



## **Sociolinguistics and Immigration**

### **What is this project about?**

This project aims to find out what happens to immigrants when they come to a new country. One way to study this is to look at the accents immigrants pick up when they settle in a new place. In this project, we will be carrying out interviews with Polish and British adolescents and we will be looking at the accents used by both of these groups to see whether Polish immigrants pick up local accent features.

### **Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been asked to take part either because you are an adolescent and a native speaker of a local variety of British English or because you are a Polish (adolescent) immigrant.

### **What is involved?**

If you agree to take part, we will ask you to do three things

1. First we will ask you to read a short list of sentences
2. Then you will listen to a tape of other people reading a similar list of words and we will ask you for your opinions of these people
3. Finally, we will ask you for your opinions about the way that English is spoken where you live and about your experiences of moving to a new country.

### **How will the information I provide be used?**

We will use the information you give us to study the accents of Polish speakers living in your local area. Based on our findings, we will write a scholarly report which you will be able to find on the project web page.

We will also keep a copy of the recordings of your interview and a written transcript of it at the University of Edinburgh. Before we do this, all recordings and transcriptions will be anonymised so your name and any other information that might identify you will be removed. Your name will never be mentioned in any of the reports we produce and all of our records will be kept locked up. If you decide at any point that you want to have your interview removed from the archive, you can do so by contacting us (contact details below).

This study is being led by Professor Miriam Meyerhoff (Professor of Sociolinguistics, University of Edinburgh) and Dr Erik Schleef (Lecturer in Linguistics and English Language, University of Manchester). The project is funded by a research grant from the Economic and Social Research Council (reference number: RES-000-22-3244).

We hope that you will find the whole experience of taking part in this study rewarding and interesting, and we are happy to keep you informed of our findings afterwards.

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