

**Migration and Culture:
a challenge for Asian nations in an era
of transnationalism**

**Stephen Castles
School of Social and Political Sciences
University of Sydney**

Key dynamics 1

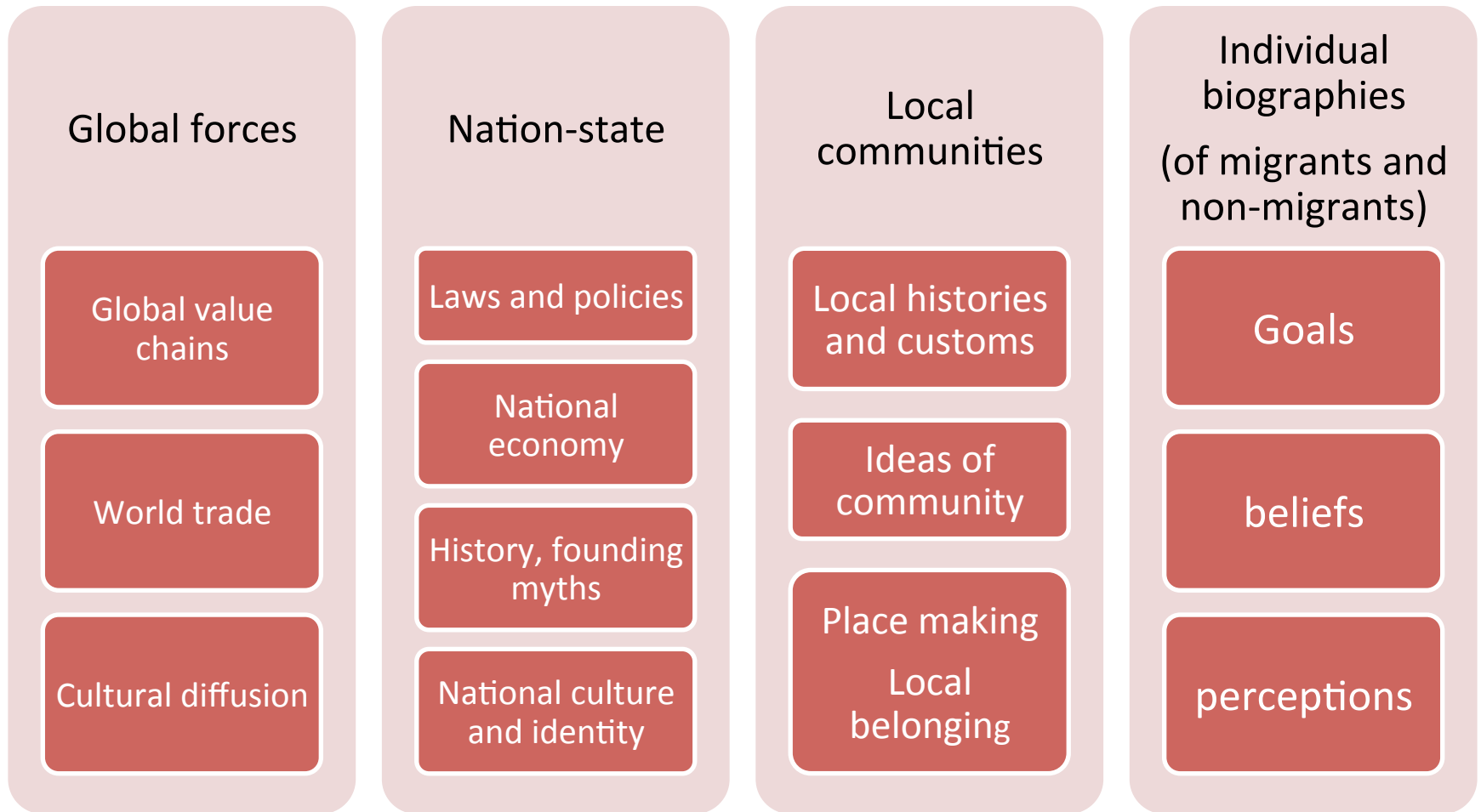
Structure



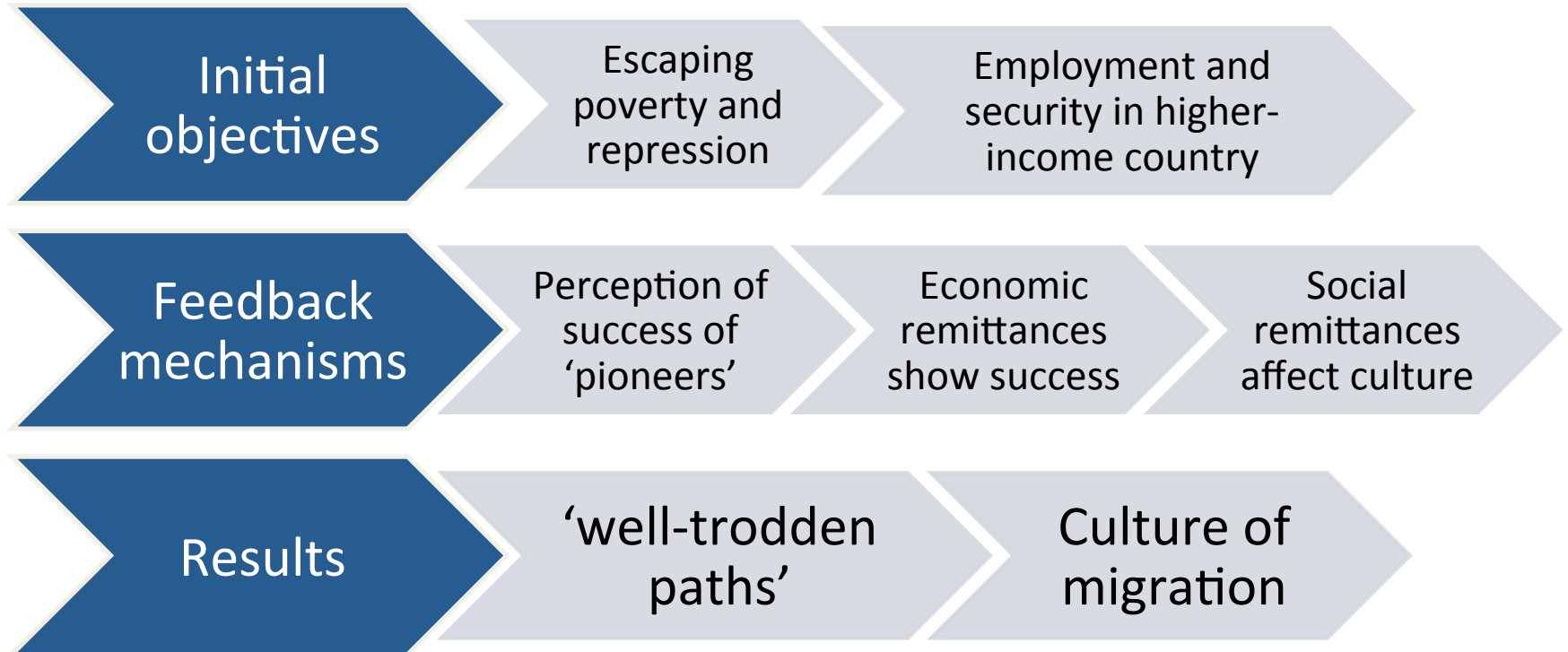
Agency



Key dynamics 2: multi-scalar interactions



Culture and migration in origin country



Migration and development

Neo-classical economic theory: individual income maximisation

- Migrants go from poorer to richer areas
- Economic remittances reduce income differences and support development investment
- emigration declines
- **Result: migration → development → less migration**

Sociological theory: migration as a social and cultural process

- Initial development provide financial and human capital for migration
- Social remittances transfer attitudes conducive to migration
- Migration networks create cultural capital for increased migration
- **Result: development → increased migration**
(at least for a lengthy transitional period)

Migration networks

Migrants maintain social ties with family and friends back home

- New communication technologies make this easier

These social networks facilitate further migration:

- Information on migration routes and opportunities (cultural capital)
- Support during migration and upon arrival (social capital)
- Pierre Bourdieu: theory of **social capital**

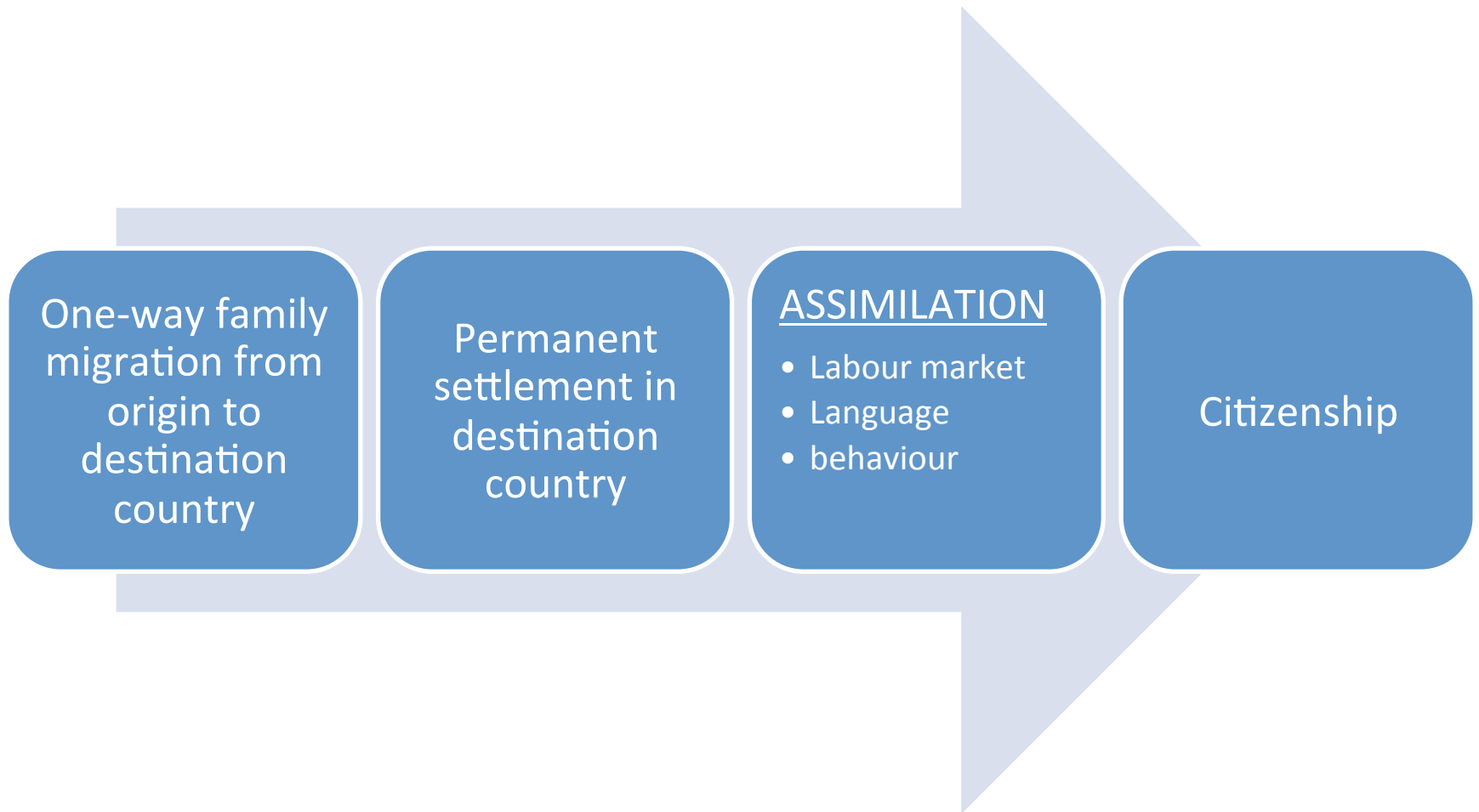
Migration networks can make migration a self-sustaining process

- Even when governments stop recruitment and try to close borders
- Doug Massey: theory of **cumulative causation**

But migration networks can decline over time

- Migrants may become **gatekeepers** rather than **facilitators** (Hein de Haas)

The settler society model



The temporary migrant worker model (also known as 'guestworkers', 'circular migration', contract labour or undocumented migration)

Migration to
work for limited
period (e.g. 3-5
years)

DIFFERENTIAL EXCLUSION

- Restricted legal status – or none at all
- No right to stay or bring in dependents
- Limited labour rights (e.g. no job-changing)

Return to origin
country

- Deportation in case of non-compliance

The failure of assimilation and differential exclusion

Labour market segmentation

- Migrants get low-income jobs

Residential segregation

- Migrants cluster in low-cost areas

Cultural maintenance

- Migrants set up businesses
- Ethnic schools, religious institutions
- Linguistic, cultural and religious diversity

Results

- Marginalisation of minorities OR
- Acceptance of cultural diversity
- Multiculturalism

CONTEXT: The new complexity of migration and mobility

Economic :

- highly-skilled
- Lower-skilled

Non-economic

- Forced migration
- Educational, Life-style, Marriage, Retirement

Type of migration/ mobility

- Temporary ↔ Permanent
- One-way ↔ circular
- Regular ↔ irregular

Settlement

- Short-term, long-term, permanent
- Return migration – or onward migration:
- **Transnationalism? Cosmopolitanism?**

Asian migration: the new complexity

Skilled migration to N. America, Oceania, Europe

- Leading often to family reunion and settlement

Temporary labour migration

- To Gulf region, new industrial centres in East and SE Asia (e.g. S. Korea, Malaysia)

Skilled migration to HK, Singapore, China, S. Korea

- Global and regional competition for skills

Marriage migration to Japan, Taiwan, S. Korea

- Soon to China and India too?

Educational migration to Europe, N. America, Australia

- Increasingly to China, Thailand, Singapore etc?

Refugee flows continue

- 7.8m refugees in Asia, out of the world total of 13m in 2014

Temporary migration and transnationalism

- Mobility rather than migration?
- Growth in temporary, irregular and circular migration
 - Ethnicity/race, gender, class, legal status, human capital as criteria for inclusion/exclusion
- All migration leads to some degree of settlement
- But many migrants now expect to move on or return home
- Emergence of transnational identities and communities

Q. What are the consequences for integration, identity and citizenship?

Transnational communities

- Many migrants maintain regular and significant economic, political, social and cultural links across national borders
- Frequent travel between homeland and destination(s)
- Cross-cultural capabilities and affiliations
- Trend away from unitary national identity
 - Multiple belongings
- Need for new forms of citizenship:
 - Rights and obligations in two or more countries
 - Portable entitlements to pensions, welfare payments, etc.

THE END

Social Transformation and International Migration (STIM) Project
website: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/transformation_migration/index.shtml

Social Transformation and Migration: National and Local Experiences in South Korea, Turkey, Mexico and Australia

edited by Stephen Castles, Derya Ozkul and Magdalena Arias Cubas
<http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/?K=9781137474940>

The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World

by Stephen Castles, Hein de Haas and Mark J. Miller
<http://www.age-of-migration.com/>