

# 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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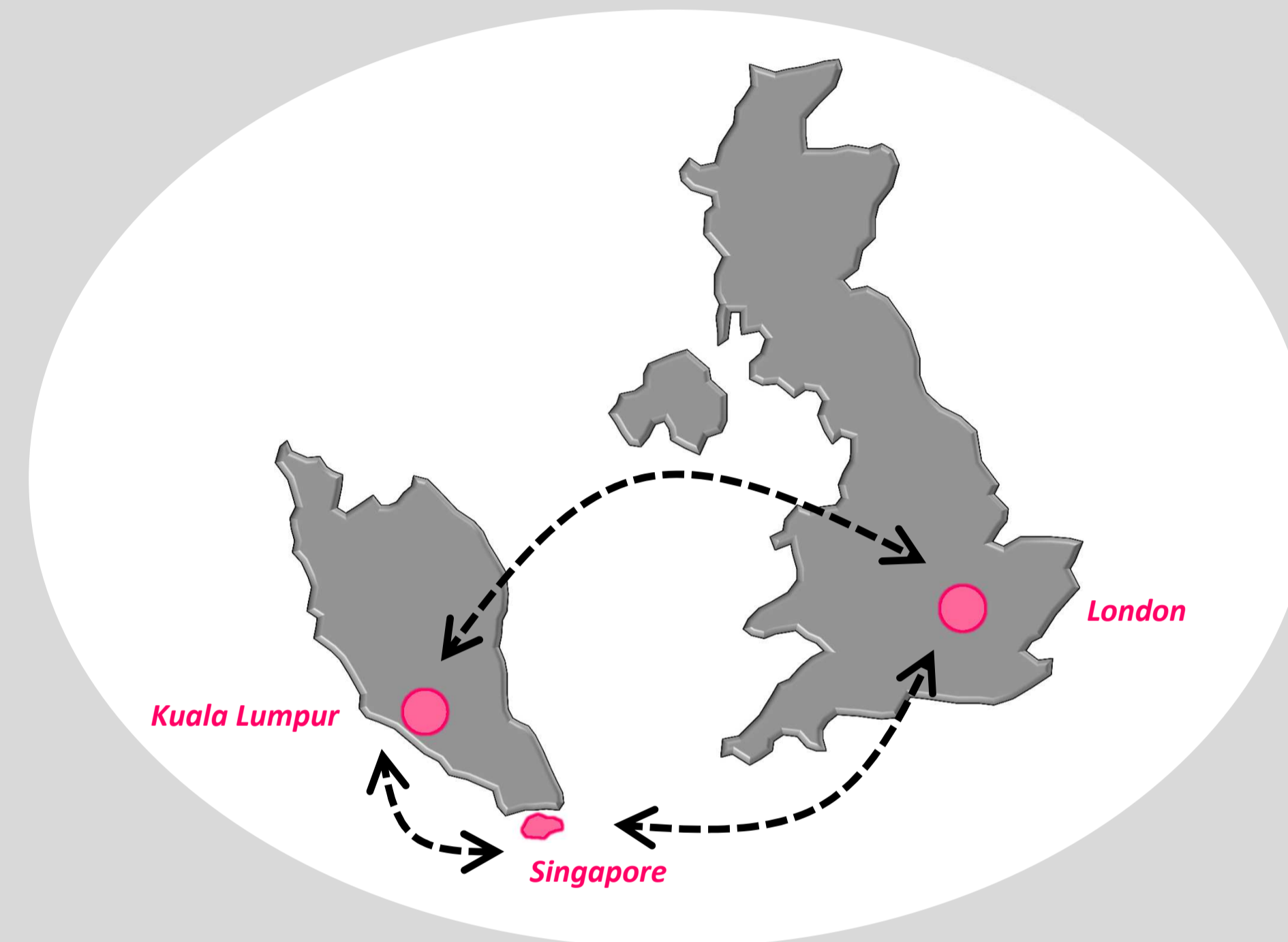
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## WHAT?

- 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

