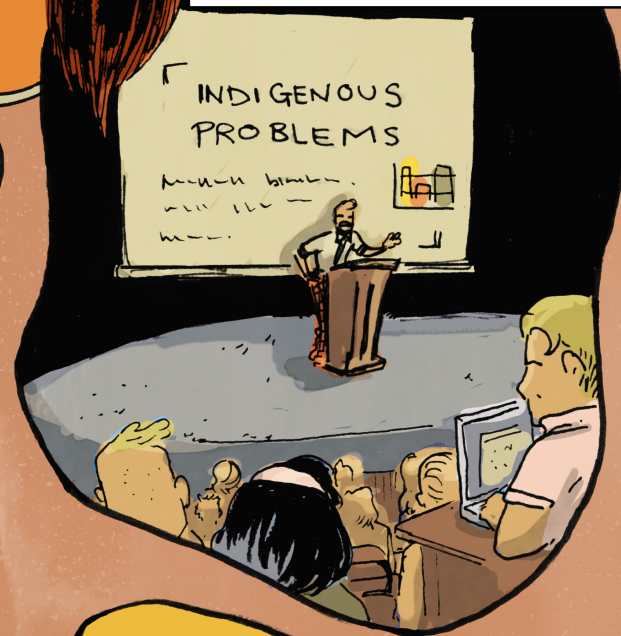


WE HAVE TO DO THIS RIGHT, OR NOT AT ALL.

OUR RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP DOESN'T JUST EXIST IN A BUBBLE, IT EXISTS IN A WORLD SHAPED BY WESTERN COLONIALISM, AND THIS HAS CONTINUING IMPLICATIONS...

"THE WEST HAS PERSECUTED AND OPPRESSED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES NOT ONLY IN NEW ZEALAND, BUT ACROSS THE WORLD, FROM THE PACIFIC TO THE AMERICAS."

"WESTERN PEOPLE HAVE ALSO STOLEN, APPROPRIATED AND PROFITED FROM INDIGENOUS RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE, ALL THE WHILE DENIGRATING INDIGENOUS CULTURES AND KNOWLEDGE. AND THIS IS STILL GOING ON TODAY."

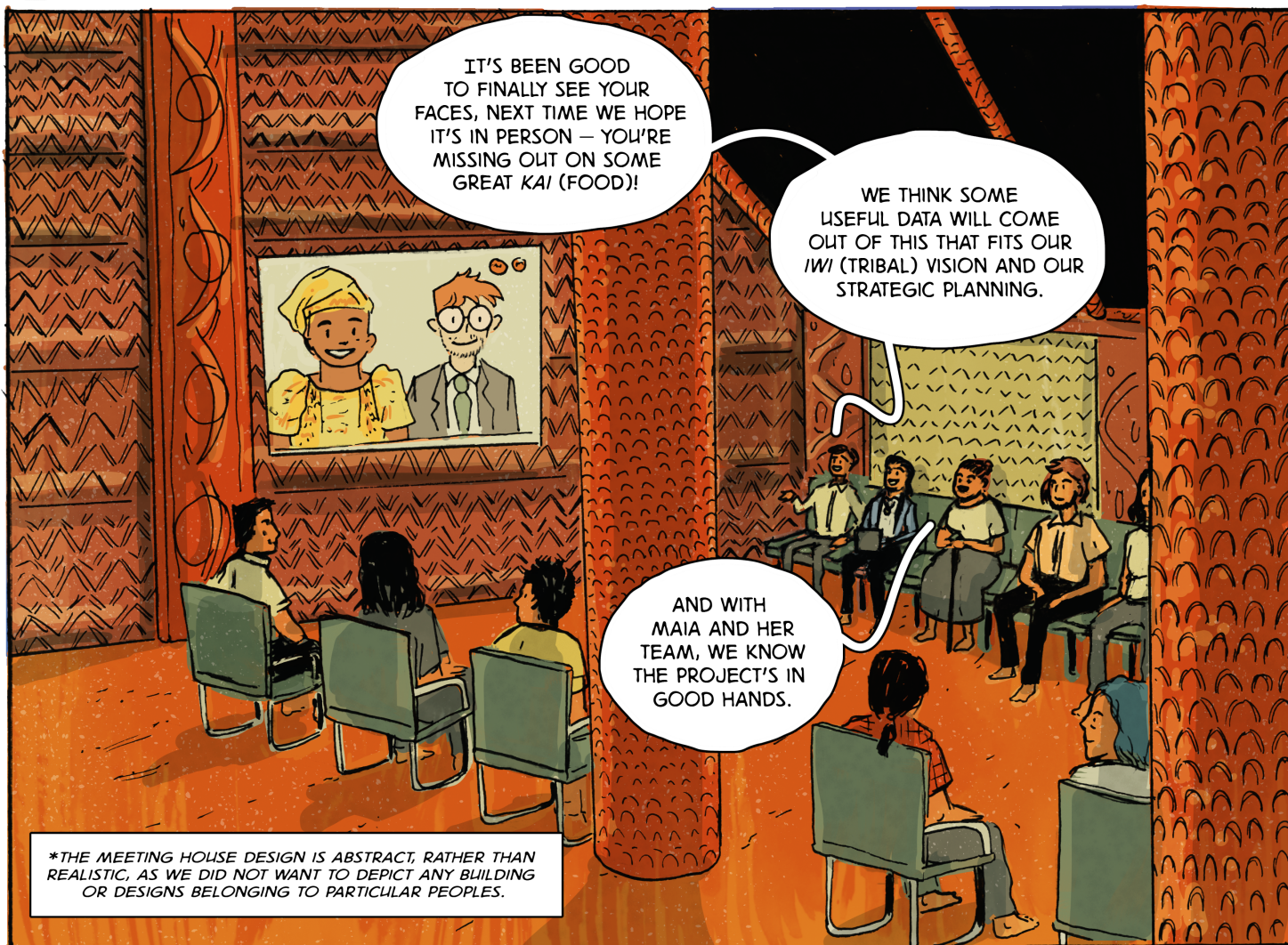
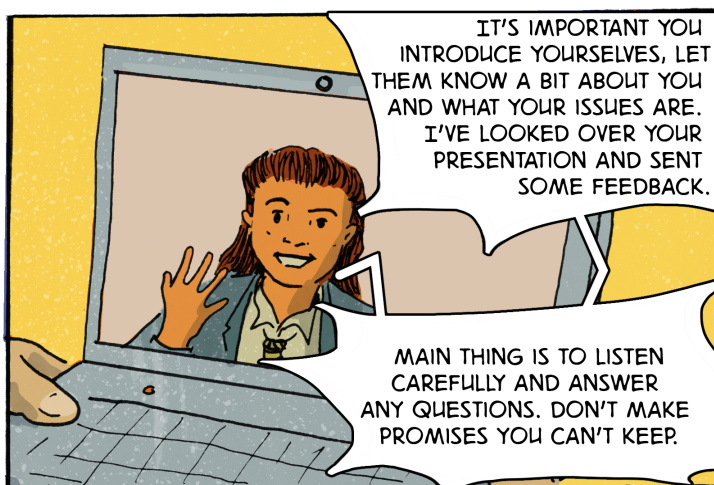
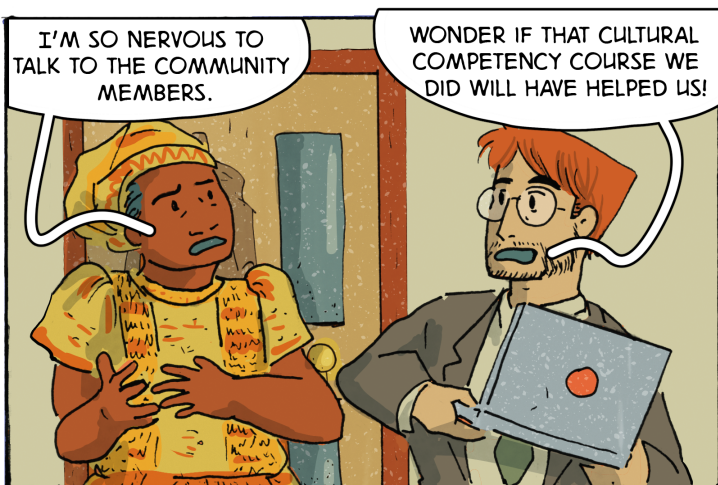
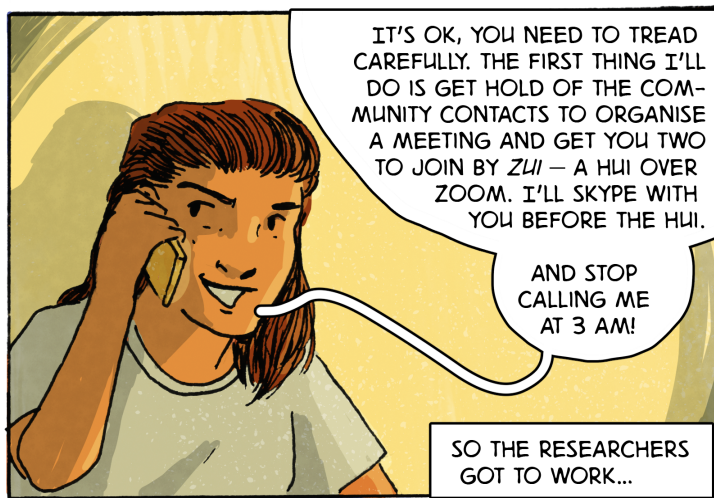


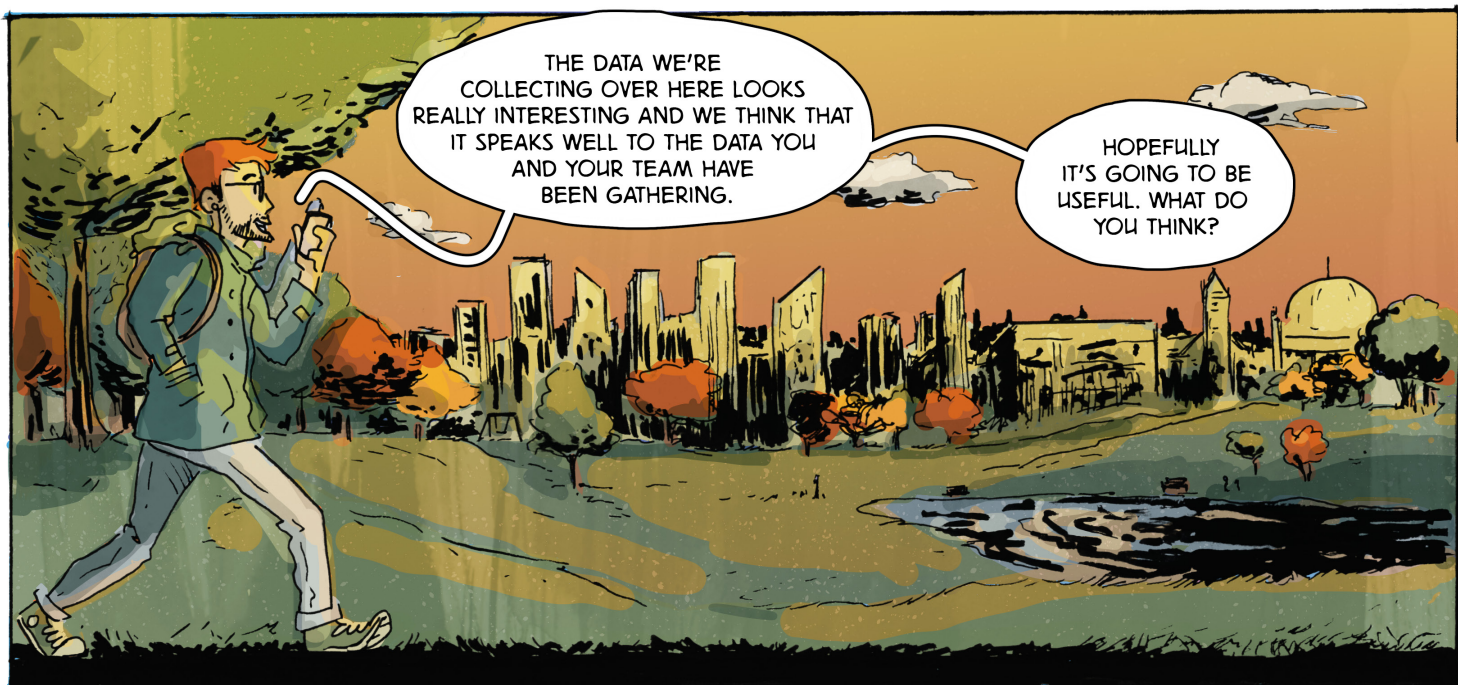
"ACADEMIC INDIGENOUS/NON-INDIGENOUS RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS CAN PERPETUATE THIS. THERE CAN BE ASSUMPTIONS IN WESTERN SCHOLARSHIP THAT YOUR KNOWLEDGE FRAMEWORKS ARE BETTER AND CAN ONLY HELP INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIP, REPLICATING ASSUMPTIONS OF INFERIORITY."

"THERE IS ALSO A TENDENCY TO ASSUME THAT ALL INDIGENOUS RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS ARE THE SAME, BUT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ARE DIVERSE AND GLOBAL. SO THERE IS NO ONE SIZE FITS ALL SOLUTION WHEN IT COMES TO INDIGENOUS/NON-INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIPS OTHER THAN A STARTING POINT THAT RECOGNISES THE IMPACTS OF COLONISATION."



"JUST AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARE NOT A HOMOGENOUS GLOBAL GROUP, INDIGENOUS RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES ARE NOT HOMOGENOUS; THEY ARE GROUNDED IN OUR VARIOUS AND SPECIFIC WORLD VIEWS."





THE DATA WE'RE COLLECTING OVER HERE LOOKS REALLY INTERESTING AND WE THINK THAT IT SPEAKS WELL TO THE DATA YOU AND YOUR TEAM HAVE BEEN GATHERING.

HOPEFULLY IT'S GOING TO BE USEFUL. WHAT DO YOU THINK?



I AGREE, IT'S LOOKING REALLY USEFUL. I'VE ORGANISED A HUI WITH THE COMMUNITY TO GO OVER THE ANALYSIS.

WE NEED TO GET SOME PAPERS OUT SOON, HAVE YOU DONE ENOUGH ANALYSIS TO START ON A DRAFT?



I HAVE MADE SOME NOTES BUT I NEED TO DO THIS WITH OUR KEY COMMUNITY PEOPLE

I'M HOPING THEY'LL AGREE TO BE NAMED AUTHORS TOO.

GREAT! TALK SOON.



HEY, I HEARD YOU GUYS ARE DOING AMAZING WORK IN NEW ZEALAND. WOULD IT BE COOL TO DISCUSS YOUR PROJECT SOMETIME?

I HAVE AN UPCOMING PARTNERSHIP IN SOUTH AMERICA AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE I DO IT RIGHT.

WE'RE NOT REALLY "WORKING IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND", IT'S A MUTUAL PARTNERSHIP WITH CLEAR ROLES. MAIA'S LEADERSHIP IS KEY AND SO IS UNDERSTANDING OUR POSITION AND ACCOUNTABILITIES.

WE CAN TELL YOU ABOUT WHAT WE LEARNT, BUT WHAT WORKED FOR US MAY NOT WORK FOR YOU.

"HOWEVER, THIS IS OUR ADVICE: WE HAD TO LEARN TO BUILD A TEAM RELATIONSHIP BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT. EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ON OTHER SIDES OF THE WORLD, MAIA IS OUR PARTNER AND WE NEEDED TO BE GUIDED BY HER AND LISTEN."



"AND OUR TEAM RELATIONSHIP DIDN'T EMERGE INSTANTLY... WE HAD TO ASK OURSELVES SOME DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, STEP OUTSIDE OUR COMFORT ZONES AND WORK HARD TO DEVELOP TRUST."

"WE HAD TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WE WERE DOING, AND WHY. WE COULDN'T JUST TAKE OUR KNOWLEDGE AND WAYS WE WERE USED TO WORKING FOR GRANTED - WE HAD TO STEP BACK, LEARN AND VALUE MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTIONS."



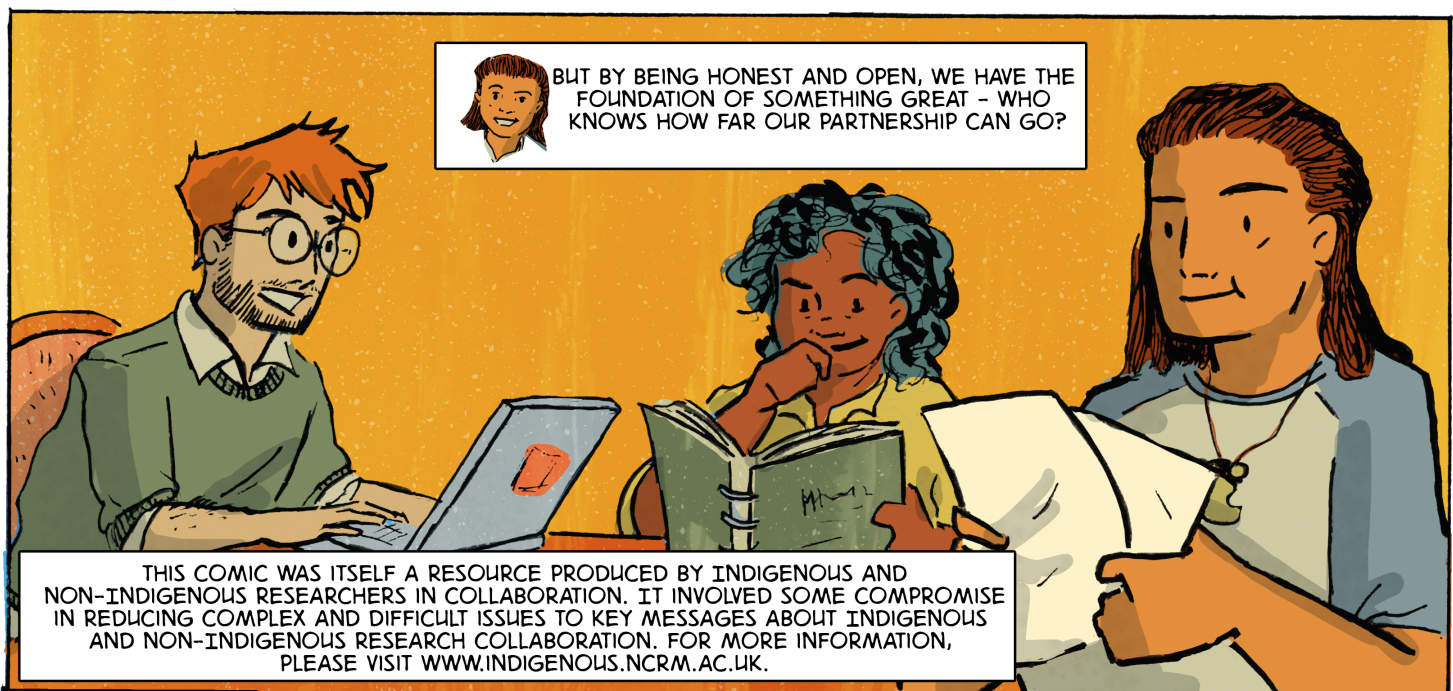
"I TOOK A RISK WORKING WITH PEOPLE I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WELL AND WHO DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HOW WE WORK. BUT I TRUSTED THEM AND THEY LISTENED - AND OUR PROJECT TURNED INTO SOMETHING USEFUL AND SPECIAL."



"MOST IMPORTANTLY WE HAD TO UNDERSTAND OURSELVES AND BE HONEST AND CLEAR ABOUT THE PROJECT."



BUT BY BEING HONEST AND OPEN, WE HAVE THE FOUNDATION OF SOMETHING GREAT - WHO KNOWS HOW FAR OUR PARTNERSHIP CAN GO?



THIS COMIC WAS ITSELF A RESOURCE PRODUCED BY INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS RESEARCHERS IN COLLABORATION. IT INVOLVED SOME COMPROMISE IN REDUCING COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT ISSUES TO KEY MESSAGES ABOUT INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS RESEARCH COLLABORATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.INDIGENOUS.NCRM.AC.UK.

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