

# Locating 'fresh' Portuguese Immigrants in the Post-Apartheid era: what is different?

Bárbara Ferreira (Centre for Geographical Studies – University of Lisbon)  
Marina Carreiras  
Jorge Malheiros

# Structure of presentation

o. Methodology

1. Present context of Portuguese emigration

2. Portuguese immigrants in South Africa:

- Two waves... and a new tendency?
- Comparing the stocks (1950-1969; 1974-1994; 2000-2011)

3. Profiles of recent Portuguese immigrants in South Africa

4. Final remarks and further questions

# o. Methodology

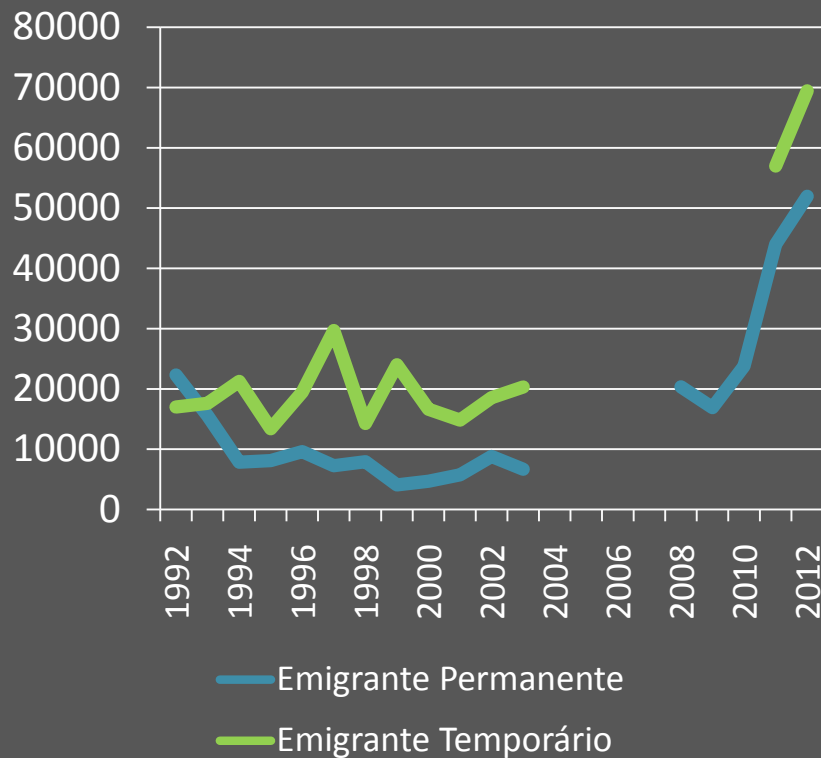
- Analysis of literature about Portuguese in South Africa;
- Statistical analysis (Portuguese and South African Census of 2011);
- Participant observation amongst Portuguese community in Johannesburg (Restaurant in Rosettenville) and Pretoria (ACPP – Association of the Portuguese Community of Pretoria);
- Informal talks with several Portuguese immigrants (not so fresh) with different backgrounds;
- Semi-structured interviews with 8 Portuguese immigrants recently arrived

# 1. Present context of Emigration

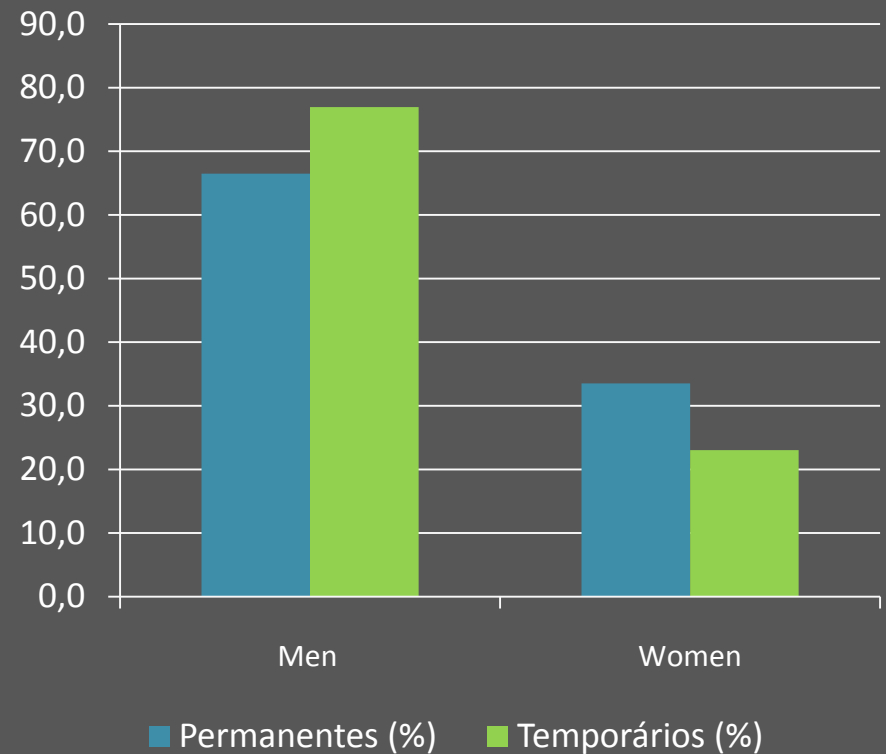
- Financial crisis 2008 – Debt and Economic crisis: troika intervention and austerity policies (deregulation; privatization; tax raises; counter-cyclical policies)
- Multidimensional crisis: economic, social, political and demographic
- Collective illusion of an “imagination of the centre” (Peixoto, 2013) – (back to) a peripheral position of Portugal in the global migratory system

# 1.1. Some data on outflows of Portuguese

Emigration, 1992-2012

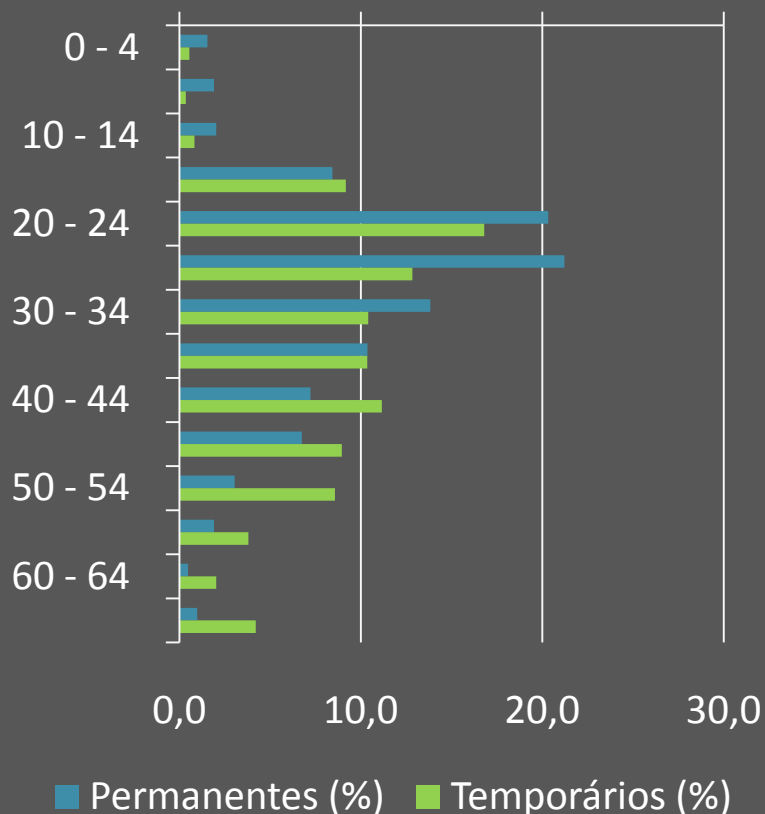


Emigration by gender, 2012 (%)

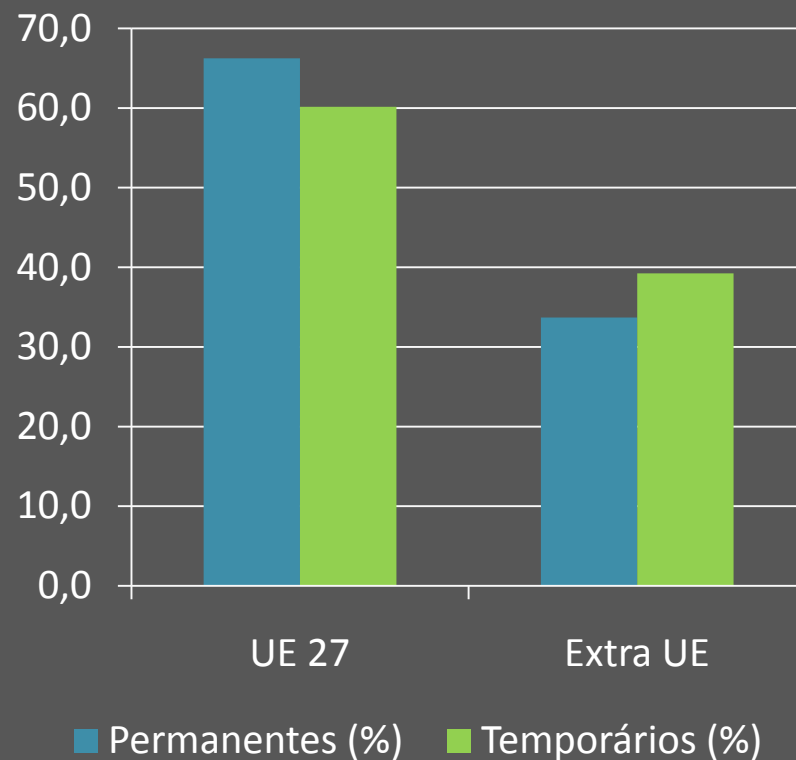


# 1.1. Some data on outflows of Portuguese

Emigration by age groups, 2012 (%)



Emigration by destination country, 2012 (%)



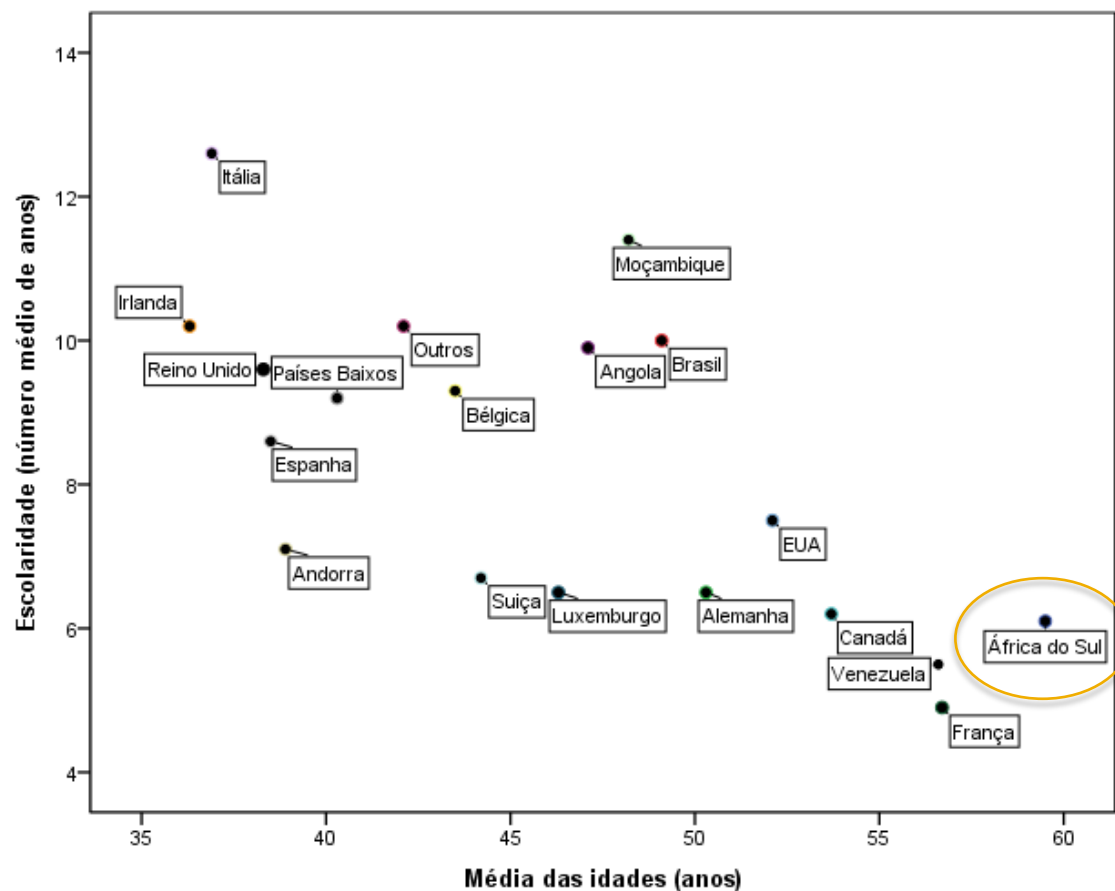
Source: INE (National Statistics Portugal)

# 1.2. Returns of Portuguese since 2000

a) Total returns (>= 20 yrs. old)

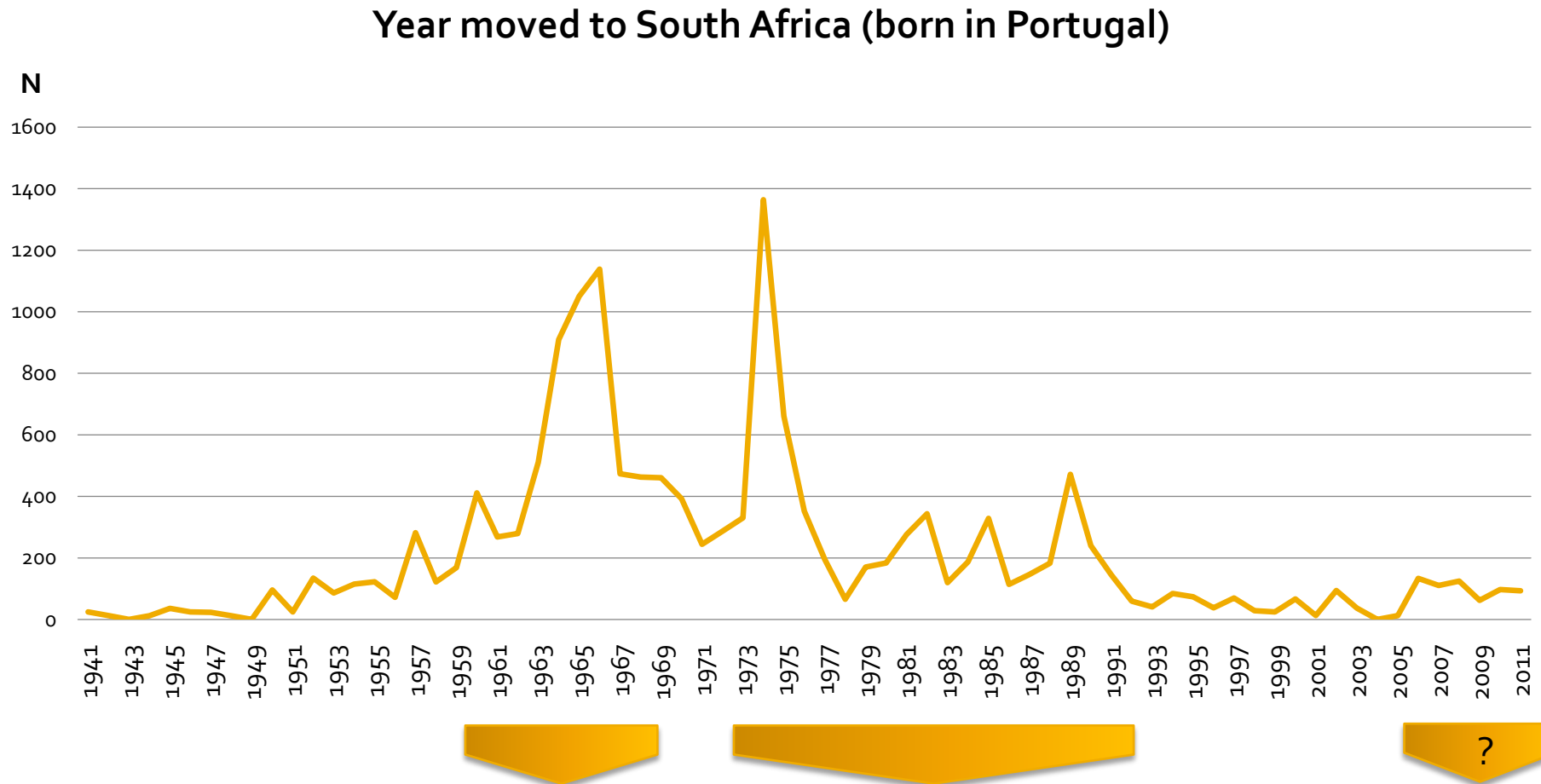
	total	%	% cum.
França	57.878	27,0	27,0
Suíça	27.224	12,7	39,7
Espanha	23.790	11,1	50,8
Reino Unido	20.747	9,7	60,5
Alemanha	17.761	8,3	68,7
EUA	10.395	4,8	73,6
Brasil	6.307	2,9	76,5
Luxemburgo	5.204	2,4	79,0
Canadá	5.141	2,4	81,4
Países Baixos	4.558	2,1	83,5
Angola	4.099	1,9	85,4
Bélgica	4.043	1,9	87,3
Venezuela	3.839	1,8	89,1
Itália	2.311	1,1	90,1
Andorra	2.209	1,0	91,2
<b>África do Sul</b>	<b>2.168</b>	<b>1,0</b>	<b>92,2</b>
Moçambique	1.887	0,9	93,1
Irlanda	1.007	0,5	93,5

b) Age vs. Mean Schooling years



Source: INE (National Statistics Portugal) in Oliveira et al.

## 2. Portuguese immigrants in South Africa – two waves and a new tendency?



Source: South Africa Statistics (Nesstar)



## 2. Portuguese immigrants in South Africa – two waves and a new tendency?

a) Decade moved to South Africa

Decade of arrival in SA	N	Growth rate
1940-1949	144,2	-
1950-1959	1222	747%
1960-1969	5964,7	388%
1970-1979	4061,1	-32%
1980-1989	2353,2	-42%
1990-1999	803,5	-66%
2000-2011	843	5%
<b>Total (excl. unspecif. year)</b>	<b>15391,7</b>	-



Immigrants essentially from Madeira Islands (Cravinho, 1995; Bessa, 2009; da Silva, 2009)



Immigrants from former Portuguese African colonies (e.g.: Mozambique and Angola) (Gupta, 2012)



A new kind of immigrants?

Source: South Africa Statistics (Nesstar)

## 2.1. Comparing the stocks (1950-1969; 1974-1994; 2000-2011)

Sociodemographic characterisation			1950-1969 (N=7187) %	1974-1994 (N=5731) %	2000-2011 (N=843+1201) %
Gender composition	Gender	Female	44,9	47,9	56
		Males	52,2	52,1	44
		Male sex ratio	1,2	1,1	1,3
Age structure	Age groups	0 - 14			10,5
		15 - 29		4	17,2
		30 - 64	58	74,6	49,5
		>= 65	42	21,4	22,8
		Mean age	62,6 yrs	54,5 yrs	43,1 yrs
Marital status	Married/ living together		79,6	79,3	58,6
	Never married		2,6	5,5	28
	Separated/ Divorced		5,5	6,2	7,3
SA Citizenship	Yes		69.4	66.2	53.4
	No		28.1	32.5	37.0
	Unspecified		2.6	1.3	9.6
Population groups	Black African		3,1	35,2	34,1
	Coloured		0,2	25,5	19,1
	Indian or Asian			4	1,4
	White		90,5	6,3	15,2
	Other		6,2	2,7	5,1
Source: South Africa Statistics (Nesstar)					

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School levels	Higher	13.2	21.9	19.3
	Grade 12/ Std 10	29.1	35.2	34.1
	Some Secondary	33.7	25.5	19.1
	Completed primary	5.5	4.0	1.4
	Some primary	10.4	6.3	15.2
	No schooling	5.6	2.7	5.1
	Other	2.5	4.4	5.7
Labour Market Status	Employed	92.7	91.9	93.0
	Unemployed	6.0	7.5	7.0
	Discouraged work-seeker	1.3	0.6	
	Run/ do any kind of business?	18.3	17.7	16.5
Type of sector	Formal	78.0	81.2	81.4
	Informal	7.5	5.8	6.0
	Private household	9.6	6.7	6.2
	Do not know	4.9	6.3	6.5

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### 3. Profiles of recent Portuguese immigrants – brief characterisation

- Description of the 8 interviewees:
  - All arrived in SA after 2008;
  - All have Portuguese nationality and have lived in Portugal for a significant period of their lives (1 born in SA; 1 born in Mozambique and 1 has lived in England after leaving Portugal and before coming to SA);
  - Two women and six men; Ages between 29 and 49;
  - Variety of labour situations: 1 entrepreneur (PT restaurant); 1 unemployed; 2 researchers at Wits; 1 journalist (PT newspaper); 1 “subcontracted” official of governmental agency (AICEP); 1 banker at a PT bank branch; sociocultural animator at a PT nursing home;
  - Municipality of usual residence: 1 Cape Town; 1 Pretoria; 6 in Johannesburg (Bedfordview; Sandton; Northcliff; Meyersdal)

### 3. Profiles of recent Portuguese immigrants – major topics of analysis

#### 1) Causes for migration:

- (In)direct impacts of crisis pushed most of interviewees out of the country after 2009:  
*/i.e.: Unemployment or precarious and underpaid jobs/ no career perspectives/ no place in the current Portuguese (labour) society/ Indignation*
- Others: job opportunities and... love

#### 2) Why South Africa?

- Role of migrant kins networks and (South) African background; job opportunities in Portuguese structures (AICEP; PT bank)

# 3. Profiles of recent Portuguese immigrants – major topics of analysis

## 3. Integration in Portuguese immigrants' networks (traditional):

- Limited, unless mandatory by the type of work/ professional activity;
- Cosmopolitanism, especially amongst interviewed scholars/ researchers;
- Loneliness ("white" suburb way of life), especially felt by interviewed women;
- Less community involvement (associations, clubs, etc.);

➔ 3 profiles: cosmopolitans; critically engaged; acritical reproduction

## 4. Perspectives on the previous generation(s) of Portuguese immigrants:

- Portuguese communities aren't particularly important (cosmopolitans);
- For others, they serve as a network of support and labour integration, but are very critical of their conservatism and racism;
- Exultation of the achievements of Portuguese immigrants.
- Fragmented community: rivalry between people from Madeira Island and mainland + Pretoria and Johannesburg



# 3. Profiles of recent Portuguese immigrants – major topics of analysis

## 5. Perspectives on South African society...

- Fragmented society:  
unease with poor living conditions of a major part of population; securitization of daily life; segregation, racism and xenophobia
- More opened society and with more job, social and cultural opportunities (compared with Portugal);
- Consensual idea of a reversed apartheid “against whites” (Black Economic Empowerment);
- Uncertain future (“Africa gives everything and takes everything”, AICEP official);
- ‘Schemes’ and corruption (against ‘citizen’ but benefiting Portuguese entrepreneurs);
- Insecurity and crime (ambiguous perspectives)
- Lack of public investment in Education as source of social and racial divide;

# 3. Profiles of recent Portuguese immigrants – major topics of analysis

## 6. ... and integration

- Quality of life dependent on job and earnings: either worse than Portugal or much better (professional fulfillment/ progress; better earnings);
- Labour integration isn't always easy (work permit) or advantageous
- Some of those who seize a better life here recognize that money isn't everything: "Here we lead a stupid life" (banker and wife)

## 7. Perspectives about the future

- The majority will likely stay in SA or (re)emigrate to another country (EU);
- Those who wish to stay hope to improve material conditions and professional fulfillment ("That's the life of emigrants - always looking for something...one has to improve!", Owner of Portuguese restaurant)
- Return to Portugal isn't equated unless deep changes occur, *i.e.* most would prefer to live (well) in Portugal;

# Final remarks...

- Push factors (crisis; no future) and pull factors (kin networks, African background);
- Different generation of immigrants, not fully integrated in older social networks;
- Cosmopolitanism and critical stances on Portuguese community in SA;
- Mixed feelings about emigration/ immigration experience (positive and negative);
- Ambiguous economic position of South Africa – uncertainty about their future here;
- Some forms of economic transnationalism amongst Portuguese community (investment; remittances);

# And a few further questions...

- Will SA resurface as a privileged country of destination for Portuguese emigrants?
- How will these 'fresh' immigrants continue to adapt and integrate in SA? And how will they perceive Portugal in a few years (in a post-crisis scenario)?
- Are these emigrants different than those who are fleeing to other African or European countries?
- In which ways do they contribute to the making of a post-apartheid society?

# References

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**Thank you all for your presence!**

