



# Skilled diasporas as a resource : capital and/or connection ?

**Jean-Baptiste Meyer**  
**Institut de Recherche pour le Développement**



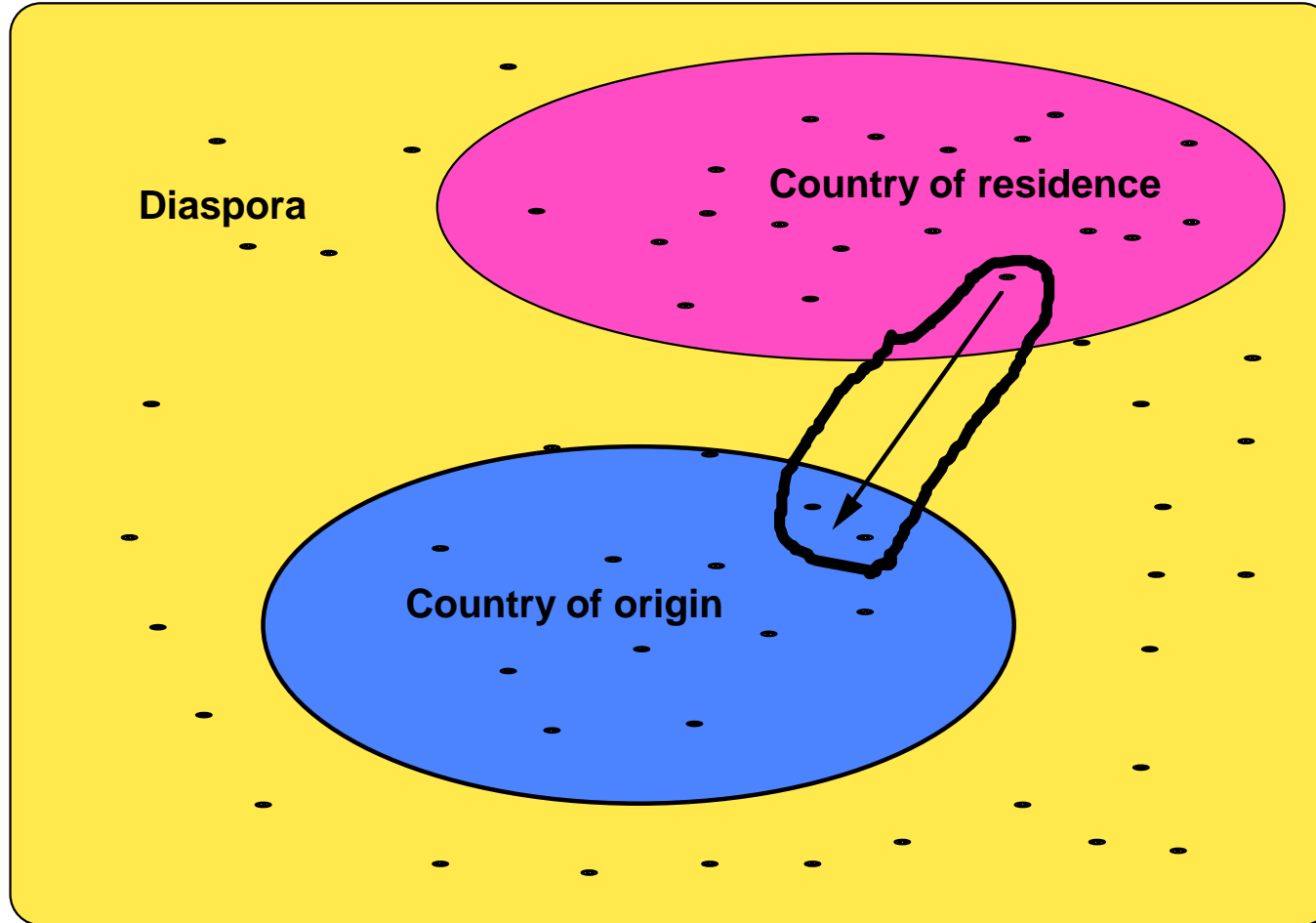
**WORLD BANK INSTITUTE**  
*Promoting knowledge and learning for a better world*

World Conference on Intellectual Capital for Communities  
- Third Edition -

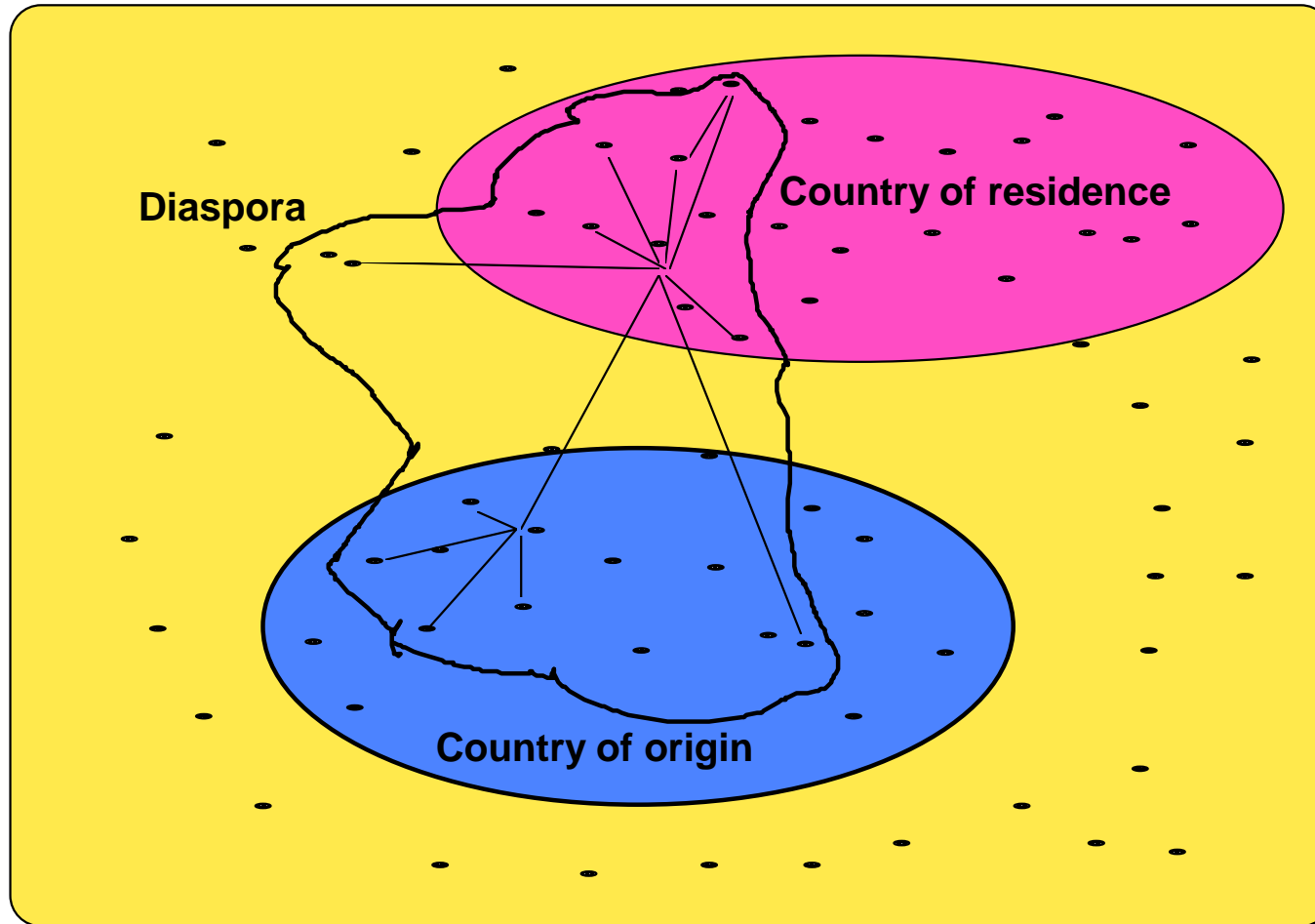
# Brain drain and brain gain

- **From human capital ...**  
**(Baghwati, CNUCED, value measures)**
- **... through social capital...**  
**(migrant networks, interpersonal relations, culture)**
- **...to socio-technical connections.**  
**(Diaspora Knowledge Networks, ICTs, identity construct)**

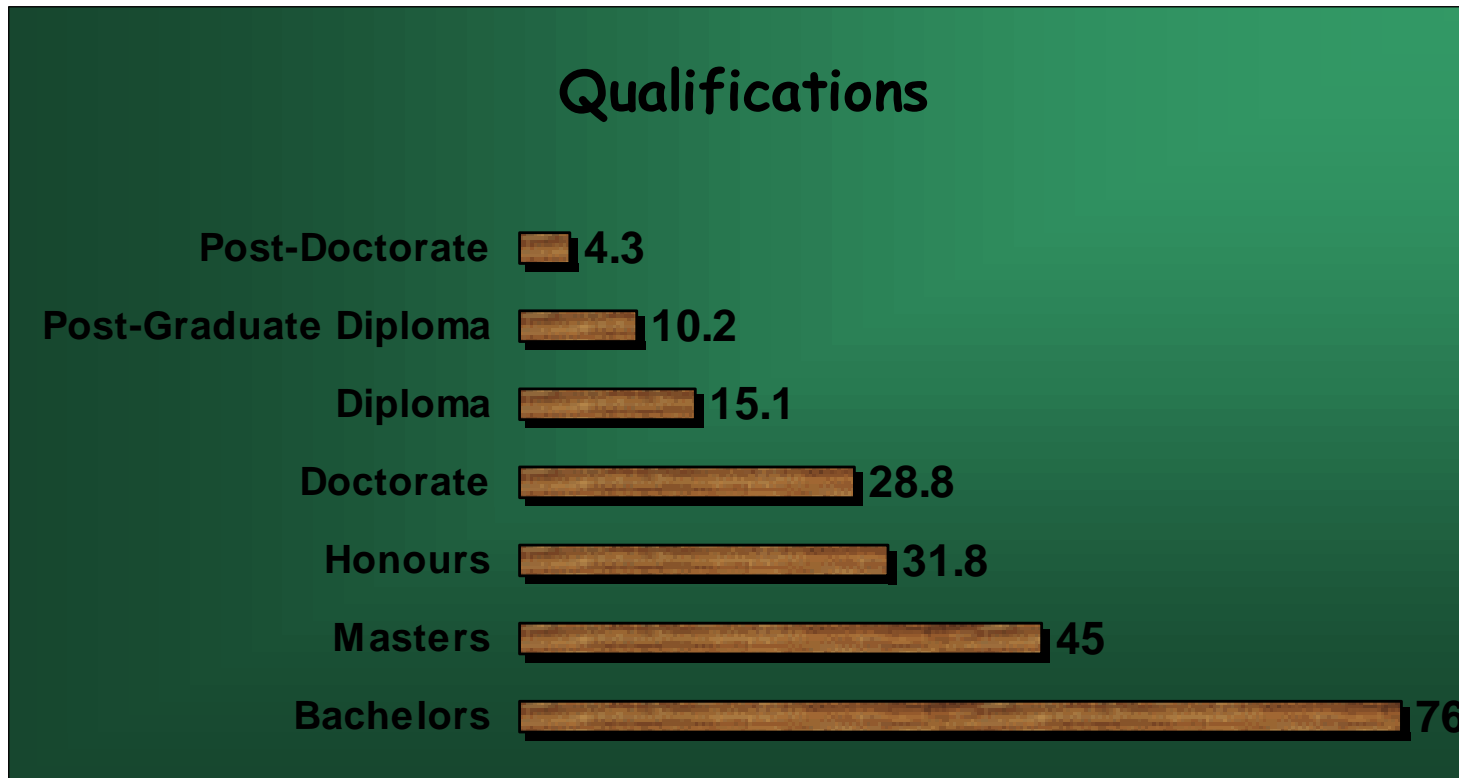
# Brain gain : return option



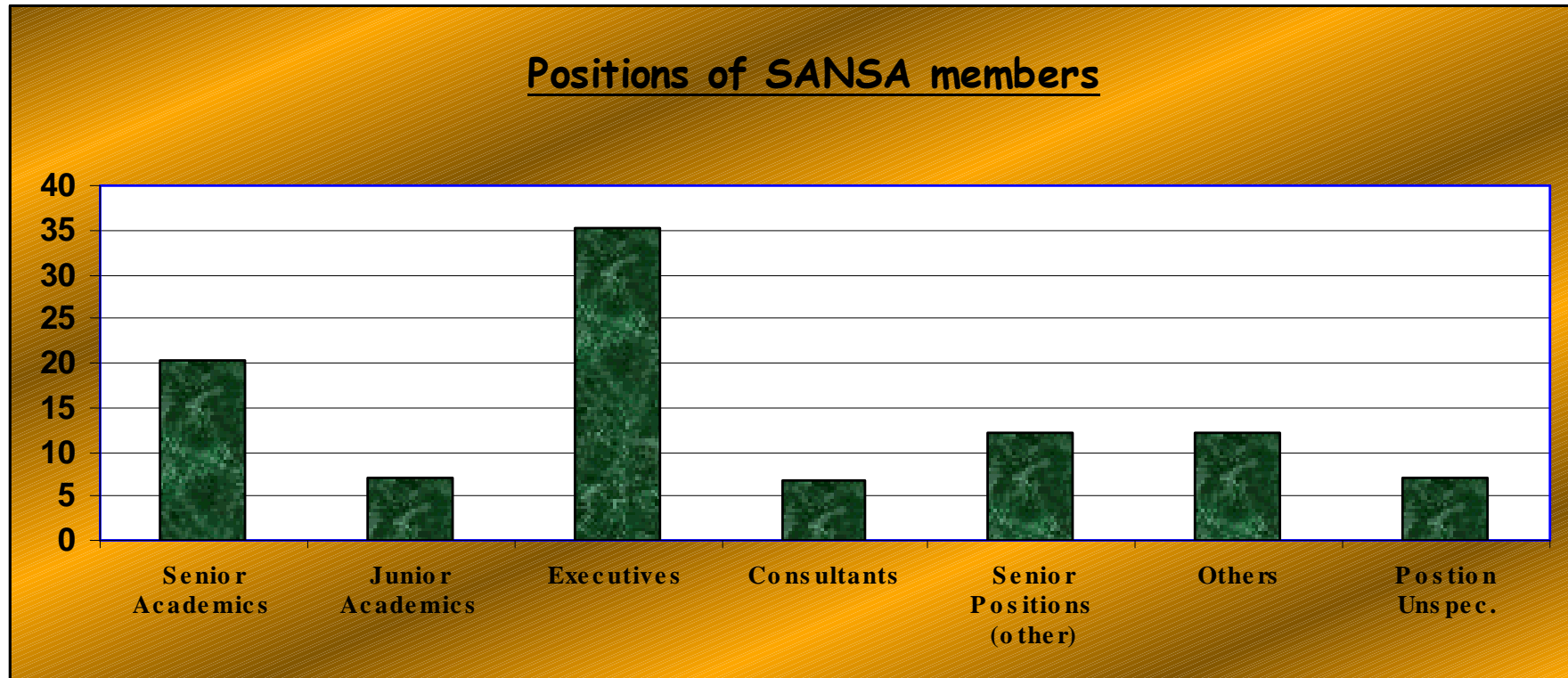
# Brain gain : diaspora option



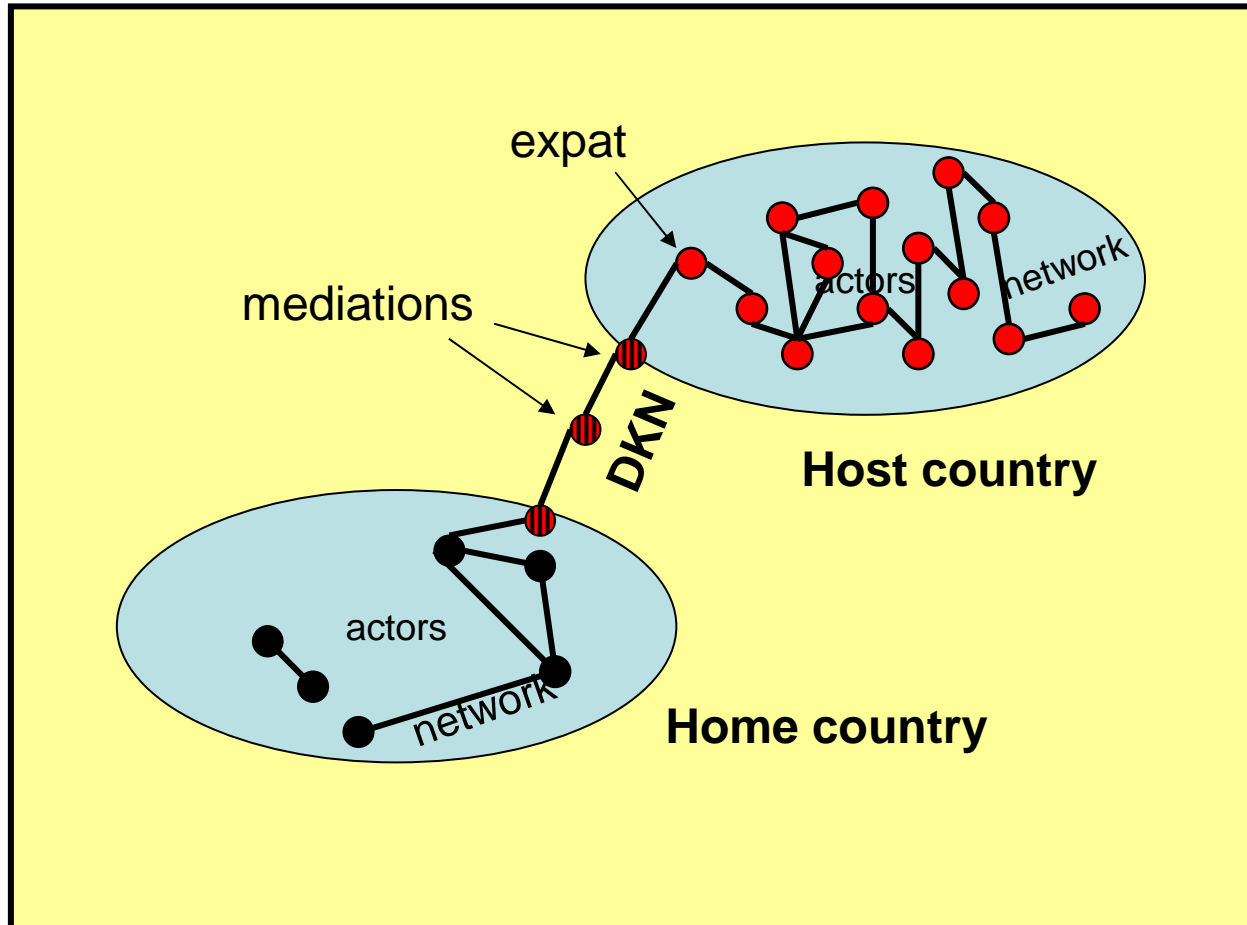
# Human capital (case of South Africa)



# Social capital (case of South Africa)



# Connectionist approach



# Capital ?

- **As capital ...**  
**expats knowledge (networks) can be accumulated and mobilised for productive purposes**
- **... sometimes for non economic developmental goals...**  
**social value; cognitive priority; cognitive capitalism**
- **...basically action related (vs capital).**  
**Diaspora Knowledge Networks contribution is potential, only realised through action**
- **...empowerment asset.**