



Becoming a Supervisor: Journey towards Humanising the Process

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Outline

- Supervision as disciplinary work
- Supervision as political work
- Supervision as identity work
- Supervision as scholarly work
- Supervision as humanising work

Supervision as Disciplinary Work (*Complexity of HES as a field of study*)

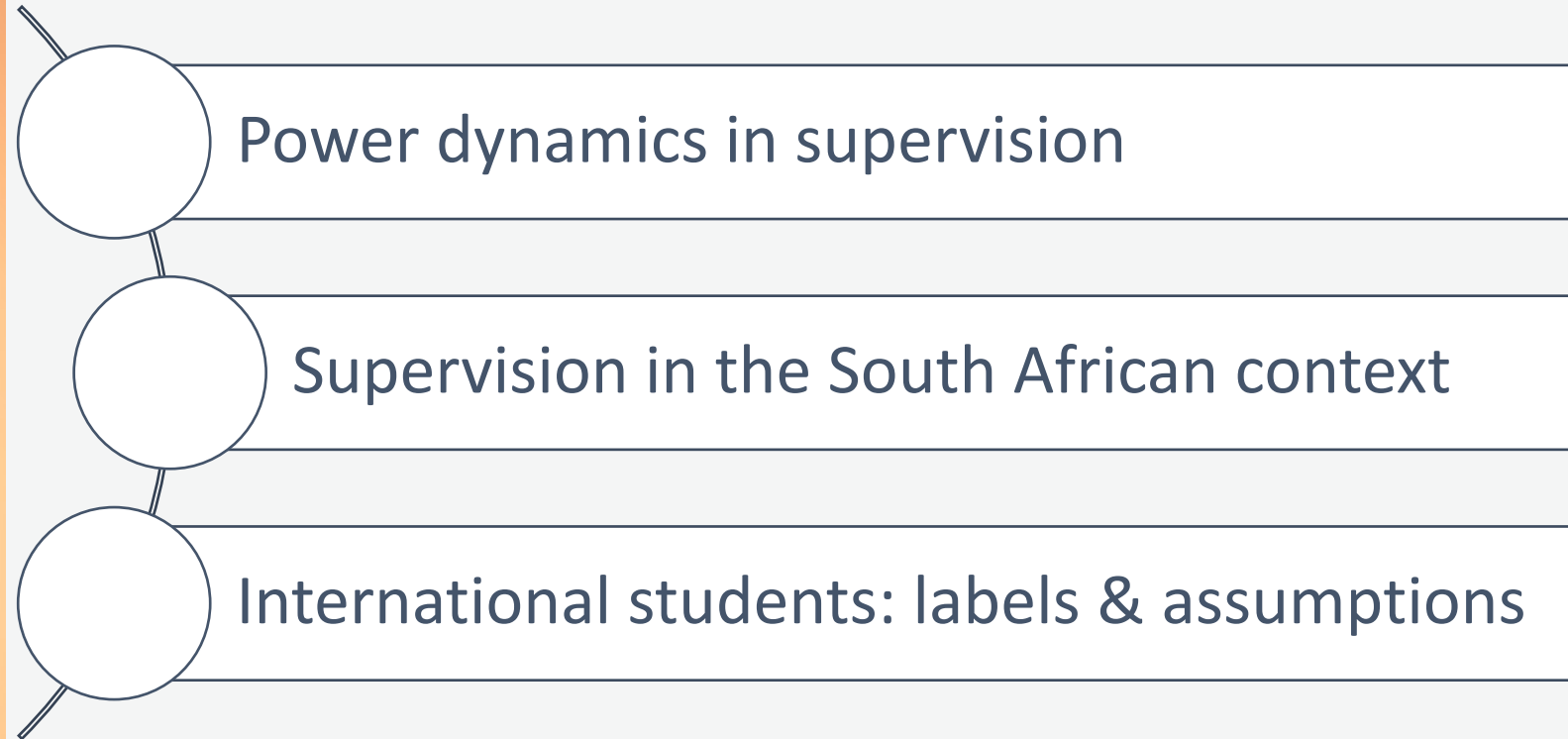
Relatively new field of study

- Contested understandings of HE
- Researchers drawn from other disciplines (mostly) practitioner-based research
- Drawing theories and methodologies from sociology and anthropology
- Specialist journals (some located in other disciplines)

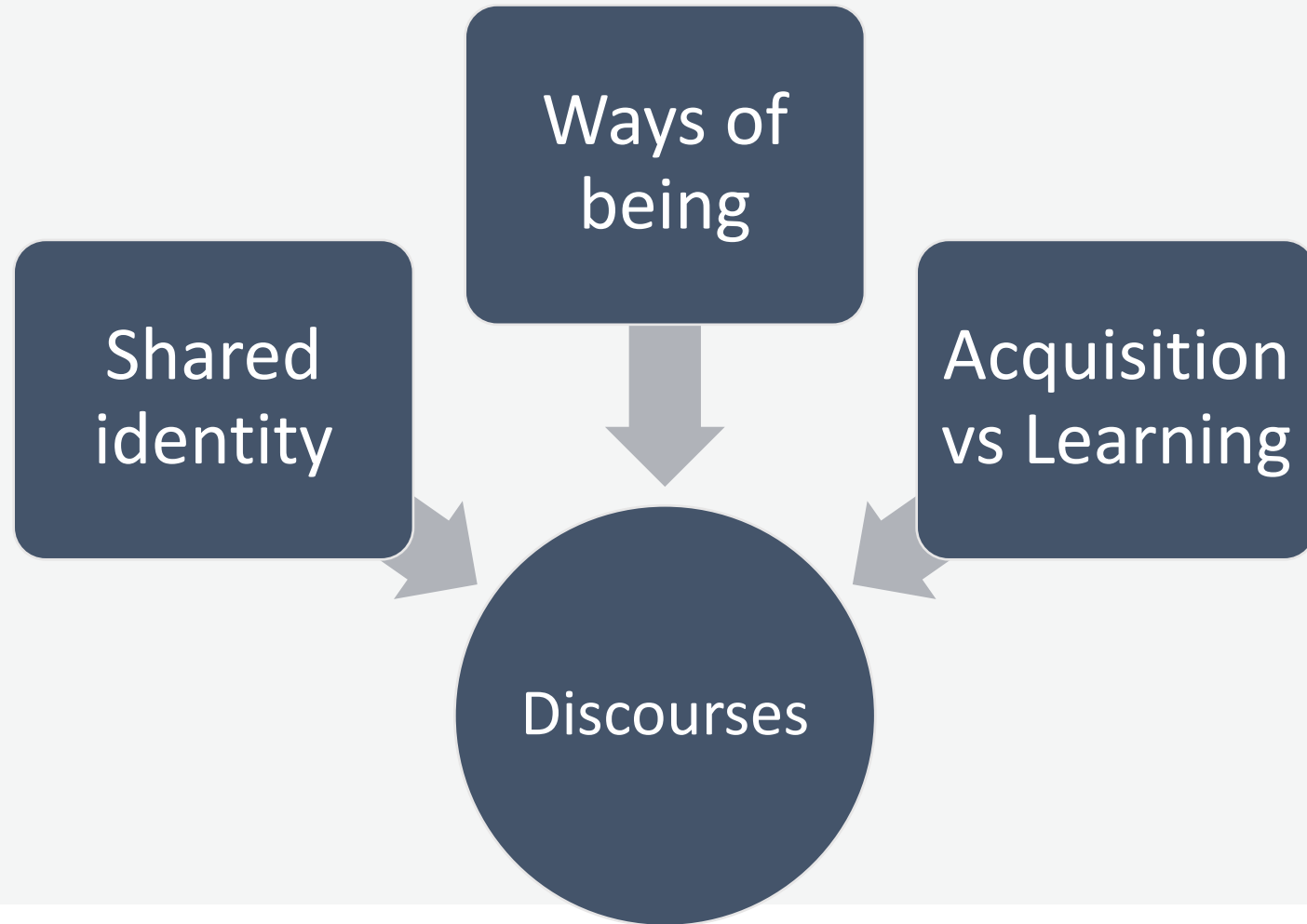
International issues

- Students need to understand local, regional and international contexts
 - Different terms, different institutional structures, different histories
- Range of issues affecting HES on a global scale (the pandemic, international students, transformation & decolonisation, funding, etc.)

Supervision as Political Work



Supervision as identity work (James Paul Gee's Discourses)



Supervision as scholarly work

Negative:

Isolation

Inequalities
aggravated

Research
stalled

Supervisor
workload

Technical
challenges

Positive:

Community

Record of
interactions

Inclusion of
part-time
students

Different
levels of
support

Empathy
and well-
being

Supervision as humanising work

Reflect on how I:



- Recognise the individual student while acknowledging the international context
- My assumptions and expectations regarding particular kinds of students
- How I facilitate regular and open communication
- What spaces and communities I have set up to support your students
- Disciplinary and institutional boundaries
- What activities I need to engage with in order to consciously and regularly develop my supervision practice.



Enkosi | Thank you | Dankie