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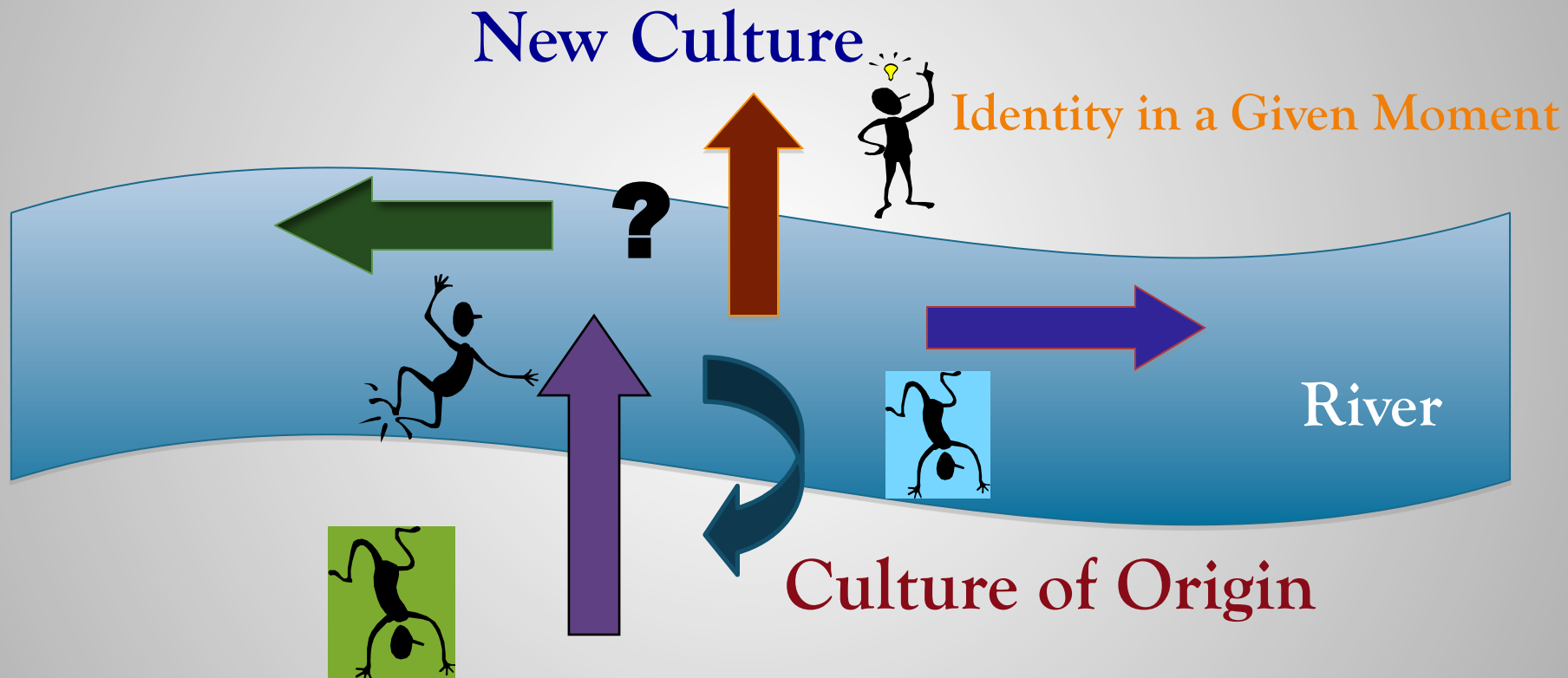
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“Immigrants in Portugal: Embracing Diversity and Inclusion”

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Embrassing Diversity: Strategies of Personal Identities



The Immigrated' s Culture versus the Immigrant' s Culture

There is no immigrant' s culture, but rather different ways of living, coexisting and identifying oneself with the cultural worlds that each subject crosses on his or her social paths.

The Intercultural Self: Rowney, the Citizen of the World

“I’ m not Rowney all the time [...]. I’ m ‘*The Brazilian*’; ‘*Oh, it’s that Brazilian doctor*’. This gives you a dimension of the importance of each person’s behaviour as an individual outside his own country; you are your country representative. I’ m not Brazilian, but I can’ t say that I’ m Portuguese neither.”

“Immigraland”: the Escape through the Third Bank

With one foot on each bank, where he laid down his roots, Rowney is like an “orchid”, travelling through space in search of the third bank, the third place, the place that doesn’t exist in anywhere else, or which could be every place on Earth.

The Monocultural Case: Nelson and Soraia The Returning as a Project

Nelson and Soraia show little interest in achieving success in Portuguese society.

“[...] The longing is the most difficult thing. All our family there, and us here... it makes us want to leave. [...] There is more joy in Brazil. Here it is quiet. [...] I made a plan [...] last year, which changed because she was pregnant; now, we are planning to leave, maybe next year [...]” (Nelson)

“[...] The more we talk [with family in Brazil] the more homesick we feel [...]” (Soraia)

The Rejection of Metamorphosis as an Identitary Strategy to be there

With regard to the possible transformations that immigrants undergo, in the case of Nelson and Soraia, there seems to be no great will to integrate into local society and joining in the festivities and the rhythm of daily life. They do not feel much changed, because their mission in life is a quick return to Brazil, as little acculturated as possible.

A Few Final Words...

It is possible, in these two cases having Brazil as a first bank and Portugal as the second, to perceive those who admit themselves as citizens of the world, who don't see the second bank as the culture of arrival, but rather as a living gerund (Vieira, 2009); there are others that use the second bank as a passport to the first with some dreams fulfilled, believing that on returning they are still the same, that they return to the same left reality, when neither one nor the other ends up happening.