

## **Using digital ethnography methods to explore hybrid identities among Irish immigrant women in London.**

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**Presentation Title:** Using digital ethnography methods to explore hybrid identities among Irish immigrant women in London.

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**Student Level:** Masters

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### **Introduction**

This paper presents research in progress on Irish diaspora identity focusing on the hybridity of identity among Irish diaspora women in England. This research takes a phenomenological qualitative approach into exploring Irish women's migration. Keri E Smith suggests reasons for the emergence of hybrid identity (Smith, 2008). A number of theorists deal with identity and diaspora, among them, Homi K Bhabha, who says that the colonial subject is located in a place of hybridity, its identity is formed in a space of iteration and translation by the coloniser, defining hybridity of identity as "a form of in-between space", a 'third space', a space inherently critical of uniqueness or purity of original culture".

### **Methodology**

The practical element of this research centres around photographing Irish women who have emigrated to London. Through their portraits and interviews centred around the immigrant experience, this project hopes to use the sentimental object as a method of loci, to enhance memories of the homeland and the diasporic journey, and uses both digital and analogue ethnographic methodology, beginning with a historical review of representations of Irish people. The study participants were sourced online, using Irish studies forums and calling for participants on Twitter and Instagram. Fieldwork interview questions were concerned with Irish identity post-Brexit and also the notion of hybrid identities.

**Expected outcomes**

The expected outcome is a body of moving image work, a photographic book of portraits and recorded interview texts. The work will also be disseminated through participatory workshops focusing on multi-generational trauma healing, Irish language and perceptions of Irish people.

**Conclusion**

This research is new in terms of the focus on women and the impact of hybrid identities of the Irish diaspora. More research is needed: there are a number of academics researching this topic.

## References

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