Emotional Geographies of Skilled Diasporic Citizenship
Malaysians (and ex-Malaysians) in Singapore, London and Kuala Lumpur
Negotiating Citizenship and Migration Trajectories

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