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Background Information

Many soldiers from the DRC were forced to flee to other countries. Some of them have settled in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Military identity is spatially constructed which entitles soldiers to various *doxicalised* rights in a very specific field.

Migration constitutes a turning point as in the new field former soldiers' identity is sometimes contested, annihilated or even renegotiated.

Aim of the Study

Explore former Congolese soldiers' use of military capital in different contexts for different purposes.

Research question

How has Congolese military habitus been transposed in the host setting of Johannesburg?

Theoretical framework

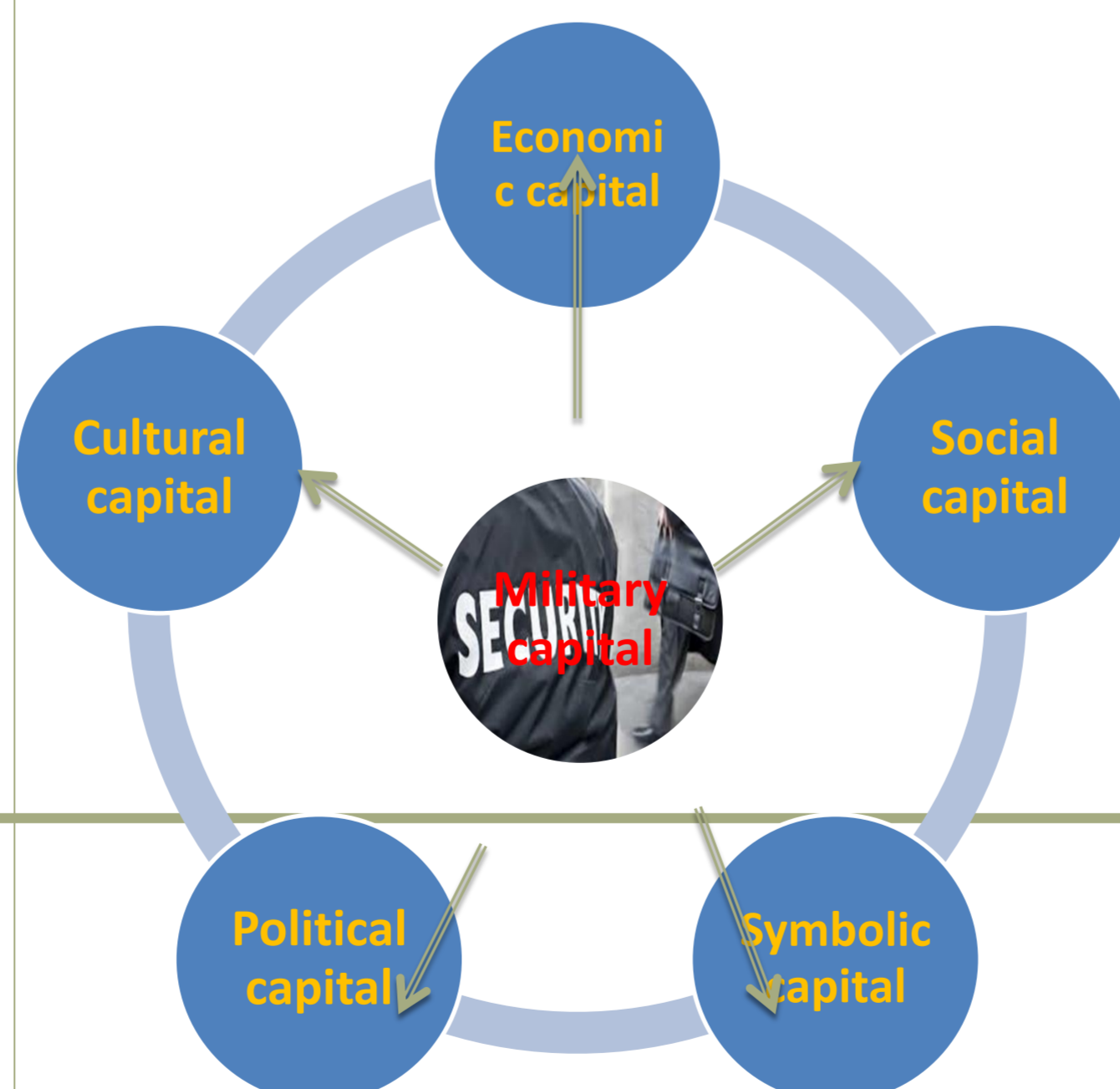
- Bourdieu concepts: Habitus (capital) + Field = Practice.
- Habitus is mental dispositions which structure behaviour.
- Capital (deposited in the habitus) is any valuables within a particular field.
- A field is an arena of struggle and a system of social position
- Congruence between habitus and field = proper practices
- Incongruence between habitus and field = adaptation to the new situation (field)

Methodology

Ethnographic methods:

- In-depth interviews with 20 former Congolese soldiers in Johannesburg
- Participant observation

Results



Discussion

Former Congolese soldiers use their military skills to navigate contexts of migration to survive adversity.

Symbolic capital in Security Companies to curb criminality. **Social capital** demonstrated through their capacity to networking/rebuilding their image

Symbolic capital mobilised through correcting limitations in the work environment and activation of their military capital through recognition in terms of promotion.

Political capital as valuable asset for the political change in the DRC.

Cultural capital through expansion of knowledge by training to objectify it in certification.

Conclusion

Inter-convertibility of military capital amongst former Congolese soldier migrants in South Africa reveals their ability to transpose and become resilient in adversity engendered by tough situations in Johannesburg. However, the *durability* and *transposability* of the military capital is continually evolving to the current difficult contexts and reinforced by further experiences of the South African environment

References

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