

Emotional Geographies of Skilled Diasporic Citizenship

Malaysians (and ex-Malaysians) in Singapore, London and Kuala Lumpur

Negotiating Citizenship and Migration Trajectories

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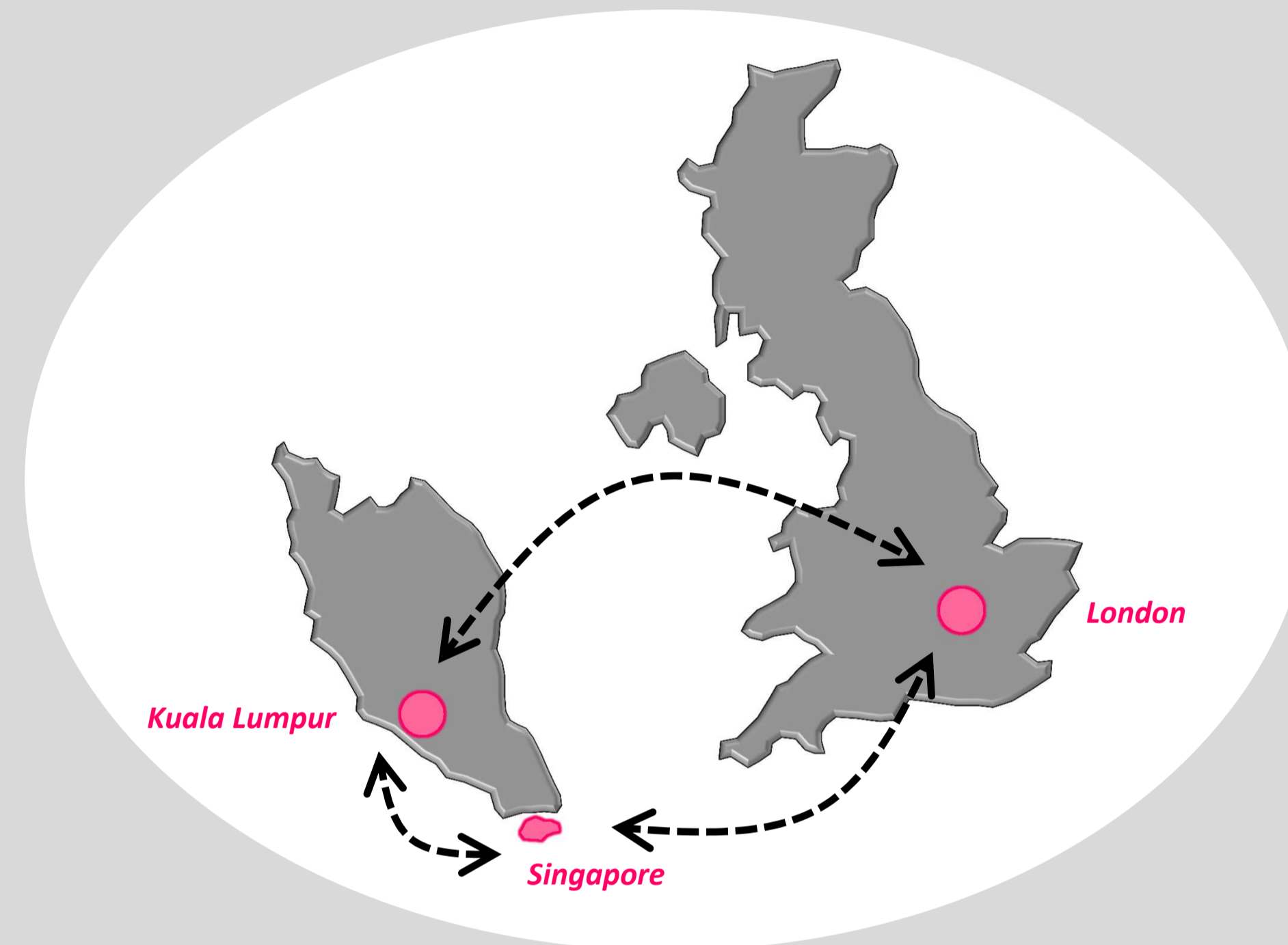
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WHAT?

- To deconstruct the **emotions of migration**
- To theorise **geographies of emotions** for skilled diaspora
- To examine the **emotional-knowing of official migration statuses**

WHY?

- Globally:** competition for human talents
- Emigration state (Malaysia):** Talent Corporation & New Economic Model (NEM); ethnic-based citizenship
- Immigration state (Singapore):** “foreign talents” vs Singaporeans; Chinese-elitism
- Immigration state (UK):** increasingly restrictive immigration policies
- Malaysian skilled diaspora:** desirable citizens/talents or unwanted “others”?
- Skilled migration:** flexible citizen and the illusion of choice
- Identity and belonging:** autochthony, ethnicity, authenticity



HOW?

- Archival research:** colonial and postcolonial Malaysia and Singapore
- Discourse analysis:** government policies and speeches, news articles
- Published statistics:** citizenship and migration
- In-depth interviews:** 50-60 in total (average 15-20 per site)
- Research diary:** personal emotional geography

WHAT FOR?

- Theoretically:** bringing emotions into migration, citizenship and human geography studies
- Empirically:** challenges notions of citizen/diaspora/transnational skilled migrant
- Methodologically:** raises questions of reflexivity, positionality and subjectivity in research
- Critically:** questions transnationalism and longevity of colonialism + illusion of choice for skilled diasporas

