



INTEGRATION  
OF IMMIGRANTS  
PROGRAMME

2007 – 2012

# A MIGRATION POLICY PARADOX: GENDER, LIVELIHOOD AND LIFESTYLE

## “A life well lived”

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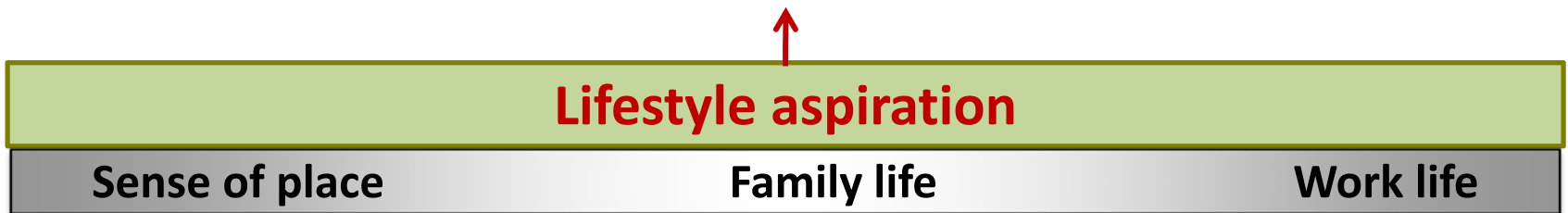
# Lifestyle migration

- Lifestyle is key
  - ‘The relaxed pace of life or lifestyle has been identified as the most common reason for permanent migrants to choose New Zealand as their new home’ (Wave One media release 2008)
- The migration policy paradox
- The gender question

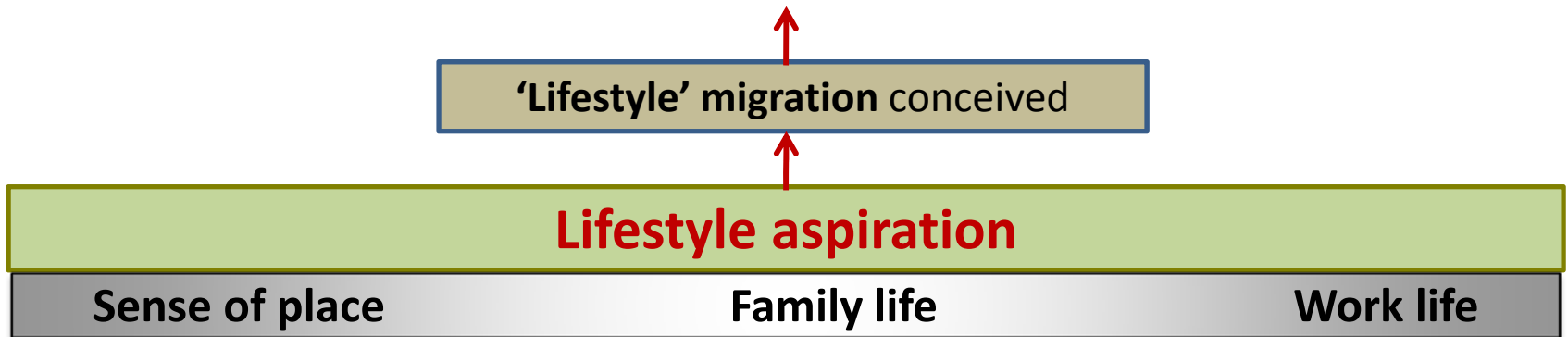
# Lifestyle migration definition

- Life-style migration ‘concerns individuals and families who choose relocation as a way of redefining themselves in the reordering of work, family, and personal priorities’ (Hoey, 2005: 593).
- ‘the choice made of **where** to live is consciously, intentionally also one about **how** to live’ (Hoey, 2005: 615; emphasis in original).
- ‘the one unifying factor of this group is their belief that a *change of residential place* will lead not simply to better opportunities in life, but rather to something which might be described as a better *lifestyle* and/or a more fulfilling *way of life*.’ (Torkington, 2010 n.p)

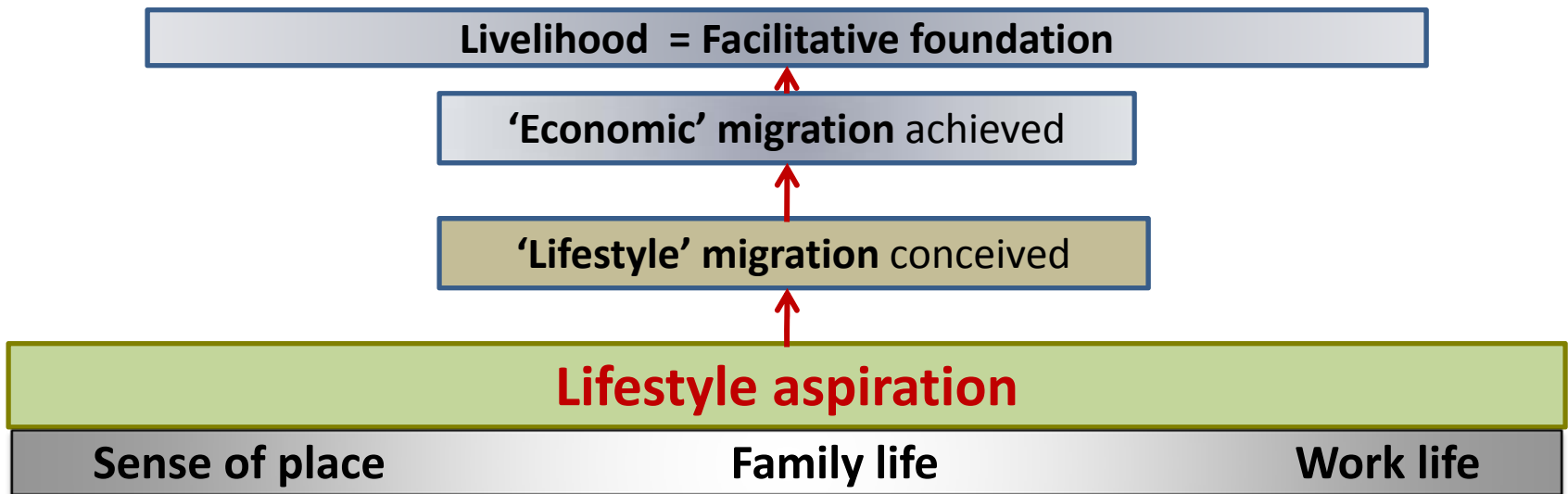
# An idealised relationship between migrant livelihood and lifestyle



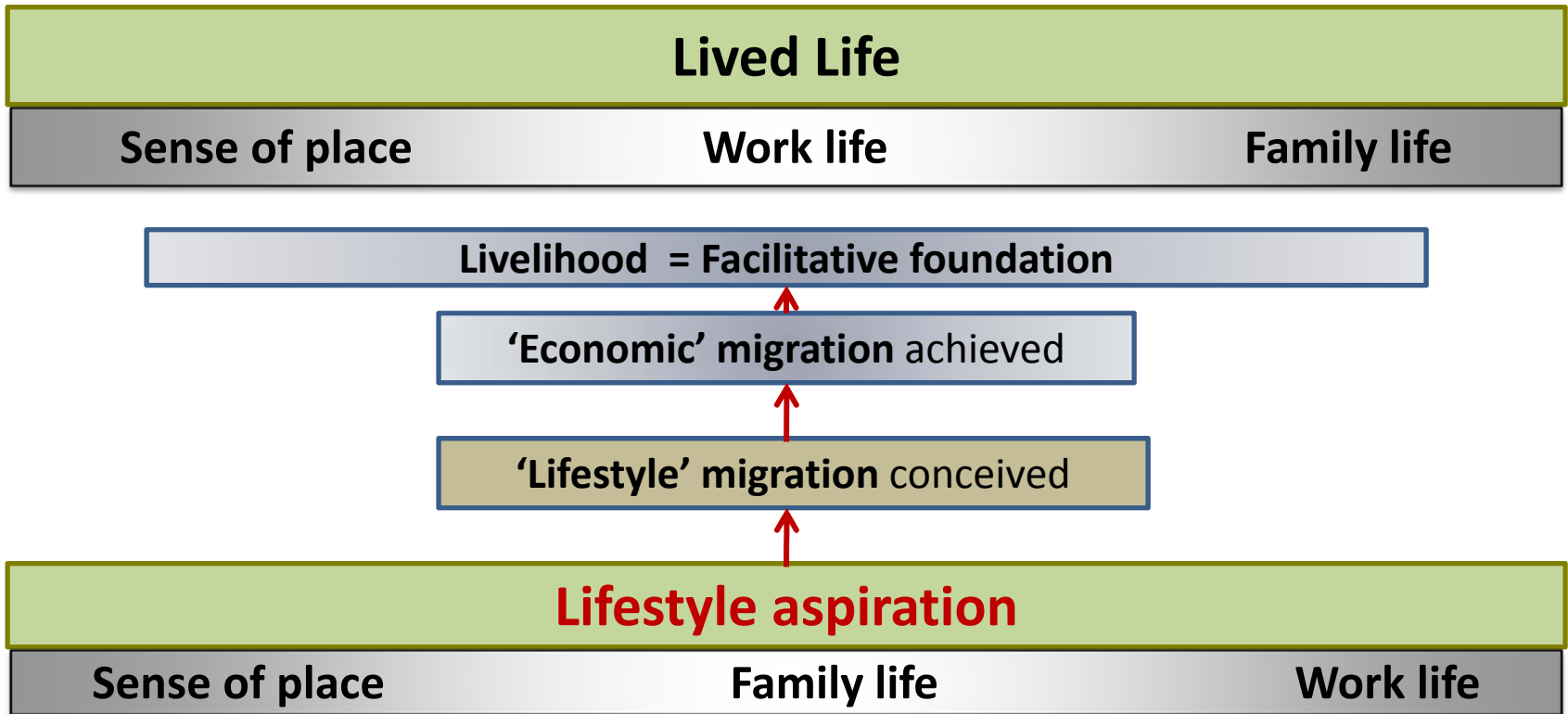
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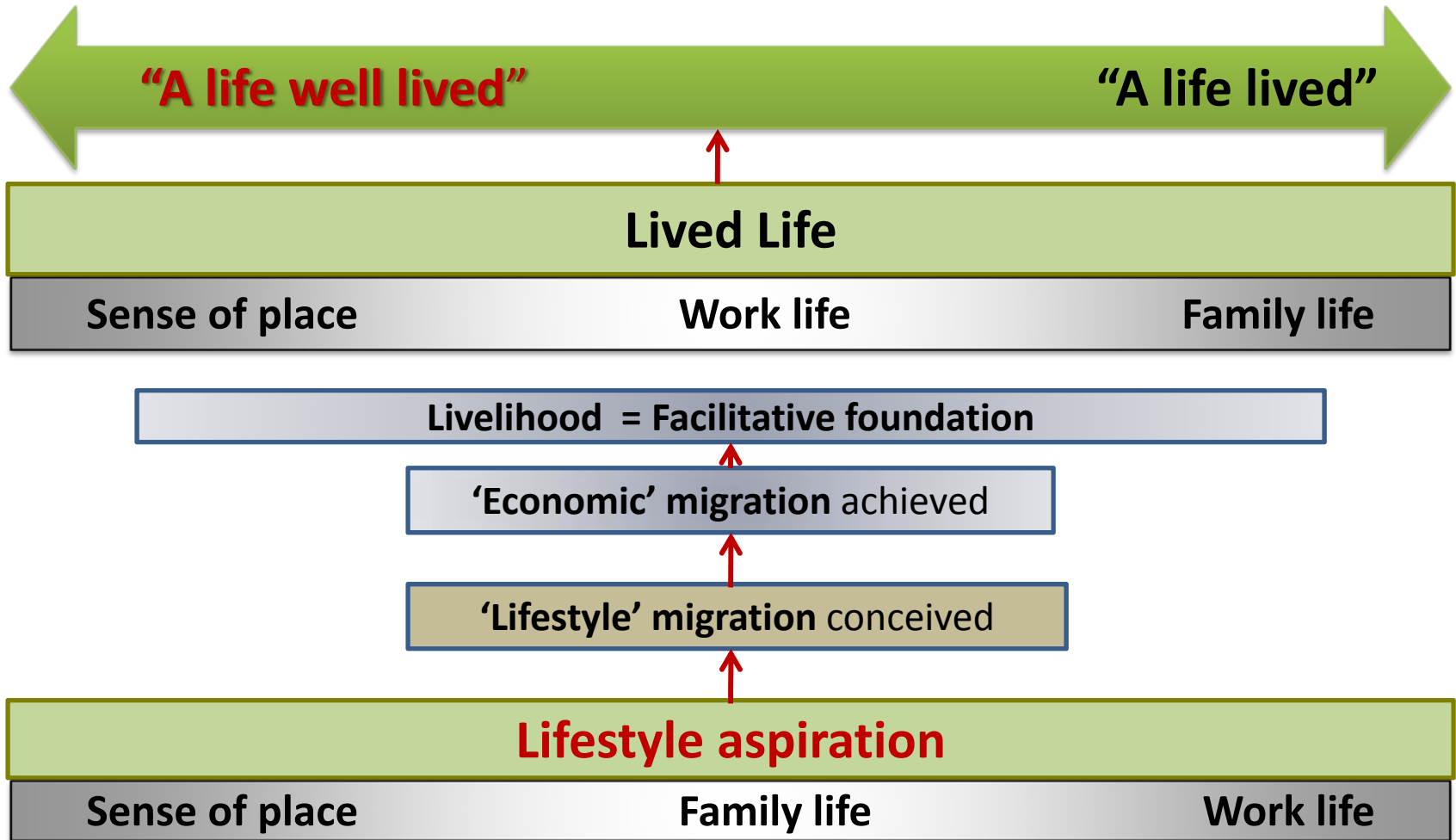


# An idealised relationship between migrant livelihood and lifestyle





# An idealised relationship between migrant livelihood and lifestyle



# Korean lifestyle aspirations

## – Work life

- Work dominates men's lives: I work therefore I am
  - Desire for less stress, competition and fewer working hours

## – Family life

- Men largely absent
  - Desire for an 'ideal' family life
- Mothers: my children's success is my success
  - Desire for English speaking, professional global citizens

## – Sense of place

- Crowded and polluted
  - Desire for clean green New Zealand

*I got up at 8.00 a.m., left for work around 8.30 and started work at 9 a.m. Lunch time was from 12.00 – 1.00 p.m. but there was no time for a break. And even though the finishing time was fixed at 6.00 p.m., I usually worked till midnight. Fortunately my house was close to the company, so I got home around 12.30 a.m. and went to bed about 1.00 after having a shower. The company supplied me with lunch and dinner, so I went straight to sleep when I got home.*

*(Oh, you were not able to enjoy dinner time with your wife?)*

*That was the thing that my wife hated so much. I didn't have a meal with her at home. I usually worked late like this until Friday and on Saturday I worked till 3.00 or 4.00 p.m. On Sunday I went to church.*

# Korean lived lives

- Work life
  - Downward occupational mobility
  - Self employment
  - Impact on men's sense of self
- Family life
  - Shifts in gendered power relationships
  - The Church as saviour
  - Tension between children's happiness and success
- Sense of place
  - Pleasure in physical environment
  - Isolation, loneliness, discrimination

*In Korea I was in charge of my family's financial state so I had the main power. Because I was the one who brought home the bacon I could come home from work and ask for anything at home. In Korea if I volunteered to vacuum the house in the weekend, my wife would be very thankful, but here in New Zealand I have to do lots of housework and both of us have to work in order to have a stable living. Things like that are sometimes a little difficult.*

# Justice and Social Cohesion

- 'Economic' migrants are diverse
- Diverse backgrounds inflect migrants' lifestyle aspirations and lived experiences
- 'A life well lived' (just outcomes) depends on more than migrants' own capacities
- Revisit debates about citizenship

Migration policies fail because policymakers refuse to see migration as a dynamic social process linked to broader patterns of social transformation. Ministers and bureaucrats still see migration as something that can be turned on and off like a tap through laws and policies. (Castles , 2003: 26).

# Research and Policy

- Account for 'difference'
- Families and communities are important too
- Economics matters, but so too do the social and the cultural
- Consider the impact of time
- Value the subjective





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