

Country Embeddedness: Um estudo exploratório sobre as forças que ligam jovens adultos portugueses a Portugal

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This study aimed to explore the concept of *country embeddedness*. Using a sample of Portuguese young adults (N=26) currently living in Portugal and abroad (*self-assignees*), this work explores the factors that favours or prejudice the relationship with home-country and the differences between both groups.

Applying a qualitative methodology, with semi-structured interviews and focus groups, we were able to assess three dimensions in the current Portuguesees relationship with Portugal. The theoretical grid of *country embeddedness* has shown to be adequate to this purpose.

The construct of *country embeddedness*, defined as the forces that embedded an individual to a country, in this case his home-country, has demonstrated to be pertinent and distinct. Individuals, cultural and country, and conjuncture aspects determine the individual position in a *continuum* of *country embeddedness*. The construct is circumstantial and composite.

Portuguese young adults perceive themselves as country embedded, although they admit the existence of a major number of factors that further enhances their intentions to leave and/or stay abroad than to stay and/or return to Portugal. This finding corroborates the pertinence and distinctiveness of *country embeddedness*. Comparing the two groups, the relationship between the *host-country embeddedness* and *home-country embeddedness* and the nature of the first one interfere in the *country embeddedness* of self-assignees. The residents in Portugal have demonstrated a high *home-country embeddedness*. The conjuncture aspects were the ones with more negative weight in the relationship with country.

As the first known study in this field, this work opens a way to other researchers to look into the relevance that *country embeddedness* may assume in individual, organizational, national and transnational contexts of different areas of knowledge. The limitations of this study, namely the sample dimension, preclude the results significance, but not the fundamental and pertinent reflection about them.