A central focus of current management consulting research is the rise of global-transnational management consulting companies. These companies are described as key influencers in financial and social geopolitical contexts, and have a strong association with international mobility and transnationalism (Boussebaa, Morgan, Strudy, 2012; Spence, Strudy, Carter, 2017; Bauman, 2000; Jones, 2004).

'International Management Consultants' who work for those companies are less researched in **transnational contexts** and, when they are, they are investigated under the umbrella of global policies and practices of the 'transnational management consulting companies,' as a means to better understand the organizations which they serve as formal employees (Spence et al., 2017).

Within management consulting research, there is even less of a focus on the ‘Independent International Management Practitioner' (IIMP), who is not formally attached to a certain consulting company as an employee. There is a void in current research about IIMP's subjective experience, their role in international, transnational and geopolitical contexts as 'national border crossers', and the effect of that experience on the professional practices and cross-cultural management (CCM) knowledge (Holden, Snejina, 2015) that they apply, with their clients, around the world.

Although national and cultural borders are at the center of IIMP's work, there is no specific literature that deals with the unique characteristics of their international-transnational identity that is shaped and embedded in their experience as 'national borders crossers', and its effect on the construction and application of the CCM practices they use with their global clients (MNC's). While most literature defines the term 'transnational' as an identity that includes a physical attachment to two or more places (Bardatan, Popan, 2010), in this research project I define IIMP's transnational identity as the movement between places. At the core of IIMP's global identity is physical and mental movement between space and place, and between nations and cultures. This unique feature of IIMP's cosmopolitan identity, as a 'permanent state of mind,' (Favel, 2018; Colic-Peisker, 2010) reflected in the movement between places and as a central part of their identity, has not yet been thoroughly investigated/researched.

An exploration of IIMP's international identity, in relation to their multiple encounters with global groups and transnational organizations, will shed light on **how their own subjective experiences as 'national borders crossers' construct and define their global management practices, while teaching others how to work in an international, cross-cultural environment.** It will also engender a deeper understanding of **how encounters between IIMP's and diverse national groups and individuals, produce and construct IIMP's presentation of self (and identity) in different global settings**. In addition, this research will provide a unique glimpse into the subjective experiences of Independent International Management Practitioners (IIMP) **as 'national borders crossers'** while meeting their clients, **and the effect of similar diverse encounters with international groups and individuals on the implementation of CCM discourse, through CCT practices** (Frenkel, Lyan, Drori, 2015), and through other global management practices they use with their international clients. Finally, **this study will also contribute an additional perspective to the topic of transnationalism and to research related to the international mobility aspects of professionals** which, according to Spence at al, is currently lacking (Spence et al, 2017: 237)