



THE
GRADUATE
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ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
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GRADUATE INSTITUTE
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“HAVING AN EDGE ON THE
OTHERS”

THE IMPORTANCE OF
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
CAPITAL THROUGH
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION, A CASE
STUDY OF CHINA AND
GHANA

CONTEXT AND RESEARCH PROBLEM

- China on the international education scene and as a new destination for African Students
- Study Case : Ghanaian Students in China
- The importance of Cultural and Social Capital

METHODOLOGY

- What was the best approach to take ?
 - The use of Grounded Theory
- Data Collection
 - New ways of connecting to my sample

FINDINGS

- Main reasons to go to China : Price; Language and Social Norms
- Studying in China with the social capital at home
- Cultural Capital at the end of the journey
- When the Social Capital is missing

INTERVIEWEES' DIVERSITY

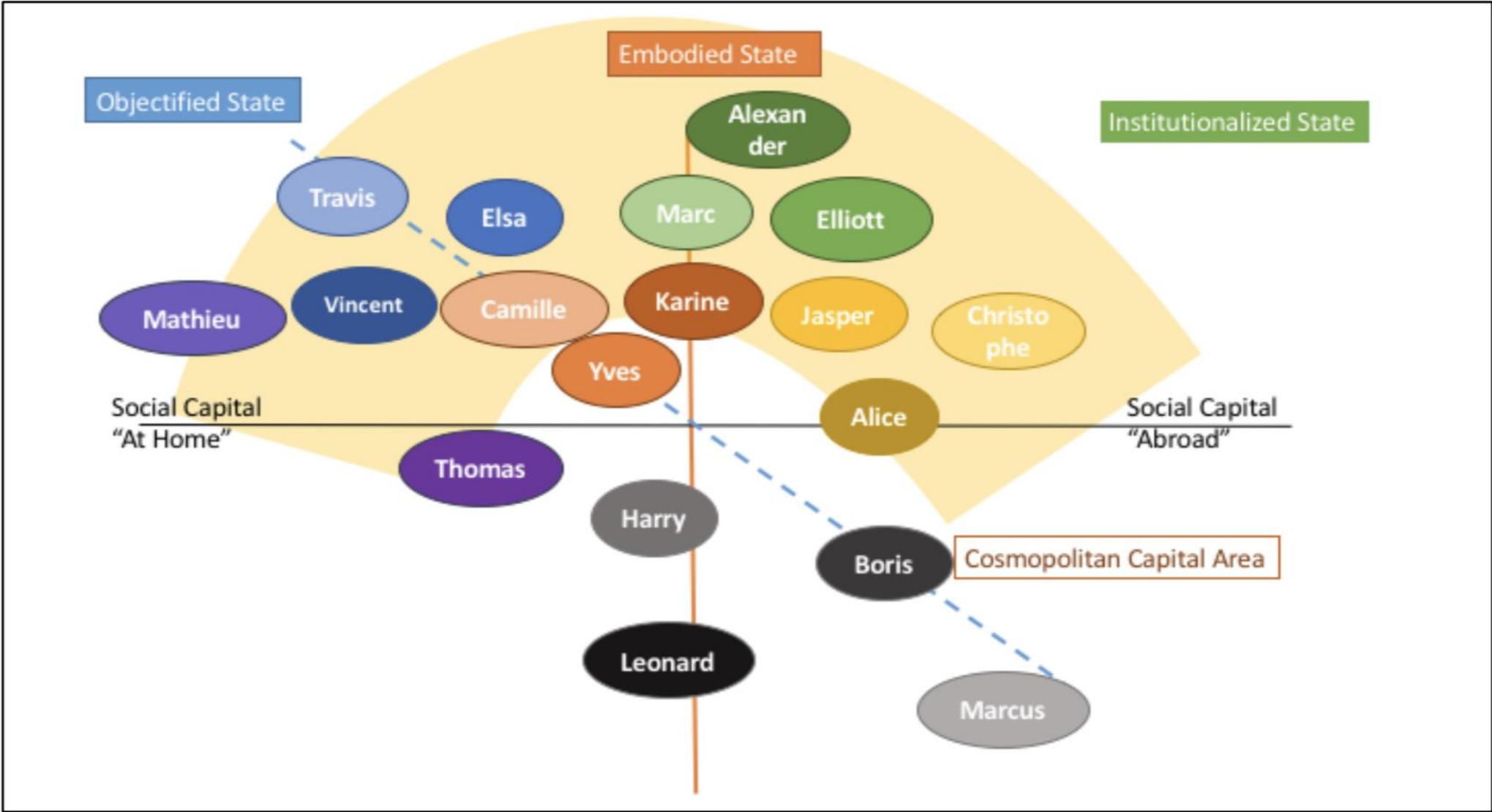


Figure 9 All Interviewees' position within their social and cultural capital

SOCIAL CAPITAL AT HOME

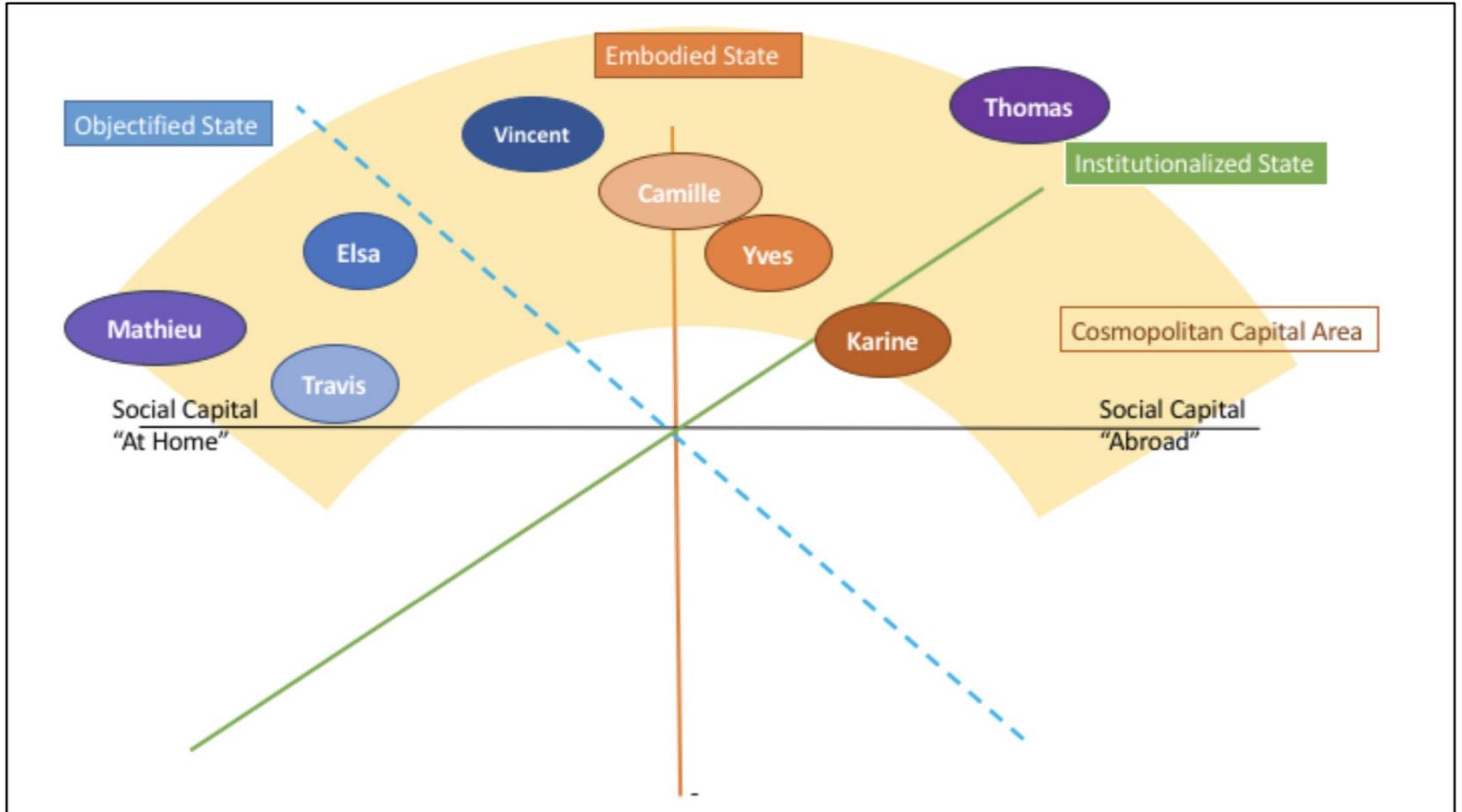


Figure 6 Mathieu, Thomas, Elsa, Travis, Vincent, Camille, Yves and Karine's position within their social and cultural capital

CULTURAL CAPITAL AT THE END OF THE JOURNEY

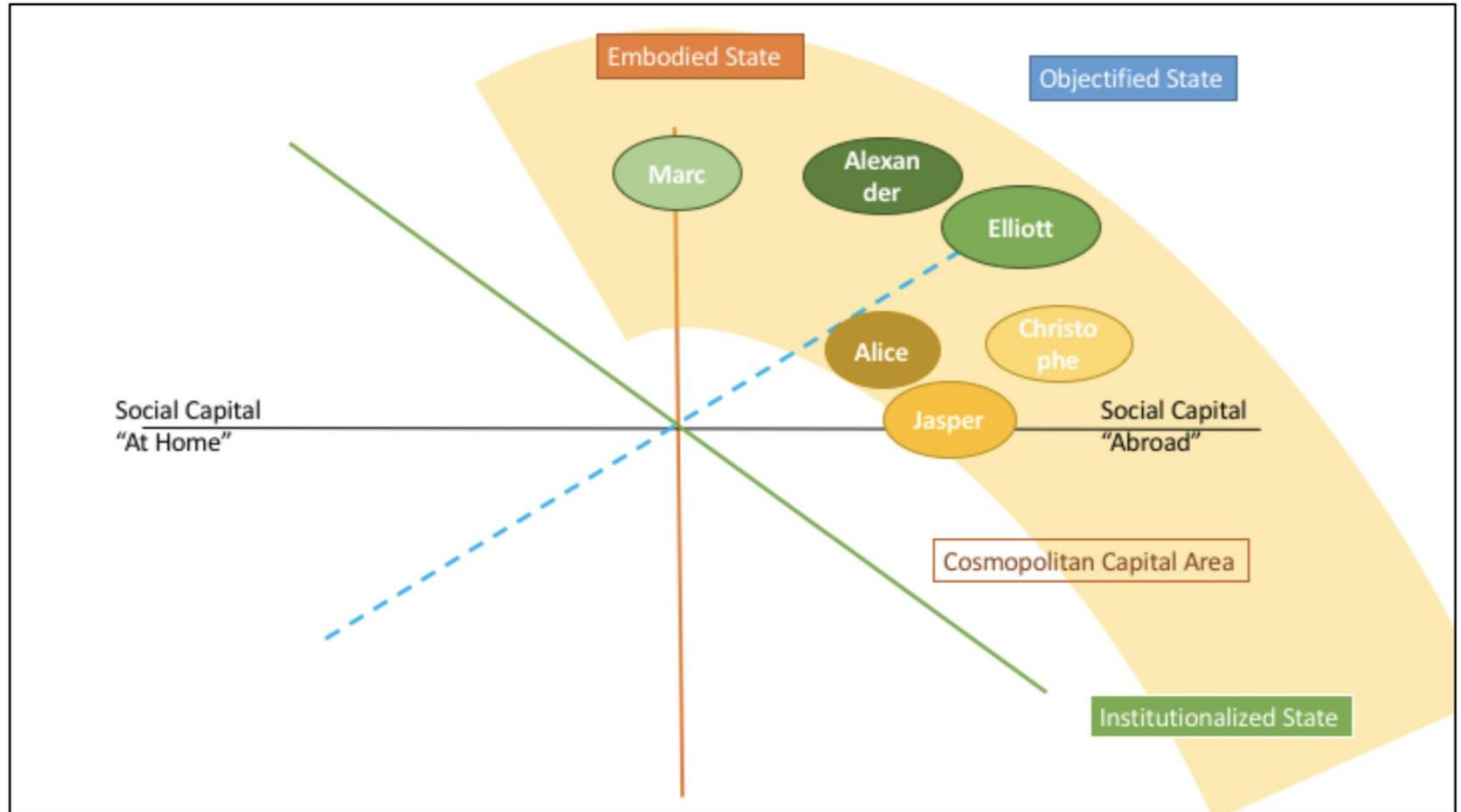


Figure 7 Marc, Alexander, Elliott, Alice, Jasper & Christophe's position within their social and cultural capital

WHEN THE SOCIAL CAPITAL IS MISSING

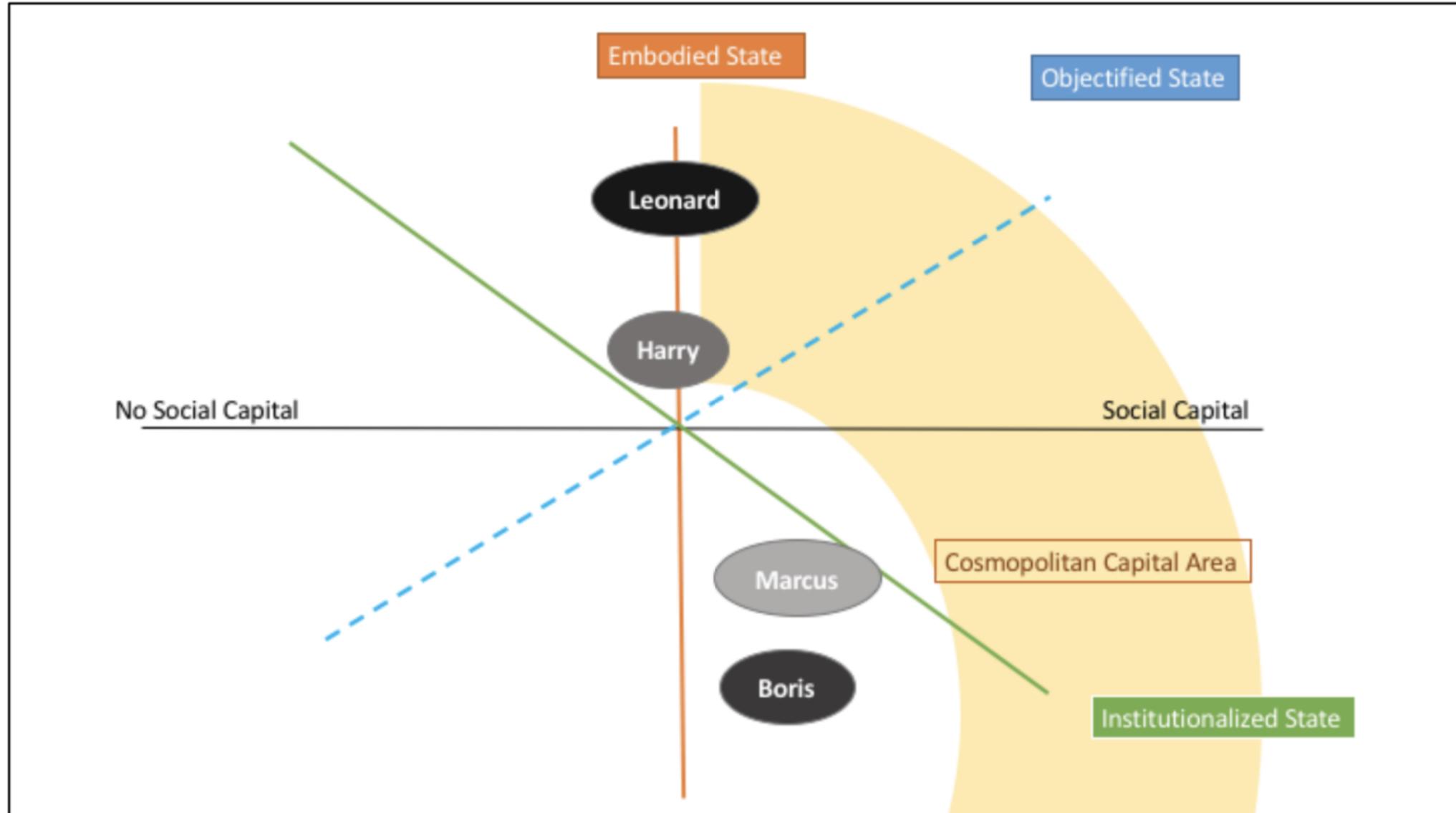


Figure 8 Leonard, Harry, Marcus, Boris's position within their social and cultural capital

CONCLUSION

- China is almost never a first choice for education.
- The students are always looking for this “edge” that would make them more valuable than the one who stayed in Ghana.
- Networking matters more than knowledge when it comes to find a job
- There is a lack of infrastructure and support for the Ghanaian returnees to help them secure a job.