
Intercultural communicative practices in science



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Agenda

- Introduction
- Intelligentsia consultants
- “Superdiversity”
- International business
- Categorisation and benefits
- International mobility
- GlobSci
- Language
- EU Horizon2020 programme
- Considerations



Intelligentsia Consultants

- proposal writing
- negotiation
- meeting and networking with partners
- reporting
- organizing events
- promotional and dissemination of materials
- asset: Project management skills + intercultural competence



What is Superdiversity?

“a dynamic interplay of variables among an increased number of new, small and scattered, multiple-origin, transnationally connected, socio-economically differentiated and legally stratified immigrants who have arrived over the last decade”.

(Vervotec, 2007)



International business

- Generalisation and identification of “national characteristics”.
- Intercultural business etiquette—how does one approach interaction?
- Specific fields (ie. Science and technology)-to coordinate and cooperate?
- Work ethic-varying perceptions
- What is “corporate culture”?



The need for categorisation (1)

- We are conditioned from an early age in values and perceptions
- Gender, age and nationality—quickest attributes assigned
- Natural need to create identification around us
- Cross-cultural training intends to create broad-mindedness, acceptance and views of normality

The need for categorisation (2)

In terms of making group distinctions, it is possible to make rough divisions according to Richard Lewis (author) :

- Linear-actives- plan, schedule, organize, pursue action chains, do one thing at a time. (ie Germans and Swiss)
- Multi-actives- lively, loquacious peoples who do many things at once, priorities planned according to the relative thrill or importance that each appointment brings with it (not time schedule). (ie Italians, Latin Americans and middle eastern countries)
- Reactives-prioritize courtesy and respect, listening quietly and calmly to their interlocutors and reacting carefully to the other side's proposals. (ie. Chinese, Japanese and Finns)

Can categorization be beneficial?

- Cultural capital-sought after and assessed by an organisation.
- Employees “may possess cultural traits which would make them excellent ambassadors, mediators or leaders in certain foreign cultures”
- Be careful of “cultural black holes” (Lewis 2003)—extreme core beliefs which cannot be questioned; affecting one’s analysis of others (perception or intelligence of)
- Challenge of values being showcased

“The key thing is to have a strong-enough science base to interact with a globalized and mobile scientific world.”

Kieron Flanagan (2012)



Language as a cultural marker

- Transcultural communication
- Using English as a global communicator
- Non-verbal cues
- Transitional learning



International Mobility

- Science as a global culture and even more so, a borderless marketplace
- Global movement: migration vs. mobility
- More attention towards higher funded and better support research projects/schemes around the world
- Female researchers-increasing numbers in Marie Curie fellowships¹
- 2 main factors: better research teams and higher career prospects
- Reality of “globe-hopping”

1: http://horizon-magazine.eu/article/women-science-mobility-good-your-career_en.html

GlobSci survey¹

- *“first systematic study of the mobility of scientists in a large number of countries”.*
- 16 countries, 17000 researchers
- *“Itchy feet” or “Restless youth syndrome”*-postdocs outweigh professors (61% vs 35%)

FOREIGN FRACTIONS

Developed countries have the highest proportions of foreign scientists, according to the GlobSci survey, which also identified the major sources of each country's foreign science community (right).

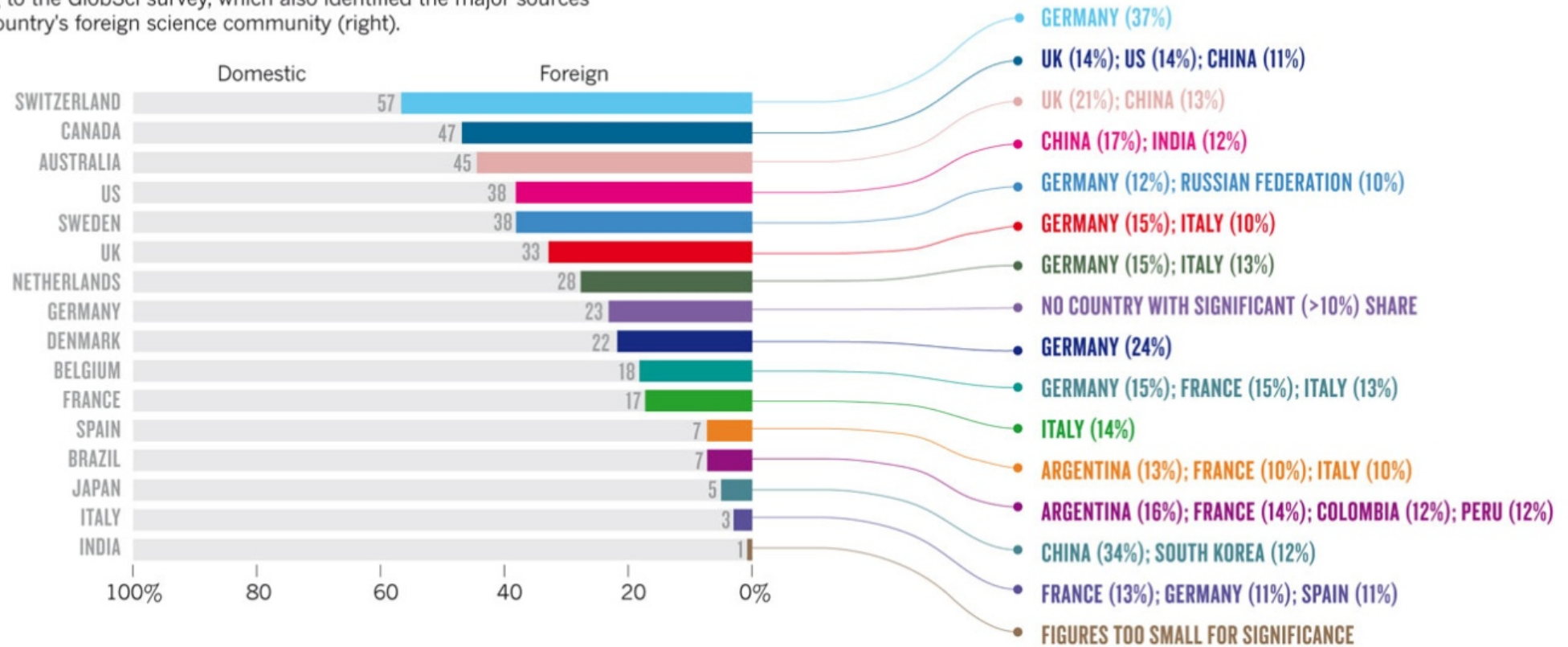


Figure 1. GlobSci survey results, 2012

THE GLOBAL DIASPORA

Of countries in the GlobSci survey of 17,000 researchers, India sends the largest proportion of its scientists overseas. European countries also have high rates of emigration.

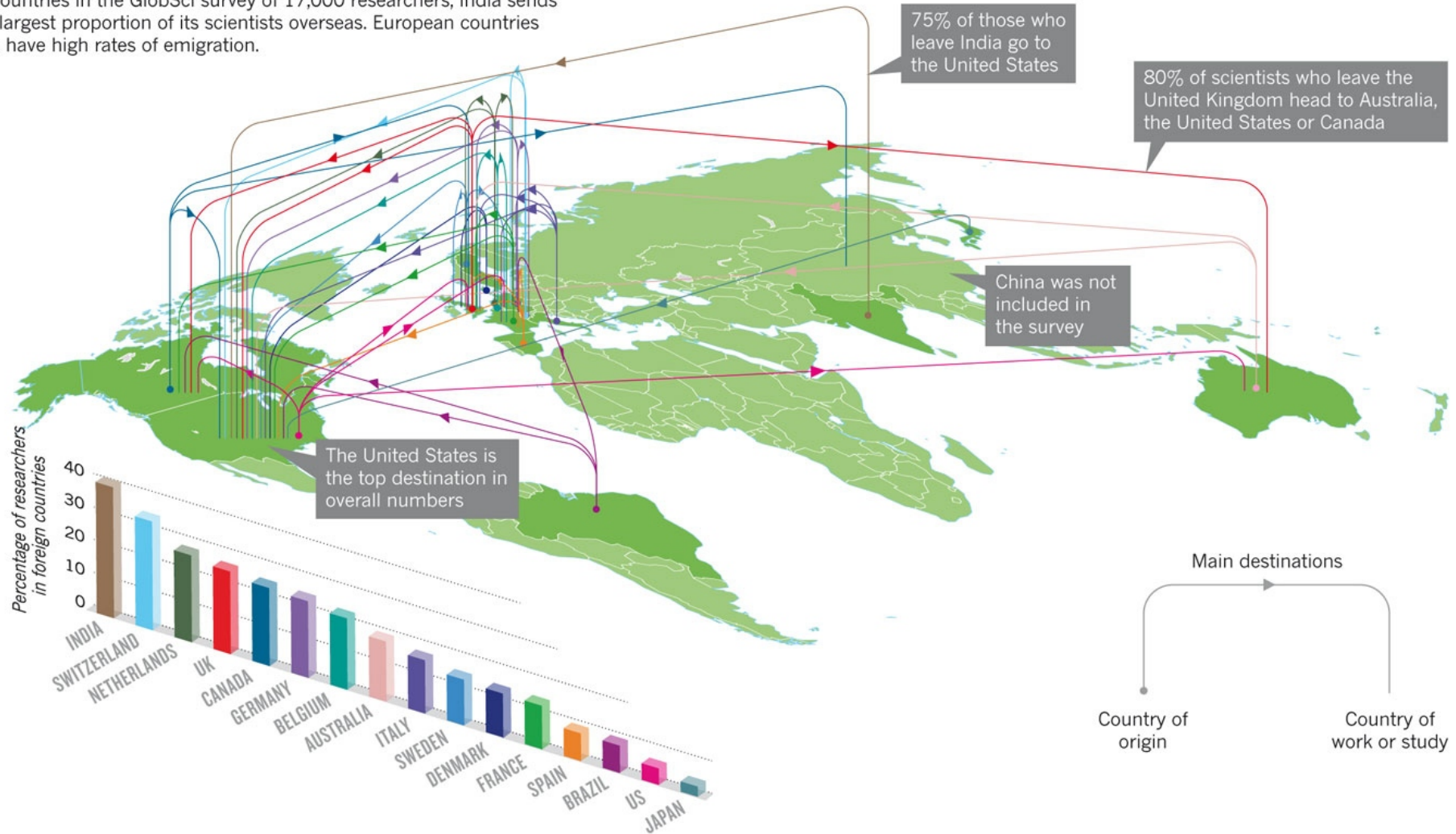


Figure 2. GlobSci diaspora, 2012

EU Horizon2020



Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

- European Commission funding programme targeting “Research and Innovation
- Example project: www.h2020-ascimat.com
- 3 Pillars to apply to: Excellent science, Industrial leadership and Societal challenges
- Decision of call, Network of partners & contractual participation, tasks allocated, proposal writing, negotiation and success of passing phases (stages)



Team-building

- In a well-known study (1990s), international teams have shown to be better at solving complex problems than national teams.

WHY?

- Different perspectives
- No routine
- Higher challenge= less complacency
- A shift in thinking incites innovation and betters versatility

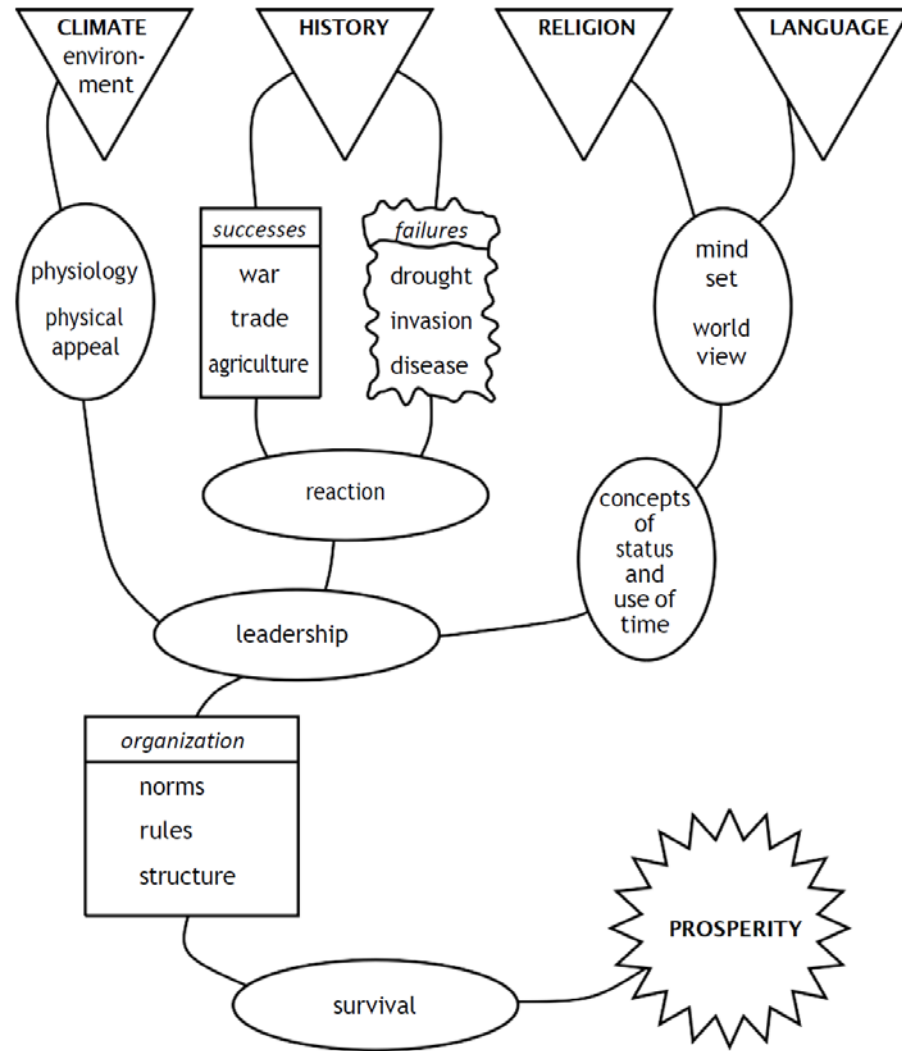


Figure 3. Organisation of society (from “When cultures collide”, Lewis 2006)

Consider:

- Varying differences of Status, organization and Leadership
- Team-building-coordination and challenges (preparing events for project, for example)
- Different elements such as negotiation, humour, time management, hierarchical factors and decision-making varieties
- Cultures also may differ in terms of their attitudes towards technology: (1) control; (2) subjugation, and (3) harmonization

Questions?

