

(Forced) Labour Supply Chain: Pathways making Migrants vulnerable to Forced Labour in the UK

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RESEARCH QUESTION

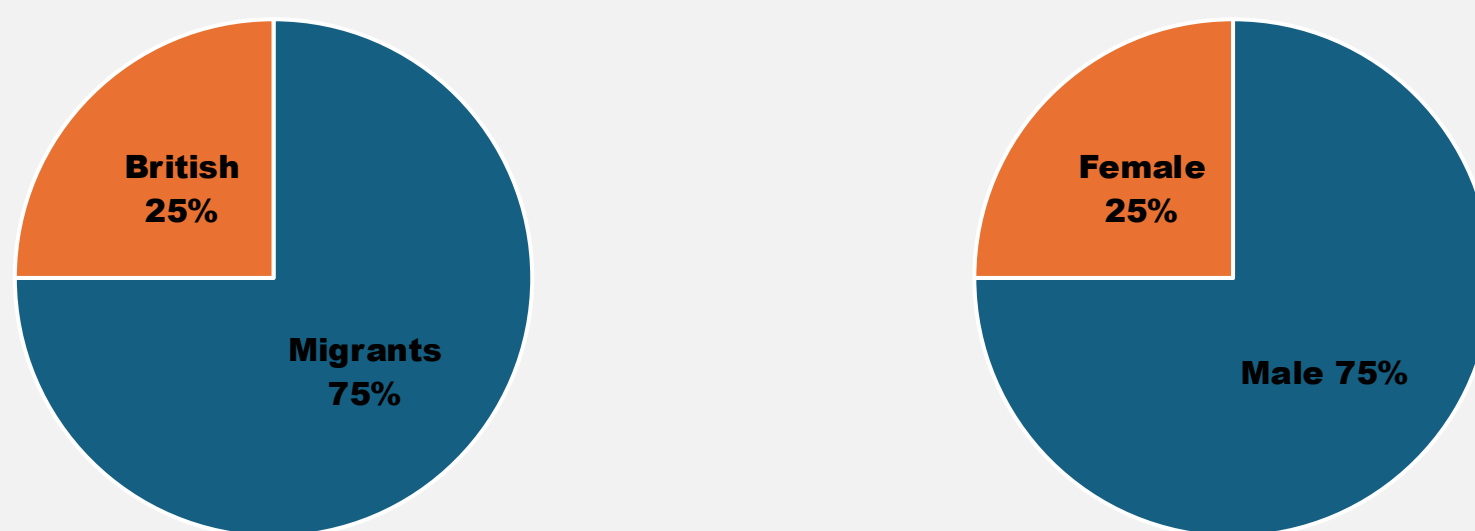
How do **migrant workers** in the UK become forced labour?
By what **processes** are workers' **vulnerabilities** leveraged to create extreme labour exploitation?

BACKGROUND

Modern slavery victims in the UK:

- Around 122,000 people (Walk Free, 2023)

The UK National Referral Mechanism data demonstrates (Zhang and Wong, 2024):



METHODOLOGY

Research setting:

- Geographical focus: **the UK**
- Targeted population: **migrants**
- Gender: **both male and female**
- Age: adult (18+)
- Nationalities: no limitation

Research strategy: **case study**

Research method: **qualitative interview**

IDENTIFIED CONCEPTS & ESTABLISHED THEORIES

Work precarity framework (Allan et al., 2021)

Vulnerabilities (David et al., 2019)

e.g., fear deportation, wage theft

Organizing labour for exploitation (Fletcher and Trautrim, 2024)

- baiting stage (abuse of vulnerability)
- entrapment stage (recruitment deception)
- switching stage (labour exploitation)
- enmeshment stage (coercive control)

Vulnerabilities (David et al., 2019)

e.g., without funds, limited ability to get visas legally, lack documentation

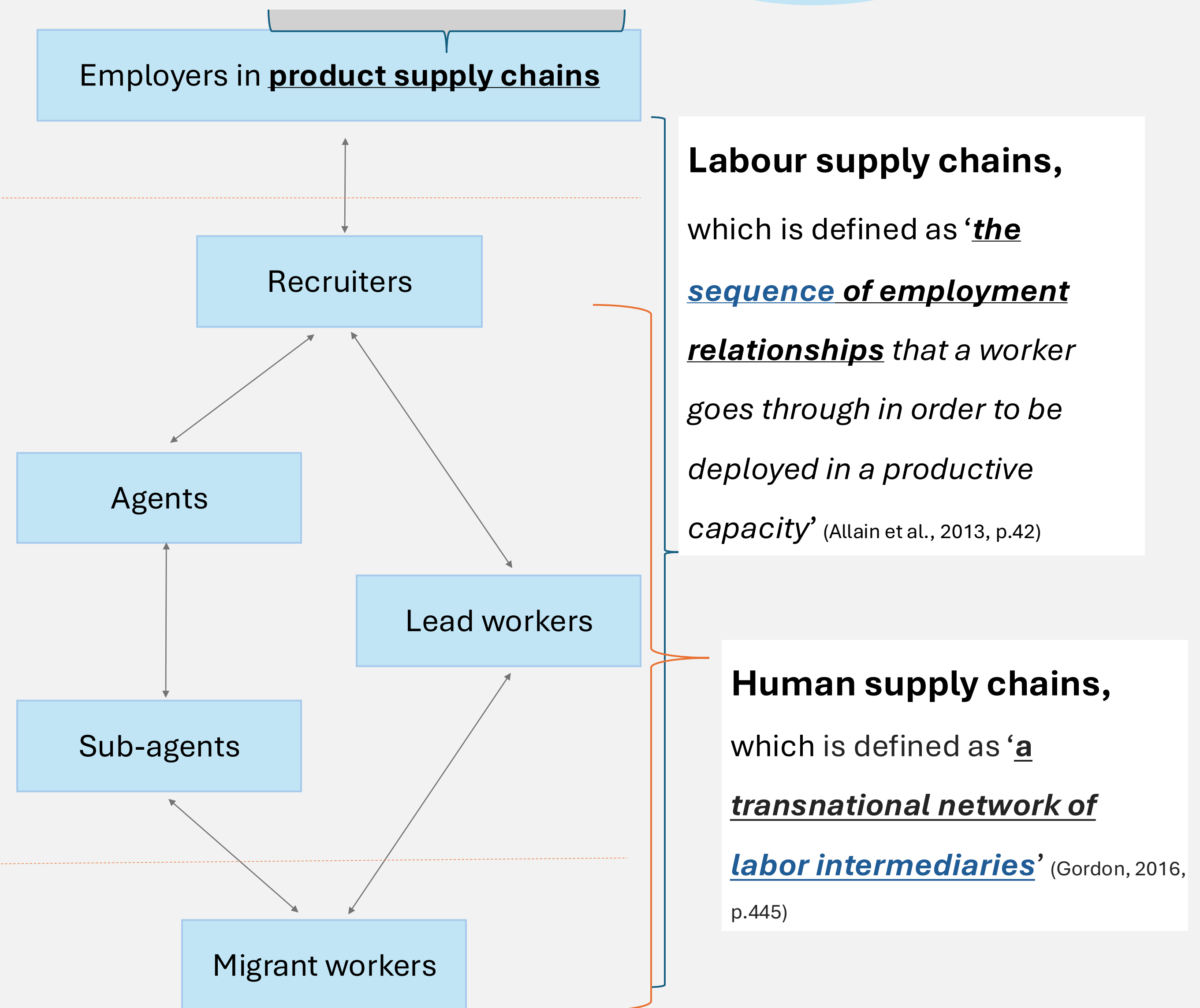
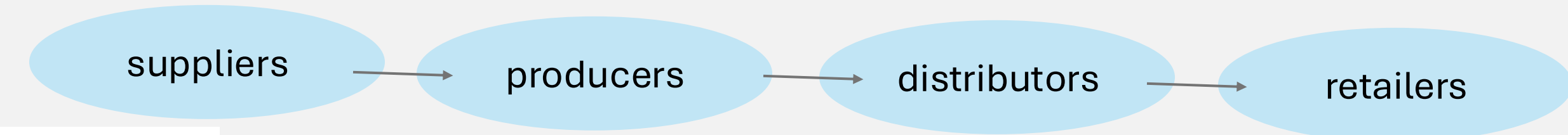
Migration aspirations-capabilities model (de Haas., 2010)

Vulnerabilities (David et al., 2019)

e.g., economic pressure, limited ability to access job abroad

THEORETICAL CONTRIBUTION

Develop a conceptual framework of migrant worker flow alongside the creation and the increase in vulnerabilities to define **forced labour supply chain**



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