



Global interaction between universities and firms: the roles of South Africa and Brazil in Global Innovation Networks

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Universities, GINs and interactions

- Research literature on GINs: universities are typically seen as important for the emergence of GINs, but research has given very **limited attention to their role, global knowledge flows and implications for NSI of 'host' country**

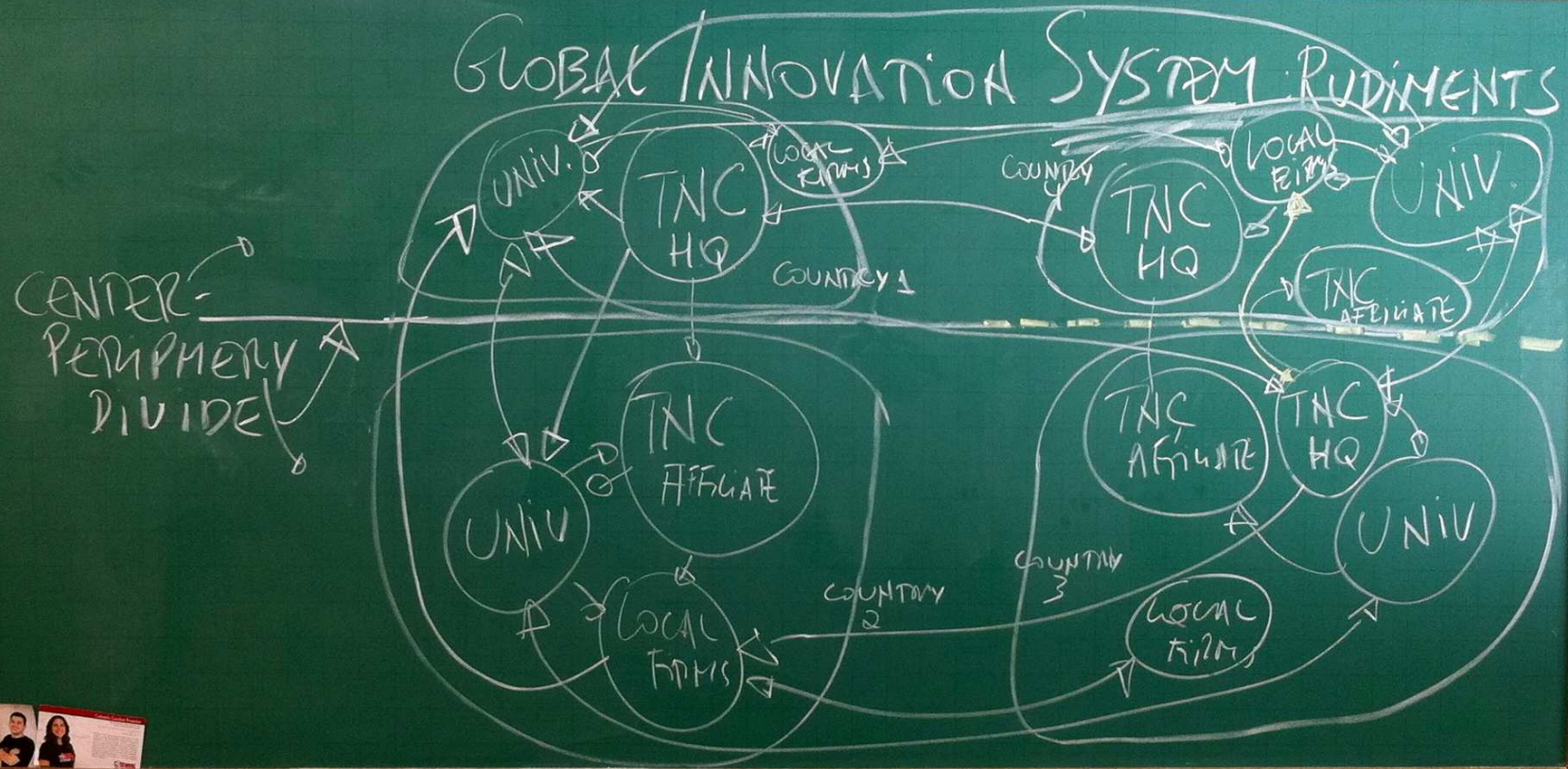
- Research literature on firms interacting with universities (in developing countries): tends to investigate interactions and their role in technological upgrading and economic development **within national boundaries of a single country**

=> What is the nature of university interaction with MNCs through global innovation networks and what are the implications for NSI of 'host' country – automotives in Brazil, agrofood in SA



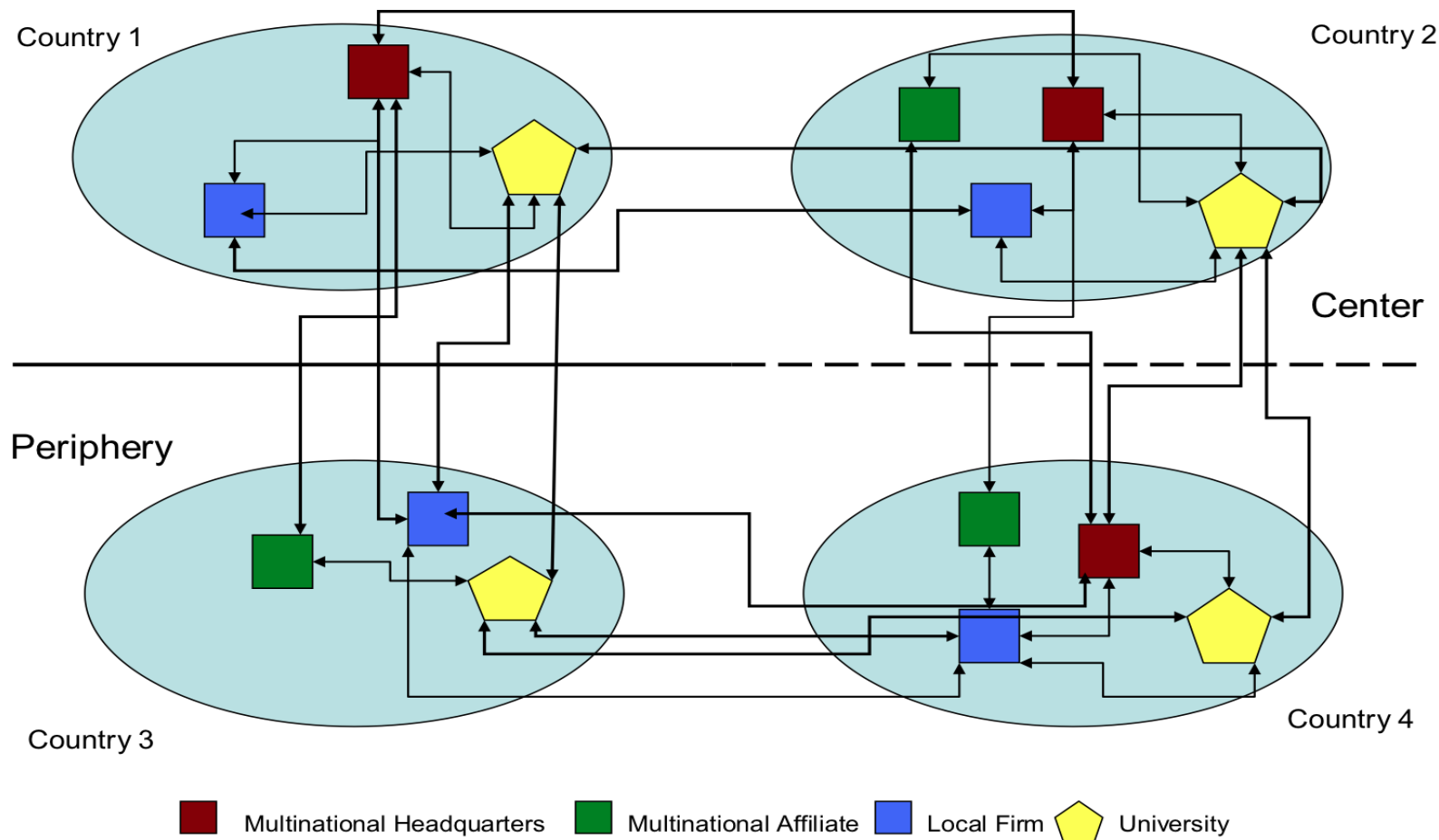


Developing a tentative framework...



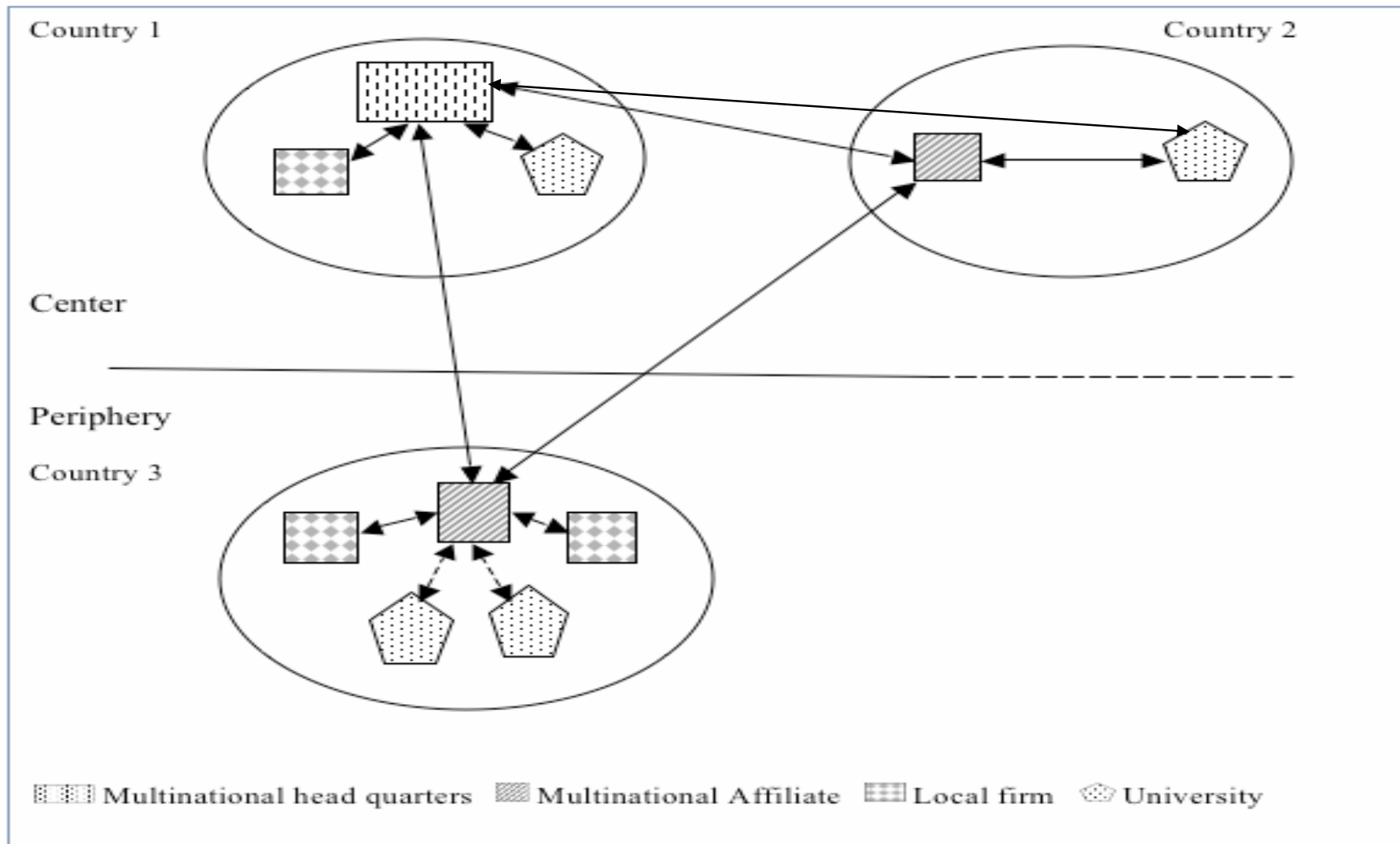


Local global interactions between firms and universities



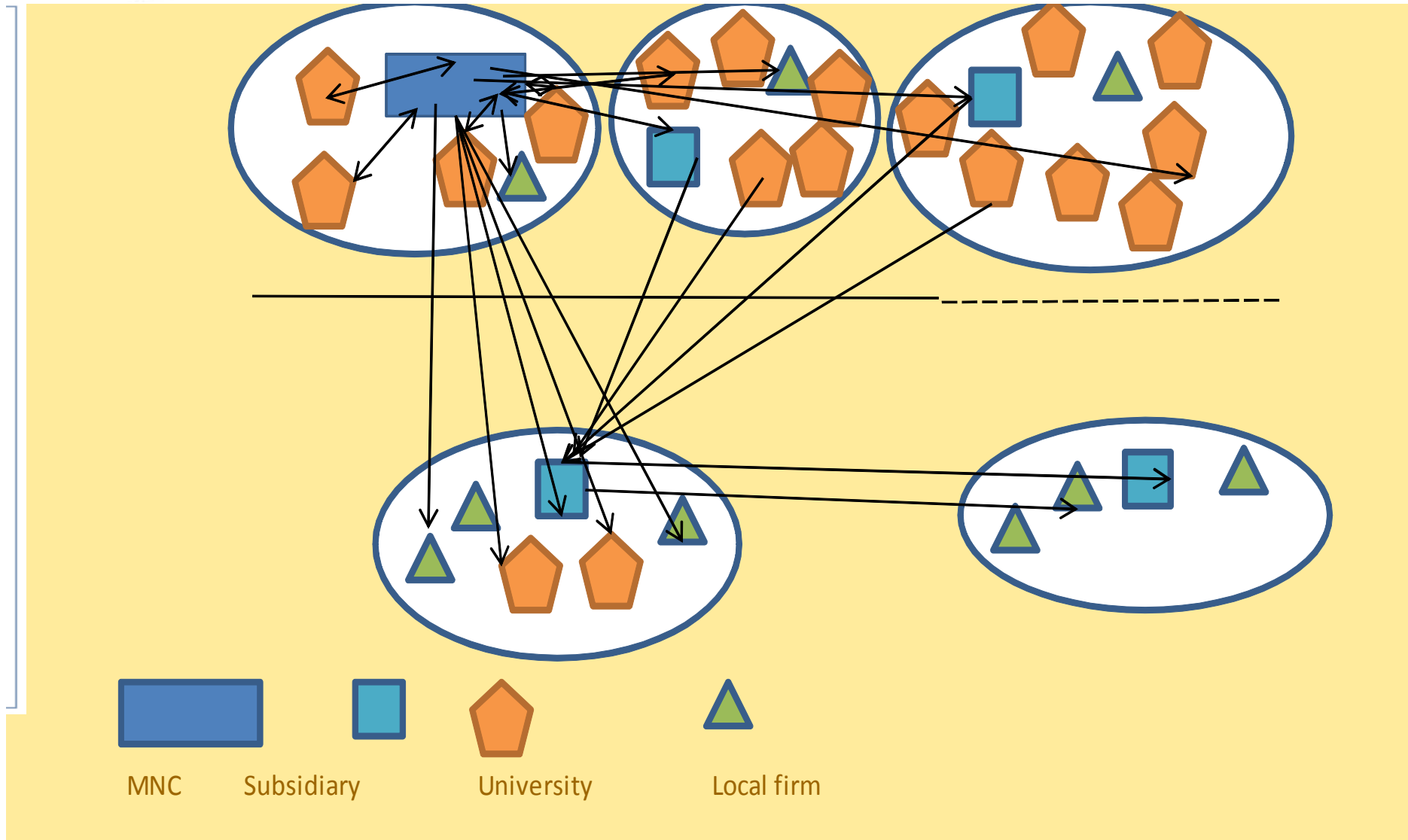


Hierarchical internal networks in SA dairy sector





Emerging subordination of technological hierarchies in Brazilian automotive sector





GINs

- Confirms Ernst (2009) that GINs are a 'mixed blessing' : preserving technological hierarchies but under certain conditions, trigger processes that may lead to technological upgrading
- Size, diversity and stage of formation of NSI specialisations / key sectors) key to understand how GINs form and evolve
- Location of subsidiary R&D and innovation activities is deeply hierarchical, clear local/global division of labour
- BUT dynamic over time – networks build capabilities, can foster virtuous circles
- **NEXT STEP: What are the conditions for a less subordinate role in GINs and a more positive inclusion in global interactions between firms and universities?**





**Thanks for your
attention/questions**

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