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**Immigrant Or Global Citizen？And The Power of a Network.**

**Outline for the G-Seminar:**

Introduction:

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**Case Study 1**: President Donald Trump wants to build a border wall to keep illegal immigrants from Mexico from coming into the U.S.A. He wants Mexico to pay for the wall.

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**Case Study 2:** The European Union wants to create ‘protective zones’ to keep illegal immigrants of the European shores.

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**What do these 2 situation have in common?**

We’re talking about 2 super powers trying to protect themselves from outside invaders. These so-called ‘outside invaders’ in these two cases are called illegal immigrants. In this G-seminar I would like to shed more light on the concept of ‘immigration’ or ‘migration’. The main focus will be on the question whether we’re dealing with immigrants or global citizens. I will also discuss　the importance of a network in this presentation.

**Immigration:**

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What is ‘migration’ and ‘immigration’?

Before I go into what immigrants are, I’d like to make a distinction between the terms ‘migrant’ and ‘immigrant’.

Migrant is a broad term that includes refugees and those moving for economic reasons. Many of these people are still on the move, and some may wish to return home one day.

The word ‘immigrant’ refers to those who have moved to a foreign country with the intention of settling there. In this presentation I will use these two terms interchangeably.

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**Why do people ‘migrate’ or ‘immigrate’ to other countries**

Why do people leave their home countries and move to other countries to live there permanently?

Let’s have a look at some reasons.

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So, for some migrants leaving their home country can be an exciting venture. For example, when you get a job offer in another country or to be reunited with a loved one. You will leave your home country knowing something positive awaits you.

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Others, must leave their countries suddenly, without a plan. Sometimes, moving to another country is forced, confusing and often scary. You leave without knowing or learning the language of the new place and that can cause problems. You will usually face prejudice and a cold reception, which can create a sense of loneliness and isolation. However, if you can find other people of your community in the new country, you will feel less lonely as a migrant.

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What type of ‘migrants’ and ‘immigrants’ are there?

Migration can be put into a number of categories.

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**Circular migration** is the freely movement of migrants between countries. Circular migrants include workers who are brought in on a host country's labor demands. Labor migration is usually organized by governments. For example, you see in many Asian countries or in the United Arab Emirates a high demand for English teachers.

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**Forced migration,** on the other hand, is not freely but rather necessary for survival. Those in this category include refugee victims displaced by natural disasters, warfare and famine. For example, the Syrian refugees in Europe. Or people in the Horn of Africa in 2011 leaving their countries, because of the severe drought, which was a natural disaster for that region.

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**Irregular migration** is a process whereby migrants enter a host country illegally, that is without the proper documentation or without following the regulated channels. For example, Mexicans trying to cross the American borders to settle there.

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Migrants are typically classified as follows:

Documented (legal)

Irregular (illegal)

Economic, those who are seeking to improve their quality of life, including asylum seekers

Skilled, who are economically desirable in the host country due to their professional specialization or qualifications; they will often be granted a limited duration work visa.

Expats, Short for Expatriate - somebody who has left his or her homeland to live or work in another country, usually for a long period of time. Now most commonly used as a term for those working in companies outside of their home country. There is a little bit of controversy around expats, because it usually refers to people with roots in Western countries with a certain social status and privilege. An Arab, African or South East Asian is rarely referred to as an expats.

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From migrant – asylum seeker to immigrant

When I just started teaching at Kyoai Gakuen, I shared my personal story with you. I would like to refresh your memory again of my life story in terms of being an immigrant.

When I was 9 years old, my family and I were forced to leave my birth country DR Congo, because of the political turmoil and the instability there. We moved to the Netherlands as refugees, we were granted political asylum and I remember spending my youth living in an asylum camp. Eventually, we got a residence permit. And after some years we became naturalized Dutch citizens. In my life I have lived, studied and worked in London, Cape Town and the Philippines. Now, I am in Japan, I moved here voluntarily for work and to be reunited with my partner. As I’ve explained earlier, I am the perfect example of the terms we just discussed. I was forced to leave my birth country DR Congo with my family and we migrated to the Netherlands. In the Netherlands my family and I were political refugees. Then we became Dutch citizens. Now, I am an immigrant in Japan with a work visa. However, essentially, I like to consider myself a global citizen and an Afropolitan. I will discuss the latter, later on in my presentation.

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What is a global citizen?

A Global Citizen is someone who:

* is aware of the wider world and has a sense of their own role as a world citizen
* respects and values diversity
* has an understanding of how the world works
* is outraged by social injustice
* participates in the community, locally and globally
* is willing to act to make the world a more equal and sustainable place
* takes responsibility for their actions.

Diaspora

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When someone migrates or immigrates, they will live in the diaspora.

What is a diaspora?

The term diaspora comes from an ancient Greek word meaning "to scatter about." And that's exactly what the people of a diaspora do — they scatter from their homeland to places across the globe, spreading their culture as they go.

**What kind of Diasporas do there exist?**

The Bible refers to the diaspora of Jews exiled from Israel by the Babylonians. But the word is also used more generally to describe any large migration of refugees, language, or culture.

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**Victim Diaspora**

Victim Diaspora: A group of people who have been banished from their place of origin and sent to another land. Usually as a result of a traumatic event, like a conquest, persecution, enslavement, genocide or exile.

Example: Enslaved Africans in the North Atlantic Slave Trade

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**Trading Diaspora**

A community, often members of an extended family, that goes abroad to conduct trade in a host society. The 'family firm'. They receive permission from the host government to learn local language and customs, but do not become part of the local society.

Example: Jews, Armenians, Chinese, Arabs, Indians.

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**Imperial Diaspora**

Migrants who go to another land that has been conquered by their own nation and enjoy a higher status due to their ethnic ties to the ruling power. They do not adapt to local customs, but locals have to adapt to their customs.

Example: The Spanish in Mexico enjoy a higher status than the Indian natives. Indian natives must speak Spanish and not the other way around.

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**Labor Diaspora**
Forced servants and labor migrants

Example: Colonial America, the Irish immigration to the United States.

Network:

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What is a network?

Have you ever heard of the concept six degrees of separation? Six degrees of separation is the idea that all living things and everything else in the world is six or fewer steps away from each other. Any two people can be made to connect in a maximum of 6 steps. Basically, it is a chain of "a friend of a friend".

Well, a network is based on this idea. Networking is the practice of increasing your business or social contacts with people that you wouldn’t have met otherwise.

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There are different types of networks.

Let’s take for example here, at this school, the Activity Clubs. You can have a classroom of 30 students, with 5 students in the choir, 4 students in the soccer team and 3 in the English Club. They are connected through their club activities.

But, you can also think of Student Unions, Political Parties or even online Facebook Groups or LinkedIn groups. These are all networks connecting people based on background or interests.

The power of a Network:

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Why do immigrants in the diaspora need a network?

In the beginning of this presentation I said that sometimes migrants can feel lonely and isolated in a new country. Because they are ‘the other’. I can attest this first-hand, having grown up as an immigrant in The Netherlands. In 2010 my sister Angelique Mbundu, her husband Dady Kiyangi, my other sister Pauline Mbundu and a friend of theirs came up with the idea to form a network for highly educated Africans living in the Netherlands. There had not been an existing network for African professionals in the Netherlands before and they felt that there was a need for it. This is why they created the African Young Professional Network, also called AYP. What is the AYP Network about?

AYP unites Africans in The Netherlands to share knowledge and experiences with each other. AYP contributes to the personal/ professional growth and development of its members.” They organize professional and social activities for their members.

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Let’s have a look at what AYP does:

The African Young Professional Network (AYP):

Introduction video of AYP (45 seconds)

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What is the AYP mentorship program?

AYP also created a mentorship program for young Africans who are still searching for their purpose and looking for inspiration. To help them getting closer to their ambitions and future dreams. And to link them to African role models who have already found their way in the Dutch society through their studies and work.

Why is there an AYP mentorship program?

There is the need for guidance during the studies of young African youth in the Netherlands to make the right choices and to have an African role models to look up to.

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AYP in the media. (Show website)

AYP has existed for 7 years and has helped make African professionals more visible in the Dutch society. The network has not only been able to connect Africans in the Netherlands, but also across the world. Every year they organize the conference called ‘Africa on the Move’. This is a conference with different workshops and inspiring African speakers who are shedding a positive light on Africa. Africa is always known for war, hunger and HIV/AIDS. But there is more to Africa than that. There are also positive things happening on the African continent which you don’t easily see in the media. There are a lot of business opportunities and progress occurring across the continent. AYP has members and followers on their website, Facebook and LinkedIn. Even the Dutch government has taken note of AYP when the Minister of Development, Minister Ploemen invited the board members to exchange ideas. The former AYP-president had been interviewed in London at a TV Channel about the network and the network is collaborating with multinationals such as Shell, Heineken and PriceWaterHouseCoopers.

Earlier, I said that I consider myself a global citizen, but I am first and foremost an Afropolitan, because of my African heritage. The word is a combination of the word ‘Africa’ and the ancient Greek word ‘Polis’, which means city. An Afropolitan is an African who was educated in the US or Europe and spends a significant amount of time in those parts of the world.

The important thing that defines an Afropolitan is their global perspective on issues, as well as their mixed cultural identity. As Afropolitans, we are chameleons, constantly adapting and finding new ways to be African.

What about Japan?

Do you know any immigrants in your personal circle? You might think to yourself that my little story here doesn’t really concern you. That you can’t be bothered by all of this.

Here is the deal. People around the world love Japan and they have an overall very positive view of coming to live in Japan.

Video：(2 minutes): [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0ClVpwHijM**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0ClVpwHijM)

Immigrants currently account for about 1.75% of the total population, when compared with the average 10% seen in most Western European countries.

Nevertheless, Japan is also under pressure to accept more immigrants as its native workforce shrinks. According to The Guardian, the ageing population and predictions of 8 million fewer workers by 2030 is putting pressure on the government to accept more migrants and refugees.

The debate over, whether the country should loosen its immigration laws is becoming more vocal.

Let’s have a look on how Japanese people feel about immigrants?

Video: (2 minutes): [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5W0tYeK\_kkA**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5W0tYeK_kkA)

(A few Japanese people voicing their opinions about immigrants coming to Japan).

Did you know that there are also Japanese immigrants living outside of Japan?

It's a lot easier to find a Chinatown in most countries than a Japantown.

There are more than 50 million people of Chinese origins living outside China. There only 3.6 million people of Japanese origins living outside Japan.

Like immigrants everywhere, the Japanese left their homeland in search of a better life for their families. Much of this immigration happened from 1868 ~ 1912.

Japanese Communities outside of Japan

**Here’s a list of the biggest Japanese communities outside of Japan**

**1. Brazil ~ 1,500,000**

Japan and Brazil have a long history of cultural and economic exchange. Today, Brazil has the largest Japanese community outside of Japan.

**2. United States ~ 1,204,205**

About 1/3 of the population of Hawaii identifies themselves as having Japanese heritage. Japanese culture has had a great influence in Hawaii. Japanese food, festivals and customs are easy to see in everyday life in Hawaii.

**3. Philippines ~ 120,000**

The Philippines was the first country to experience Japanese immigration (as early as the 12th century). Many Japanese Catholics fled to the Philippines in the 17th century to avoid religious persecution.

**4. United Kingdom ~ 100,000**

As early as 1867, Japanese students studied at Cambridge University and Oxford University. Japanese have immigrated to the UK for studies or business reasons ever since.

**5. Peru ~ 90,000**

Peru was the first South American country to establish ties to Japan. It was also the first South American country to accept Japanese immigration (1899).

There is also a small Japanese community living in the Netherlands. As of 2009, there were 7,524 persons of Japanese origin living in the Netherlands, according to the figures of the Statistics Netherlands office. In general, they are foreign residents employed by Japanese companies.

For example, my brother works for the Marketing and Trading division for Nissan in the Netherlands. His boss is Japanese who lives in The Netherlands.

Another example, as you all know, I am currently learning Japanese. I take Japanese writing and reading lessons via Kumon. I am sure many of you have seen me with my Kumon booklets. My Japanese Kumon teacher, who I only speak to via skype, has told me that she has lived in Amstelveen in the Netherlands for many years. Like I said, we are all connected in some way, by just 6 little steps.

Conclusion:

In the end, aren’t we all global citizens?

To be effective Global Citizens, young people need to be flexible, creative and proactive. They need to be able to solve problems, make decisions, think critically, communicate ideas effectively and work well within teams and groups. These skills and qualities are more and more recognized as essential to succeed in other areas of the 21st century life, including many workplaces.

What am I?

On paper, I am a political refugee, who became a Dutch citizen, who is now an immigrant in Japan. But in reality, I am an Afropolitan global citizen.