

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET (APPROVED)

Study title:

### **Across the Channel: 'Britalian' Identities in England after Brexit (a study on the effects of Brexit on Italians and British-Italians living in England)**

Principal Investigator: **Dr Marco-Benoît Carbone** ([marcobenoit.carbone@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:marcobenoit.carbone@brunel.ac.uk))

APPROVAL HAS BEEN GRANTED FOR THIS STUDY BY BRUNEL UNIVERSITY,  
LONDON – INSTITUTE OF CULTURES AND SOCIETY TO BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN  
01/06/2022 AND 25/09/2022

### **Invitation Paragraph**

*You are being asked to contribute to a study on Italian-British identities as an informant and/or interviewee. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being carried out and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Feel free to ask me at any point if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. You can request a translation of this form in Italian and/or your native language/s other than English if needed [se necessario, potrai richiedere una traduzione in italiano e/o la/le tue lingue madri diverse dall'inglese].*

*Many thanks for reading this. Grazie per avere letto.*

Dr Marco B. Carbone, Lecturer Media and Cultural Studies

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### **What is the purpose of the study?**

We will survey Italians and Italian-British descendants about their life experiences in the United Kingdom. We are interested in hearing their say on these main questions:

- Did Brexit and the pandemic influence Italians and Italian-British people's life in UK society and the way they feel as residents and citizens?
- What motivates Italians to apply to become British citizens and has Brexit influenced their choices?
- How do Italians and British-Italians (such as Italian descendants, people with mixed ethnicities, and naturalized British citizenship from Italian backgrounds) feel about Brexit?

We aim to:

- Understand the place and role of Italians and British-Italians in the Union;
- Reflect on whether Brexit has had an effect on their life choice;
- Think of ways we can contribute to the thriving of Italian and British-Italians subjectivities, communities, and collectivity in the UK and across the Channel.

You will be able to contribute to our study in any or all of the following ways:

- By compiling an online questionnaire (a set of questions that can be answered via smartphone or a computer browser) by the end of the research period;

- By participating in one or more interviews (one-to-one with the researcher/s, either online or in presence) by the end of the research period;
- By agreeing to act broadly speaking as an informant. This is somebody who will agree to discuss with their researchers from time to time during the research period, at their own discretion and opportunity, to discuss these issues and explain their points of view, in everyday or agreed contexts, which may include outdoor or private spaces based on your preferences.

If you agree on any of the the above methods you will be required to sign a specific form for each. The study will be carried out overall between May 25 and September 25, 2022.

### **Why have I been invited to participate?**

You have been invited as somebody who has an Italian and/or British-Italian background and/or citizenship/s (or is part of a household/family unit involving Italians and British-Italians, including mixed nationalities/backgrounds) and currently lives or has been living in the UK for more than one continuous year at any one point from 2015 to the present. The study may involve several hundred participants reached via online questionnaires as well as no more than 30 interviewees and informants. We aim to speak with people from all backgrounds and ages 18 upwards, from all gender identities, religious beliefs, and ethnic and/or nationality background/s alongside Italian and British-Italian ones.

### **Do I have to take part?**

Participation is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in the study. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and you will be asked to sign consent form/s. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time up until September 25, 2022 and without having to give a reason. At that time, your data will be anonymised in order to inform the research and we will no longer be able to withdraw it. If you accept to carry out the anonymous questionnaire, we will be unable to trace your results as soon as you submit them, therefore you will be unable to withdraw them.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

You will only be involved with the research by September 25<sup>th</sup> 2022 and only at your agreed dates and on your voluntary basis. All data will be anonymised. None of your responses will be published other than in an anonymous and untraceable form unless you request that your name/testimony appear publicly (this opportunity will be offered in the consent form/s). You will have a chance to request to be contacted for future research at a later stage or to take part in related public-facing projects (e.g. a documentary film), in which case you will have to sign separate Individual Release Forms.

### **Are there any lifestyle restrictions?**

There are no lifestyle restrictions to this study.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

While this is not a study in psychology, we are interested in hearing about people's experience and feelings as part of their social life in the UK. In some cases, such as interviews, to some people this could mean recalling or evoking emotionally or

psychologically distressing. We recommend to be mindful and assess any risks while exercising self-efficacy. At the same time, the utmost attention will be paid to ensuring any conversations or interviews take place and is in themselves a safe space respecting Everyone's personal boundaries and privacy. In accordance to Covid safety measures all participants should have been vaccinated as per Government guidelines. Vaccination is proven to decrease the risk of transmission of Covid-19 and to reduce the likelihood of severe illness. Face coverings should be worn by researchers and participants wherever possible. Researchers and participants should wash or sanitise their hands regularly.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

There is no intended benefit to the person from taking part in this study, apart from contributing to scientific knowledge about the issues outlined above.

### **What if something goes wrong?**

Should any harm happen to you concomitant to taking part in this research project, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, then you may have grounds for a legal action but you may have to pay for it. If the participant wishes to complain about the experience, they should reach to the contacts detailed at the end of this document.

### **Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

All information which is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential until the end of this project on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Any information about you which leaves the University will have all your identifying information removed. With your permission, anonymised data will be stored and may be used in future research – you can indicate whether or not you give permission for this by way of the Consent Forms.

If during the course of the research evidence of harm or misconduct come to light, then it may be necessary to break confidentiality. We will tell you at the time if we think we need to do this, and let you know what will happen next. In case of published research you will not be identified in any report or publication unless you specifically request it.

### **Will I be recorded, and how will the recording be used?**

No part of your audio/video interview recordings for this research will leave the University. All protected data collected or recording will be acquired/stored according to the UK GDPR– General Data Protection Regulation (<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>). Any data will be stored exclusively within Brunel University London's systems and fully anonymised by September 25, 2022. At your request, you may agree to take part in different recordings intended for public engagement (for instance, you can agree to appear in different video interviews intended for a public documentary). This will be considered separately, and you will have to sign a different Individual Release Form.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The results will be used to shed light on our questions on Italians and British-Italian people's experience of life in the UK after Brexit. They will represent a platform for us to try and answer questions posed by previous researchers and to attract more funds to carry out further, larger-scale research on this topic. Studies stemming from the present research may be published in the form of scientific papers for scientific journals. You can request to be informed about any publications relating to this research (this opportunity will be offered in the consent form/s). In all cases you will not be identified in any report or publication unless you specifically request it.

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

The research is being organised by Dr Marco-Benoit Carbone, in conjunction with Brunel University London – Institute of Cultures and Society, CBASS – College of Business, Arts, and Social Sciences.

**What are the indemnity arrangements?**

Brunel University London provides appropriate insurance cover for research which has received ethical approval.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Research Ethics Committee for Brunel CBASS – College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

**Research Integrity**

Brunel University London is committed to compliance with the Universities UK [Research Integrity Concordat](#). You are entitled to expect the highest level of integrity from the researchers during the course of this research

**Contact for further information and complaints**

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Professor David Gallear ([David.Gallear@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:David.Gallear@brunel.ac.uk))  
Chair of the Research Ethics Committee  
College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences

**You will be given a copy of the information sheet and signed consent form to keep.  
*Many thanks for taking the time to read this document!***

London, 21/05/2022