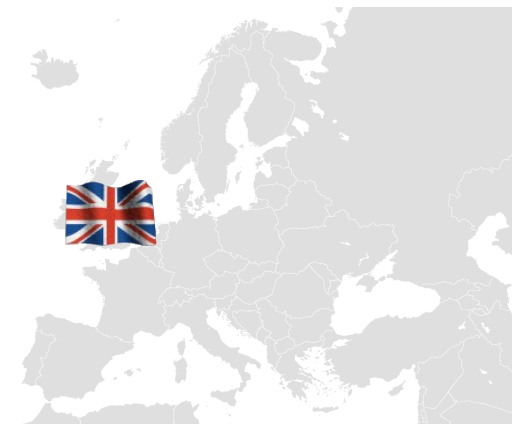


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Interviews with Natives

Interview to Caroline, English

Interviewed by Antonio



Personal Data

First name: Caroline
Age: 24
Country of Birth: London - England
Interviewed by: Antonio
Date: 17 – July - 2009

Personal history of Immigration

Before Meeting

1. *How old were you when many people from abroad came to your country? Or were they yet there when you were born?*

I started noticing when I was about 18 years old. I know there were people from other countries while I was young. The country I started noticing are people from Poland

2. *Did you know anything about that country (geographical position, traditions, language, food, culture, sport, religion, lifestyle, political systems etc.)?*

I had no knowledge of their traditions but only a little from the school curriculum, which is not very much at all.

3. *Did you know why the people left their country? Were they looking for a job? Had they religious or political problems? Were they just trying to know new countries and new people?*

Some of them came for job opportunities, work. That is, those who came to stay. Others came for a holiday.

4. *Why do you think they chose your country (richness, language, geographical systems, cultural, whether, friendliness of people)?*

Most came because of the richness of the country and because of our welfare system... free healthcare.

First Impact

1. *Tell me something about the feelings you had when such people began to come: were they funny? Were they strange? What were they going to do in your country? Was your life going to get worse? Were you afraid?*

Most of them are nice. I was not afraid of anyone.

2. *Where did you meet them first: in your personal experience (job, school, street, shop, and bar) or by the media?*

I met with most people at work. My experience is basically that they are hardworking, with a can-do attitude and a go-getter attitude. The language is difficult for most of them as they do not know how to speak English. They also sound aggressive when they talk but this seems to be a natural thing to them.

3. *What did the media say about that people?*

The media has been negative mostly – they give information about how they are here to take our jobs away and that they are more dependent on our services.

4. *What did you imagine they were thinking about you?*

I hope nice things.. I think I'm a nice person.. I don't know.

After Some time (6 months / a year)

1. *Have you done anything in order to get to know them better or help them integrate in your country?*

Being friendly, not judgemental, having a nice attitude and listening. I have talked about personal life history and share values with them.

2. *Did anybody you know (institutions, associations, single people, native or guest) help them to integrate into the community?*

Not aware of any.

Now

3. *Do most of them actually live in your country, or have they gone back home?*

Most are still here

4. *What do you know about their country (language, traditions, culture, religion, food, lifestyle, etc)? Does it agree with the image you had before meeting them?*

I don't know a lot about their country, but I have learnt about their lifestyle and that they like to drink, they are sociable and like to have fun and are passionate – they also like English women as they constantly ask us to marry them.

5. *Is there any unpleasant event you went through or you saw?*

After a while, I noticed that some of them could be irritating. They do not know how to back off when you tell them no. They are pushy and aggressive towards women. They can be loud sometimes but not in a nasty way just irritably loud. Especially when they are talking in their language. This makes me paranoid and I find it rude as you don't know whether they are talking about you or something...

6. *Do you think that the differences between that country and yours have increased or decreased by the time? On the other hand, did they remain the same?*

Our country is more subtle and accommodating. I think that is why they come here.

7. *Which actually are your feelings: is there anything you "Learned" from your new fellow citizens (job, culture, food, social or political institutions, etc.)? Is there anything you think they "Learned" from you?*

I think they feel like outsiders... simply because there is a lot of negativity about migrants. I believe I have learnt to accommodate people from other nations. People are the same everywhere, just different in culture and language. I have also learned they have a difficult life. Most of them want to take stuff home and send money home. This is the reason why they work so hard sometimes and earn little or are not as competitive in requesting for more pay as people from this country.

8. *Finally, what do you think about your future and theirs...?*

There will be ongoing employment issues, interrelationships and intermarrying. There will be a better cohesion and international opportunities in the long term. I hope travel will be more open due to inter-relationships.

I would like to have their courage, as I could not leave my country to travel and live in someone else's country where I have no relatives.